UNIVERSITY MUSEUM ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SOUTHEAST ASIA SECTION

In 1971 the Ford Foundation established an Art and Archaeology project for Southeast Asia with headquarters in Bangkok, to be administered by Elizabeth Lyons on loan to the Foundation from the University Museum. Its main purpose is to help Southeast Asian countries preserve their own cultural heritage during the rapid process of development.

The discovery in recent years of new archaeological sites—sites important to world history—has called for more excavations and more archaeologists. But there were almost no local archaeologists trained to an international standard. In 1976 the Ford Foundation gave $220,000 to the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania for the graduate training of Southeast Asian archaeologists. These trainees are required to be already employed in the archaeological service of their respective countries and to have had some local field experience.

The first Southeast Asian student to arrive in Philadelphia was Pinit Charoewnengsa, a Thai who came on a John D. Rockefeller 3rd grant just before the Ford Foundation project was established. The first on the Ford Foundation grant was U Nyunt Han from Burma. He has obtained his M.Sc. and has returned home. Ott Mundarjito from Indonesia has also returned. Willi Ronquillo from the Philippines is still with us. Recently arrived are Rachanie Thotsarat and Surin Pookajorn from Thailand and Phillipus Subrato from Indonesia. Pumalark Ketutad is here on a Thai Government scholarship. Sihawat Nannena on a Thai Government grant, and Mohammad Asma Ursani on a Pakistan Government grant.

EUROPEAN ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

England

The Director and Birthe Kyolbye-Biddle undertook a sixth season of excavation at the Anglo-Saxon church of St. Wystan, at Repton in Derbyshire, England. The Viking fortress of the winter of A.D. 874-875 was confirmed—the first to be excavated in England—and a major sculpture with a mythical scene and a mounted armed rider was found immediately outside the royal burial crypt of the Mercian kings Aethelbald (d. 757) and Wiglaf (d. 840).

Ireland

Kathleen Ryan from MASCA spent the summer in Ireland perusing early documents and maps relating to the province of Leinster in the 1st and 2nd millennia A.D. This was part of a longer-term project of archaeological survey under the direction of Dr. Bernard Quilis. Some 12th century lists of land holdings have yielded enough information to produce maps of some of the areas of tribal influence at the time of the Norman conquest in the late 12th century. With the help of the staff of the Ordnance Survey Office in Dublin, maps from the 15th through the 20th centuries were compared with early lists in an effort to pick up changes in boundaries through time. It is apparent that the civil parish divisions have changed less than the baronial divisions. For the pre-Norman period, Leinster tribal genealogies are being examined in conjunction with entries in the Annals. Some group movements can be detected but only one third of the time period has yet been covered, i.e. 100 B.C.-A.D. 600.

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THE NEAR EASTERN SECTION

Desertification
In August, Christopher Hamlin, Assistant Curator in charge of the Mesopotamian collections, and Brian Spooner of the Anthropology Department, visited India, Pakistan, and Iran in connection with their research on desertification. While in Iran they visited the field project on the northwestern desert margin, where Dr. Spooner directs a long-term program of studies on anthropology and desertification, and Dr. Hamlin is using satellite data to study settlements and vegetation.

Publication of a Sumerian Poem

The second of the Occasional Publications of the Babylonian Fund of the University Museum has just come from the press. It is Gomariz and Enlilkimuddin, A Sumerian Narrative Poem, by Adelé Berlin [vi+102 pp., 20 pl., $15.00]. It is a critical text edition and literary analysis of a Sumerian Narrative poem about a contest between Enlmar, the lord of Uruk and Erech land, the lord of Arata. The original manuscripts of this poem date to ca. 1900 B.C. and the vast majority of them are in our collections.

Correction

Dr. William Sumner discovered Anshan (Molay), not Dr. Robert Dyson as we erroneously reported in vol. 21 no. 4 [Summer 1970], p. 2. Dr. Dyson is Project Director of the Malyan Project; Dr. Sumner is the Field Director.

THE MEDITERRANEAN SECTION

Greece

Spyros Iakovides, newly appointed Professor of Classical Archaeology and Curator of the Mediterranean Section, completed his field surveys of the Mycenaean fortresses of Gla and on islands on the northeastern coast of the Peloponnesus.

Cyrene, Libya

Donald White conducted a study season at Cyrene in the summer with seven of the people who will be contributing to the final publication of the University Museum excavations the results of which is going through the material for which he is responsible.

Gordian, Turkey

In a study season at Gordian this summer, directed by Keith De Vries, progress was made in understanding the varied history of the site that is revealed in its Bronze Age, Phrygian, Greek, and Hellenistic pottery. Important individual pieces that will be included in the final publication were found in the massive lots of uninvested objects. In addition, some deteriorating buildings that had been excavated in the main citadel were strengthened.

