

MUSEUM OF  
ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1996-97



Designated as  
a museum with  
an outstanding  
collection

UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

Cast brass tobacco pipe in the form  
of an elephant from the Bagam people, Cameroon.  
L: 22.5 cm 1921.464

The Faculty Board of Archaeology and Anthropology presents to the University the 109th Annual Report of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, for the academical year 1996-97.

## **Administration**

The Museum Committee met three times during the year, under the chairmanship of Professor M. Strathern.

## **Staff**

For the year under review the staff of the Museum was as follows:

### *Director and Curator:*

D. W. Phillipson MA Ph.D FSA

### *Senior Assistant Curator (archaeology):*

C.R. Chippindale BA Ph.D MIFA FSA

### *Senior Assistant Curator (anthropology):*

Ms A.C. Flerle BA M.Phil

### *Assistant Curator (archaeology):*

R.B. Boast BA MA Ph.D

### *Acting Assistant Curator (anthropology)*

G. Crowther BSc M.Phil Ph.D

### *Documentation Assistant (anthropology)*

Ms A. Brown BA M.Phil

### *Administrative Secretary (part-time):*

Mrs S. Beales BA

### *Secretary (part-time):*

Mrs J. Falkner

### *Museum Assistant:*

J. Osbourn

### *Attendant:*

B. Lewis (to 30 April, 1997); M. Worron (from 1 May, 1997)

### *Attendants (part-time):*

Mrs A. Came

E. Kirby

F. B. Green

### *Honorary Assistant Curator (American archaeology):*

Mrs M.H. Flarris AB MA

### *Honorary Keeper (organology):*

L.E.R. Picken MA Ph.D Sc.D FBA

In addition, the following assistant staff of the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology held specific Museum responsibilities:-

*Head of Workshop:* M. Buckley  
*Workshop Assistant:* C. Langford (to 31 March, 1997); S. Ison (from 1 April, 1997)  
*Photographer:* G.J. Owen ABIPP ARPS

Dr Chippindale acted as Director and Curator during Dr Phillipson's leave of absence on fieldwork in the Michaelmas Term 1996.

Ms Herle was promoted to the rank of Senior Assistant Curator from 1 October 1996. Confirmation was received of Dr Boast's promotion to the rank of Senior Assistant Curator with effect from 1 October 1997.

Ms Herle was absent on maternity and study leave until January. Dr G. Crowther was appointed Acting Assistant Curator (anthropology) for the calendar year 1996. The Board offers its thanks to Dr Crowther on the efficient manner in which she conducted her temporary duties.

Mr B. Lewis, Attendant, retired from the museum in May after 18 years of service. He will be greatly missed and the Museum wishes to offer its thanks to Mr Lewis for his many years of dedicated service. He is replaced by Mr M. Worron.

Three other Attendants also left the Museum this year. We would like to extend our thanks for the years of dedicated service that Mrs A. Came (7 years), Mr B. Green (4 years) and Mr E. Kirby (6 years) gave to the Museum.

Mr C. Langford left the Faculty workshop in December 1996 after 7 years of service. He helped extensively with the Museum's changing exhibition programme and assisted in the upkeep of the building. We thank him for his contributions and wish him luck in Orkney. His replacement, Mr Ison, joined the Museum from the Fitzwilliam Museum in April.

As in the past, the Museum has depended very heavily upon the services of numerous temporary employees and volunteers. Mrs Harris, Honorary Assistant Curator, continued her greatly valued work on the American archaeological collections. Mr T.E. Hoare continued his volunteer assistance with the anthropological collections and the archives. Details of other temporary employees and volunteers are given below.

## **Designation**

In June, the Museums and Galleries Commission (DCHS) awarded Designated Status to 26 museums in England. The Museum is proud to announce that it is one of the museums that has been awarded Designated Status, based on the Museum's detailed submission. Designation was awarded to museums for "their outstanding pre-

eminent collections and the potential to meet the highest standards of care". With Designation comes responsibility to act as a centre of excellence and to operate with the highest professional standards.

This is a great honour for the Museum, the Faculty and the University. However, rather than making the case that the Museum is coping under the present staffing and financial constraints, the Curators of the Museum feel that this award strengthens the case for additional curatorial and support staff. It is increasingly difficult for the Museum's curatorial staff to maintain high standards of collections care and access, and to manage a high teaching and research load. The Museum is rightly famous for its high ratings in all of these pursuits and the advances it has made in the past 10 years. However, under the current minimal staffing and financial constraints, one or more of these areas of achievement will have to receive less attention in the future, thus threatening the Designated Status.

