NYAME AKUMA

No. 2 A NEWSLETTER OF AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGY April 1973

Edited by P.L. Shinnie and issued from the Department of Archaeology, the University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, T2N lN4, Canada.

The first number of Nyame Akuma was well received and of the very few comments on title and format of the Newsletter none were unfavourable. There have also been no comments of the chronological and geographical coverage of the publication, so I assume those I have set are acceptable for the time being. There will be an opportunity to discuss this at the Dallas meeting.

The latest information about the Dallas meeting is given on the following page - readers will not get much advance warning from this, but the first letter (although the dates have now been changed) was included in Nyame Akuma No. 1 and the later one is made available here largely for record purposes.

It had been my intention, following the decision taken at Urbana, to publish abstracts of all the papers given at the conference there in April 1971. In the event only four were received (three from Southern Methodist University) and these appeared in Nyame Akuma No. 1. I hope that I will have rather more success in obtaining material from the Dallas meeting.

In Nyame Akuma No. 3 (to be published on 1st October 1973) I hope to include an item giving details of how permits to carry on field work in African countries are obtained and from what authorities. I have already collected some information but am short of facts on countries of Francophone Africa, if anybody can help I would be grateful.

With regard to my comment in the editorial notes to Nyame Akuma No. 1 that the University of Ghana was the first University in sub-Saharan Africa to have a Department of Archaeology, Mrs. Deacon of the University of Cape Town points out that her University established a Department of Archaeology in 1933 and was therefore the first. I am obviously wrong and what I should have said was that the University of Ghana was the first to offer courses for Africans in a Department of Archaeology.

Attention is especially drawn to the announcement on page 3 of a conference to be held at the University of Calgary from 23rd to 25th November 1973.



SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

DALLAS, TEXAS 75222

SECOND NOTICE for the SECOND MEETING OF AFRICANIST ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Dear Colleague,

Since the first notice was sent out some months ago, additional information has become available and slight modifications have been made to the original plans.

Owing to the overwhelmingly favorable response to the idea of a second meeting, an application was made to the Wenner-Gren Foundation for partial subsidy of the air fares of the participants. However —

a) It is uncertain that Wenner-Gren will, in fact, support the conference, although we do have reasons for guarded optimism;

b) Even if awarded, the subsidy will not be adequate to cover round-trip air fares for all participants, since responses to our initial letter continued to arrive long after our budget was estimated. Furthermore, the Urbana meetings in 1971 were not supported for the full amount requested. Consequently, under the best of circumstances available funds will be inadequate and we will have to make some unwelcome, arbitrary, and unenthusiastic decisions as to how best to divide the available support;

The Wenner-Gren decision will be made "late", possibly only a few weeks before our actual meeting date. Consequently, we suggest the following --

(1) That you re-double your efforts to tap other sources of travel money, and

(2) That you give us your reactions as how best to proceed in allocating the funds that do become available.

In order to help participants get travel funds from their respective institutions, the dates of the Second Meeting of Africanist Archaeologists have been changed to April 14 through 16, 1973. This overlaps with the meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, also being held in Dallas. In addition, it will permit participants at the AAPA to attend the symposium on "Early Man in East Africa", to be held all day Saturday, April 14.

Southern Methodist University, as hosting institution, will be subsidizing a restricted number of local expenses, essentially food and drink on several occasions, to help mellow the spirit of austerity which Science (capital S) appears to be fraught with in recent years.

Your suggestions will be greatly appreciated. We look foward to getting together in Dallas in April, one way or another.

Sincerely

Anthony E. Marks

Mintery Ephones

S. M. U.

Karl Butzer

Univ. of Chicago

P. S. — Please fill in the enclosed questionnaire and send it back as soon as possible. We realize that another questionnaire is a bit much, but we do need to know what size rooms need to be reserved, who is planning to offer papers, etc.

Encls:

Questionnaire Map of SMU List of Hotels Meeting Schedule

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT 6TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

For the past five years the University of Calgary Archaeological Association has been hosting annual conferences on selected themes dealing with the archaeology of North America. This year we are attempting a completely new orientation.

The 6th Annual Conference, scheduled for November 23rd to 25th, 1973, will have as its theme: A SYMPOSIUM ON CANADIAN ARCHAEOLOGY ABROAD.

When planning this conference, it was felt that we did not have the resources to host a world wide, international conference. We felt that the geographical boundaries had to be limited in some manner, and we decided to restrict the conference to those areas where Canadian archaeologists are presently operating. However, we want researchers of all nationalities who are interested in Europe - both East and West, the Mediterranean area, Near East, Africa and Latin America - to participate.

Although limited geographically, we hope this conference will cut across normal academic boundaries. Students of History, Classics and Anthropology are all invited to participate.

