THE CASE OF THE PURLOINED STELAE

The international art market has, in recent years, been the scene of much skulduggery in the pursuit of new treasures to please the jaded palates of Museum directors and collectors. The difficulties which have arisen as a result of such activities have caused Harvard to promulgate a formal stand on acquisition. It was accepted by the Harvard Corporation in November and is printed on page 4 in its entirety.

A recent turn of events suggests that current looters may have some difficulty in selling their plunder. From a case currently under investigation by the FBI, it is known that some time last year several large stelae from the remote site of Machaquilá in central Guatemala were stolen from their original position by some enterprising looters. One large stela designated #2 (see figure 1) was broken into ten or more pieces and presumably taken out on muleback to an ocean port. The fragments were shipped via a shrimp boat, coming ashore somewhere in southeastern United States.

The stela was then transported to a number of major cities where the looters attempted to sell it unsuccessfully. Late last fall it arrived on the West Coast in the hands of a dealer who put it on the market after cementing the pieces back together. The asking price was in the range of $350,000. Because it had entered the country without benefit of customs notice and was stolen property valued in excess of $5,000, it was of interest to several government agencies. In late January, it was seized by FBI agents in southern California. Court action is anticipated, and the government of Guatemala can be reasonably certain that the piece will be returned.

This particular incident marks one of the first times that a seizure by law enforcement agents has
taken place in such a straightforward way. The specimen was first published by Ian Graham following his work at the site in 1964, and it is illustrated in his 1967 publication for the Middle American Research Institute of Tulane University. It was Mr. Graham who identified this particular piece as having last been seen on site in Guatemala.

A second Machaquilá stela, #5, was in pieces when recorded by Mr. Graham (see figure 2). It was also taken out by looters and apparently went directly to West Helena, Arkansas. There, it too has just been seized by the FBI and presumably will be returned to Guatemala following legal proceedings. This double seizure is without precedent and comes as a proposed law to block this sort of smuggling is moving through the House Ways and Means Committee.

Such seizure of illicit artifacts may cause further work of this kind to decrease. It is to be hoped that the Harvard stand and widespread knowledge of U.S. Government intervention in the market will prove effective deterrents in this difficult situation.

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**PMA — OLIVER LECTURE**

The first PMA meeting of the year was held in October. Professor DOUGLAS L. OLIVER, our Curator of Oceanic Ethnology, delivered an interesting and informative lecture on Cargo Cults of the Pacific islands. He described the madness which seized the natives as they literally waited for their ships to come in. They believed that cargo vessels would sail into the harbor, carrying their dead ancestors in the bodies of whites and bringing in greatly coveted material things.

The lecture was followed by a reception in the Hall of the American Indians.

**NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY**

The Library Book Sale, now an annual event, was held in November. Thanks to a year's accumulation of duplicates and to gifts of books and sets of journals from faculty, staff, and friends of the Museum, approximately $2400 was realized. New features this year were four tables of pamphlets, a give-away table, and a group of rare and expensive items for which minimum prices were established and bids accepted.

G. K. Hall & Co. in Boston will issue shortly a Second Supplement in six volumes to the AUTHOR AND SUBJECT CATALOGUES OF THE LIBRARY OF THE PEABODY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY. The original Catalogue was published in 1963 in 53 volumes, plus an Index to Subject Headings. This was followed in 1970 by a First Supplement in twelve volumes. The new Second Supplement contains 60,000 entries representing authors and subjects for books, journal articles, and pamphlets catalogued between mid-1969 and mid-1971. Several hundred previously uncatalogued books from the libraries of George Grant MacCurdy, Philip Ainsworth Means, and Samuel K. Lothrop are included, as well as a revised Index to Subject Headings, and a list of journals indexed.

The Circulation Desk area and Librarian's office received a new look early this month. White walls and Chinese red window frames and door brighten this area considerably.

**ASPR DINNER**

On November 3 a dinner was held to honor the 50th Anniversary of the first Summer Program of the American School of Prehistoric Research under the direction of DR. GEORGE GRANT MAC CURDY. The guest of honor was Mrs. MacCurdy, the companion and mainstay of the program for so many years. Members of the Board of Trustees and a number of former participants joined in this festive occasion.
MUSEUM TOURS FOR THE BLIND

Recently Barbara Lutch, Katherine Rinne, and Sally Bond of the Museum staff launched a new program for blind members of the Harvard community. These "tours" of the Museum take place around a table where the blind person is seated comfortably and can examine and learn about selected ethnographic material from around the world. The artifacts have been chosen for their tactile qualities as well as for their anthropological interest. As the blind person handles the artifact, a member of the staff gives him a detailed description of the object and its use. A description in braille of each piece is also available, enabling the blind person to read about the pieces too.

The tour includes African musical instruments, Eskimo tools and carvings, Northwest Coast Indian masks, basketry, jewelry, and similar objects from the South Pacific and Australia as well as examples of physical anthropology such as skeletal remains.

