Corpus Project Heralded, Washington to New York

In March, the Peabody sponsored two-week photographic exhibits in both Washington, D.C., and New York, saluting the publication of the inaugural volumes of the Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscriptions compiled by Ian Graham, Assistant Curator of Maya Hieroglyphics at the Peabody, and his able assistant, Eric von Euw.

Cosponsored by the Organization of American States, the exhibit in Washington at the Pan American Union was opened with a festive reception attended by dignitaries of both the diplomatic and museum worlds as well as by interested friends of the Peabody. The exhibit then moved to the Rizzoli Gallery on Fifth Avenue in New York City, where another opening heralded its arrival. More than one hundred guests came to the opening night at the gallery to take in the exhibit over sherry.

The exhibit returned to Cambridge in April to be displayed at the Peabody until June 20.

New at the Shop

The Peabody Museum Shop, under the management of Ruth VanArsdale, continues to prosper in its newly refurbished quarters by the front entrance to the Museum. Our second spring sale was a great success.

Newest items in the Shop this season are: Afghanistan nomad jewelry, colorful Guatemala wrap-around skirts, prints from Tatiana Proskouriakoff’s publication An Album of Maya Architecture, and Danish jewelry reproduced from archaeological finds in that country.

Last summer, several Peabody graduate students agreed to collect for the Shop contemporary native handicrafts from the various corners of the world where they were doing their field studies. In the fall, we introduced their collections of unusual and inexpensive crafts from Peru, Iran, Kenya, Canada, and Mexico. As this program proved to be very successful and interesting for everyone involved, we plan to continue collecting crafts in this manner. In the fall, you may check in the Shop for new handwork gathered in Guatemala, Peru, and Tunisia by our students.

Danish Royalty Feted

In May, the Museum had the unique pleasure of a visit from the Danish royal family. Queen Margrethe II, who was touring the United States with her husband, His Royal Highness Prince Henrik, has an avid interest in archaeology, and she therefore requested that her trip include a stop at the Peabody. A reception sponsored by the Peabody and the Department of Anthropology was held at the Museum in honor of the Queen and Prince, who seemed impressed by the Peabody holdings and delighted to be here. Among those invited to attend were undergraduate archaeology concentrators and graduate students in archaeology.
Editor's Scrapbasket

Another summer and another column for the Newsletter — I've written at least a half dozen at this time of the year and yet this one is different. Sure, there is an interesting year to look back on and yet another to look forward to — but this next year will be the last one from this chair for me. On June 30, 1977, I will leave the post of Director after ten years; so it is with real light at the end of the tunnel that I work this summer with Alice Pierce to plan the events for 1976-77.

I don't intend to behave too much like a lame duck, although the staff and the University have known my decision for some time — there's just too much left to do for that posture.

We have had a darn good year — lots of interesting happenings as detailed elsewhere and some happy events from a financial standpoint that were only projected but have now happened — both the Publications Department and the Museum Shop went past the $50,000.00 mark in sales for the first time. These successes are tributes to hard and excellent staff work — congratulations to Dick, Emily, Lorna, and Cope, and to Ruth and her helpers. We've had fine products and great salespeople.

We did a lot of good things together also — two fairly complex exhibits, “BICENTENNIAL” and “CORPUS,” without an exhibit department, just a lot of the staff getting into the swing of things and “executing” as they say in pro-ball. Opportunities like that I will miss — but it's like a field experience which is why I liked it, I guess, and soon there'll be time for digging once again.

It is a time of leave-taking, both at retirement and in mid-career. Hal Movius has been and will continue to be a Museum stalwart despite the ending of teaching, but three younger friends and colleagues — Jerry, Mike, and Jonathan — are actually departing. I will personally miss their keen minds, exciting research, and actual presence in the Peabody, as I am sure will all the staff, but such is the strategy of academic succession.

But the future? New faces — both by appointments and by visits. The MacCurdy Lectureship will be divided into six parts for a diverse and interesting spring term course, entitled “New Aspects of Old World Archaeology” and led by Karl Lamberg-Karlovsky and myself, details of which will be in the fall Newsletter; new books are coming from the Publications Office; and some new exhibits too.