At this stage of our planning, we would like to hear from individuals interested in chairing a symposium or in presenting a paper. Formal calls for papers will be issued in the spring and early fall. Please bring this conference to the attention of your colleagues and students, and LET US HAVE YOUR SUGGESTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, and address them to:

John H. Robertson
Department of Archaeology
University of Calgary
CALGARY, Alberta T2N 1N4
Canada

OTHER NEWSLETTERS

The following other Newsletters known to me may be of interest:

Underground West Africa, this is edited by Dr. B.O. Swartz from the Department of Anthropology, Ball State College, Muncie, Indiana, USA. It is concerned with archaeology in West Africa.

Tanzania Zamani, this is not strictly a publication (as wrongly stated in Nyame Akuma No. 1, 16) but a privately distributed newsheet. It deals with the archaeology and history of Tanzania and enquiries concerning it should be addressed to the Historical Association of Tanzania, Box 35032, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Meroitic Newsletter, this deals primarily with questions of the decipherment of the Meroitic language, but also carries some material on Meroitic archaeology in general. Alternate numbers are published by Dr. B.G. Trigger, Department of Anthropology, McGill University, Montreal 110, Quebec, Canada, and Professor J. Leclant, 77 rue Georges Lardennois, F-75019 Paris, France. No. 11 has just appeared, published from France, with the following contents:

Meroitisches und Barya-Verb. W. Schenkel L'Amphore de Tubuscutu. J. Desanges Inscriptions Méroitiques dans les collections Britanniques. D. Meeks L'enrégistrement des textes méroitiques. J. Leclant.

Enquiries should be addressed to either editor.

Newsletter of the South African Association of Archaeologists, No. 2 has just appeared. It lists 21 current research projects in South Africa, gives a number of news items, and a list of recent publications on South African Archaeology. One of the news items, from Mr. Inskeep, tells of the existence of the "African Archaeologists Anonymous" group composed of people in Britain. Those interested should contact Mr. Inskeep at the Pitt-Rivers Museum, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PP, England. The Newsletter is issued by: Mrs. J. Deacon, Archaeology Department, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, Cape, South Africa.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

In addition to the meetings at Dallas (14th to 16th April 1973) and Calgary (23rd to 25th November 1973), the following may be of interest to our readers:

South African Association of Archaeologists Third Annual Congress, tentatively planned for 1st to 3rd September 1973 at the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, South Africa. Details from Mrs. J. Deacon, Archaeology Department, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, Cape, South Africa.

Second International Meeting for Meroitic Studies, in Paris, 10th to 13th July 1973. Details from Professor J. Leclant, 77 rue Georges Lardennois, F-75019, Paris, France.

Third International Congress of Africanists in Addis Ababa, 9th to 19th December 1973. Details from the Chairman, Local Organizing Committee, 3rd Congress of Africanists, P.O. Box 30702, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

NEWS ITEMS

Egypt

Professor Philip Smith of the University of Montreal writes:

"I continue to analyze and prepare for final publication the materials from the Late Palaeolithic sites I investigated on the Kom Ombo Plain in Upper Egypt in 1962-1963. In the meantime the complete descriptive report on the large collection of faunal materials (vertebrate) collected at Kom Ombo was recently published by Dr. C.S. Churcher of the University of Toronto Department of Zoology, under the title "Late Pleistocene vertebrates from archaeological sites in the Plain of Kom Ombo, Upper Egypt", Royal Ontario Museum, Life Sciences Contribution No. 82, 1972, pp. 172, \$10.00. A shorter report emphasizing the possibility of seasonal occupation of some of the archaeological sites at Kom Ombo was published by C.S. Churcher and P.E.L. Smith in 1972, "Kom Ombo: preliminary report on the fauna of Late Paleolithic sites in Upper Egypt", Science, Vol. 177, pp. 259-61. I am completing a chapter "The Late Palaeolithic and Epipalaeolithic of Northern Africa" for the forthcoming Cambridge History of Africa (Vol. 1: Prehistory, edited by J.D. Clark), to appear, optimistically, in 1975; and a paper delivered at the Wenner-Gren Burg Wartenstein symposium in 1972 on the origin of African plant domesticates, "Early food production in northern Africa as seen from southwestern Asia" will be published with the other papers of this meeting when Jack Harlan settles on a publisher."

Dr. Fekri Hassan (Southern Methodist University, Dallas) is completing a study on the Final Palaeolithic assemblages from the Dishna Plain, Upper Egypt (disser.). The assemblages are related to the Isnan industry (complex "G"), which dates between ca. 12,000 and 10,000 B.C. and is associated with the utilization of grain. A study on the Sebilian industry and another on the population dynamics in the Nile Valley during the Late Palaeolithic are prepared for publication.

Dr. A.J. Arkell is compiling a 'Prehistory of the Nile Valley' to be published (in German) as part of the Handbuch der Orientalistik to be edited by Professor B. Spuler of Hamburg.

