

People, Places, Projects

AMERICAN SECTION RECEIVES IMLS GRANT



Louis Shotridge collected this Tlingit dagger (UPM # NA 8488), "Ghost of Courageous Adventurer," for the Museum in 1918.

The Museum's American Section has received a *Museums for America* grant for \$130,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to digitize the Louis Shotridge collection of Tlingit Indian objects, making it accessible to students, scholars, the Tlingit Indian community, and the general public. The Shotridge collection consists of 338 artifacts dating from 1825 to 1930 (including clan hats and ceremonial regalia, clothing, tools, weapons, and household items), 500 photographs of Tlingit individuals, communities, landscapes, and clan regalia taken between 1915 and 1932, and 1,707 pages of archival documents that include Shotridge's lengthy

correspondence about his object collection and notations on Tlingit sources, maker names and histories, cultural and historical events, songs, legends, and unpublished stories, as well as detailed expense accountings, exhibit plans, and published academic articles. To implement the Shotridge Digital Archive Project, the Museum will partner with Penn's Schoenberg Center for Electronic Text and Imaging (SCETI), a division of the Penn Library. This project will also serve as a pilot study for the development of a Museum-wide collections digitization and access plan.

RICHARD HODGES BECOMES PENN MUSEUM'S NEW DIRECTOR

On October 1, 2007, Richard Hodges, an internationally renowned classical and early medieval archaeologist from Britain, who specializes in Western Europe, became the Williams Director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. After receiving his Ph.D. from Southampton University, he taught at Sheffield University and served as the director of The Prince of Wales' Institute of Architecture in London and The British School in Rome. Most recently, as director of the Institute of World Archaeology at the University of East Anglia, he has worked extensively on archaeological and cultural heritage projects in Albania.



Penn Museum (left), Lauren Hansen-Flaschen (right)



This cattle enclosure is located inside a Maasai settlement.

NSF AWARDS GRANT TO MUSEUM RESEARCHER

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has granted \$185,000 for an intensive three-year international collaborative research effort on the beginnings of cattle pastoralism in East Africa. The team is led by Penn Museum Research Scientist Kathleen Ryan, Professor Karega-Münene of the United States International University (USIU) in Nairobi, Kenya, and Professor Richard Evershed of the University of Bristol, England, and will collaborate with researchers at the National Museums of Kenya (Mulu Muia, Simon Katsiyia, and Paul Watene), the Weizmann Institute of Israel (Ruth Shahack-Gross), and the Museum Applied Science Center for Archaeology (MASCA) at Penn Museum (William Fitts). Work will focus on identifying the beginnings of widespread cow milk consumption in Laikipia, Kenya, and will contribute to scholarly discussions about the genetic basis for adult lactose tolerance in modern East African populations—something generally not true in other parts of the world. The project will involve systematic archaeological fieldwork, including mapping and test excavations, offering hands-on research experience to U.S. students from Penn and Kenyan students from USIU.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ANNETTE MERLE-SMITH

Penn Museum would like to thank a longtime dedicated member of the Museum's Board of Overseers, Annette Merle-Smith. Annette's interest in museums began at the age of 14, when she

volunteered in the Print Department at Harvard University's Fogg Art Museum. While an undergraduate at Bennington College (Vermont), she spent time volunteering during her January-February Non-Resident terms at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts (MFA), the California Palace of the Legion of Honor, and the Corning Museum of Glass. After graduating, she took a job at the MFA running a special program for children through the Education Department. Marriage took her to Princeton, New Jersey, where her husband "Mike" (Fowler) worked as head of the Middle School. Their love of archaeology and the knowledge that the Penn Museum had more excavations in more parts of the world than other American institution led them to become members in the 1960s. Today, one of our galleries bears the name Merle-Smith, and recently Annette Merle-Smith has endowed the position of Associate Director for Programs. With the greatest affection, the Museum thanks Annette for her commitment to this institution and her belief in education for children through museum programs.



Annette Merle-Smith (left) sits in the Museum Café with Gillian Wakely, the Merle-Smith Associate Director for Programs.