

NYAME AKUMA

No. 4 A NEWSLETTER OF AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGY April 1974.

Edited by P.L. Shinnie and issued from the Department of Archaeology, the University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, T2N 1N4, Canada.

This number of Nyame Akuma, in addition to the usual news items also contains the first attempt to provide a list of permit giving authorities for archaeological work in Africa. It had been intended to publish this in number 3, but that issue became so bulky that I decided to postpone publication until number 4. The list is still very incomplete, several important countries are not included, and the details for some of those given are rather sparse. I hope in future to be able to give more detailed information and also to draw attention to any special regulations, and possibly to summarise the various Antiquities laws. To do this I need help and I would be grateful if those with information would send it to me.

I note that very little news is ever received except in answer to direct requests. I will continue to send a letter out about a month before publication date soliciting news, but I would also much appreciate it if news items, short reports on research etc. could be sent to me throughout the year. Please, it is not necessary to wait to be asked to send in your news. I am always ready to receive it.

It had been suggested that Calgary should be the scene of the next meeting of our still, so far as I know, nameless organisation. I shall be away in the Sudan or Egypt on sabbatical at the normal time for these meetings, which should be in April 1975. I am therefore proposing to the Steering Committee (Atherton, Nelson, Robbins, Shinnie (?)) that it should either be held elsewhere or that the date should be changed to sometime in the Fall of 1975.

P.L. Shinnie.

NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

The 7th Annual Conference of the Student Archaeology Association of the University of Calgary will take place from November 15th - 17th 1974. It will take the form of a symposium on Primitive Technology and Art.

Sessions and workshops are to include: lithics, ceramics, metallurgy, textiles, basketry and other aspects of historic and pre-historic technology and art where pertinent to archaeology.

The conference will be sponsored by both the Archaeology Association and the Department of Archaeology. Correspondence should be addressed to:

Programme Committee
Department of Archaeology
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

NEWS ITEMS

News of field activities in Africa, or research subsequent to field work, is listed here with the countries arranged alphabetically, except that the countries in which the British Institute in Eastern Africa works are grouped together, also alphabetically, under the heading of East Africa.

Algeria

Dr D. Lubell of the University of Alberta, reports:

For the past two years we have been working in Algeria on an investigation of the prehistoric cultural ecology of Capsian escargotières in the region of Tébessa. The 1973 season, which began in mid-June and lasted until mid-November, was funded by the Canada Council and undertaken in cooperation with the Centre Algérienne de Recherches Anthropologiques, Préhistoriques et Ethnographiques. Our work consisted of archaeological-geological-ecological survey, excavation, and analysis of excavated collections. Personnel, in addition to Lubell as director, were A. Gautier (Rijksuniversiteit-Gent: palaeontology), F. Hassan (Southern Methodist University: archaeology and geology), J-L Ballais (Université de Caen: geomorphology), A. Close (Cambridge University: archaeology), C. Chippindale (Cambridge University: archaeology) and A. Bouzenoune (Université d'Alger: botany).

Our primary objective for the 1973 season was the collection of data on environmental conditions during the period of Capsian occupation in order to test a hypothesis of seasonal occupation. To this end we located, mapped, and sampled several exposures of alluvial sediments which could be correlated with Capsian sites. One of these, in the Wadi el Redif, in fact contains a destroyed escargotiére. Two radiocarbon samples from these cultural deposits are dated at 7340 ± 115 yrs BP (I-7964: Charcoal) and 7690 ± 120 yrs BP (I-7692: snail shell, Helix melanostoma).¹ Analysis of this section along with another in the Wadi Mezeraa and a third at the excavated site of Ain Misteheyia, indicate several periods of deposition and erosion more or less contemporaneous with the Capsian occupation. There is, in addition, evidence in the form of thick black deposits of clays, for the wide-spread occurrence of swamps and/or marshes which may date to the Capsian occupation but are more likely post-Capsian. One radiocarbon sample from these deposits in the Wadi Meseraa has been dated at 5830 ± 95 yrs BP (I-7963: snail shell, species undetermined).

Excavations were carried out at one site, the escargotière of Ain Misteheyia, in the Tèlidjène Valley about 10 km south of the modern town of Chèria. An area of 6 x 2 meters was opened and excavated to a depth of 50 cm with the exception of one square excavated to sterile soil at 1.55 m. Two radiocarbon samples give dates of 7280 ± 115 yrs BP (I-7960: snail shell, Helix melanostoma) for the 40-45 cm level, and 9280 ± 135 yrs BP (I-7961: snail shell, Helix melanostoma) for the 125-135 cm level. These dates confirm our observations of a break in the cultural stratigraphy (on the basis of artifact technology and typology) at about the 50 cm level. The horizontal exposure permitted the tentative identification of possible activity areas within the site which will be discussed in detail in a forthcoming report in Libyca. The limited sample of lithic artifacts from the levels below 50 cm suggests considerable typological variability which may reflect seasonally specific activities. However, further excavation will be required to verify this.

At present work is continuing on analysis of modern vegetation communities from collections made in the field, palynology, sedimentology, palaeontology, and tabulation of the results of the artifact analyses completed in Algiers. We are unable, on the basis of this year's results, either to accept or reject a hypothesis of seasonal occupation. While we are reasonably confident that land snails were a seasonally available resource to Capsian populations, they may not have constituted the primary source of protein in the diet. Therefore, the question of seasonal habitation must be deferred. Further field work is projected for 1975.

¹ All radiocarbon dates were calculated with the Libby half-life of 5568 years and no corrections have been made for variations in the atmospheric C.14.

Botswana

Dr. Wilmsen of the University of Michigan reports:

I conducted field research among the k!ung Bushmen living at /ai/ai from August 1973 until mid-January 1974. The aim of my fieldwork is to get a detailed account of these peoples' resource procurement efforts and the way in which these efforts are integrated with other aspects of their lives. Field methods combine ethnographic techniques with those developed by animal ecologists. I have obtained records of nearly 500 kills and have complete information on all of these as to species, sex, location of kill, date and time of kill, method employed, hunter, and so forth. In addition, the left metacarpal and phalanges of each specimen has been obtained for biochemical analysis. These

records were obtained by participant observation techniques or by interview on day of kill. The prey species have also been monitored both within hunting areas and outside of these in order to arrive at estimates of species densities and of activity characteristics of each species. The aim here is to obtain data for assessing the dynamics of interrelation between Bushman predators and their prey species. To complement those studies an archaeological survey of the /ai/ai area has begun in the hope of determining the extent to which the spatial patterns which characterize present day distributions of Bushmen in the area extend into the past. I hope to be able to show specifically how spacing and resource procurement are interrelated in k!ung organizational structure.

East Africa

Ethiopia

The expedition of the British Institute in Eastern Africa has continued its excavation at Axum from January 1974. No details are at present available. It is also known that Professor Desmond Clark of the University of California, Berkeley, has been in the field but again no details are available.

Kenya

Mr Hamo Sassoon formerly in Uganda (see Nyame Akuma no.2 (1973), 8-10) is now curator at Fort Jesus Museum, Mombasa. He is also in charge of documenting sites on the Kenya coast, opening selected sites to the public, and carrying out research. He would welcome publications, offprints etc. for the Fort Jesus library.

Mr. Gramly, of the Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi, reports on his excavations at Site GvJm/3, Lukenya Hill, Machakos district, Kenya (October - November, 1973).