East Africa

British Institute in Eastern Africa

Mr. Chittick, the Director, reports:

"The main effort of the Institute during the past months has been devoted to large-scale excavations at Aksum, in northern Ethiopia, under the Director, Neville Chittick. This work has been mainly directed towards finding out more about the nature and date of the famous stelae, some of

which can now be shown to the certainly, and most probably, of the Christian Aksumite period. A unique monument, with large subterranean chambers, is in the course of excavation at the time of writing. Further excavations at Aksum, and possibly another site of the period, are envisaged for future years.

Mr. Richard Wilding, Research Fellow of the Institute, has continued with his study of the pottery of the Kenya coast. He plans later this year to carry out surveys and excavations at Dondo and She Jafari, both sites in the Lamu region of northern Kenya, and to conduct an archaeological survey of the Mundane Hills, the latter in particular connection with the interesting remnant Cushitic hunting peoples of the region.

Mr. Patrick Pender-Cudlip is continuing his historical study of the Iramba people of central Tanzania.

Mr. Robert Soper resigned his post of Assistant Director in the summer of 1972 in order to take up a post at the University of Ibadan. His successor will be Mr. David Phillipson, who is expected to continue with work on the early Iron Age in Eastern Africa.

Kenya

Mr. Bower of Lake Forest College hopes this summer to spend about six weeks in Nairobi and Pretoria extending a project he initiated in 1971 - an attribute analysis of Oldowan and Lower Acheulean tools. The 1971 study, a pilot project, was confined to choppers; the results were encouraging, but they must remain very tentative pending similar analyses of a wider range of tool classes. This summer he hopes to collect attribute data on at least one or two additional classes of formal tools (e.g. light-duty scrapers) and perhaps also on flakes.

Tanzania

Dr. Sutton writes that rather than report in detail on the latest work in Tanzania he prefers to refer readers to <u>Tanzania Zamani</u> and <u>Azania</u> which are the appropriate places for publication of this information. He adds that he has been continuing work on the abandoned fields and irrigation systems of Engaruka and related sites. He also writes that a meeting of Tanzanian archaeologists was recently held to review the present state of the subject in the country. As a result a Standing Committee for Archaeology in Tanzania was set up consisting of:

A.A. Mturi, Conservator of Antiquities F.T. Masao, Curator of the National Museum Dr. J.G. Sutton, University of Dar es Salaam

Uganda

Mr. Sassoon, the Conservator of Antiquities, will be leaving Uganda at the end of July. He sends the following report:

"The late E.J. Wayland first came to Uganda in 1919 as Director of the Geological Survey, but on his geological field trips he managed to look beyond the rocks and gather a great deal of archaeological information. He was a prolific writer and produced more than thirty publications on archaeological subjects. Some of his notions, such as the Kafuan pebble culture and the M-N Horizon at Nsongezi, have failed to satisfy modern scholars, but his work and stimulating ideas have formed a wide basis for later archaeological research. It was just half a century after Wayland's arrival in Uganda that the first published annual report of the Department of Antiquities was written. (1) This report contained a list of all known archaeological investigations in Uganda, with locations of sites, names of investigators, dates of work and details of publications. This report was, in its way, a land-mark and the present article will repeat little of the information contained in that publication.

Uganda is not as rich in rock paintings as nearby Tanzania, but Nyero is an important site at which there have been recent developments. Some six metres above the ground in this rock shelter there are groups of red lines which previously have been regarded as too decayed to be interpreted. (2) But a fresh eye (not that of the writer!) looking for photographic records, realised that these lines added up to a frieze of zebras. They are painted in a naturalistic and detailed style and make more than a bow in the direction of perspective.

Thinking about the logistics of painting 6m above the ground (this time it was the writer) led to an examination of the immense boulder, weighing 20,000 tons and more, which is in front of the shelter. Clearly, in its movement away from the rock face, its upper ridge must once have been a suitable platform from which to work at these high paintings. Along the upper ridge, now lom from the rock face, it was found that there are half a dozen miniature grinding hollows, such as might well have been used for grinding red ochre; as further evidence, these grooves were almost all tilted away from the horizontal in exactly the way one would expect if they had been made before the huge rock began to slip down the hillside. Unfortunately, there is no chance that measurement of this movement today might provide a time-scale as it may have moved suddenly at first.

At a third Nyero site, one km north of the main site, there is an unusually intricate and well-executed set of white concentric circles, around which are radially arranged sigmoid lines and ladder-like forms. It appears that there are modern parallels for this design in the north-eastern corner of Zaire, where a modern artist, using the same pattern on the wall of a house, was able to say what the design meant. The concentric circles are the sun, the ladder-forms are the moon, and the sigmoid lines are the moon's feet. Why? Because "the moon walks with the rain and so must have feet!" (3) African farmers are well aware of the connection between rain and the new moon which strengthens the theory that many of the "geometric" rock paintings around Lake Victoria are connected with rain-making.