The Museum looks forward to maintaining its Designated Status, which must be reapplied for every three years, and hopes that the University will continue to provide support for its internationally famous museums in line with growing demands and commitments.

### **Bushnell Memorial Lecture**

The Second Bushnell Memorial Lecture was held on the 12th of February and was given by Professor Norman Hammond of Boston University. His talk, *New Research in Mayan Archaeology*, was well received by a large audience at the Mill Lane Lecture Theatre. The Memorial Dinner was held at Gonville and Caius College.

### **Finance**

The University continued its support for the Museum's recurrent financial needs at the same level as previously, and provided funding for the employment of Dr Crowther during Ms Herle's absence for the calendar year 1996.

The Museum received a grant of more than £90,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the re-storage, documentation and access of approximately 30,000 historic and contemporary photographs in its photographic collection (see Photographic Collections Project). The project will begin on 1 October 1997 and the Museum looks forward to being able to make this important resource more widely available for research and teaching.

The Museum has again been successful in attracting external funding for particular projects. Allocations from the Museum's Crowther-Beynon Fund are listed in a later section of this report.

Cambridge City Council generously continued its grant in support of the public aspects of the Museum's work. The contribution for 1997, of £3,000, enabled the Museum once again significantly to extend its

public opening hours for the peak visitor months during the Long Vacation, and to avoid gallery closures during staff holidays. By employing L. Harrad, B. Lewis, F. Pink, J. Smedley, K. Falkner, C. Warrior, S. Zakrzewski and J. Worron as temporary attendants during the period 17 June to 13 September, and through the generous volunteer assistance of Dorothee Lotz, it was possible to open the Museum from 10.30 am until 5.00 pm on weekdays. Increased visitor numbers reflect the success of this programme. The City Council's recognition and support for the Museum are much appreciated, although it is regretted that the grant was confirmed at such a late date that difficulty was encountered in recruiting temporary staff. The smooth operation of the extended opening owes much to the efforts of Mrs Beales and Mr Worron.

Significant external funding has supported research activities undertaken by curatorial members of staff. The British Institute in Eastern Africa awarded a grant totalling £98,000 for Dr Phillipson's work at Aksum. A proportion of the grant of £3,600 awarded by the British Academy in 1996 to support background research for the book and exhibition to mark the centenary of the 1898 Cambridge Anthropological Expedition to the Torres Strait was carried forward in 1997. Further details are provided below, in the Staff activities section.

The Museum has maintained its own sources of income. Some £2400 was received in the public donations boxes and from profits on sale of publications and provision of photographic services.

## Exhibitions

The exhibition *Metal in Africa* has continued in the Andrews Gallery since its opening in September 1996.

A succession of temporary exhibitions was installed in the Clarke Hall. The Eye of the Bead was prepared and installed in February by the Archaeology Department's graduate students in Heritage Management and Museums. It reflects cooperation between Dr Boast, Dr Chippindale and the Bead Study Trust, who held their Study Day in the Museum. Dr Boast, in conjunction with Dr Bill Sillar, of the University of Wales at Lampeter, opened Playing With God: Ritual Andean Miniatures in February. The exhibition presents the work of and Andean Miniatures collected by Dr Sillar, with funding from the Crowther-Beynon Fund, now in the Museum.

Mr Stuart Reevell, a Ph.D student in the Department of Archaeology, installed a temporary exhibition in the Clarke Hall, July to October 1997. Entitled Carved in Stone, it combined ancient figures from rock-art with contemporary pictures and icons to explore just what it is we see when we look at prehistoric pictures.

## Maintenance and development

### *Buildings*

Major work was carried out in the Museum's Downing Street premises due to faulty pipework in the heating system. From the end of June, EMBS Service Maintenance Unit and Mr Buckley were engaged in a major programme of works to remove the asbestos and renew the old pipework. This work necessitated the closing of access to the Museum stores on the Downing Street premises causing some disruption for visiting researchers. The Museum would like to thank both EMBS and their contractors for the efficient and professional manner in which they conducted these repairs.