Twenty-eight square metres of deposit were excavated on the talus slope of this site, which is a rockshelter containing a number of crude line-paintings executed in the late 19th century. The excavations revealed two occupation zones: an upper containing rouletted pottery, trade goods, bone ornaments, and domestic animal bones - all 19th century artefacts, which can be associated with the Maasai who were known to have

grazed livestock at Lukenya Hill; and a lower containing a microlithic chipped stone assemblage and a small proportion of macrolithic tools, ceramics, and domestic and non-domestic animal remains. The pottery of the lower occupation is interesting since it is identical with the type recognised by Mary Leakey as the "Hyrax Hill variant of Gumban A" in her excavations in the 'Neolithic' midden at Hyrax Hill. Another recently discovered occurrence of this distinctive type of pottery is the Seronera site, Tanzania, which was investigated by John Bower. The importance of site GvJm/3 is the evidence it brings to bear on the economy of the so-called Neolithic makers of the "Hyrax Hill variant of Gumban A" pottery. Both cattle and ovicaprids were present in the lower occupation at GvJm/3 along with the bones of zebra and warthog. Comparative data on the fauna of the 'neolithic midden' at Hyrax Hill is lacking but may soon be forthcoming when the current excavations of John Onyango are concluded. There are no dates for the older occupation at GvJm/3 as the results of radio-carbon determinations on bone collagen are being awaited. One might venture to guess that these determinations will provide dates within the first millennium B.C., as a single date for "Gumban A" from the Seronera site was 70 B.C.† 115.

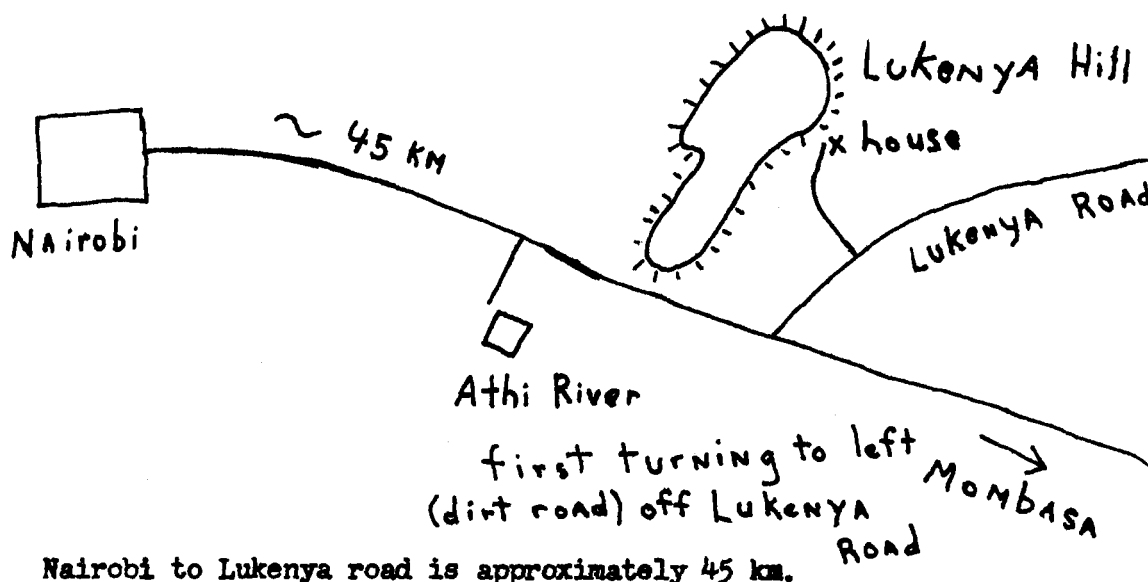
Mr. Gramly also asks for the following announcement to be inserted:

Thirty miles southeast of Nairobi, Kenya, near Lukenya Hill is a house of six rooms available for visiting archaeologists and their staff. Laboratory space, beds, lamps, and piped water are provided. It is hoped that archaeologists will be able to make use of this facility regularly, and there is no charge for usage. In order to save last minute confusion bookings must be made two months in advance by writing to:

Richard Michael Gramly
Peabody Museum
Harvard University
Cambridge, MASS. 02138

Keys to the house may be picked up at the British Institute in Eastern Africa, Chiromo, Nairobi.

The following map shows the best route to Lukenya House:



Detailed information as to the facilities available to Lukenya House may be obtained by writing to Mr. Gramly.

Dr. Bower of Lake Forest College reports:

I have recently spent six weeks in Nairobi, Dar-es-Salaam, and Pretoria collecting attribute data on Oldowan tools. This work represents an extension of a project initiated in 1971, aimed essentially at clarifying taxonomic relationships among the various occurrences of the Oldowan. I hope to complete the analysis of the entire corpus of attribute data within the next six months.

Tanzania

Mr. Mturi, the Director of Antiquities and Archives sends the following account.

1. Lake Ndutu Stone Age Site: The Department of Antiquities, under the direction of A.A. Mturi, undertook a five week preliminary investigation of the site which is situated north of Olduvai Gorge and is a continuation of the Olduvai Pleistocene deposits.

The site which is an extant lake, contains surface Artifacts littered on the larger part of the Western shore of the Lake, and during the rainy Season the area with artifacts is under water. One of the problems which needed to be resolved was whether the artifacts were being transported from outside the lake or were being eroded from within the lake beds.

An area, approximately 16m x 16m was excavated and an occupation floor which was covered by the top-most unit, a sandy clay, was exposed. In situ artifacts and faunal material were found and within the occupation floor was found a hominid skull. The skull is now being reconstructed by Mr. Ron Clarke and preliminary description will be published soon. The Research project continues and another season is planned during September and October, 1974.

2. Ngorongoro Crater: The existence of burial Mounds in Ngorongoro Crater has been known since 1907 when a German farmer found them while quarrying stones for his buildings. His assistant excavated at least sixteen mounds and he recovered skeletal materials, stone bowls, grinding stones, pestle rubbers, obsidian artifacts and beads of semi-precious stones. A systematic excavation of a further two burial mounds one by Dr.M.D. Leakey in 1941 and the second by Hamo Sassoon in 1967 confirmed that the burial mounds contained multiple inhumations and among the grave goods were stone bowls, grinding stones and pestle rubbers.

They were therefore correlated with similar burials found in the Kenya Rift Valley and assigned to the Stone Bowl Culture which in Kenya were dated by Carbon 14 to between 900 B.C. - 100 B.C.. Sassoon obtained a Carbon 14 determination of 300 B.C. from bone recovered from the burial.

In 1969 - 70, the Department of Antiquities under the direction of A.A. Mturi excavated two more burial mounds. The two mounds were found to contain only single inhumations and they had no grave goods. Stone Bowls, grinding stones and pestle rubbers were not found, though pottery sherds and obsidian artifacts were found from within the body of the mounds. The 1969 - 70 excavations raised the possibility of the existence of two groups of people who though sharing the common tradition of burying their dead in mounds, had different beliefs and material culture. In 1972 and 1973, the Department excavated another six burial mounds. Five of these mounds were found to be similar to those excavated in 1969 - 70 containing single inhumations in clearly defined graves and with no grave goods. The sixth which belongs to the group of burial mounds of which one was excavated by Sassoon in 1967 contained multiple inhumations - at least four individuals were represented and grave goods. Among the grave goods were ten stone bowls, two complete and four broken grinding stones, six pestle rubbers, four chalcedony and one red ochre beads, and numerous obsidian artifacts. An intriguing find was that of two iron bracelets found about 45 cm below the surface of the mound in an area which produced a fair concentration of skeletal materials. The iron bracelets come from a mound similar to that excavated by Hamo Sassoon in 1967 and from which was obtained a carbon 14 determination of 300 B.C.. It is therefore likely that iron technology was being practised in East Africa long before the beginning of the "Iron Age".