West Nile contains another link between north-eastern Zaire and Uganda. Van Noten has already published a large number of the haematite celts or ground stone tools found in the Uele basin. (4) As a result of the interest taken by Dr. Ted Williams, a mission doctor living near Arua, it is now apparent that the Uelian extends into West Nile District. A dozen celts have been collected, mostly made of specular haematite. In addition, a hoard was examined near Arua - evidently a disused shrine - which contained two dozen celts and a dozen bored stones. The very compact haematite is obviously a good material for celts, but there could be other reasons for using this high grade iron ore. Iron smelting is a long-winded process, requiring several people to work together; if a man just wanted one or two axes he might find it easier to shape and grind the iron ore instead of smelting it. And as a by-product he would have a supply of powdered haematite for use as red ochre.

Karamoja is likely to be one of the most interesting archaeological areas in Uganda, in the future; a certain type of pots which are heavily and most precisely grooved from top to bottom were evidently in use all over the region at some period, and it was something of a surprise to the writer to find identical sherds lying on the surface of the Omo Beds in southern Ethiopia; evidently there is a continuum from Napak to the Omo River - and perhaps beyond. Eastern Karamoja is also a hunting ground for rock paintings. These were first reported from Magosi, but now a further half dozen sites are known. None of these is exactly spectacular, but future exploration may show that Karamoja is an important area for rock-paintings.

In the Kampala area, Buloba Hill was recorded by Posnansky as a dimplebased/Urewe ware site. (5) Examination of the abundant pottery on this hill shows that there are five different types of decoration (though none is of "dimple-based" type). These types of pottery are entirely different from modern Buganda pottery which is always decorated with a coarse grass roulette. The Buloba, or more accurately Kiwumu Hill, types include parallel line and wavey shallow combing, fine rouletting, deeply scored parallel lines and the pottery known variously as "pie-crust" or boudine ware, but more recently named Chobi ware by Soper. (6) Survey of a number of hill tops which, like Buloba-Kiwumu, overlook the swamp-river Mayanja Kato from the north east. has shown that these pottery groups are common on most of the dominant hills. Often the sherds are large and buried some 10cm below the grass cover of the hill. No associated material has been found that might provide a date, but limited excavations are to take place soon. The present picture of hill top occupation sites overlooking a major papyrus river suggests strongly that this was a historical frontier, but until some indication of the date is obtained it would be rash to suggest what peoples might have been involved.

In 1968, the Tervuren Museum, Belgium, carried out excavations on the islands of Buvuma and Bugaia, at Munyama Cave and Nakisito respectively. Apart from these two excavated sites, 37 other sites on Buvuma and 10 other sites on Bugaia were located. Nenquin, in a preliminary report, (7) says that on at least 30 of these sites material belonging to the Sangoan industry predominates. L.S.A. material was found in Tonge Cave and Munyama Cave; radiocarbon dates for the latter cover a period from about 13,000 B.C. to 8,000 B.C. Two Urewe pottery sites were found on Buvuma and examples of both Entebbe ware and Kantsyore ware were identified.

From this brief survey, it can be seen that Uganda has plenty to offer to archaeologists; and it is to be hoped that universities and other institutions may feel encouraged to come and work on the task of uncovering Uganda's past. Applications for permission to excavate should be addressed to:

Conservator of Antiquities
Ministry of Culture and Comm. Devt.
P.O. Box 7136
KAMPALA, Uganda

References

- (1) Annual Report of the Monuments Section for the year 1969. Government Printer, Entebbe, 1971.
- (2) Posnansky, M., and Nelson, C.M. Rock Paintings and Excavations at Nyero, Uganda. Azania, III. 1968, 147-166 (Fig. 3)
- (3) Scohy, A. Ekibondo . . . ou les murs veulent parler. <u>Brousse</u>, 1951, 17-34.
- (4) Noten, F. van. The Uelian: a culture with a neolithic aspect. Tervuren, 1968.
- (5) Posnansky, M. Dimple-Based Pottery from Uganda. Man, 1961, 168.
- (6) Soper, R. Iron Age sites in Chobi Sector, Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda.
- (7) Nenquin, J. Archaeological Prospections on the Islands of Buvuma and Bugaia, Lake Victoria Nyanza (Uganda). Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society for 1971, Vol. XXXVII, 381-418.

Ghana

News from the Museum is:

- 1. Field work: The Assistant Keepers (Ethnography), Len Pole and Barbara Priddy, are continuing their surveys of modern iron-smelting and pottery-making respectively, with results which might be useful to archaeologists, economic historians etc.
- 2. Movements of people: a new Assistant Keeper, Francis Boakye Duah, has returned from studies in Germany to take up his appointment. Mr. J. Myles has been appointed Curator of the Museum.