Well, there'll be plenty to keep us all very busy, and too soon it will all be done; the mountain laurel will be in bloom again (it was two weeks early this year), some more dissertations completed, and Commencement will be here with sunshine as usual and some sadness as well.

Stephen Williams

Staff

Movius Honored at Retirement

On March 9, 1976, a dinner was held in honor of Professor Hallam L. Movius, Jr. to mark the occasion of his retirement, after almost thirty years of teaching at Harvard. It was a memorable occasion in which colleagues, friends, students, and family came to express their affection for Nancy and Hal Movius. Amid the evening's many toasts, Hal was presented with a silver tray signed by his colleagues. A number of letters were read from foreign colleagues unable to attend, among them Professors Asok K. Ghosh and Wilhelm G. Solheim II, who are editing a Festschrift to honor Hallam's many contributions to Paleolithic archaeology.

The author of numerous monographs and articles, Professor Movius has just published the first of a series of volumes on his Abri Pataud excavations in France. He has been accorded many honors and decorations and is a Fellow of the National Academy of Science. He will continue to do research in the Museum and is presently working toward the completion of the multivolume reports on the Abri Pataud excavations.

Appointments

George Lewis Cowgill, a Visiting Lecturer in the Department during the fall term, has been appointed a Research Fellow in Analytical Archaeology. Dr. Cowgill received an MS in Physics from Iowa State University in 1954, an MA in Anthropology from the University of Chicago in 1956, and a PhD in Anthropology from Harvard in 1963.

A Harvard PhD in Anthropology in 1975, Sarah Blaffer Hrdy was appointed a Research Fellow in Biological Anthropology. Dr. Hrdy's dissertation was entitled "Male and Female Strategies of Reproduction Among the Langurs of Abu."

Mrs. Emily Flint, just retired as Editor of the Museum.

Philip Lantry Kohl, another Harvard PhD in Anthropology (1974), has been appointed an Honorary Associate in Near Eastern Archaeology. Currently teaching anthropology at Wellesley College, he is interested in initiating archaeological excavations in northern Afghanistan.

Working with Ian Graham on the Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscriptions is Eric von Euw, who has been appointed a Research Fellow in Maya
Hieroglyphics. Dr. von Euw, who has spent the winter in the field in Yucatan, has previously been a Research Assistant on the Project.

Courses

Native American Arts

Dr. Carol Jopling, a Research Fellow in Primitive Art at the Museum, conducted a spring course on Native American Art, offered through the Harvard Extension Program. The course was aimed at examining the great diversity of art forms and styles of various native American peoples north of Mexico, with particular emphasis on the aesthetic value of the works of art and their significance within their culture context. The influences of European contact, the relationship of technology and environment to art form, and the effect of societal development on art style were major avenues of exploration pursued during the course of instruction.

Scientific Illustration

This spring, the “Friends” Association of the Museum of Comparative Zoology again offered its Saturday course in “Scientific Illustration,” for the first time taught by an archaeological illustrator. Peabody Museum artist Whitney Powell (B.F.A., Rhode Island School of Design) introduced the joys and complexities of archaeological drafting to a group of students that included not only archaeologists interested in learning how to present their own information, but also art students who would like to make the field of archaeological illustration their career. Through lecture, demonstration, and many hours of class drawing time, the students became familiar with, and tried their own hand at, every aspect of presenting archaeological material artistically.

The aim of the course is to give the students an introduction to the techniques of archaeological illustration, to give them an opportunity to draw and learn from Museum specimens, and to have at the completion of the course the core of an archaeological illustration portfolio.

Next fall, this course again will be given in the form of thirteen two-hour sessions, on Saturday afternoons, through the Peabody Museum Association.

Pilot Project in Art and Anthropology

Last fall, Harvard’s Committee on Art and Anthropology initiated a five-year pilot project to develop and increase understanding of the Arts of Native America, Black Africa, and Oceania, principally through teaching, research, and exhibition. In the words of Professor John Rosenfield, Chairman of the Fine Arts Department and Co-chairman of the Committee, “This is a response to Harvard’s long-felt need to add to an understanding of these arts in both undergraduate and graduate education.” The effort is being supported by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.