Finally, the 1972 and 1973 excavations seem to strengthen the possibility that the Ngorongoro burial mounds belong to two different groups of people with different material culture. The temporal relationship of the two groups is not yet determined but 5 samples for Carbon 14 determination have been submitted to the Geochron Laboratory. The research project continues and another season is planned during 1974.

3. West Kilimanjaro: Stone bowls, grinding stones, pestle rubbers, bored stones (stone rings) and obsidian artifacts have been found during farming activities in many farms in West Kilimanjaro. The circumstances of the findings were such that it was not possible to associate the finds and to determine their cultural and chronological parameters, nor their temporal relationship with similar finds associated with the Ngorongoro burial mounds.

During December 1972, the Department of Antiquities undertook a three weeks reconnaissance of the area as well as preliminary excavations in one of the farms- Malla farm. The excavations were in a

ploughed field where a number of potsherds, obsidian and bones are found in the ploughed soil and also eroding along irrigation furrows. Two areas A & B each 6m X 8m. and another one C 2m X 4m were surface collected and the ploughed soil sieved. Five 2m X 2m squares and four 2m X 2m squares in A and B respectively and the whole of Area C were excavated to bedrock.

Large quantities of animal bones and considerable amounts of obsidian artifacts and pottery sherds were recovered. The obsidian artifacts include a substantial number of microliths, mostly backed blades, utilised debitage, and retouched tools. The pottery recovered does not belong to any of the known archaeological groups. A tentative identification of the animals represented obtained mainly from teeth include Bovides - Cow/Ox/Buffalo, Giraffe, Zebra, and Gazelle. No stone bowls or grinding stones were found.

4. Proposed Research During 1974.

1. Mr.F.T. Masao a post - graduate student of Simon Fraser University plans to undertake research into the Rock Art of Tanzania from May - December, 1974.
2. Mr. Michael Melham of the University of Illinois, Urbana, plans to re-excavate Apis (Nasera) Rock Shelter beginning October, 1974.
3. Dr.M.D. Leakey who during 1972 and 1973 has concentrated in uncovering the complex of pits found in Bed III of Olduvai Gorge continues with her research in Olduvai Gorge.

In connection with Mr. Masao's project, Mr. Masao himself sends this summary of the aims of his project.

The rock art of central Tanzania has been known for a long time, but hitherto, no systematic work has yet been done. My intended research will attempt to:-

1. Find out and study the cultural components associated with the rock art culture of Central Tanzania.
2. Derive a proper chronological sequence for the rock art culture within the Late Stone Age cultural complexes in East Africa.
3. Reconstruct activity patterning from information recovered. Some of the rock art bearing shelters have been found to have grinding stones on their floors. If these are found

in a significantly large enough sample and if they can be culturally and logically associated with the rock art, then it might become reasonable to infer subsistence patterns not only based on hunting as depicted by some of the pictographs but on grain (wild or cultivated). Activity patterning must be related to the bio-physical environment.

4. Relate the Tanzania rock art to the general picture of African rock art by recourse to ethnographic as well as archaeological evidence.

Dr. Richard L. Hay writes:

The present phase of field work on the Olduvai stratigraphy was completed in January, 1974, and my next aim is to complete a monograph on the Olduvai geology. Emphasis is on the subdivision of the major units into lithofacies, which are interpreted in terms of environments (see Hay, 1973, Quat. Res., 3, 541-560). Work is still under way by J. Bada (Scripps Inst.) on the racemization of amino acids for determining the late Pleistocene temperature history and for dating the Ndutu and Masek Beds. Andrew Brock (Univ. Nairobi) has worked out the generalized magnetic stratigraphy, and Allan Cox (Stanford Univ.) is attempting to locate the Matuyama - Brunhes magnetic transition (700,000 years B.P.) within Bed IV.

Dr. Peter Schmidt of Brown University sends the following report on his work:

I am finishing up the major portion of the Buhaya material and find that I need more comparative evidence on early iron working before I formulate any positions about East African linkage with Meroe.

As a point of information, you may be interested to know that I will be returning to Buhaya this coming summer to conduct ethnographic and metallurgical experiments in iron smelting. As well, I will continue limited excavations of the early iron age in the area.

Ghana

Mr. A. Smith of the University of Ghana sends the following:

A visit was made with students from the Department of Archaeology, University of Ghana, over Christmas break 1973 to Bosumpra Cave, Abetifi. Since Professor Thurstan Shaw's excavation in 1943 (Proc. of the Prehist. Soc., 1944, Vol. 10:1-67) was performed prior to the advent of C.14 dating we excavated a small witness section to retrieve organic remains for dating. Samples of charcoal were retrieved from all levels to 110cm., as well as carbonized remains of the oil palm, Elaeis guineensis, to a depth of at least 80cm. The existence of the oil palm below this depth awaits the opinion of several botanists.

Charcoal samples have been sent to Rikagaku Kenkyusho, Japan for processing. One of these samples from 100-110cm. should give us a date for the pre-pottery microlithic industry/pottery using transition.

Certainly the existence of the carbonized oil palm kernels to at least 80cm. suggests that the use of this plant goes back a long way. These examples may well be the oldest known archaeological specimens from West Africa. (I would appreciate any of the readers of 'Nyame Akuma' who might know of any other examples getting in touch with me).

This report has been received from the Ghana National Museum:

The 5th of January, 1974 saw the official opening of the West African Historical Museum at Cape Coast by Commander J.K. Amedume deputising for the Commissioner for Education and Culture Col. Nyante. The Museum is to be a Centre for Research into West African History. Thus the exhibits reflect not only the period beginning with European contact with West Africa - from about the 13th to late 19th century, but also some Stone Age implements, that is the period before the Europeans in West Africa.

The museum is housed in a castle of Danish origin and this adds to the uniqueness of the Museum and its task. The building is itself a monument. Apart from being a museum part of wing is going to be converted into a theatre to offer full facilities for cultural activities.

Diorama show:

On the 5th of March the National Museum mounted an exhibition in its main building at Accra. This is an extraordinary exhibition because, for the first time in the Museum's history - since 1957, the

exhibition was mounted in a natural ecological setting. It was an attempt to display museum objects in a facsimile of their real life setting to afford an easy comprehension. It portrays an indigenous Iron Smelting group as practised in the Upper Region of Ghana some 40 - 50 years ago. Everything used was authentic. The process was demonstrated by a blacksmith Woobari Angko of Tiza village in the Lawra district of Upper Region. The life-size casts of the blacksmith himself and his assistants were made by Mr. Asa-Anakwa a diorama technician of the Museum. The display itself was the outcome of the research work undertaken by Mr. L.M. Pole one of the Assistant Keepers of the Museum. The Museum of the University of Ghana on 14th March had its new comprehensive exhibition opened by Dr. Oku-Ampofo to mark the silver Jubilee of the University.

