Faculty and staff plan Masterpieces
Almost everything about the "Masterpieces of the Peabody Museum" exhibition represents a departure from orthodox methods. First, one of the cardinal rules of exhibitions is that they must have a theme. This one doesn't! It will be intentionally and conspicuously eclectic - with artifacts as varied as rare Chinese oracle bones and African carved sculpture. Second, one is instructed by the how-to literature that one person, or a small committee meeting regularly, should discuss, agree on, and select the items to be displayed. In this case most of the Anthropology faculty, as well as some of the Peabody Research Fellows, have been involved, individually, and without consulting each other, with choosing the objects! One may quite readily assume that the right hand hasn't known what the left has been doing!

It seems clear that there won't be a similarity or uniformity of artifacts - but surely the textual labeling material will be standardized? No, we are breaking the rules here too! Each scholar will write about the object he or she has chosen. The variety in style and approach to the definition and description of "masterpiece" will reflect opinions as diverse as the faculty itself.

Will it work? Absolutely! The "Masterpieces" show is an idea whose time has come! The Peabody Museum has great collections. The most significant objects in those collections have never been brought together for an exhibition. Scholars writing about artifacts within their particular areas of expertise will make an invaluable contribution to the understanding and appreciation of the objects. Last, the construction of a flexible exhibition facility will allow us to install temporary exhibits on a regular basis.

Exhibition
Many members of the Peabody Museum Association have already expressed their faith in this venture. We are profoundly grateful for the support, both for the Museum in general, and for making possible "Masterpieces of the Peabody Museum."

Watch for news of the April opening!

New Library Director
With a bachelor's degree in sociology (Sherlin College), a master's degree in international relations (University of Minnesota), and a Ph.D. in anthropology (Northwestern University, special field: African studies), NANCY L. SCHMIDT sounds like a professor. But she isn't. Dr. Schmidt (who did, in fact "profess" anthropology at the University of Illinois and the University of Wisconsin) has yet another degree, a master's in library science, and is the newly appointed Director of the Tozer Library. She has important changes in store for the library so that it may retain its position of preeminence among anthropological libraries. Material long in storage will soon be added to the collections, and materials which have been lost will be systematically replaced. Procedures will be altered so the Tozer Library can participate in cooperative programs with computerized data bases and thereby both share its unique resources and gain access to many more anthropological resources than any one library can acquire. "By the early 1980s," said Dr. Schmidt, "the internal functions of the Tozer Library should be as up-to-date as its new building."
News of Society - Social Anthropology  
Prof. STANLEY TAMBORLIN of New York University has been awarded a National Science Foundation grant to conduct fieldwork in Thailand in 1978. Tamborlin is studying the sacred craft of bead making and social relations of the Tai peoples of the eastern Sakon Nakhon region of northeastern Thailand. He seeks to understand how this traditional craft contributes to the maintenance of the local society and to the production of knowledge and power among its practitioners. The research will involve long-term fieldwork among the Tai, focusing on the production of ornamental beads and the social relations that surround this activity. The project will also explore the history of bead making in the region, including the role of European traders in the introduction of new materials and techniques.

Assistant Director Edwin L. Wade designs new exhibit  
Edwin L. Wade, newly appointed Assistant Director of the Peabody Museum and Lecturer on North American Archaeology in the Department of Anthropology, is the designer and coordinator of Johnson Gallery (art of the Southwest) and the Peabody Museum Association New Asia College, at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Wade's expertise includes the study of Northwest Coast Indian art, with a focus on the Haida and Tlingit cultures. He has conducted extensive fieldwork in British Columbia, particularly on the central coast, and has published extensively on topics related to Northwest Coast art. His work has been featured in numerous exhibitions and publications, and he is recognized for his contributions to the field of Northwest Coast art.

Business Down Under  
Much of the activity of the Peabody is generated by people whose offices and laboratories are in the basement of the Museum, offices of the staff of the Peabody's cataloging, and laboratories for photography, the photo archives, Manuscripts project, and conservation.

A unique puppy exhibit by staff photographer  
HILDE BURGER created "Inspirational Photographs of Museum Objects" for recent twenty-party museum artifacts and photos. DANIEL JONES, the recipient of a National Science Foundation grant, is developing a cataloguing system geared to human communication for the photo archives. Rendell of the archivist, to be completed this spring, will include a cold storage room for the preservation of photo slides, transparencies, magnetic film, and magnetic tape. FRANCES SILVERMAN, registrar, directs the loan program for research and exhibition purposes to other institutions. Peabody artifacts are currently exhibited exhausting exhibitions at the University of British Columbia, Herd Museum, Phoenix, University of Texas Art Gallery, Austin; Nelson Gallery-Atkins Museum, Kansas City; California Academy of Science, San Francisco; National Collection of Fine Arts, Washington, D.C.; and Art Institute of Chicago.

Unusual heroes  
JOE JOHN'S Creek name is "Caryng," he is a woodcarver, whose works, representing religious symbolism of the Creek nation, are on display in the Museum Shop.

After 112 years --- "spring cleaning" in Africa  
After 112 years, the Museum's African inventory exceeds 30,000 objects — ranging from daily utensils to complex ritual costumes and world-famous sculptures. The Hereroan task of rehousing the storage of the African collections began last spring under the direction of Prof. MARIE JENNS (Moore) ADAMS (Art and Anthropology). The objects were gathered together from various storage areas all over the museum and systematically examined, sorted, and reviewed. Dr. LEON SIBOUT, former curator of the Field Museum in Chicago and an expert in African ethnology, was here for two months reclassifying some of the objects. Assisted by museum volunteers, MARIETTA JOSEPH, a PhD candidate in art and anthropology at Boston University, is organizing the transfer into the new storage space. They are currently rehousing North African artifacts and the noted Collection of masks and other objects from Liberia. Proceeding through western, central, and southern Africa, they expect to be finished by the end of January.

