THE ART OF MAYA HIEROGLYPHIC WRITING

In cooperation with the Center for Inter-American Relations in New York, the Museum has prepared an exhibition entitled "The Art of Maya Hieroglyphic Writing," which shows some of the impressive Maya materials in our collection, details the history of research in the field, and describes the Museum's current program of compiling a Corpus of these Writings. It is a unique combination of art and archaeology, with such important pieces as the Piedras Negras lintel (a delicately carved stone frieze, recently cleaned and remounted) properly displayed for the first time, along with portions of our monumental Hieroglyphic staircase from Copan, newly restored by the Metropolitan Museum. A well-illustrated and documented catalogue written by IAN GRAHAM has been published.

The Center's gallery is located at 680 Park Avenue. The exhibition is running in New York from January 28th to March 28th, and then will move to Cambridge for six to eight weeks at Harvard's Carpenter Center in cooperation with the Department of Visual Studies. This exhibit opening with a lecture/reception in May will be part of the regular Peabody Museum Association activities.

Behind the scenes the Peabody crew working on the planning and preparation of the Maya exhibit kept a brisk pace in order to meet the January 25th opening-night deadline. Here at the Museum a scale model of the Center for Inter-American Relations prepared by the architectural firm of Johnson-Hotvedt & Associates, became the focal point of the activities in Room 32, the birthplace of the exhibit.

Among the multi-faceted activities involved in preparing the show were choosing and locating excavation and artifact photos for reproduction and mounting; hunting down historical documents and books; restoration of objects; designing and laying-out panels; writing label copy; constructing and painting panels; selection and production of the poster design; and the packing of items for shipment to New York. Last but not least the task of transporting the stelae and Altar Q from Cambridge to the Center in New York presented a seemingly insurmountable job, but on January 14th the stelae and company arrived in New York intact.

As the time of the opening drew near, the theater of operations shifted to the Center in New York. Here STEVE RITCHINGS, graphic designer from Johnson-Hotvedt & Associates, ALICIA SULLIVAN, research assistant, and DENNIS PIECHOTA, the Museum's Preparator/Conservator, with the assistance of the Center's staff put the finishing touches on the exhibit.

(Continued on Page 2)
NEW:
JONATHAN S. FRIEDLAENDER — Assistant Professor and Assistant Curator of Somatology
JEAN FARRINGTON — Cataloguer in the Museum Library

CHANGE OF TITLES:
TATIANA PROSKOURIAKOFF—Curator of Maya Art
JEREMY A. SABLOFF — Assistant Curator of Middle American Archaeology
MICHAEL E. MOSELEY — Assistant Curator of South American Archaeology
BRUCE HOWE — Honorary Associate in Palaeolithic Archaeology
COENRAAD F. A. MOURREES — Honorary Associate in Odontology
LINDA NONNO — Cataloguer

THE ART OF MAYA (Cont’d)
preparation. Painting, panel assembly, last minute restoration of panels and objects, and the installation of the items in their respective places was completed.

The show had two openings: the first on January 25th when friends of the Center and archaeologists in the New York area were invited to see the exhibition and hear a lecture by Ian Graham on his research in the Maya area. Two days later the Peabody Museum Association held its reception with more than 150 in attendance; President and Mrs. PUSEY and members of our Visiting Committee from the New York area were special guests at this opening.

The success of the Maya Show is due to the teamwork of the members of the Museum staff who assisted in the exhibit preparation, in particular, Ian GRAHAM, Hillel S. BERGER, Alicia SULLIVAN, Dennis PIECHOTA and Barbara PAGE.