Ivory Coast

Monsieur Pollet has been appointed as archaeologist in this country. No further information is yet available.

Mauretania

S. Robert is continuing his excavations at Tegdaoust.

Nigeria

Professor Thurstan Shaw recently carried out a short archaeological reconnaissance of the Niger Delta in company with Dr. E.J. Alagoa (historian of the area, University of Lagos) and Mr. Frederick Anozie (Junior Research Fellow in Archaeology, University of Ibadan). As far as is known, this is the first time that any archaeological work has been done in the area of the Niger Delta. The reconnaissance was entirely carried out by water transport. As a result of this preliminary work it is planned that Mr. Anozie should excavate one or two test pits at four sites. From this it is hoped to gain an idea of the stratigraphy available and of the time depth involved; there should be opportunities for obtaining radiocarbon dates both from charcoal and from shell, and thermoluminescent dates from pottery, to cross-check against each other. An interesting problem is to ascertain when this highly specialised environment was first colonised by a human population.

Department of Archaeology, University of Ibadan:

The staff of the Department was augmented at the beginning of the year with the arrival of Mr. Robert Soper, formerly Deputy Director, British Institute of History and Archaeology in East Africa, to take up a post as Senior Lecturer; and by Mr. David Calvocoressi, formerly of the Department of Archaeology, University of Ghana, to take up a post as Lecturer. It is anticipated that during the course of the year Mr. Bassey Wai Ogosu will take up a post as Lecturer, after completing his work for a PhD at the University of California, Berkeley.

The Department is now completing work on its Experimental Archaeological Reserve, situated in the ground of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture. It is hoped to publish details of this later.

The Department will be conducting a training excavation during the Easter vacation for second year students of Archaeology at the site of Old Oyo. The excavation will be conducted by Mr. Robert Soper, assisted by Mr. Frederick Anozie.

The University has given a grant to the Department's Palynologist, Dr. M.A. Sowunmi, to carry out pollen analyses of quaternary deposits in order to study climatic and vegetational changes during this period. In connection with this programme, a coring tool has been purchased for obtaining samples from swamps and lake-beds.

Professor Thurstan Shaw will be on study leave from April to December 1973; his address will be 37 Hawthorne Road, Stapleford, Cambridge CB2 5DU, U.K., tel. Shelford 2283, but he cannot promise to answer letters.

Rhodesia

The National Museums and Monuments have now combined their operations. Mr. Cooke assumed the office of Curator of Monuments, and T.N. Huffman from America, N.J. Walker, ex Inskeep's School, Cape Town, and M.A. Bordini from South America are active in archaeological matters.

12.

South Africa

Mr. R.J. Mason, Head of the Department of Archaeology at the University of the Witwatersrand, reports that it has been financed by the South African Human Sciences Research Council to investigate Iron Age settlement in the Transvaal. The Project started in 1971 and to date the excavation of sites at Olifantspoort (Rustenburg), Platberg (Klerksdorp), Badfontein (Lydenburg), and Harmony (Gravelotte), have been completed. Ethnological investigations relevant to the sites are under way. What is believed to be one of the first relatively complete horizontal exposures of large stonewalled settlement sites in Sub-Saharan Africa has been completed. The discovery of six village sites without stone walls adjacent to the stonewalled settlement sites and presumably dating to an earlier period is announced. Readers are referred to the journal, 'Current Anthropology', where a progress report is in press.

Other items are:

Iron Age Research in the Western Transvaal

During 1971/1972, four well preserved Iron Age villages radio carbon dated between c. A.D. 1200 and A.D. 1500 were discovered on the farm Olifantspoort near Rustenburg. The four sites provided new information on settlement size, settlement pattern, Iron Age food economy, and Iron Age structures during the period A.D. 1200 - A.D. 1500.

The largest surface area of Iron Age settlement for the period A.D. 1600 to 1800, yet exposed in South Africa, was excavated at an adjoining stone walled settlement identified as 20/71. 88 well preserved hut floors were exposed, providing new information on Iron Age building methods. A team of 8 specialists is at work on the analysis of materials excavated. In September, 1972, 14 papers concerning prehistoric settlement in South Africa were presented at a conference 'The last 2,000 years in South Africa', held at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Iron Age Research in the Eastern Transvaal

- 1. Escarpment sites near Lydenburg where large extended villages with stone wall agricultural terraces and homestead enclosures have been found. An excavated site on the farm Badfontein gave a date of A.D. 1680 + 90 (RL 205) associated with pottery of Pedi type.
- 2. Lowveld sites, south of Tzaneen: a salt making site has been excavated, a soapstone bowl factory surveyed and a copper mine surveyed and excavated. At the last site a line of 25 shafts and ventilation shafts has been discovered and three single tuyere copper smelting furnaces excavated. One of the shafts has been opened (January 1973) and pit props still in situ observed.