To launch this new academic interest, Marie Jeanne (Monni) Adams was appointed Associate Professor of Art and Anthropology and assigned a curatorship at the Peabody Museum. With its extensive collections and one of the finest ethnographic libraries in the world, the Peabody provides a rich resource for this program. Having taught at Columbia and MIT, Professor Adams will offer seminars and lecture courses in the arts of Africa, Oceania, and North America in the coming academic year.

The Committee has already sponsored a number of special events for the Harvard community. During the fall term, in an inaugural series of colloquia, “Anthropologists on Art,” four noted scholars demonstrated various approaches (technical, functional, structural) to the arts of small village societies. This April, Professor Adams chaired an all-day symposium on “The Image of Woman in African Art.” Five young scholars from various universities in the United States, two commentators, and keynote speaker Robert Farris Thompson of Yale University (specialist in Yoruba art) explored this theme, particularly in relation to women’s role in African societies.

During the past academic year, Dr. Adams has given several talks related to the new program at the Boston Visual Artists Union, MIT, Museum School, Harvard Neighbors, and the Peabody Museum’s “More Treasures in Our Attic” series. Papers at scholarly conferences explored the beneficent dragon image and the metal art of kris-making in Southeast Asia.

Under the sponsorship of the Committee, two foreign visitors have offered lectures on exotic arts: Dr. Maximilian Klimburg, Director of the South Asia Institute, Kabul, Afghanistan, spoke on the wood carvings from Nuristan, and Haku Shah of the Tribal Research Institute, Ahmedabad, India, focused on crafts of Northwest India. Recently, with the assistance of the Committee, Michael Kabotie, the Hopi painter and poet, presented a pictures-and-poetry evening at Carpenter Center and, in the Bowditch Room at the Peabody Museum, William Fagg, long-time Curator of the British Museum, explored aspects of connoisseurship in African Art.
Copan Excavations Survive Earthquake

Gordon R. Willey, Curator of Middle American Archaeology and Bowditch Professor of Archaeology, spent February and March in Honduras carrying out archaeological survey and excavations in the Copan Valley. This is the first time that the Peabody Museum has engaged in archaeological research at Copan since the famous expedition of the 1890s. Willey’s current work there is concerned with valley settlement pattern arrangements and involves extensive instrument mapping and some excavations in the numerous mound groups which lie outside of the main ceremonial center of Copan.

The expedition took to the field just prior to the Guatemalan earthquake, and Richard Leventhal, Professor Willey’s graduate student assistant, was already in the country on the night of the first shock. While western Honduras did not suffer any great damage, the quake was nevertheless a frightening experience for the inhabitants of that part of the country. The Copan ruin suffered minor damage. At Quirigua on the Guatemalan side of the line, some of the stelae were cracked by the quake, and the University of Pennsylvania archaeological expedition at that site has since been helping the Guatemalan government repair them.

Changing Staff

Barbara Voytek (’75) replaced Jane Joyce as secretary to the Director for nine months before going on a Yugoslavian dig and returning to graduate school in anthropology. Beth Connor is our new secretary in the Director’s office. In the Publications Department, Emily Flint is retiring after five years as Editor, but we are pleased that she will be available when needed to help out in the Department. Emily and her husband will spend a long summer at their island house in Maine, returning to the Cambridge area in the fall. Assuming the duties of Editor is Lorna Condon, formerly the Editorial Assistant, who has been replaced by Cope Cumpston (’72). Martin K. Shofner (’74), who was working on educational planning, has accepted a position in New York with the Metropolitan Opera Company. In February, Harriette Hughes replaced Carol Davies in the Development Office. Ann Samuelson is our new receptionist.

New to the Library Staff is Laura L. Torres as Assistant for Technical Services.

Volunteers Benefit Museum Projects

Over twenty volunteers at the Peabody play a vital role in supplementing the Peabody staff, while at the same time acquiring a working knowledge of museology. In March and April, over 1,000 hours of volunteer time were logged in—the equivalent of three extra full-time staff members. The volunteers have become involved in many varied projects, particularly those concerning the processes of cataloguing archives and conservation.