In the words of the New York Times art critic, John Canaday: “The only thing wrong with ‘The Art of Maya Hieroglyphic Writing’, an exhibition that opened to the public recently at the Center for Inter-American Relations, is that it may make you feel you have wasted your life doing whatever it is you are doing instead of having gone in for archaeology.”
THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF PREHISTORIC RESEARCH

In 1919 at the suggestion of Dr. and Mrs. George Grant MacCurdy Dr. Henri Martin, a former president of the Société Préhistorique de France, donated a tract of land adjacent to the Mousterian station of La Quina in France for the purpose of excavation by American students of anthropology. It was also due to the leadership and vision of Dr. and Mrs. MacCurdy as well as to the generosity of Dr. Martin that in July 1921 the American School in France of Prehistoric Studies was opened under the auspices of the American Anthropological Association and the Archaeological Institute of America. Dr. Charles Peabody was Chairman; Dr. MacCurdy was Director and Editor, and Mrs. MacCurdy was Secretary. Among the trustees in the early days were General Charles G. Dawes, former Vice-President of the United States, and Robert Lansing, former Secretary of State.

Devoted efforts on the part of the founders and trustees raised funds to maintain the programme of activities. Later the scope of the work broadened to encompass the whole Old World and the name was changed to the American School of Prehistoric Research. The School's purpose as stated in its by-laws was to “give instruction and conduct researches in the prehistoric field and to afford opportunity for fieldwork and training to students of prehistory and related branches of the Science of Man.” In the 1920's and 1930's, students participated in Europe in excavations, excursions and study in museums. In addition, a lecture series featuring European scholars as well as the American Director enriched the school term. Although the ASPR functioned primarily as a summer project, students were encouraged to extend their work into the winter months to study at universities and institutions in Europe.

In 1926 the first number of the ASPR Bulletin appeared, and for a number of years this annual Bulletin was devoted to short articles and an account of the summer programs. In 1929 two large projects were begun. One was the excavation of Homolk a, a fortified village in Czechoslovakia, dating from the third millennium B.C. This excavation was conducted in conjunction with the University Museum, Philadelphia, and was continued until 1931. The other, in conjunction with the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem and the Royal College of Surgeons (London) was at Mt. Carmel in the present Israel which lasted until 1934. Here caves were excavated yielding Middle and Upper Palaeolithic strata as well as Mesolithic and most important, skeletons of Mount Carmel man associated with the Middle Palaeolithic about 40,000 years ago.

Since 1948 the Bulletin has been a monograph series for the publication of excavation reports and other studies. These have included the late J. H. Gaul's work on the Neolithic Period in Bulgaria; the Stone Age Races in Northwest Africa by L. Cabot Briggs; the Prehistory of Eastern Europe by Marija Gimbutas; the Rock Shelter of La Colombière by H. L. Movius; and Attribute Analysis of Certain Classes of Upper Palaeolithic Tools by H. L. Movius and others; and Tarquinia, Villanovans and Early Etruscans by Hugh Hencken.

After Dr. MacCurdy retired in 1945 Dr. Hencken was appointed Director of the School and Editor of the Bulletin. He became Chairman in 1959. In 1954 the American School of Prehistoric Research was officially designated the Department of Old World Prehistory of the Peabody Museum where the office and collections of the School had been located for a number of years.

Mrs. MacCurdy has also for many years contributed to the School generous sums in support of the George Grant MacCurdy Lectureship which brings to the Peabody Museum a series of distinguished foreign prehistorians. These have included Professor C. F. C. Hawkes of Oxford, Professor J. G. D. Clark of Cambridge, Professor Stuart Piggott of Edinburgh, Dr. Jean Perrot of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique and Professor Raymond Inskeep of the University of Capetown.