New Appointments and Movements:

Mr. K.A. Myles, Keeper, has been appointed Acting Director of the National Museum and Mr. Jones Asante has been appointed Assistant Keeper (History) for the West African Historical Museum. The Director of the National Museum will soon be on two-year sabbatical leave in Canada.

Research:

With the number of the Curatorial staff in both Ethnology and Archaeology increasing, plans are afoot for fieldwork. Mr. Leonard M. Pole's work on Indigenous Iron Smelting, which culminated to the mounting of the diorama exhibition mentioned above, I hope is well known to you.

An introductory research on beads in the Jasikan area of the Volta Region had been undertaken by Mr. E.K. Agorsah. It was aimed at recording the history, manufacture and use of the beads, as also to know the raw materials used, as well as any other relevant data. It is more or less a foundation work for future research. At Efutu near Cape Coast, a preliminary archaeological excavation has begun under Mr. E.K. Agorsah. Also in progress is an archaeological survey of once an Iron Smelting village at Okyirikomfo near Accra by Dr. I.N. Debrah.

Ivory Coast

The following is supplied by Professor Mauny of the University of Paris:-

Philippe Leclerc is at the Mission d'Aide et de Coopération, B.P. 1839, Abidjan, since last year, studying in bad conditions the shell-mounds of the Lower Ivory Coast lagoons. I saw him and he prepared a paper on his work. These mounds seem definitely artificial, but there exist also some natural ones. I should be very glad if our Ghanaian colleagues would study those on their side of the border.

Liberia

In Nyame Akuma no.1 (1972), 12 Dr. Creighton Gabel of Boston University announced a forthcoming project in Liberia. This project is now under way and the first part has been completed. Dr. Gabel sends this report:

Beginning in January, 1973, three archaeologists from Boston University undertook an archaeological survey which was funded by the U.S. Educational and Cultural Foundation in Liberia. Creighton Gabel was project director, assisted by Ph.D students Robert B. Borden and Susan L. White (who was also supported by a fellowship from the Canada Council). Gabel was in Liberia until late August, Borden until October, and White until early December. During the later months of the program, Borden concentrated primarily on lithic industries and Ms. White on traditional iron-working, combining the recording of archaeological and ethnographic materials with collection of oral data obtained from Loma, Bandi, Mandingo, Mano, and Kissi smiths. The areas of the country in which the group worked included the western coast and hinterland, central Liberia, the northwest, the northeast, and Cape Palmas on the southeast coast. The heavy forest cover in large sectors of the eastern and western interior and the lack of access by road to most of the central and eastern coasts made it difficult to do much in those regions. The coast between Buchanan and Harper deserves thorough survey by boat because of the intensity of European trade from the 14th or 15th century onward and the many small islands which have long been used as tribal burial grounds. The potential richness of the latter was amply demonstrated by examination of coastal cemeteries and one remarkable ossuary at Cape Palmas.

Preeminent among the antiquities of the interior are vestiges of former towns and villages, although most are of no great antiquity and few display much depth of midden accumulation (due to the practice of swidden rice cultivation and patterns of endemic tribal warfare). They are also abundant along the coast, where erosion of beaches, lagoon bluffs, and tidewater riverbanks makes sites of these and earlier types easier to locate.

The earliest archaeological occurrences noted were ones of broadly "Sangoan" appearance, characterized by heavy picks, choppers, and scrapers. About ten such sites were identified in the vicinity of the lower St. Paul River west of Monrovia, associated with substantial quartz dikes. Most are ordinary surface or road-cut sites, although a couple of stratified ones were found on the river itself, and probably represent quarry workshops.

Microolithic sites without pottery were observed in several instances, but with two or three exceptions these also were surface occurrences. Single specimens or small scatters were collected even in areas of high bush. At one rock shelter in the far northwest, near the borders with Sierra Leone and Guinea, test excavations produced a microolithic assemblage in stratigraphic association with ceramics of crude form. A comparable situation was found to prevail at another shelter in the northeast interior. These may approximate something on the order of the "Guinea Neolithic."

Microolithic assemblages include outils esquillées, burins, irregular scrapers, backed flakes or bladelets, occasional small unifacial or bifacial points, and rare geometric segments. None was associated with axes or other heavy implements of ground stone.

Ceramic sites abound in most areas. Some coastal ones incorporate European trade goods such as crockery, glass, clay pipes, stoneware, beads, and brass ornaments. Locally-made iron artifacts also occur, although their survival value on the whole is limited. Most of the sites, with or without European trade materials, probably should be viewed as late prehistoric or recent, at least until such a time as evidence to the contrary is produced. Relative dating, especially when European imports are absent, is difficult since there are few archaeological or ethnographic ceramic collections available for comparison. The scarcity of habitable caves or shelters and of deep settlement middens of any kind makes the problem worse. However, the ceramic samples which were obtained will provide at least a preliminary framework for the later Iron Age and historic periods in some areas. Apart from the Stone Age industries, the most fruitful opportunities for research at the moment probably lie in tracing of tribal movements over the past few centuries, combining the evidence of oral tradition with

archaeological investigation. The same comments are generally applicable to the smelting sites seen. With two or three possible exceptions, these seem to be of quite recent origin, although the procurement and reduction of iron ore may be somewhat more widespread than formerly believed.

In the project report being submitted to the sponsoring agency and the Liberian Government, a number of recommendations for the future are included. Among these are a plea for continued use of the SASES grid for recording sites and artifacts; the promotion of joint research by historians, linguists, and archaeologists; recording and preservation of Liberian arts and crafts, with particular reference to their sociological significance; identification and distribution studies of imported trade goods; and the preservation and protection of antiquities.

Niger

From Mr. A. Smith, University of Ghana:

I intend to lead a joint archaeological/geological expedition to the Azaouak Valley, Niger next December. An archaeological reconnaissance will be made of the region from In Abangarit to the Mali border (we initially intended to work in Mali too but I have been informed by the Institut des Sciences humaines, Bamako that all research in the 5th and 6th Regions of Mali has been provisionally suspended due to the current drought). We also intend to excavate at Tamaya Mellet or Taferjit depending on which site will give the most information. The expedition will include Dr. M.R. Talbot, Department of Geology, University of Ghana and Dr. M.A.J. Williams, School of Earth Sciences, Macquarrie University, N.S.W., Australia.

Nigeria

EXCAVATIONS AT DUTSEN KONGBA NEAR JOS, NIGERIA
(PRELIMINARY NOTICE).

Federal Department of Antiquities, Nigeria (Archaeology
Division).

Dutsen Kongba is the name of a rock outcrop lying some 11.5 km. due west of Jos in the Benue-Plateau State of Nigeria (09°55'47"N., 08°47'03"E.) The outcrop, part of the Younger Granite ring-complex known as the Rukuba Hills, is a rough ellipse in plan, about 700m. x 250m., aligned slightly west of north, and rises some 45m. above the surrounding plains at its highest point (1280m. above sea level).

At the southern end of the outcrop, some 12m. above the surrounding ground level, a rock-shelter has been formed by the collapse of a huge boulder across a wide fault in the underlying rock. The enclosed space is about 7.5m. in length, varying in width from 3.5m. at the mouth of the shelter to less than 2.5m. at the back. The rock floor slopes steeply to the right as one faces into the shelter, but it is overlain by a mixed deposit of weathered granite granules and aeolean dust which has developed a horizontal surface; so that while the present shelter floor consists of sloping rock on the left hand margin, over the rest of the area it is the top of a deposit which on the right hand margin is 2m. deep. The roof of the shelter is roughly horizontal, about 2m. above the deposit in the centre, and somewhat lower elsewhere.