A paper on the two sites was presented at a conference in Johannesburg in September, 1972.

and from Dr. van der Merwe:

"I am currently conducting a survey of Iron Age sites in the Transvaal Lowveld and adjacent regions. So far, the survey has covered the districts of Mica and Gravelotte (in the immediate vicinity of Phalaborwa) and has also started in the Louis Trichardt area (which is Venda tribal territory). We have been most fortunate to obtain research permits to work in the tribal

territories of the Sotho, Venda, and Shagane nations and will use the occasion to record oral histories and do basic ethnographic recording in addition to archaeological surveying. We have also been granted permission to work in Mocambique, which is a source of considerable joy to us. Preliminary work will start in Mocambique soon, but it is obviously a vast, unexplored region which can keep many fieldworkers busy for a long time.

I have been appointed to the Chair of Archaeology, University of Cape Town, as of February 1974 and will therefore be operating from a base closer to my fieldwork. I would be interested to hear from other archaeologists who wish to work in South Africa and/or Mocambique for the purpose of joint ventures. There is an awful lot of work to be done in this region, and very few people to cover the ground."

Sudan

Dr. Ahmed Hakem, Head of the Department of Archaeology, University of Khartoum, reports as follows:

In the Research field the Department is carrying out investigation and archaeological survey in the area between Wadi Seydna and Shaheinab. Preliminary work shows extensive and intensive occupation during various periods - Neolithic to Mahdia times. Dr. Ahmed M. Ali Hakem is leading the project with mainly students participation. Another project is that of Darfur which is again directed by Dr. Hakem assisted by Mrs. Haaland, this will be on Early food production and the Iron Age. A preliminary expedition was carried out in July 1972 and showed promising results. Finally, the Meroe Excavation which was running since 1966 led by Prof. P.L. Shinnie is now being planned as a joint project between the Universities of Calgary and Khartoum.

Mrs. Haaland is reviewing the Neolithic of the Central Sudan and is in contact with Dr. L. Krzyzaniak, the leader of the Polish Expedition at Kadaro, and Professor Puglisi of the Italian Expedition at Geili. Dr. Ali Hakem is reviewing the Iron Age in the Sudan in relation with his main work on the Meroitic Culture. The Department is also offering facilities for Berkeley Expedition to Gezira led by Prof. J. Desmond Clark. Contacts have been made also with Prof. Helmut Ziegert of Hamburg University working at Gebel Mara, with the University of Geneva Expedition led by M. Charles Bonnet, Prof. J. Vercoutter of the French Expedition to the Island of Sai, and M. Vila of the Antiquities Service Survey Team in Bath al Haggar.

In spite of the small size of the Department in comparison with its commitment to graduate students, 80 in all, several publication projects either have been completed or are near completion. Mrs. Haaland's major work on the Neolithic Culture of Sudanese Nubia has been in the Press since last year as Vol. III of the Scandinavian Joint Expedition's reports. Dr. Ali Hakem's article on the Meroitic Settlement of the Butana appeared in "Man, Settlement, and Urbanism", other articles include "The City of Meroe and the Myth of Napata, a new perspective in Meroitic Archaeology", "Some Major Aspects of Cultures in Ancient Sudan", while the following are nearly completed: A Chapter on Political, economic social, and spiritual organizations of Nubia during Meroitic times is scheduled for March 1973 for the General History of

Africa of the UNESCO Publication. Volume I of General History of the Sudan sponsored by the Sudan National Council for Research will be completed by the end of this year. Finally, an article on "Meroitic Architecture" is being prepared for the Paris Conference on Meroitic Studies to be held in July 1973 - while his thesis on "Meroitic Architecture" is being prepared for publication.

Mr. J. Robertson of the University of Calgary supplies the following note:

From June 1972 until March 1973, I was field assistant on Professor Shinnie's excavations at the ancient city of Meroe in the Sudan. Prior to this, all my experience was in North American archaeology, It immediately struck me that cities have a tremendous amount of anthropological potential. The essential uniqueness of cities is that composite groups interact on a number of levels besides kinship. It is within the matrix of the city that complex society developed and grew. Upon returning to Canada, I have been working on an excavation model which will tap this rich anthropological source in cities.

For the coming field season, I hope to start my PhD thesis. Under the direction of Professor Shinnie, and with the cooperation of Dr. Ahmed Ali Hakem of the University of Khartoum, I plan to survey northern Darfur. The main emphasis of this research will be on the relations of settled communities with surrounding areas such as west Africa and the Nile Valley. I hope to be in the Sudan from June through August 1973.