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Gaudeamus igitur!

GORDON RANDOLPH WILLEY, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., M.A. (hon.), Litt. D. (hon.). On June 10, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, newly stowed upon Prof. Willey the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters. Prof. Willey is the first Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, newly inducted a use-wear analysis of stone tools.

New books

Philip Phillips and James A. Brown: Pre-Columbian Shell Engravings from the Craig Mound at Spiro, Oklahoma. Volumes I, II, and III. [Published by the Peabody Museum.]

Stanley J. Tambiah: World Conqueror and World Renouncer: A Study of Buddhism and Polity in Thailand against an Historical Background. [Published by Cambridge University Press.]

Dorothy Kosler Washburn: A Symmetry Analysis of Upper Gila Area Ceramic Design. [Published by the Peabody Museum.]

BARRABA WESTMAN has done it again! Kirkus Reviews said, "Turn your child loose with Anna's Magic Broom and you might never have to read the story: so much goes on in the pictures that, whether the plot line is precisely followed or not, there's no way to miss being entertained." [Published by Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.]

End of an era

"There's no free lunch!" Actually, there's no lunch at all — but there will be an admission fee. After Nov. 21, admission to the Harvard University museum complex (Peabody, Agassiz, Botanical, Geological and Mineralogical) will be $1.00 for adults, $.50 for children under 16. Members of the Harvard community, FMA, Boston and Cambridge school groups will be admitted free. Friday will be free for everyone.

Research fellows

Dr. CLEMENCY COGGIN is completing reports on the architectural stucco and monumental sculpture of Dzibilchaltun, Yucatan, Mexico, for the Middle American Research Institute at Tulane University. IAN GRAHAM and Dr. ERIC YON EUW again gathered hieoplyphic inscriptions during a recent four-month stint in the Maya area. A contribution to their project was given by the Morgan, Greenfield and Co., the banking house founded by George Peabody. A brass plate bearing the name "George Peabody and Company," almost obliterated by daily polishing, still marks the entrance to the offices in London. Dr. DAVID HOFF is working on data collected during his field research on wild orangutans in Borneo. Using material in the Peabody, American Museum of Natural History, and the British Museum, Dr. Hoff is also investigating a problem in primate taxonomy. Dr. JOAN MARK is continuing her research on the history of anthropology in the nineteenth century. Dr. ROSEMARY SHARP is studying the iconography of certain architectural forms in Late Classic-Early Postclassic Mesoamerica. Dr. PETER WELLS visited the Iron Age site of Magalasena gora and Sticina in Slovenia during the summer in connection with his work on the Mecklenburg Collection. He is working on the grave goods (part of that collection) from the cemetery site of Sticina. Were the large, triangular sheets called "coppers," so highly prized by Northwest Coast Indians, made on native trees or obtained through barter from Europeans? Dr. CAROL IOPLING's current research, which includes metallurgical analysis, will resolve this intriguing puzzle.

The price is right!

"As for him who volunteereth a good work, verily Allah is grateful and knowing!" (The Koran). We thank the following volunteers for their help with African storage, photographic archives, publications, conservation, Maya hieroglyphic study, Institute for Conservation Archaeology, exhibitions, and the Museum Shop:

Denise Ancand
Shawn Jones
Paul Kelley
Susan Bang
Elizabeth Kessler
Laurel Brook
Claudette Marshall
Margaret Carcich
Mary Sabih
Robert Chave
Mary Ann Senatore
Patrice Churchill
Wendy Shah
Maine Crocetti
Astrid Steele
Carla Felker
Elizabeth Temby
Cynthia Forbes
Carol Stevens
Anne Harper
Mary Toogar
Robert Houghton
Karen Webber
Paul Ippanni

"... leavin' on a jet plane..."

Francis Bacon said, "Travel, in the younger sort, is part of education." Our well-traveled graduate students have recently been in Central America, Europe, and Saudi Arabia. The major find of the first season of excavation at the site of Santa Letticia in El Salvador was the discovery of a village habitation area believed to be contemporary with the great terrace, an artificial structure supporting three massive "pot-bellied" sculptures. Directed by third-year graduate student ARTHUR REMAREST, the excavation of this fifteen-hectare (thirty-seven acre) site will increase understanding of Middle and Late Preclassic highland interaction and evolution. The final season of the Copan Valley Settlement Study, under the direction of Prof. GORDON W. WILLEY, was completed in 1977. During the seven-month field season, RICHARD LEVENTHAL and WILLIAM FASH mapped and excavated sites throughout the valley surrounding the famous ruins of Copan (Honduras). The most spectacular discovery of this year was a throne, supported by eight carved pillars and decorated with thirteen Maya hieroglyphs. RICHARD MEADOW gave a paper in Naples on his work at the Harappan site of Balakot (Pakistan) and worked in Munich on faunal material from Tepe Yahya (Iran). He is participating in planning for the boston-area Center for Materials Research in Archaeology and Ethnology, and editing a book, Approaches to Faunal Analysis in the Middle East. BARBARA VOYTEK, ANNE WHITMAN, and undergraduate ELLEN NICHOLS spent six weeks at the Abri Patada (well-known Upper Palaeolithic site excavated by Prof. HALLAM.). BARBARA JIHNEN con­ducting a use-wear analysis of 1,000 stone tools. PETER ROGUCKI, a third-year graduate student, excavated at Birkasov, a site in north-central Poland. A Neolithic site, Birkasov is best known for its transeptal-plan long houses. On a survey in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia, DAN POTTS and JEFF FRYE found 211 sites ranging in date from the Ubaid (4000 B.C.) to the eleventh century.