The shelter was discovered in 1971 by one of us, who collected ground stone axes (Nyame Nkuma) then and on subsequent visits from the surface of the shelter floor and the surrounding area. In early 1973, the Archaeology Division of the Federal Department of Antiquities was carrying out a morphological study of a large collection of ground stone axes in Jos Museum, and needed chronological data for specimens from the Jos area. It was therefore decided to excavate at Dutsen Kongba in the hope of recovering stratified specimens dated by radio-carbon.

The excavation was carried out in February and March, 1973, by Richard York, Francis Basse, John Adeduntan and Antonia Okoro, all Archaeologists in the Department of Antiquities. No ground stone axes were found stratified in the shelter deposit, but a prolific Late Stone Age industry, microlithic in character, was discovered stratified in a band about 1m. in depth at its deepest point and occupying most of the shelter area. There was an area of pronounced horizontal concentra-

tion near the mouth of the shelter. Although there was virtually no vertical stratigraphic differentiation, it has been possible by seriation techniques to divide this band into three phases, A, B and C. In the latest Phase, C, microliths are associated with pottery and, at one point outside the dripline, two iron fragments. There are five radiocarbon age-determinations for the Phase, one from the bottom of it falling near the middle of the 9th Century B.C., and four from the top ranging from the 15th to the 17th Centuries A.D. It is clear that cultural material in the 10-15 cm. immediately below the surface is mixed, and probably includes, inter alia, pottery brought to the site by Fulani herdsmen sheltering there in bad weather.

In Phase B, where the microlithic industry reaches its greatest vertical concentration, there is also some pottery, but there is a clear difference between this and the Phase C pottery; and a shallow but definite stratum exists between the two Phases which contains no pottery at all. The Phase B pottery is in very poor condition, and is largely nondescript; where decoration is discernible, it is of the comb-impression type. Two radiocarbon age-determinations exist for this Phase, the upper falling in the late 3rd Millennium B.C. and the lower in the late 5th Millennium B.C.

Phase A is distinguished from Phase B largely on seriation; the frequency of artifacts drops sharply, and the interface between the two phases is marked at one point by a large flat slab of rock 1.25 x 1 m. in size and about 30cm. thick, which fell out of the roof at the end of Phase A. The cavity in the roof is still visible. Thereafter, this slab was the focus of activity in Phase B, judging by the concentration of factory waste over and around it. There is one radiocarbon age-determination for Phase A, which falls in the mid-4th Millennium B.C.. There is thus an inversion between the early Phase B and the Phase A determinations, but it should be noted that the samples processed were stratified in the same square without possibility of Phase overlap.

A further age-determination exists for a lower level, below the cultural material altogether and above bedrock, which falls in the late 6th or early 5th Millennium B.C.

The microlithic industry is homogeneous, and similar in many respects to that excavated at Ropp Rockshelter by B.E.B. Fagg (1944) and E.O. Eyo (1964), some 50 km. southeast of Dutsen Kongba. Over 98% of the material is quartz (80% white opaque and 14% translucent colourless or smoky), while other materials present are basalt and granite. Taking the lithic material from the three Phases together, a total of 39,898 items, the breakdown into types is in outline as follows:-

Cores	3.7%
Flakes	10.9
Blades	4.0
Borers, Scrapers,)	
Points, Lunates,)	0.4
Trapezes, Chisels	
Debitage	<u>81.0</u>
	100.0%

Morphological analysis is still incomplete but the model range of blade sizes, for example, in Phase C is as follows:-

Length:	11 - 14 mm.
Breadth:	5 - 7 mm.

It is noticeable that a high percentage of the smaller artifacts are made of clear colourless quartz, although opaque white quartz is the dominant material in general.

During the course of the excavation, a rock-gong similar to those first reported by Fagg (1956, 1957) was discovered in a corridor leading off the rock-shelter. It has two notes, and a series of clear chatter-marks, and is unusual in being in a vertical rather than a horizontal plane; it consists of a flat slab of granite wedged upright in a cleft between two massive boulders. A pressure-flaked hollow-based arrowhead in whitish chert, very closely analogous to hollow-based arrowheads from Ntereso in Ghana, was found washed out of the surface in the corridor after rain in mid-July, 1973, during a visit to the site by the excavators after the main excavation had been completed. Supplementary excavation was therefore carried out in the corridor, and a third type of pottery, ground stone axes, and hammer-stones were discovered stratified in a single cultural layer. No further pressure-flaked artifacts were found. Two radiocarbon age-determinations were obtained for this material, falling in the first and fourth quarters of the 2nd Millennium B.C.

The excavators currently interpret the microlithic industry in the main shelter as the product of a nomadic hunting community who used the shelter as a factory site at regular intervals from some time in the 4th Millennium B.C. onwards, until at least the 1st Millennium B.C.. The upper age-limit of the microlithic industry is difficult to determine because of the mixing in the upper levels; but it is worth remembering that the age of similar material at Rop is thought to be early 1st Millennium A.D.. Sporadic use of the rock-shelter at Dutsen Kongba by local peoples in Historic time is clearly indicated.

It appears likely that the rock-gong may have been in use by the 2nd Millennium B.C., since hammerstones dropped below it were found stratified in deposits of that age. At this period also, people using ground stone axes and possibly pressure-flaked arrowheads, appear to have frequented the corridor and presumably the shelter as well.

A series of samples of organic material was recovered by flotation from each level of the excavation, and is currently being analysed.

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South Africa

NEW DISCOVERIES AT EARLY IRON AGE SITE 24/73, BROEDERSTROOM, TRANSVAAL, SOUTH AFRICA. From Professor R.J. Mason, University of the Witwatersrand.

Fieldwork in December, 1973 and January/February 1974 at the A.D. 460 site of Broederstroom (UCLA 1791 B - Prof. R. Protsch) has increased the number of known hut floors at the site from 11 to 21. The approximate area is over 10 acres. Site 24/73 may, therefore, be the largest and earliest settlement preserved in Africa south of the Sahara.

Excavations by Dr. A. van Genderen at locality 24/73 U on the south east perimeter of site 24/73 have revealed an ornament-makers' working floor approximately 5 x 3 metres in area. On the floor Dr. van Genderen discovered a single shell of Conus hebraicus, the only such shell known in the interior of South Africa, indicating contact with the tropical coastline several hundred kilometres to the east, as well as cowrie shells, quantities of ostrich eggshell beads, worked bone and tortoiseshell and ivory fragments. Later Stone Age style stone artefacts associated with the Iron Age ornaments suggest that Later Stone Age people were actually working within the precincts of the 24/73 Iron Age village.

In December 1973 site 105/73 was discovered near Thabazimbo several hundred kilometres to the north-west of 24/73, with pottery and furnaces similar to those at 24/73, indicating a wide distribution of the same Early Iron Age tradition.

IRON AGE RESEARCH WORK 1973-1974 IN THE EASTERN TRANSVAAL, S.AFRICA. From T.M. Evers, Department of Archaeology, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

Two sets of excavations have been carried out.

1. In the Municipal grounds of Lydenburg, partly financed by that Municipality, excavations revealed a well-preserved Early Iron Age site with cattle and sheep teeth and pottery in pits. Burials, as yet to be completely excavated, are probably associated. Dates are expected to be c. A.D. 500. Excavations of a Later Iron Age stone wall site also proved informative. A hut floor was cleared and was found to be composed of stone paving and mud plaster. Pottery has affinities

with the nearby site of Badfontein which has produced a late A.D.17th Century date.