As a result of the International Colloquium on Nubian studies held in Warsaw from 19th - 23rd June 1972 on the occasion of the opening of a new department in the National Museum to exhibit the frescoes from the Faras cathedral, a Society for Nubian Studies was formed. Professor K. Michalowski, of Warsaw, was elected president, and Dr. E. Dinkler, of Heidelberg, secretary.

Zambia

Joseph O. Vogel, Keeper of Prehistory, Livingstone Museum, Livingstone, Zambia, writes: I recently completed excavations at an Early Iron Age site in the upper Zambezi valley in western Zambia. The site at Sioma (16°38' south; 23°32' east) produced a large collection of obviously Early Iron Age pottery, but of a hitherto unknown group. The pottery is decorated with hatched bands, parallel grooving, false-relief-chevron, thin-wavy-line stamping and a stamp producing patterns of fine false-relief-chevrons. One spearhead, a number of tuyères and a quantity of smelting debris were also found. Radiocarbon dates from Sioma are awaited.

Earlier, I completed a survey of Early Iron Age sites on the edge of the Maramba valley in southern Zambia with an excavation at the site named Musya (17042' south; 25052' east). We found three components: an Early Iron Age village possibly related to the Dambwa assemblage; a Kalomo tradition site of the Sekute phase and an Early-Tonga site of the mid-second millennium.

A present, I am completing the publication of the third of our Zambia Museum Papers series volumes on the archaeology of the Victoria Falls region, entitled: "Simbusenga: The Archaeology of the Intermediate Period of the Southern Zambian Iron Age".

Miss Karla Savage, University of California, Berkeley, is in Zambia analysing Daniels' L.S.A. material from Kamusongolwa and mine from Chambabulele and preparing an excavation at Mumbwa as part of her doctoral thesis.

INQUA Researches in Africa South of the Equator

Two Inqua commissions have been active in southern Africa on projects which combine archaeology with geology and other disciplines. Reports are being prepared for the congress to be held in New Zealand next December.

For the Shorelines Commission, O. Davies has sent to press the last of his four reports on pleistocene shorelines in South Africa, and special studies are being carried out by A. Tankard and A.J. Carrington in the Western Cape. The 60-metre shoreline is the earliest yielding hand-axes, while higher beach-gravels occasionally have atypical pebble-tools. Faunal studies indicate warmer water in the West Cape in and before the 30-metre shoreline (= probably the Holstein interglacial), and an interesting warm-water fauna in estuaries of the South and West Cape belonging to the 18 and 9 metre shorelines (= probably the two peaks of Eem). P. Giresse is directing research at Pointe Noire on the Flandrian transgression, with a number of isotopic dates. This follows his work in Gaboon, where he found considerable subsidence during the Holocene similar to that established by Allen off the Niger delta. R. Battistini has been mapping the late quaternary shorelines and dune-formations in Madagascar.

The Sub-commission on African Stratigraphy was revived in 1971 by P. Biberson, and representatives have been appointed for nearly every African state, to present reports on quaternary formations, in order to assess a programme of field-research for the next Inqua inter-congress period. Biberson's work has largely been in Morocco, where archaeological remains have always been carefully studied in relation to geological formations. He published in Quaternaria 13 a set of reports, to be used as models in other parts of the continent, in which due weight was given to prehistorical industries, fauna and isotopic dates. Work has been initiated in soutern Africa, and some of the reports will contain much detail on archaeology in relation to soil-stratigraphy - for instance, talus-accumulation in which a regular sequence from Late Acheulian to Late Stone Age occurs; and coastal dunes in Natal, where differently coloured sands are interstratified with industries from the Sangoan to the later iron-age.

University of Ghent, Belgium

For several years, a course in African prehistory has been offered in the University of Ghent; this is up till now the only university in Belgium where this subject is being taught.

Several students are preparing a "thèse de licence" in this particular field. This usually takes the form of a 150-300 page typewritten dissertation on a well-defined subject, complete with drawings, photographs, maps, etc.

The following dissertations have recently been submitted, or are being prepared now:

- 1. M.J. De Meulemeester, on the ethnohistory and archaeology of the Jukun, central Benue region, Nigeria. This is a doctoral thesis based upon fieldwork and archival research. Excavations were carried out at Kororofa (1969-1970) and at several other sites in the area Pindiga Katsena Ala, Kona Abinsi (1970-1971). Recent papers on this work are:
 - Op zoek naar het verleden van Nigeria. Spiegel Historiael, 7,6 1972, 324-333. (J.Nenquin and J. De Meulemeester). Voorlopig bericht over twee seizoenen protohistorisch onderzoek in get gebied van de Midden-Benue (Nigeria). Africa-Tervuren, XVIII 3/4, 1972, 123-132. (J. Nenquin and J. De Meulemeester).
- 2. M.M. Celis. Gepolijst archaeologisch stenen materiaal uit de Demokratische Republiek Zaire (met uitsluiting van het Uele gebied).
 This is a study of the polished axes, adzes and other relevant finds from Zaire, the Uele region excluded. 3-volume manuscript: text: lll pp.; finds from Ubangi, Lower Zaire, Kasai, Shaba, Ituri. Morphological analysis. gazetteer: 304 pp. illustrations: XXXV plates and 5 maps.
 - It is perhaps useful to mention here that the so-called "Uele neolithic" has earlier been studied by F. Van Noten, when a student at Ghene. This dissertation has been published as: "The Uelian".