Two main projects now being undertaken by volunteers are the complete organization of an African storage facility at the Museum and an inventory of the Bushnell Room, where the Museum’s collection of paintings and prints is housed. Volunteers are also preparing small exhibits to be sent out on loan and are assisting in the general backbone work of the Museum. Others are involved in specific areas, such as textiles, basketry, ceramics, and bronze. Volunteers were invaluable in setting up the Bicentennial Exhibit as well as the Maya Exhibit which went to Washington, D.C., and New York. Several volunteers are working for members of the research and teaching staff, and volunteers from Simmons College are working in the Publications Office.

We are fortunate to have such a willing and dedicated group of helpers. Without question, the Museum would not be able to function without them.

PMA

Inside China

Last fall, Professor William W. Howells, Professor Emeritus and Honorary Curator of Somatology, presented “An Outsider Inside China” to Museum friends and interested community members. With his slides he led us through the China that he saw, and created impressions of a strange and very fascinating land and people. Professor Howells was a member of the Paleanthropology Delegation, whose members visited China on an exchange basis as official guests of the Chinese government’s Scientific and Technical Association.

More Treasures

Another popular monthly series “More Treasures in Our Attic” was held this spring on Thursday mornings. Professor Monni Adams, Associate Curator, Art and Anthropology, presented a slide lecture on the fascinating art of Javanese Batik. Dr. Clemency Coggins, Research Fellow in pre-Columbian Art, discussed and illustrated some of the intriguing gold treasures unearthed at the Maya site of Chichen Itza in Yucatan as well as at other Middle and South American sites. Dan Jones, Consultant on Visual Resources, next presented a graphic illustration of how photography was handled in the second half of the nineteenth century and then showed a remarkable film.
made from still photographs taken at that time of the "Real West." Dr. Jeffrey Brain, Research Associate in North American Archaeology, closed the series with an illustrated discussion of a collection of historic period artifacts from Louisiana known as the "Tunica Treasure."

Report from Chan Chan

Michael Moseley, Associate Curator of South American Archaeology, gave us a scholarly look at what has been going on at the urban site of Chan Chan, Peru, where fieldwork was completed last summer. In a delivery spiced with wit and insight, he put the city into proper historical context by explaining its significance with regard to cross-cultural relationships. He also detailed how the social structure of the ancient settlement can be determined from archaeological remains.

About Weaving

The Museum held four very successful Wednesday afternoons of ethnographic films "About Weaving" as a monthly series beginning in February. The authentic films, selected and annotated by Phylis Morrison and Joanne S. Brandford, Research Fellow in Textile Arts, showed textile crafts in action, offering an unusual opportunity to view and compare diverse creative processes. Presented to overflow audiences, the films included "Basket Processes," "Weaving as Architecture," "Transforming the Fiber," and "The Cloth."

Two Civilizations

It was standing room only on the mild April evening when the Peabody and the Archaeological Institute of America (Boston Society) co-sponsored Two Civilizations: An Evening of Archaeological Films, which was held in the Geological Lecture Hall. More than 200 people came to see "Ancient Egypt" (produced by Time-Life) and "The Lost World of the Maya" (produced by the BBC).

Sculpture recently donated by Donald Deskey, in the African Hall on the fifth floor

Anthropology Department

Departures

Associate Professor Jonathan Friedlaender will be joining the Department of Anthropology at Temple University. He will also have a half-time research appointment with the Institute for Cancer Research at Fox Chase, which will enable him to carry out further field studies in epidemiology.

Associate Professor Michael E. Moseley will move "The Technology and Strategy of Indigenous Irrigation Agriculture," his Research Program, to the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, where he will assume curatorship of Latin American Archaeology and Ethnology.

Associate Professor Jerry Sabloff will be going to the University of Utah as an Associate Professor of Anthropology. He will succeed Jesse D. Jennings when the latter retires. He plans to undertake some archaeological research in Utah, although he certainly will maintain his research interests in Mesoamerica as well.