The response of the blind to the tour has been very enthusiastic. They find the Eskimo objects particularly intriguing, perhaps because they are so ideally suited to purposes for which they were designed. The snow creeper, a seal decoy (to attract female seals), and a skin scraper (each one carved so that it fits a person's hand perfectly) all fascinate the blind. After holding in his hand a walrus carved out of soapstone with tusks of ivory made by a contemporary Eskimo, a blind student can now imagine what a walrus is like. A huge ostrich egg, about seven inches long, has been as exciting an object to those without sight as it is to those of us who can see. In a few cases, the blind person asked for a description of an ostrich. The blind have also been particularly interested in the large Balafon, a musical instrument from Africa, which uses gourds as resonators, and resembles a marimba.

We will soon be able to offer these tours to blind people who are not members of the Harvard community.
RULES FOR THE ACQUISITION OF ART OBJECTS

1. The museum director, librarian, curator, or other University officer (hereinafter to be referred to as "Curator") responsible for making an acquisition or who will have custody of the acquisition should assure himself that the University can acquire valid title to the object in question. This means that the circumstances of the transaction and/or his knowledge of the object's provenance must be such as to give him adequate assurance that the seller or donor has valid title to convey.

2. In making a significant acquisition, the Curator should have reasonable assurance under the circumstances that the object has not, within a recent time, been exported from its country of origin (and/or the country where it was last legally owned) in violation of that country's laws.

3. In any event, the Curator should have reasonable assurance under the circumstances that the object was not exported after July 1, 1971, in violation of the laws of the country of origin and/or the country where it was last legally owned.

4. In cases of doubt in making the relevant determinations under paragraphs 1-3, the Curator should consult as widely as possible. Particular care should be taken to consult colleagues in other parts of the University whose collecting, research, or other activities may be affected by a decision to acquire an object. The Curator should also consult the General Counsel to the University where appropriate; and, where helpful, a special panel should be created to help pass on the questions raised.

5. The University will not acquire (by purchase, bequest, or gift) objects that do not meet the foregoing tests. If appropriate and feasible, the same tests should be taken into account in determining whether to accept loans for exhibition or other purposes.

6. Curators will be responsible to the President and Fellows for the observance of these rules. All information obtained about the provenance of an acquisition must be preserved, and unless in the opinion of the relevant Curator and the General Counsel to the University special circumstances exist in a specific instance, all such information shall be available as a public record. Prospective vendors and donors should be informed of this policy.

7. If the University should in the future come into the possession of an object that can be demonstrated to have been exported in violation of the principles expressed in Rules 1-3 above, the University should, if legally free to do so, seek to return the object to the donor or vendor. Further, if with respect to such an object, a public museum or collection or agency of a foreign country seeks its return and demonstrates that it is a part of that country's national patrimony, the University should, if legally free to do so, take responsible steps to cooperate in the return of the object to that country.

MA-5 TRAINING PROGRAM

For one year the Peabody Museum Library has been cooperating with the University's Training Program under the Manpower Act. The program, which is funded partly by the U.S. Labor Department and partly by the University, is addressed to the economically disadvantaged, particularly minority groups, of the Greater Boston Area.

A group composed of three trainees began working at the Library during last November and will remain there until September 1972. One is assigned to the Circulation Desk, one to Indexing, and one to Cataloguing. They are receiving training on filing, typing, inter-library loan requests and general library-records upkeep. With their help the Library hopes to minimize the burden of pamphlet processing, circulation records, and many other clerical needs. In return the trainees get "on-the-job" training, classroom instruction, and counseling. The Training Program will enable them to obtain a permanent job either at Peabody or other libraries throughout the Harvard System.

The Editor's Scrapbasket

It's been a busy term and a long time between Newsletters. We have enjoyed working with the new President and his staff—"the times they are a-changin'" and so is Harvard. The Peabody is coming along in the van. Happily, publications, quite handsome ones at that (see our listing, page 6), are coming off the press.

The acquisitions problem is boiling as our lead story indicates. With it all, three archaeological projects are perking along: Ian Graham in Guatemala, Mike Moseley in Peru and Jerry Sabloff in Mexico. The Director is paying a visit, strictly business, to Cozumel Island to check out Jerry's new program—"rough duty."

Our next Peabody Museum Association function in March will feature the American Indian with Wid Washburn talking about the current situation with historical perspective.

Stephen Williams
HAY MEMORIAL BOOK FUND

The Clarence L. Hay Memorial Book Fund has been established at the Museum by Mrs. Hay in memory of her husband.

Mr. Hay was graduated from Harvard College in 1908 and received a master's degree from Harvard in 1911.

On a 1912 Peabody Museum expedition to Yucatan, while Mr. Hay was a Central American Research Fellow at the Museum, he and R. E. Merwin discovered and then lost the largest known Maya temple ruin in the state of Campeche, Mexico. The Rio Bec temple was photographed and measured and then almost immediately lost to sight in the dense jungle about 50 miles north of the Guatemalan border. As Mr. Hay said, "... it is perfectly possible to pass within arm's length of the ruin without being able to see it. As a matter of fact, we only found it by running right into it."

The bookplate depicts the temple which Mr. Hay discovered. Drawing by Barbara Westman.