2. At the Mineral spring and vicinity of Eiland, on the south bank of the Groot Letaba, a large salt works was discovered and excavated. Excavations revealed a complete sequence of Early - Late Iron Age in three stages. The Early Iron Age pottery is like that from the nearby site of Harmony. The Middle Iron Age has affinities with Schofield's M3 pottery from Mapungubwe and has been dated to the 12th Century at the site of Silver Leaves 40 miles from Eiland. The latest pottery is similar to that from Phalaborwa and Harmony and probably dates between 1500 and 1900 A.D.

An iron smelting furnace, associated forge and living site was partly excavated. They lie about 5 miles south east of the salt works. A date in the 14th Century A.D. is expected.

From A.J.B. Humphreys, Alexander McGregor Memorial Museum,
Kimberley.

At the beginning of 1973 the Alexander McGregor Memorial Museum initiated a project on the "Later Stone Age" of the Kimberley area. Initial attention has been focussed on a series of rock shelters occurring in the Kaap Escarpment, west of Kimberley. To date preliminary investigations have been undertaken in two of the shelters. Radiocarbon dating has placed the base of the deposit in one of the shelters (Dikbosch) at between 12 and 14 thousand years B.P. and although the samples of cultural material from this period have been rather small so far, the possibility does exist of establishing a long sequence for the area. Some of the more recent levels in this shelter have produced an interesting range of non-lithic artefacts in addition to the usual stone implements. Faunal remains are well preserved and are being analysed by Prof. Richard Klein of the University of Chicago.

From H.J. Deacon, University of Stellenbosch.

The Archaeology Department of the University of Stellenbosch, Cape, is proceeding with its "Longkloof Archaeological Project: A study of later Quaternary environment and culture relationships in the Southern Cape." Reconnaissance surveys and excavations have been

focused on the eastern zone of the Cape Folded mountains in the last two years and currently work has begun on the excavation of a major cave site on Boomplaas (literally, Tree Farm) four miles from the Cango Caves in the Oudtshoorn District. This is a pre-Cambrian limestone belt that offers advantages in preservation and rate of accumulation of sediments for the excavator over caves in the area underlain by the acid rocks of the Cape System. The Boomplaas cave is 250 sq. meters in area and has a depth of deposit of five meters ranging in age from the Holocene to the Upper Pleistocene. The deposits include some seven discrete occupation horizons separated by culturally sterile microfauna-rich layers. Initial indications are that a good palaeo-environmental control will be afforded by the micro- and macrofauna and sediments, and area-excavation of living surfaces will provide useful data on behavioural patterning. An area of 25 sq. meters of the uppermost occupation floor of Holocene age, at a depth of 90 cm below the surface, has been exposed showing a clustering of leaf-lined storage pits and seed caches associated with hearths. This is fairly clearly a domestic area, the margins of which are just within the present excavated area. It is expected that excavation of the site, which will involve exposure of successive horizons over the full area, will take a number of years. The excavation is being directed by H.J. Deacon in association with Mary Brooker, both of Stellenbosch University, and Janette Deacon and R.G. Klein.

Professor Karl Butzer of the University of Chicago, will carry out a fifth season of geo-archaeological work in South Africa from July to October, 1974.

(a) A study of the micro-depositional environments, based on comprehensive sediment analyses, of the various australopithecine breccias (Transvaal, Taung) is nearing completion, and the results were first presented orally at the Wenner-Gren/NSF conference on African Plio-Pleistocene hominidae, New York, Jan. 26- Feb. 2, 1974. Work on these very early sites has been complemented by geological investigation of Pliocene faunal occurrences at Virginia (O.F.S.) and Langebaanweg.

(b) Study of various Acheulian sites (Amanzi Springs, Geelhoutboom, Elandsfontein, Brakkloof, Doornlaagte, Rooidam, Cornelia) of the coastal and interior regions are now mainly in press. Further, re-investigation of the Vaal River gravels has been concluded in a dissertation by David Helgren.

(c) Examination of complex coastal stratigraphies (beaches, dunes, soils) at Klasies River Mouth, Robberg, Swartklip and, most recently at Richard Klein's spectacular Melkbos site complex, has provided confirmation for the ca. 125,000 B.P. date for the earliest M.S.A. proposed by Peter Beaumont for the Border Cave sequence. Sedimentology of Border Cave, in the context of other cave sequences with frost spall horizons (Nelson Bay Cave, Kangkara, Paardeberg), also corroborates earliest M.S.A. occupation during a phase of warm, humid climate --preceeding four major cold phases, the second youngest of which is already older than 40,000 B.P.

(d) Excavation of an in situ MSA site in a beach ridge of paleo-lake Alexandersfontein, near Kimberley, is planned for 1974, to elucidate the nature of MSA settlement patterns in the semiarid interior. A.J.B. Humphreys, Kimberley Museum, will be a principal collaborator on this project, and Robert Stuckenrath, Smithsonian Institution, will assume primary responsibility for the associated geochronologic studies.

(e) Finally, study of a number of LSA sites has provided surprising insights on variance of Holocene environmental parameters.

Altogether it is hoped that paleo-ecological study of some three dozen sites, spanning the last three million years, in several different regional settings of South Africa, will not only contribute to stratigraphic and paleo-environmental problems, but may allow broader generalizations on the dynamics of man-land interactions, on the complex nature of the successive cultural interfaces, and on apparent spatial and temporal discontinuities of settlement, so as to provide clues for a "demographic" model.

Garth Sampson (Southern Methodist University) completed a feasibility survey of the Little Caledon valley, Orange Free State in January, 1974. Fifteen sites were visited in the Clarens district and two very large caves were selected for future excavation. The date of this project has been put forward to 1978, but several specialists have expressed interest in collaboration. These include R. Klein of University of Chicago (fauna), H. Pager (rock paintings), J. Vogel of C.S.I.R. Pretoria (radiocarbon dating) and T. Partridge (geomorphology and sediments).

Fieldwork has been delayed while Sampson serves as Chairman at Southern Methodist when Fred Wendorf steps down to take an endowed chair in Archaeology at the same University.

Robin Derricourt, now Secretary/Inspector for the Historical Monuments Commission in Zambia reports as follows on his work in South Africa:

I have completed the writing-up of the field data from my study from 1971-3 of the later archaeology of the Transkei and Ciskei regions of South Africa. A limited number of copies of the monograph report have been distributed to South African archaeological institutions and it is hoped a publisher for this will be found.

We aimed at reviewing by surface survey and museum study sites of the Later Stone Age (the terminal part especially) and the Iron Age. This was supplemented by excavations at three sites (Oakleigh, Ann Shaw Middledrift, and Chalumba Mouth) representing mountain, river valley and coastal exploitation in the Ciskei. The purely archaeological evidence has been compared with oral traditions and written history for the last 500 years.

This (attempted) interdisciplinary approach emphasises notably how complex is the variability in the human groups of the area over the last two millennia: the difficulties of tying the cultural units emergent from archaeology in different zones with each other, and with the rock art sequence; the difficulty of collating archaeological groups with social groups recognised in history and tradition (Bushmen, Hottentots, Nguni, etc), which are themselves differently classified when using technological, economic, linguistic or physical data. This is especially visible as the Ciskei is the "frontier zone" par excellence.