In August, a major, though thankfully isolated, infestation of moths was discovered in the clothes store at the Museum's external store (see *Workshop and conservation laboratory*). To treat the infestation it was necessary to construct three large carbon dioxide 'bubbles', move all of the clothes store into these 'bubbles' and treat over three weeks. The Museum wishes to thank Mr Buckley and Mr Ison for their hard work to solve this problem, to Rentokil for their assistance and to the General Board for a non-recurrent grant to cover the £5,228.75 cost of the treatment. Despite the generous non-recurrent grant from the General Board, additional costs of over £500 had to be borne by the Museum. Due to the highly dangerous nature of small amounts of carbon dioxide, it was necessary to close access to the external store for a period of one month, further restricting access for visiting researchers.

Routine repairs, modifications and redecorations were undertaken during the year in the Museum's Downing Street premises.

### *Documentation and collections management*

The Anthropology section continued with the systematic transcription of catalogue records onto the computer database. Primarily supported by a grant from the Crowther-Beynon Fund, Alison Brown made significant progress with nearly 8,000 new records from the Pacific added and numerous additional records edited to ensure consistency of input and to update location information. Due to problems with the transfer of data from the Phoenix Mainframe in 1995, the records for the Whiffen collection from Columbia have been re-entered. Ms Brown also provided general curatorial assistance for Anthropology.

With the kind and energetic volunteer assistance of Ms Dorothee Lotz, the processing room has been reorganised and a new system for dealing with object identification has been implemented. Ms Lotz also assisted Dr Boast with the backlog of enquiries.

With the volunteer assistance of Ms A. Broek, Mrs Harris continued the computerisation of the American archaeological material, with the Bay Islands (Honduras) and the remainder of Central America being completed and the editing of the South American transcriptions begun.

The first portion of a printed catalogue of the Beck Collection of beads in the Museum was published in May 1997, in collaboration with the Bead Study Trust, covering beads from Europe. It included introductory essays on the collector and the collection, a catalogue of the European beads with drawings, and a colour microfiche with photographs of a great many beads.

Other Museum publications are listed at the end of this Report.

Dr Boast was assisted by Ms A. Kaniari, Mr J. Gore, Mr A. Martin, Mr D. Mercer, Mr L. Mushokabanji and Mr S. Omland, his MPhil students, in the extended cataloguing and storage of the Gt. Chesterford and Arbury Villa material (see Acquisitions).

The Bead Society of Great Britain provided the Museum with 500 postcards of a Egyptian amulet bead in recognition of our cooperation in its production. The Museum has expanded and increased its home-page on the World Wide Web, the URL being <http://cumaa.archanth.cam.ac.uk/>.

### *Photographic Collections Project*

The Museum's application for Heritage Lottery Funds has been successful. The Heritage Lottery Fund has granted the Museum £90,700 towards the inventory, re-storage and partial cataloguing of the Museum's approximately 30,000 historic and contemporary photographic collection. Two eminent photo-archivists have been appointed, Ms H. Cornwall-Jones (formerly of the Museum of Mankind and the Royal Anthropological Institute) and Dr S. Guha (formerly of the Victoria and Albert Museum). Ms Cornwall-Jones and Dr Guha will join the Museum on the 1st of October 1997, the official start date of the project.

It is the intention of the project to inventory and re-store to modern standards all of the approximately 30,000 photographs, to fully catalogue certain collections with the assistance of the photo archivists and contract specialists, and to publish catalogues both as publications and electronically.

### *Meetings*

The Museum again offered tours of the galleries and other facilities to a number of groups, including participants in the University's Alumni Weekend in September who were addressed by Dr Boast.

Dr Boast, with Dr M.L.S. Sorensen and the Ph.D students in Archaeological Heritage Management and Museums, organised the second Annual Cambridge Heritage Seminar on the 12th of April.

Dr Chippindale organized, in April, as a joint venture of the Musuem and the Bead Study Trust, a first day-meeting on the subject of beads, Bead Studies after Beck, presenting 10 papers on history and technique, on beads Bronze Age to Sassanian, and on medieval and African beads. Some fifty individuals attended the meeting, a healthy

number for a specialized topic, and gave special praise to the Museum's student exhibition on beads they saw during the day.

## **Workshop and conservation laboratory**

Mr Buckley and Mr Ison were engaged in the following work. Due to asbestos and faulty pipework under the floor in the Keyser store and workroom and in the Clark Gallery, a three-month programme was organised by Mr Buckley and EMBS Service Maintenance Unit to remove the asbestos and renew the old pipework. New radiators were installed where necessary and thermostatic valves fitted on all radiators throughout the Museum. A new CCTV system was installed by Phillips to cover the Museum's ground floor gallery as the old system had failed after eleven years. An additional CCTV camera has been installed in the Maudslay Gallery. The workshop provided display materials, research equipment and storage boxes for the Department of Archaeology, the Museum and the Haddon Library. Other routine maintenance and repair of security installations, research equipment, electrical fittings and general building fixtures and fittings have been carried out throughout the year.