Arrivals

The Department of Anthropology is pleased to announce that Stanley J. Tambiah has accepted a Professorship in Social Anthropology. He will be coming to Harvard in the fall. A native of Sri Lanka, Professor Tambiah did his undergraduate work at the University of Ceylon and took his doctorate in Sociology, Social Anthropology, and Social Psychology at Cornell University in 1954. He has taught at Cambridge University and lately at the University of Chicago. He is a specialist in the study of religion, social structure, and economics in South and Southeast Asia.

Visitors

Professor Robert McC. Adams, past Director of the Oriental Institute and Dean of the Social Sciences at the University of Chicago, will be Visiting Professor in the Department of Anthropology in the spring semester of 1977. He has been a pioneer in the history of settlement in ancient Mesopotamia and has contributed significantly to an understanding of the evolution of urban societies. His most recent research interests have been in directing the first systematic archaeological surveys in Saudi Arabia.
Current Museum Activities

Tuareg Collection Enlarged

Recent collections accessioned into the Peabody include several important additions. Museum cataloguer Sally Bond reports that last summer, the Museum was privileged to receive a large collection of Tuareg (Algerian Sahara) ethnology from the Estate of Lloyd Cabot Briggs (1909-1975), formerly Research Associate in North African Anthropology. This collection of almost one hundred objects contains fine examples of leatherwork, including a camel saddle and saddle bags, and metalwork, including several sabers and a number of ornate locks, as well as wood and pottery. The Briggs collection also includes a sizable volume of both written and pictorial archival materials. The addition of these items to the Tuareg collection already owned by the Museum gives us a fairly complete picture of Tuareg material culture.

This past winter, through the generosity of Robin and Kendall Mix, we were able to further supplement our Tuareg collections, particularly the jewelry portion, with the donation of nearly twenty rings, necklaces, and amulets, as well as a few additional pieces of leatherwork.

In January, Elinor Reichlin, former Archivist at the Peabody, installed a new exhibit in the Tozzer Library as a tribute to Lloyd Cabot Briggs, his scholarship and various interests. The exhibit includes objects from his collection as well as archival materials relating to his life. Also displayed are some samples of the diverse and finely bound books recently donated to the Tozzer from the Briggs Estate.

Renovations

January heralded the completion of a number of major renovations in the administrative area on the first floor. We have installed two brand new, brightly colored public restrooms (the Museum previously had no public facilities); and we have freshly painted and carpeted the Museum staff offices on the first floor. The move of the Tozzer Library to its newly constructed building adjacent to the Museum made considerable space for the Museum Shop to expand as well as for the construction of the Bowditch and Scott Rooms, which are used for meetings and small official gatherings.

Tibet to Bali

In the front entrance of the Museum, we have instituted a program of changing mini-exhibits which has given us the opportunity to put together and show some of our collections which are not usually on display. Last winter, we presented a unique view of the culture of Tibet. January changed the focus to the island of Bali. From June through the end of summer we are presenting a look at the ceramic technology of the Vietnamese potter from neolithic to present times, with captions in both Vietnamese and English. And an exhibit on Madagascar is in the planning stages for September.

Two New Exhibits

Two new exhibits are in the planning stages and will be ready during the winter of 1976-1977. On the fifth floor, we have removed the existing exhibit of Fossil Man to make way for a new exhibit on Early Man. Dr. Josephine L. Murray has generously donated funds for this renovation and will be working with the Director of the Museum and Professor Alan Walker, Research Associate in Biological Anthropology, on this exciting project.

Visiting Committee

The annual meeting of the Visiting Committee was held on May 20 with Harriet Belin, Chairman, presiding. Members of the staff met with the Committee at lunch and dinner.
Mr. and Mrs. Roger T. Stone have also been kind enough to donate funds for the renovation of the exhibit space on the third floor, where an updated presentation of the Archaeology of Lower Central America will be installed. In addition to the Stones' gift, we received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to help with the installation. The opening of this exhibit is scheduled for October.

Bicentennial Retrospect

On November 13, the Peabody commemorated the nation's anniversary with the opening of its Bicentennial Exhibit. Made possible by a grant from the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission, the retrospect pays sentimental tribute to the Peabody Museum's predecessors, Boston's popular museums and learned societies of the early nineteenth century. Professor Stephen Williams narrated a slide presentation, which was an interesting introduction to the history of the Museum. Guests admired portraits of early Peabody Museum notables as they strolled into the Hall of the American Indian, accompanied by the music of a harpsicord and flute in the setting of a Victorian drawing room.