There are particular problems when trying to distinguish the elements which led to a pastoralist "Hottentot" society. A void in ISA industries of the Smithfield or Wilton complexes south of the Amatola hills was filled by an industry with a crude battered flake/core hammer emphasis (in technique sharing some similarities with coastal assemblages). This is located without pottery but presumably later pottery is acquired in one of the sites at Ann Shaw Middledrift, of a style distinct from that in the ISA rock shelters to the north and all but rare coastal assemblages. The same pottery element seems associated with cattle and possibly sheep and a C.14 date in the eleventh century in small mounds elsewhere at Ann Shaw Middledrift. The burial of a cow in one of these mounds is paralleled by an unusual burial apparently intrusive into the earlier site, of a crouched elderly Bush-type female and an articulated cow adjacent to each other, with a C-14 date of the eighteenth century (when Gonaqua "Hottentots" are known from historical sources to have been in the area.)

At Oakleigh, a rock shelter in the hills of Queenstown, a sequence gave a lower industry without parallel in Sampson's Orange River sequence but somewhat similar to "Howieson's Poort", followed by an ISA industry of the Smithfield complex into which new elements were added: pottery shortly after the mid tenth century, cattle in the fifteenth or sixteenth century, sheep thereafter and items of European manufacture at the end of the sequence. The domestic animals reflect the pattern of stock theft (or rather hunting of game named differently by its owners) shown both in rock art or historical sources, though at a rather early date if the C-14 reading is correct.

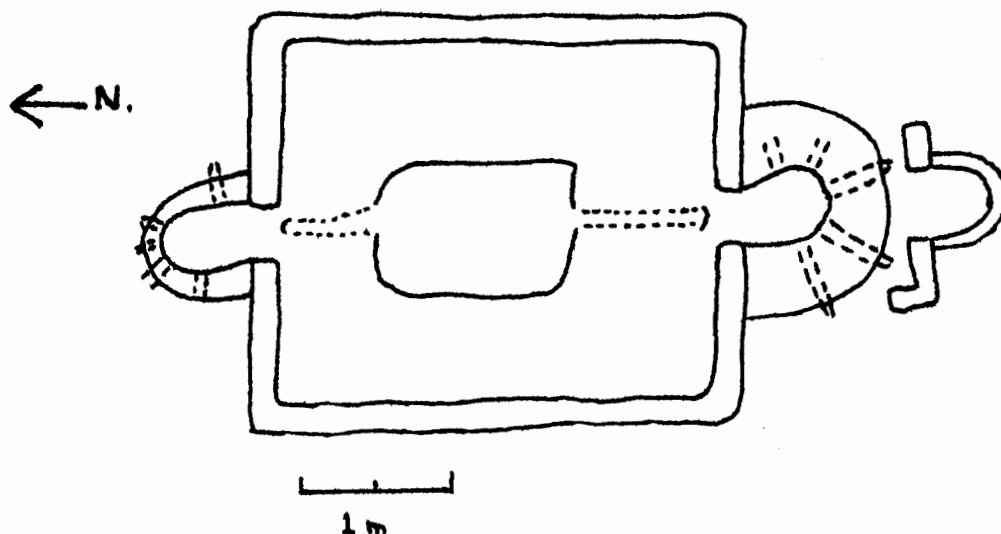
Many different coastal assemblages have been distinguished, associated with shell middens. These suggest coastal (perhaps seasonal) activities of inland hunter-gatherers and pastoralists; but also specifically coastal groups who at both west and east of the coastline absorbed pottery into an otherwise unchanged pattern. An Iron Age ceramic tradition clearly linked to the NC3 of Natal Iron workers has been located at twelve sites along the coast, but parallel Iron Age sites before the eighteenth century seem rarely to have survived with evidence for the archaeologist inland. Here history and tradition enter to assist and supplement.

Sudan

Kadero - Dr. L. Krzyzaniak of the Polish Centre of Archaeology in Cairo and the Archaeological Museum of Poznan continued work in the winter of 1973-74 at this important pre-historic site. The material is similar to that from Shaheinab but there is some evidence to suggest it is rather later in date.

Meroe - P.L. Shinnie and R. Heitzmann spent four weeks at the site (December 1973 - January 1974) with a group from Education Expeditions International. During this time excavation was carried out in an area where an iron smelting furnace had been found in the season of 1969-70. The new work led to the discovery of three more furnaces, two of them enclosed in a small, brick building with a brick

lined depression in the middle to which channels run from each furnace as in this plan:



Since the earlier furnace is dated by Carbon 14 to somewhere in the first few centuries A.D. (4th - 6th), these newly discovered ones, stratigraphically higher, may be of seventh century or later. If this is so some revision is required of the traditional view that occupation at Meroe came to an end in the middle of the fourth century A.D.

Sururab - Dr. Ahmed el Hakem of the University of Khartoum following the survey referred to in Nyame Akuma no.2 has been excavating a large group of burial mounds. They are of the type usually considered to be of immediately post-Meroitic date, but Dr. el Hakem informs me (P.L.S.) that the dating will require some revision when the material has been more fully studied.

It is assumed that the usual excavations at Old Dongola, Sai, Sadenga, and Tabo have taken place but no information has been received.

Zambia

1973 saw excavations by Joseph Vogel of Livingstone Museum at the Iron Age site at Chundu Farm near Livingstone; and by Karla Savage of University of California, Berkeley, at Mumbwa, revealing MSA, ISA and IA material. Miss Savage studied and analysed finds from earlier excavations at Kamusongolwa and Chambabulele, and has now returned to the States to continue writing up her work.

After my arrival at the National Monuments Commission mid-year I carried out some preliminary survey work in the Luapula Province and around Lake Tanganyika, mainly locating later Iron Age sites. This work is to be expanded in 1974 with trial digs at two village sites in Samfya.

There is no indication that there will be any overseas-based archaeological expeditions to Zambia in 1974, which is regrettable. The National Monuments Commission, which controls permits for such work, is keen to encourage foreign research workers in Zambia. It is fair to suggest that Zambia is one of the most open and free of African countries for archaeological fieldwork, and scholars who can guarantee institutional backing (and a program for publication of results!) would expect no difficulty in receiving excavation and temporary export permits. Enquiries should be addressed to me at: National Monuments Commission, P.O. Box 124, Livingstone, Zambia.

The National Monuments Commission plans (gradually) to carry out the dull but necessary task of reorganising for quick and easy reference its own and Livingstone Museum's records of sites and find spots in the country. This will, hopefully, aid the future research worker. Reviews of data by subject or area will appear from time to time. A supplement is being prepared to David Phillipson's invaluable "Annotated Bibliography of the Archaeology of Zambia", still available from the Commission for \$1. Also available free to professional readers of Nyame Akuma is the Commission's occasional newsletter "Archaeologia Zambiana".

Robin Derricourt.

ZaireRECHERCHES ARCHEOLOGIQUES EN REPUBLIQUE DU ZAIRE

Depuis la création, en 1970, de l'Institut des Musées Nationaux du Zaïre (B.P. 4249, Kinshasa II), qui, parmi ses attributions, possède la réglementation + et l'organisation des fouilles archéologiques en République du Zaïre, plusieurs missions ont été menées en collaboration entre cet institut et la section de Préhistoire et d'Archéologie du Musée royal de l'Afrique centrale à Tervuren (Belgique).