In the conservation laboratory Mr Buckley has treated 232 objects of various materials, both archaeological and anthropological. Over 200 objects were frozen at the Scott Polar institute, continuing the Museum's pest control policy. Mr Buckley and Mr Ison spent considerable time working with Rentokil in the treatment of the moth infestation which had been developing over the last six or seven years, due mainly to the unsuitability of the external store for storing large quantities of organic material (see *Buildings*). Due to the severity of this infestation, the Curators and Mr Buckley have improved and intensified the Museum's pest-monitoring programme.

## **Photographic Section**

The major activity over the past year has been the Photographic Collections Project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (see *Maintenance and development*). Early in the year the last round of questions from the lottery fund was dealt with. Much time has been spent on preparing the ground for work to start. Visits have been made to the Birmingham city archives, and to those of the Palestine Exploration Fund and the National Gallery (see *Photographic Collections Project* above).

Other work has continued as usual. Particularly noteworthy has been photography of artifacts for the forthcoming Torres Strait exhibition and its associated book. Included in this was a selection of the papers held in the University library, of which 39 were photographed in black and white, and 17 in large format colour transparency. At the same time a number of archival photographs of the area were chosen and reprinted

from the original glass plates. Many of these were from the first Haddon expedition of 1888.

In September 1996 the final 11 text panels were produced by digital technology in the photographic unit for the Metal in Africa exhibition.

In the new year there was some specialist macro-photography for the bead case display. Subsequently a new postcard has been made from one of the images. Work has also been done outside the studio, in the external store, on a group of stone crosses. Prints of several items of local archaeological interest were provided for the county archaeologist's new book.

Salient figures of production are 126 large format negatives and colour transparencies, and 203 prints for research and publication.

There were 110 general negatives made for the Museum's internal needs, nearly all of which were records of material loaned to other institutions. Total output of prints and negatives was 463, compared with 691 for the previous twelve months.

In January, Mr Owen gave a lecture to a group of the Royal Photographic Society on the photography of cultural artifacts.

## Loans

*Arts of Vanuatu*, Museum der Kulturen, Basel, 15 March - 10 August 1997; to open at Musee des Arts d'Afrique et d'Oceanie, Paris 2 October 1997: 17

Pudding knives (Z 11108, Z 11109, Z 11111, Z 11118, Z 11120, Z 11130, Z 11135, Z 11138, Z 11142, Z 11144, Z 11146/ E 1900.60, Z 42645, 1920.652, 1920.655, 1920.656,

1920.658, 1920.661); a pair of earrings (1954.88); three belts (1920.476 AB, 1900.198) and one earthenware pot (1920.1020 A).

Five objects for the exhibition *Disembodied: an exhibition exploring the human form*, Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia (3 June - 6 July 1997): two carved Nigerian panels (1947.29 A,B); one wax votive offering from Cyprus (1993.76); silver votive offering from Cyprus (1993.89); one Ibeji twin figure (1925.633).

Application from Saffron Walden Museum to extend long-term loan of two clubs from the Solomon Islands (1920.623, 1934.335), one Australian stone-bladed knife (Z 27600) and one Maori hei-tiki (1955.140).

Four photographs, one Lindt photographic album, and one dinner invitation following Haddon's return from the Torres Strait, returned after inclusion in the exhibition, *The Impossible Science of Being - dialogues between anthropology and photography*, at the Photographer's Gallery in London, the City Art Gallery in Leeds, and the Brighton Museum and Art Gallery.

## Visitors

### Research

As in previous years, substantial numbers of researchers visited the Museum from outside Cambridge in order to examine the collections, archives and other facilities. Due to the extensive construction work in the stores during the summer of 1997 and the closure of the external store due to insect control (see *Maintenance and Development*), no visiting researchers could be accommodated in these stores during the summer months. Despite the fact that the Museum could not accept any visitors during the busiest period of the year, 91 visiting researchers were accommodated.