MAC CURDY LECTURER

DR. GLYN DANIEL of St. John's College, Cambridge, was appointed MacCurdy Lecturer for the fall term, offering a course in "Western Europe from 4500 B.C. to the Roman Conquest," as well as a seminar in "Aspects of Historical Development of Archaeology in the Old World." Dr. Daniel is particularly interested in megalithic monuments, prehistoric art, and the archaeology of Western Europe and the Mediterranean.

MUSEUM APPOINTMENTS

During the fall several changes in Museum personnel took place. Miss RUTH VAN ARSDALE is the newly appointed Director's secretary, replacing Miss J. JOSEY who is now with the Afro-American Studies Program of the University. Miss JANE DRAKE is assistant to our Business Manager, Mrs. ROBERTS, and Miss JANE SEXTON is secretary to the Publications Department and the Peabody Museum Association. Mrs. KATHERINE RINNE has been appointed Cataloguer, assisted by Miss SALLY BOND who was a Faculty Aide in the Museum while a Radcliffe undergraduate.

FACULTY CLUB EXHIBIT

Nine 19th-century oil paintings of American Indians are currently on loan to the Harvard Faculty Club. These paintings, hung in the dining rooms, include Choctaw Village by Bernard, Squaws Playing Ball and Medicine Dance of the Dakotas by Seth Eastman, and six oil portraits by Henry Inman.

In the picture below, DENNIS PIECHOTA, the Museum's conservator, is placing Inman's portrait of Joholo-Micco, a Creek chief, in the main dining room.
DR. JOHN LADD DIES

DR. JOHN LADD, Assistant Curator of Central American Archaeology, died suddenly in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, last August 16, while on a summer vacation tour. He is survived by his wife and five children.

Born in New York City, Dr. Ladd attended Cambridge School, Kendall Green, Massachusetts. During World War II he served with the U.S. Army with overseas duty in Germany and Japan. Following the war he was graduated from Swarthmore College and in 1951 from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public Administration at Princeton. After working four years for the State Department, Ladd entered graduate school at Harvard in 1955 and spent the rest of his career at the Peabody Museum. In 1963 he completed his doctoral dissertation on the archaeology of Panama. Continuing his interests in New World archaeology, he became Assistant Curator of Central American Archaeology in 1969. He was appointed a Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology on two occasions.

Dr. Ladd’s major publications included “A Stratigraphic Trench at Sitio Conte, Panama” and “Archaeological Investigations in the Parita and Santa Maria Zones of Panama.” His most recent work was an almost-completed monograph on the wood, bone, and other material from the Sacred Cenote at Chichen Itza, Yucatan, which was excavated by the Peabody Museum sixty years ago.

COZUMEL EXPEDITION

A major new archaeological expedition has been undertaken at Cozumel, a sizable island ten miles off the northeastern coast of Mexico’s Yucatan peninsula and about 225 miles across the Yucatan Channel from mainland Cuba.

The expedition is under the direction of Jeremy A. Sabloff, Assistant Professor and Assistant Curator of Middle American Archaeology, Peabody Museum, Harvard University, and William Rathje, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Arizona. They will be joined by undergraduate and graduate anthropology students from both universities. In addition, the Instituto Nacional de Anthropología e Historia of Mexico will cooperate by furnishing several of their archaeological specialists for the undertaking.

Cozumel, in the Mexican territory of Quintana Roo, has long been known as a port of trade for the Ancient Maya and a major shrine for pilgrims who came specially to worship one goddess, Ix Chel, goddess of the moon. The numerous small shrines scattered throughout the island will be mapped and investigated.

The expedition will be funded by The National Geographic Society, Washington, and several foundations and private donors associated with the Peabody Museum.

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

DR. JOHN HAVILAND has been appointed Assistant Professor. He is on leave during 1971-72 in Canberra, Australia, where he holds a post-doctoral NATO Fellowship and is working on linguistics.

DR. SHELTON H. DAVIS, JR., who took his Ph.D. at Harvard after working in Guatemala, was appointed Lecturer for 1971-72. He is teaching courses on the peasantry in Latin America and on the Native Americans.

DRS. JANET and STEPHEN FJELLMAN who have recently taken their degrees at Stanford, were both appointed Lecturers for 1971-72. Dr. Janet Fjellman teaches a course on women from a cross-cultural perspective as well as contributing to a seminar on comparative child development. Dr. Stephen Fjellman teaches the core course in formal methods in social anthropology.

MISS PHYLLIS KAZEN was appointed an Instructor for 1971-72. She has an M.A. degree in Latin American Studies from the University of Texas and is completing her Ph.D. at Harvard. She is offering a course on Mexican-American culture.

GORDON WILLEY HONORED

In July GORDON R. WILLEY, Curator of Middle American Archaeology and Bowditch Professor of Mexican and Central American Archaeology and Ethnology, was honored by being elected a Corresponding Member of the British Academy. This is comparable to the Foreign Associates which we have in our National Academy.

CURRENT STAFF PUBLICATIONS

THE HUNTING PEOPLES, by Carleton S. Coon. Atlantic—Little, Brown. ($10.00)

AN INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY, Vol. II, South America, by Gordon R. Willey. Prentice-Hall, Inc. ($18.00)


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