The current ASPR excavation is at Tepe Yahya in southeastern Iran and is being conducted by Professor C. C. Lamberg-Karlovsky since 1967. Here a series of strata have been revealed including almost every phase of culture in this area from the fifth millennium B.C. to the fourth century A.D. Of special importance is the evidence of trade with Mesopotamia on one hand and the Indus Valley on the other as well as the discovery of tablets with Proto-Elamite writing (3400-3200 B.C.) as old as the oldest writing in Mesopotamia.
PROF. MOVIUS DECORATED

On Friday afternoon, February 12th, HALLUM L. MOVIUS, JR., distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Curator of Palaeolithic Archaeology in the Peabody Museum, received one of the highest honors awarded in France. Prof. Movius was invested a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by M. Daniel Oriez, Consul General de France. The Order was established May 2, 1957, to honor distinguished contributors to the advancement of Arts and Letters. Few Americans have thus far been awarded this medal. The ceremony took place at the Movius home in Cambridge and was followed by a reception.

Prof. Movius, L. Saltonstall, M. Oriez

Guests at the ceremony included members of the Movius family and the Honorable and Mrs. Leverett Saltonstall. A number of colleagues, friends, and students also attended.

Having graduated from Harvard in 1930 with his S.B., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees, Prof. Movius was presented with a Doctor Honoris Causa degree by the University of Bordeaux in 1961. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Society of Antiquaries, London.

Since 1958, he has been the Director of the Abri Pataud excavations at Les Eyzies, Dordogne, France. More than ninety Harvard students have participated in the Abri Pataud excavations during the past several years. In 1962-67, in collaboration with three very capable graduate students, an entirely new approach to the problem of data recording, known as "attribute analysis," was developed in an effort to introduce an objective method of artifact description into the study of stone tools. This innovation marks an important turning point in Old World palaeolithic studies, and provides a firm basis for development and application in the future.

VISITING COMMITTEE MEETS

On December 3rd the Visiting Committee gathered at the Museum for the first of two yearly meetings. Attendance was excellent for the sessions which ran from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Students reported on their research and Profs. VOGT and WILLIAMS discussed current problems and prospects in the Department and the Museum.

Following luncheon with the Museum and Department staff in the Hall of North American Indians, the Committee heard research reports from Professors MAYBURY-LEWIS, FRIEDLAENDER and MOSELEY. The Building Program and the Science Drive were subjects of late afternoon discussions, with IRVING PRATT, Chairman of the Drive, as a guest speaker.

The Spring meeting will focus on letting the Committee participate in classroom activities and museum operations as well as hear reports of current programs.
The Museum's archaeological program at the ancient Peruvian city of Chan Chan has entered its second year of research and exploration. Situated on a desert plain, the well-preserved adobe ruins of Chan Chan spread over an area of many kilometers. The site is one of the largest prehistoric monuments in South America and dates from 1000 to 1400 A.D. The goal of the Peabody project is to map and explore the city, and to trace the local antecedents of urbanism through a survey of adjacent prehistoric settlements. Sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the National Science Foundation, the project is directed by Prof. MICHAEL MOSELEY and CAROL MACKEY. Fieldwork continues on a year-round basis. It draws upon the talents of American and European scholars, and provides research opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students in the Department of Anthropology.

Recently Found Wooden Figure

Detailed mapping of the six square kilometers of monumental architecture that comprises the core, or civic center of Chan Chan, is nearing completion. The civic center is dominated by nine huge walled compounds. These structures are 200 to 600 meters on a side, and their free-standing walls are eight meters high. KENT DAY has spent a year and a half studying the compounds, and the results of his research indicate that each great structure was inhabited by a very small number of people. The implication is that the compounds were residences of the rulers of Chan Chan.

Associated with each compound is a large, massive adobe platform. These buildings are often two stories high, and they contain small internal cells. A recent study of the platforms by GEOFFREY CONRAD and THOMAS POZORSKI has shown that the cells contain numerous burials. Although the platforms have all been heavily plundered and looted, sufficient fancy grave goods remain to suggest that the structures served as high-status tombs for occupants of the compounds.