Their fields of study may be summarised as follows:

#### *Anthropology*

European	2
African	5
American	3
Asian	8
Australian/Oceanian	14

#### *Archaeology*

British	10
European	7
African	15
American	5
Asian	2
Australian/Oceanian	4
Photographs and Archives	4
Museology	5
Other	7

#### *Researchers came from the following places:*

	Universities	Museums	Other
UK	16	8	20
Europe	7	6	2
Africa	1	-	-
America	11	-	3
Asia	3	2	
Australasia/Oceania	7	4	1

A general trend this year has been for research visitors to work in the Museum for longer periods than previously. Periods of research ranged from 1 day to two weeks. Research support was provided by the curatorial staff with the assistance of John Osbourn.

In addition, many enquiries on both anthropological and archaeological matters were answered by correspondence or telephone.

### *Public*

During the year under review, public visitors to the Museum totalled 21,189. This represents a healthy increase of 11% over the figure recorded in the previous year. Visitor figures were boosted by the extended opening hours during the summer.

The public specimen-identification service dealt with 55 enquiries. 130 pre-booked educational parties visited the Museum during the year.

### **Crowther-Beynon Fund**

The following grants were approved from the Fund established for the benefit of the Museum under the will of the late Mr V.B. Crowther- Beynon:

Cataloguing of the Rymill Collection (A.K. Brown)	1,200
Kohla Project: pastoralist study (C. Evans)	1,000
Roman Cambridge - the western hinterland (C. Evans)	1,000
Study of pre-Columbian pottery from newly discovered sites in Barbados (M. Harris)	500
Christianity and the revival of indigenous cultures and the indigenous rights movement (Kun-Hui Ku)	1,000
Representation of the Bontoc (Northern Philippines) identity through objects (A.M.T. Labrador)	1,000
Roman Pottery Collections (G.M. Lucas)	1,000
Cataloguing (Museum)	9,700
Torres Strait Exhibition (Museum)	6,200
Acquisitions Fund (Museum)	1,000
Graduate Traineeship (Museum)	3,000

## **Acquisitions**

### ***Gifts\****

(\* indicates that the acquisition was aided by a grant from the Crowther- Beynon Fund)

Prof. W. Rodwell: Remaining field archive of J. Brinston of the 1948 excavations at Gt. Chesterford Roman town, Essex. (1996.1-104)

Maria Bianchi: Peruvian doll (1996.109).

Lady Clark: one Dan mask and brass wrist guard (1996.110-111)

Dr David Phillipson: one Ethiopian silver sistrum (1996.112)

Miss Debenham: one dagger and two knives from Uganda (1996.113-4)

Dr John Alexander: Material from the 1968 excavations at Arbury Roman Villa, Cambridge. (1996.116-1675)

Judith Philp: prints, posters, clothing and ornaments from the Torres Strait (1996.1677-1696; 1996.1698; 1996.1700 A,B -1702)\*

Anita Herle: official flag of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (1996.1697).

### ***Purchases***

Iron gong &c beater, one sword, and two knives from Zaire (1996.105 A,B).

Clapper from the Torres Strait (1996.1699).

## **Teaching**

All the curatorial staff have continued to contribute to the Faculty's teaching of undergraduate and graduate students, particularly in the fields of African archaeology, the anthropology of art, and museum- related studies at M.Phil. level. Curatorial staff also supervise numerous students for Ph.D, M.Phil and Part II dissertations.

Dr Phillipson lectured and supervised doctoral students in African archaeology; he also served as Director of Studies in Archaeology and Anthropology at Gonville and Caius College. He taught the M.Phil/Part II course in African Archaeology and supervised two M.Phil and three PhD students. He gave two lectures to Heritage &c Museums M.Phil students.

Dr Crowther (Michaelmas Term) and Ms Herle (Lent and Easter Term) were the Course Coordinators and lecturers for the M.Phil.

Option B (Social Anthropology and Museums) in the Department of Social Anthropology. They gave a series of lectures on Art and Representation for Prelim Paper 3C Anthropology, Communication and the Arts and coordinated the teaching seminars. Ms Herle is the Co- Supervisor for a PhD student, Advisor for another PhD student, Supervisor for two MPhil theses and Supervisor for two Part II theses.

As well as coordinating the M.Phil paper on museums (Paper 6), Department of Archaeology, Dr Boast gave undergraduate practicals on third-millennium pottery and categorization. He also is Supervisor for a PhD student, Advisor for three Ph.D students and Supervisor for three M.Phil theses.