THE AMERICAN SECTION

Quirigua

The Quirigua Project completed its program of field investigations in April 1979. Although the fieldwork was originally slated to end in 1978, both the University Museum and the Instituto de Antropología e Historia, Guatemala, believed that a set of unusual and unforeseen field opportunities merited scheduling one final season for 1979. This year, Dr. Robert J. Sharer and his associates were able to complete the major aspects of the project, both survey and excavation, including work at the important related Late Classic site of Playita (ca. A.D. 600-800), as well as documentation of a previously little-known and deeply buried Middle Classic (ca. A.D. 350-750) elite center at Quirigua itself. Data were also recovered concerning Middle and Late Classic channels of the Motagua River and work at evidence of a possible docking area by the massive pyramidal Structure 1A-11. The work continues here at the Museum; artifact analysis, drafting, and other studies will span the next several years. Publication of a volume of these studies has already begun, in the newly revitalized Museum Monographs series; the first volume of Quiriguan Reports, Museum Monograph 37, contains summaries of research through 1976, two short technical reports, and the Project's contour map of the site-core of Quirigua.

Visiting Scholars

Two Guatemalan archaeologists who worked at Tikal in the '60's, Rudy Laraos and Miguel Greaves, of the Instituto de Antropología e Historia, Guatemala, are visiting the American Section for a period of four months in order to receive training in ceramic analysis and in the preparation of excavation reports.

EXHIBITIONS

Masks, Tents, Vessels and Talismans

This exhibition in the Kress Gallery of the University Museum of pieces from its ethnological collections complements an exhibition being held at the same time in the University of Pennsylvania's Institute of Contemporary Art. For that exhibition, Janet Kardon, its new Director, has assembled a variety of contemporary works by contemporary artists which echo artifacts from other cultures — an exhibition which "investigates the neo-primitive concept in modern art." This "presence" is to be seen in the Museum exhibition of masks, tipis, kayaks, sleds, charms, to many of which pieces in the Contemporary Art show are strikingly similar. Exhibition dates: December 5—January 15.

The Shadow Catcher

Early in 1980 there will be an exhibition of approximately eighty of the photographic reproductions from the copy of Curtis. The North American Indian in the University Museum Library. For a discussion of Curtis and his work, accompanied by reproductions of several of the photographic plates, see the article by Ric Hopkins on pages 4-18. The exhibition will continue through the spring.

Margaret Mead in New Guinea

An exhibition of thirty photographs of Margaret Mead at work in New Guinea between 1928 and 1973 opened in the Oceanica Gallery on September 20. It has just closed. The photographs, taken by a number of Dr. Mead's associates, were assembled, printed and mounted by Mr. Fred Roll, husband of Dr. Barbara Rolf who was a research associate of Dr. Mead. A preview of the exhibition for University Museum members was held in the afternoon of September 18 at which Dr. Barbara Roll, who lives in California, and Dr. Rolf and Depok from the Papua New Guinea were guests of honor. Mr. Kilpjak had been closely associated with Dr. Mead as assistant, informant, and honored friend since her first field research project in 1927. He came to the United States specifically to express the grief of the people of Peru and other nearby villages over the death of Dr. Mead. Peru village was completely blacked out while doing the research for her books Growing Up in New Guinea and Now Lives for Old and many other scholarly papers.

A new community center building in Peru has been named in honor of Dr. Mead. A set of photographs, selected from those currently on exhibition at the University Museum, will be sent to Peru to be hung permanently in the Margaret Mead Center.

GRANT TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Education Department is the recipient this year of an additional $50,000 subvention from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This assists in the general appropriation, which we have been receiving since 1960, will enable us to continue and expand our outreach program to groups all over the state of Pennsylvania. It will also enable us to improve and extend our services to the handicapped community. The department was loyal supported in its bid for an increased appropriation by many groups, library centers and individuals who appreciate the vital importance of these public services and we extend our thanks to all who telephoned, sent telegrams or spoke in person to their local State representative on our behalf.

APPOINTMENTS

Lavon H. Bair took up his duties as Administrative and Financial Officer of the Museum on September 24. He comes to us from the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, Connecticut where he had served as Chief of Chief of Administration. He had previously held other administrative posts at Yale University. Mr. Bair holds an engineering degree from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis and a graduate degree in International Relations from Yale. He is the author of The Museum Accounting Handbook published by the Accounting Committee of the American Association of Museums of which he is a member.

Guinor B. Davis who was appointed Membership Manager of the University Museum at the end of June has now assumed his duties here. Previous to this appointment, she had been Membership Co-ordinator at the Winterthur Museum in Wilmington.

Maude deSchauensee, formerly Assistant to the Curator of the Near Eastern Section has been appointed Keeper of the Collections in that Section.