Surrounding the compounds are thousands of smaller buildings. These cover a vast area, and here was where the majority of Chan Chan's populace resided. Many of the buildings were spacious and well constructed. These are under investigation by ULANA KLYMYSHYN. Along the margins of the city there are tracts of small, poorly built rooms crowded close together. In a preliminary series of excavations, JOHN TOPIC has shown that the rooms served as lower-class residences, and the occupants very likely constituted the city's labor pool. Running through different sections of the city are prehistoric canals. These watered ancient fields, many of which are preserved. THERESA LANGE has carried out a survey of the water management system and is in the process of analyzing her field data.

Like any city, Chan Chan did not exist in a vacuum. It grew out of earlier antecedents and was supported by a network of rural communities. The Museum's project is studying Chan Chan in this context. RICHARD KEATINGE, assisted by SHELIA GRIFFIS, has carried out excavations at a number of prehistoric rural sites. These a coastal fishing village, a farming settlement, and a small state-run administrative center. These are all late communities contemporary with Chan Chan, and they show a number of ties to the city.
P. M. LIBRARIAN HONORED

On November 10, 1970 at the staff luncheon MISS MARGARET CURRIER was honored for her years of dedicated service to the Library.

Miss Currier first came to Harvard from the Yale Library in 1939 as Curator of Catalogues at Harvard College Library. In October, 1945, she came as a part-time Cataloguer to the Museum, where she began on a full-time basis a month later, to become in 1957 the official Librarian.

Miss Currier is the author of several articles dealing with the Peabody Library itself, as well as with bibliographical problems in the field of Anthropology. In her twenty-five years of association with the Museum, she has rendered invaluable services to anthropologists, librarians, students and the general public.

In recognition, PROFESSOR WILLIAMS presented her with an orchid corsage and a reproduction in gold of a Celtic fibula obtained with contributions from the faculty and staff.

A CHILDREN’S PARTY

Late in December the Museum played host to a Christmas party for some fifty children from the Columbia Point Community Center in Dorchester. Coordinated by LUCILLE EMOND, the Departmental Secretary, and PETER TIMMS, a graduate student, more than a dozen students and a number of staff members participated in dispensing true holiday spirit for these five to seven year olds who are from large families where they receive little individual attention.

Each child received a gift with Santa Claus presiding; all food, toys and tree decorations were donated by Cambridge businesses and friends. A special “trip fund” of $50.00 was also given for the children. It was a joyous occasion for all involved.

SOME DEPARTMENTAL CHANGES

At the January meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, President Pusey announced the appointment of Professor DAVID MAYBURY-LEWIS as Acting Chairman of the Department of Anthropology for the Fall Term of 1971-72. The Chairman, Professor VOGT, has been granted leave of absence for the Fall Term to continue his field research in Zinacantan in the Highlands of Chiapas, Mexico. In Professor Vogt’s absence, Professor CORA DU BOIS has been called back from her Emeritus status to serve as Visiting Professor during the Fall Term and to teach especially our first-year seminar (Anthropology 205) for all new graduate students of Social Anthropology.

Professor GLYN DANIEL from Cambridge University will serve as the MacCurdy Lecturer during the fall term, offering courses on Western Europe from 4500 B.C. to the Roman Conquest and on aspects of historical development of archaeology in the Old World. Professor Daniel, a not infrequent visitor, will be welcomed back to Peabody; he was last here officially in 1966, when he was one of the Museum Centennial Lecturers.

NEW AMERICAN INDIAN COURSE

As a result of widespread interest in the current problems of the American Indian, Professor JEREMY SABLOFF is giving a course this term in General Education, Social Sciences 152, entitled: The Native Americans: An Historical and Cultural Perspective.

Student response has been strong with over 300 students currently enrolled. Professor Sabloff has had excellent cooperation and participation from members of the Harvard Inter-Tribal Council and other Indians in the Harvard community, including a group from the School of Education.

Guest lecturers are being drawn from a wide range of backgrounds, and informal sections led by volunteers are covering a large gamut of Indian problems. Hopefully, the course will be given again next year.

CURRENT MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS


Published at The Peabody Museum, 11 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138