## **Staff activities**

The Director and Curator, Dr Phillipson, holds the concurrent appointment of Reader in African Prehistory. He continued as President of the British Institute in Eastern Africa and as an *ex officio* Council member of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, but relinquished the vice-chairmanship of the County Museums Advisory Committee which he had held for five years. He attended a forum organised by the British Academy on the Overseas Schools and Institutes, and was involved with planning an international exhibition on *2000 years of Christian Art*. He served on the Registration Committee of the Museums & Galleries Commission and as External Examiner to the Department of Museum Studies at Leicester University. He hosted a visit to Cambridge by the Ethiopian Ambassador, His Excellency Dr Solomon Gidada. He lectured on his research at Aksum to the Society of Antiquaries of London and attended a conference on the Stone Age in North-eastern Africa at Poznan, Poland.

Dr Boast was appointed a Fellow of Hughes Hall in April. He also presented a number of papers, courses and seminars in the year. These included a lecture course, *La campaniformes de Europa Occidental*, at the Depto de Historia 1, Universidad de Santiago, Santiago de Compostela, Spain; two graduate lectures, *Expanding possibilities:*

*Access to collections and IT and Virtuality and Cataloguing: fears for Museums*, at University of Oporto, Portugal; several papers, *Style is what you make it*, (Actor Network and After conference, Keele University), *Designing Multimedia for Museums* (Midlands Museum Federation, Duxford), and *Changing Spaces: the Future of Museums* (Department of Archaeology, University of Wales, Lampeter). Dr Boast also chaired the session, *Archaeology and Information Technology*, at the Society of Museum Archaeologists Conference, St. Albans.

Dr Boast remained as the Curatorial Consultant for Flag Fen, Peterborough, and as the Consulting Editor for Multimedia, Teaching and the Social Sciences. His tenure on the Governing Board of the Society of Museum Archaeologists came to an end in June. Dr Boast has been appointed as the Society of Museum Archaeologists and the Museums and Galleries Commission's (DCHS) Representative for the Joint Information Systems Committee (HEFCE) Archaeological Data Service Advisory Committee, and remains the Faculty's representative on the Council of the School for Humanities and Social Sciences IT Advisory Committee.

Ms Herle was promoted to Senior Assistant Curator and nominated

to the Board of Directors for Pacific Arts Association (Europe). She gave a paper "Filling in the Gaps" - Haddon's Visions and the Relationship Between Ethnography and Natural History at the Collection and Innovation Conference, Horniman Museum, and participated in the annual conference of the Museum Ethnographers' Group Inter-active: World Cultures and Museum Education, Museum of Mankind, London. She also gave numerous gallery talks to students and specialised groups.

Dr Chippindale took sabbatical leave for the Lent Term 1997. He remained a Trustee of the Bead Study Trust, an associate of the Glen Black Laboratory at Indiana University, a member of the research advisory committee for the Grotte Chauvet (France), and a director of Antiquity Publications Ltd and Editor of its journal *Antiquity*. Dr Chippindale gave short courses in Australian rock-art at the Universities of Cape Town and of the Witwatersrand (South Africa) where African rock-art is an important topic. He supervised the studies of Ms Eva Walderhaug, a Ph.D student at the University of Bergen (Norway), whilst she was a visiting student in the Museum from January to August 1997.

Dr Chippindale, as consultant for archaeology and for archaeological interpretation to the Tussauds Group, worked on the solution to the famous difficulties offered in the presentation of Stonehenge to visitors, as a scheme developed under contract for English Heritage and then was sadly cancelled. He continued as a member of the Society for American Archaeology's Publication Committee, and was appointed its chair. He was an invited member of the Symposium on Design and Computation at the University of California Los Angeles May, 1997, intended to plan the future of that research theme at UCLA. He co-organized sessions for the Society for American Archaeology's annual meeting in April 1997. He gave varied public lectures, conference papers, and seminars to varied university and non-university audiences in Canada, USA, South Africa, Eire, Britain and Italy. He was the assessor making the quinquennial review for the South African Research Council of the University of Witwatersrand Rock Art Research Unit.

Mrs Harris presented a paper on Heywoods site at the International Congress of Caribbean Archaeology, Nassau. She was also elected to the board of directors of the International Association of Caribbean Archaeology and attended the South American Archaeology symposium, London.