 Annalen; menselijke wetenschappen no 64. Kon Museum Midden-Afrika, Tervuren. 1968. pp. 154, fig. 49, pl. X.
- 3. Miss A. Hérin. Studie van een verzameling ceramiek uit de Bushimaie vallei, in het Kon. Museum voor Centraal Afrika. A description of the ceramic material collected in 1939 by M.M. Bequaert in six caves in the Bushimaie valley, Zaire. Morphological analysis, typology and essay in chronology. Comparison with similar pottery from the same area.
- 4. M.J. Valcke. Het Late Steentijd materiaal uit de Munyama grot (Uganda). Report on the microlithic industry found in the Munyama Cave (Buvuma Island, Uganda), excavated in 1968 by J. Nenquin and J. Van Noten. Typological analysis, environmental reconstruction, chronology. Papers on this site include:
 - F. Van Noten: Excavations at Munyama Cave. Antiquity, 1971, XLV No. 177, 56-58.
 - J. Nenquin: Archaeological prospections on the Islands of Buvuma and Bugaia, Lake Victoria Nyanza (Uganda). Proceedings Prehistoric Society, 1971, XXXVII, 381-418. Material from other sites examined during the 1968 campaign is being studied by the author of this note.

5. M.J. Vandenhoute. De vroeg-historische kerk-begraafplaats te Mbanza Mbata Kia Madiadia (Neder-Zaire). Reconstruction of the necropolis associated with the early Christian church at Mbanza Mbata (Lower Zaire), examined and partially (?) excavated earlier by several workers. Description of the material (pottery, imported religious objects, etc.); analysis of the historical importance of the site.

Apart from these different subjects, the archaeological department of Ghent University also helped in organizing the section on African prehistory in the exhibition "Demystificatie en letterkunde in Afrika", held at the university in 1972 (in charge: Professor Dr. M. Van Spaandonck).

Lastly, Professor Dr. J. de Heinzelin (chair of Palaeontology) regularly collaborates with the work done in the Omo valley. His latest contribution: "Omo Research Expedition 1967-1971". Africa-Tervuren, 1972, XVIII 3/4, 67-74.

University of California, Santa Barbara

Brian Fagan continues to labour over the Daima bones and a series of mound site reports from southern Zambia. He plans to complete most of this work during a Guggenheim Fellowship in early 1973. A short volume on Africa in the Iron Age, co-authored with Roland Oliver for Cambridge University Press will go to press at the end of the year.

Michael Bisson has now returned from fieldwork in Zambia and contributes a short report to this newsletter. We hope to admit another Iron Age graduate student to UCSB for the coming fall.

West African Journal of Archaeology

Professor Thurstan Shaw has supplied lists of contents for the two forthcoming numbers of this journal:

Volume 3, 1973:

York: Excavations at New Buipe

Wai-Ogosu: Was there a Sangoan industry in West Africa?

Aumassip: Nouveau cas de stratification archéologique dans le Sahara Septentrionale.

Mauny: Datation au carbone 14 d'amas artificiels de coquillages des lagunes de Basse Côte d'Ivoire

Olsson: Radiocarbon dating of Ivory Coast Shell Mounds

Rubin: Bronzes of the Middle Benue Shaw: Trade and the Tsoede bronzes

Walker: Cajote - a Franco-African word for a tobacco pipe?

Volume 4, 1974:

Rahtz, P.A. and Colin Flight: A Quern Factory near Kintampo, Ghana Smith, Andrew B.: Preliminary Report of Excavations at Karkarichinkat, Mali, 1972

Swartz, B.K. Jnr.: A Stratified Succession of Stone Age Assemblages at Hohoe, Ghana

Marliac, A.: Prospection Archéologique au Cameroun Septentrionale Eyo, Ekpo: Excavations at Odo-Ogbe Street and Lafogido, Ife, Nigeria. Garlake, Peter: Excavations at Obalara's Land, Ife, Nigeria Mathewson, R. Duncan: Pottery from the Chuluwasi and Jimasangi River Sites, Northern Ghana

Rubin, Arnold: Regalia in Biu Division, North-Eastern State, Nigeria

Notes and News

Reviews

The annual subscription costs \$11 (United Kingdom £4.50) and orders through normal book-selling channels or with Oxford University Press, P.M.B. 5142, Ibadan, Nigeria.