Forum on Dorset Culture

In March, a group of Canadian and American scientists convened at the Peabody Museum to discuss the prehistoric Eskimo culture known as "Dorset." The Peabody was chosen as a friendly and convenient forum midway between Montreal and Washington, D.C., by the Workshop's organizer, Dr. William Fitzhugh (PhD Harvard '70), who is currently Chairman of the Department of Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution. The group enjoyed the fine meeting facilities at the Peabody during their very profitable two-day meeting. They also appreciated the hospitality offered to them by the Kingsbury Brownes of Brookline for the Saturday dinner.

Tusk Unveiled

The Museum unveiled an ancient Benin carved ivory tusk in mid-May. On loan to the Peabody Museum from the Kennedy Library, it was presented by the Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria to President John F. Kennedy in July of 1961. The tusk, from the altar of a deceased Oba of Benin and probably eighteenth century, is located in the Oric Bates Hall on the fifth floor along with other Benin art objects.

In the tropical forest area of Nigeria, the ancient Benin people used such carved ivory to decorate the altars of their obas, or kings.

New Recorded Tour

We are pleased to announce that the Museum has recently introduced a cassette-guided tour through our great collection of the material culture of the North American Indians, the first natives of America. Professor Williams narrates his way through the Tlingit world and then through the Hall of the American Indian, case by case, explaining with the use of artifacts the differing cultures of Indian tribes throughout the United States. (Charge: $1.00)

New Mailing Procedures

Due to the increased costs of regular mailings, the Museum has been forced to alter mailing patterns to some degree. Domestic mail is now being sent under a non-profit organization permit which allows a regular mailing to be sent for approximately two cents per piece. Since this mail is not sent as priority mail, it may take quite a long time to reach its destination; however, the savings involved make this modification a necessity. Since distance precludes their attendance at any of the events, members living out of the country will be receiving activity notices periodically in packets rather than individually.
This new display in the entrance to Tozzer Library commemorates the career and interests of Lloyd Cabot Briggs (1909-1975).

Tozzer Library

In the last five months, the Tozzer Library has concentrated its efforts in a number of important areas. Inhouse bookbinding has become possible on a limited basis through the purchase of a bookbinding machine. Also, an in-house book repair and restoration program is now under way, utilizing conservation-oriented methods and the skills of one of our professional librarians. Another large area of concentration is the processing of hundreds of books that the library acquired last year either by gift or purchase. As a special project, the Cabot Briggs collection is being catalogued, as well as a number of maps. Our maps will now be located on the main floor, making them more accessible to scholars. The Rare Book collection is being reorganized, and many items which were shelved in the open stacks will now be housed there.

This year our annual Book Sale was extremely successful. In three consecutive days, the sale yielded a grand total of $1,918.30, which will be used to buy special materials.

Facilities for the Handicapped

Any handicapped person wishing to visit the Museum may find it more convenient to use the Tozzer Library ramp entrance. Beginning June 8, the Library will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you wish more information, please call 495-2248.

Publications

*The Neville Site: 8,000 Years at Amoskeag*, by Dena Ferran Dincauze. Peabody Museum Monographs, no. 4. 160 pages, 13 figures, 23 halftones, 9 tables. ($10.00—PMA price $8.00)

*The Later Prehistory of Tangier, Morocco*, by Antonio Gilman. American School of Prehistoric Research Bulletin no. 29. 192 pages, 128 figures (including maps, stratigraphic drawings, halftones, line drawings). ($15.00—PMA price $12.00)

*Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscriptions*, vol. 1, Introduction, by Ian Graham. 64 pages, introduction to the Corpus in English and Spanish, 6 appendixes, including complete Calendar Round tables for 52 years. ($7.50—PMA price $6.00)

*Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscriptions*, vol. 2-1, Naranjo, by Ian Graham and Eric von Euw. 64 pages, photographs and line drawings of 24 stelae, 2 maps. ($7.50—PMA price $6.00)