## **Research**

Dr Phillipson was granted leave of absence for much of the Michaelmas Term so that he could direct the fourth season of archaeological excavations at Aksum, Ethiopia, on behalf of the British Institute in Eastern Africa. As in previous years, the project (which engaged some 130 people in the field) received additional financial support from the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, the British Academy, the Society of Antiquaries of London and the British Museum. A related

project on the archaeobotany of Aksum received a grant from the National Environment Research Council. Both projects were based at the McDonald Institute where Dr J. Phillips (Research Assistant) and Ms S. Boardman (archaeobotanist) were accommodated.

Fieldwork at Aksum succeeded in completing the investigation of burial grounds, both elite and low-status. Extensive excavations were conducted on sites of domestic occupation both within and outside the ancient built-up area. A rockshelter was investigated to illuminate the later prehistory of the Aksum region. Post-excavation work continued in preparation for prompt publication. Book-length manuscripts on Ancient Ethiopia and The Monuments of Aksum were completed and submitted to British Museum Press and Addis Ababa University Press respectively.

In the field and in Cambridge, Dr Phillipson was much involved with discussions for the preservation and presentation of Aksum and the development of museum facilities there. He has been co-opted to the Ethiopian National Committee which is seeking the return of an Aksumite stela appropriated by Mussolini during the 1936-41 Italian occupation of Ethiopia.

He was guide-lecturer for a tour of Ethiopia organised by the British Museum Company.

Dr Boast worked on the completion of the The Virtual Teaching Collection with the main project goals now finished. The project, funded by HEFCE since 1994, has been exploring new ways of using computer image environments and multimedia to work with museum collections. The project has produced three CDs this year: a collection of British archaeology from the Museum's collections; a collection of British archaeology from the Museum's collections and the collections of the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow University; and a collection of historic scientific instruments from the Whipple Museum, Cambridge, and the History of Science Museum in Oxford. Interest in the CDs, now distributed by HEFCE, has come from many universities in Britain, as well as the USA, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Japan, India and Argentina.

Dr Boast spent most of December in India visiting museums in Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and New Delhi. The work will contribute to a publication on the developing Craft Museums of India. Dr Boast is continuing his research on the developing prehistoric landscape of Galicia, Spain, in collaboration with the University of Santiago.

Dr Chippindale continued to work on analysis and preparation in collaboration with Australian and Canadian colleagues for publication of his field studies of rock-art in Arnhem Land (Australia), the field component of the complementary series of studies there having been completed. Progress on the publication of a CD-ROM on the region's distinctive beeswax figures, and the paintings, continues well. He returned briefly to Mont Bego (France) and to Valcamonica (Italy) to explore possibilities of resuming field research in the Alps. He

continued his collaborative work with Dr David Gill (University of Wales at Swansea) on esteem for antiquities as art objects, and its consequences for archaeological knowledge.

Ms Herle was on sabbatical leave during Michaelmas term 1996 conducting background research for an edited book and special exhibition to mark the centenary of the 1898 Cambridge Anthropological Expedition to the Torres Strait. Ongoing work for the project has included archival and collections research in Australia, and the Haddon collections at CUMAA and the Museum of Mankind (British Museum), as well as liaison with Torres Strait Island representatives. Ms Judith Philp was temporarily employed to conduct research on the Haddon photographic collection from the Torres Strait.

Dr Crowther updated her research on the Northwest Coast Collections and published a revised and extended version of Catalogue of the Northwest Coast Collection, CUMAA, 1996.

Alison Brown has continued her research on the Mary Owen collection of Mesquakie (U.S.A.) objects and has begun research on the Rymill collection of Ojibwa (Canada) material with the assistance of the Crowther Beynon Fund. The objects are being photographed and information is being generated on the objects as well as the context of their collection. Similar research is being carried out by Ms Tabitha Cotterill on the Whiffen collection from Columbia, also with the assistance of the Crowther-Beynon Fund.

Mary Hill Harris spent March in Barbados, partially funded by Crowther-Beynon Fund, studying pottery from prehistoric beach wells at the Heywoods site.

## **Publications**

### *Museum Publications*

- Chippindale, C. (1997) Catalogue of the Beck collection of beads in the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology 1:Europe.CUMAA,  
Crowther, G. (1996) Catalogue of the Northwest Coast Collection, 2nd edition, CUMAA.  
McKeating, A. & c D. Phillipson (1996) African Metalwork, CUMAA.

### *Staff Publications*

- Boast, R. (1997) A small company of actors: a critique of style. *Journal of Material Culture*, 2(2):173-198.  
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