Ces missions répondaient à divers buts :

- Prospection des régions encore mal connues du pays.
- Elaboration d'un cadre chronologique et stratigraphique des industries préhistoriques.
- Développement de l'étude de l'âge du fer.
- Formation d'archéologues zaïrois.

Dr. F. Van Noten a prospecté le nord du Zaïre de décembre 1972 à mars 1973.

En Ubangi, il a découvert une grotte dont la stratigraphie allait de l'âge de la pierre moyen à l'âge de la pierre récent. Chaque niveau pourra être daté.

En Uélé, il a recherché des sites pouvant appartenir au soi-disant "néolithique" Uélien, célèbre par ses belles haches polies en hématite.

En Ituri eut lieu la trouvaille la plus importante. Là, une grotte du Mont Hoyoy, près de Bunia, a révélé une stratigraphie allant de l'âge de la pierre moyen (ou d'une forme assez ancienne de l'âge de la pierre récent) à un âge du fer, sans doute récent. Les différents niveaux pourront être datés. Chacun est associé à d'abondants restes de faune; on y a retrouvé aussi quelques ossements humains. Outre la préservation des vestiges organiques, l'intérêt majeur de cette grotte réside dans sa situation à la lisière entre la savanne et la forêt, ce qui permettra sans doute d'étudier l'évolution de l'écologie et la manière dont l'homme s'est adapté à ces deux milieux.

- Depuis janvier 1974, Dr. F. Van Noten a repris les fouilles dans cette grotte.

Dr. D. Cahen a effectué diverses fouilles dans la région de Kinshasa, de juin à septembre 1973.

En premier lieu, le site de la pointe de Gombe (ex-pointe de Kalina) a été réexaminé, après les travaux que J. Colette y fit en 1925 et 1927. Trois occupations à l'âge de la pierre, le Kalinien, le Djokocien et le Ndolien (de la plus ancienne à la plus récente) ont été découvertes ainsi qu'un niveau de l'âge du fer. Le Kalinien appartient à l'âge de la

+ Les articles 36 à 41 de l'ordonnance loi du 15 mars 1971 relative à la protection des biens culturels ont doté le Zaïre d'un ensemble de dispositions législatives permettant un contrôle strict des fouilles et des découvertes archéologiques.

Pierre moyen et correspond vraisemblablement à un stade assez ancien du complexe lupembien. Le Djokocien, lui, assure la transition entre l'âge de la pierre moyen et récent. Il s'agit sans doute d'un Lûpembien récent ou du Lupembo-Tshitoliien. Enfin le Ndolien qui n'est guère abondant, peut être assimilé au Tshitoliien. Le niveau de l'âge du fer est un sol d'habitat jonché de tessons de poterie, de fragments de terre et de pierres brûlées, de quelques morceaux de meule et de scories; à ce sol se rattachent de grands foyers et des fosses profondes dont certaines contenaient parfois un vase plus ou moins complet et de rares fragments d'objets en fer. La céramique peut être rapprochée de poteries découvertes à Kinshasa et datées les unes du III^e siècle avant notre ère, les autres du Ve siècle après notre ère; mais la corrélation entre les charbons de bois qui ont fourni ces deux dates et la céramique reste imprécise. Ces nouveaux travaux à la pointe de Gombe ont permis de récolter plus de 335 échantillons de charbon de bois destinés au dosage du C14. Le Pr. J. De Ploey, de la Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, a participé aux fouilles et s'est chargé de l'étude géomorphologique et stratigraphique.

Dr. D. Cahen a également effectué quelques sondages au site de Kingabwa, précédemment fouillé par le R.F. H. van Moorsel qui le datait du 17^e siècle environ. L'absence de tout objet d'importation européenne dans cet important établissement de l'âge du fer plaide peut-être en faveur d'un âge plus ancien. Les datations par le radiocarbone permettront peut-être de confirmer cette hypothèse.

- De mars à avril 1974, Dr. D. Cahen donnera les cours de préhistoire et d'archéologie africaine à l'Université Nationale du Zaïre à Lubumbashi. Ensuite, il effectuera une prospection archéologique de 3 mois en compagnie de M.M. Muya Kamwanga, archéologue, et de J. Moeyersons, géomorphologue, dans les régions au sud du pays (Bandundu, Kasai et Shaba), afin de trouver de nouveaux sites qui permettraient de relier les résultats archéologiques obtenus dans l'ouest du Zaïre à ceux de l'est du pays.

M. P. de Maret a effectué une première prospection en décembre 1972 au Bas-Zaïre. De juin à septembre 1973, il a poursuivi cette prospection, axée plus particulièrement sur les grottes de la région. On savait que certaines recelaient de la céramique ancienne, des haches polies, des peintures et des gravures rupestres qu'étudièrent les Pr. G. Mortelmans et R. Monteyne lors de la préparation du IV^e Congrès Panafricain de Préhistoire et d'Etude du Quaternaire.

Nombre de cavernes sont décorées de peintures et de gravures assez semblables, des croix, des points, des hachurages, des triangles, parfois des animaux ou des personnages très schématiques. Le sol des anfractuosités ainsi ornées n'a révélé qu'une seule couche archéologique contenant à la fois des fragments de poterie, des pierres taillées et des ossements. Puisque toutes ces grottes ne renferment qu'une seule couche archéologique aux caractéristiques comparables, la contemporanéité des vestiges industriels et des décorations rupestres paraît vraisemblable.

Une autre grotte a servi de nécropole à l'âge du fer. On y trouve des ossements humains et des tessons de céramique en surface. Les sondages ont montré l'existence d'une unique couche archéologique contenant des tessons de la même céramique, des pointes de flèche en fer et des dents humaines. Ce style de poterie est connu dans tout le Bas-Zaïre et à Kinshasa.

Près de Mbanza Ngungu (ex-Thysville) deux grottes recelaient une couche où de la céramique voisinait avec des haches polies. Dans une de ces deux cavernes, sous cette couche, un sondage a révélé l'existence d'une importante stratigraphie d'industries lithiques avec des restes de faune. Une reconnaissance de divers sites de l'époque du royaume de Kongo fut aussi effectuée ainsi qu'un sondage systématique dans le niveau de l'âge du fer de la pointe de Gombe (en collaboration avec Dr. D. Cahen).

- De mars à juillet 1974, M. P. de Maret effectuera une mission de prospection et de fouilles des sites de l'âge des métaux du Shaba (ex-Katanga) et plus particulièrement des sites kisaliens, avec l'aide de M.M. Kanyimba et J. De Buyst de l'U.N.A.Z.A.

En conclusion, on peut espérer que, grâce à la collaboration instaurée entre l'Institut des Musées Nationaux du Zaïre et le Musée royal de l'Afrique centrale, le retard accumulé par l'archéologie en Afrique centrale pourra être rapidement comblé. Vers la fin de 1974, on disposera de plus d'une soixantaine de dates au C14. Celles-ci, si elles intéresseront surtout les périodes assez récentes, jetteront néanmoins les bases d'une chrono-stratigraphie plus précise pour cette vaste partie du continent africain.

Outre l'organisation et l'étude de ces fouilles au Zaïre, différents travaux se sont poursuivis à la section de Préhistoire et d'Archéologie du M.R.A.C. (Tervuren).

- Dr. F. Van Noten, archéologue, chef de section au M.R.A.C.
 - Achèvement de son étude des peintures et gravures rupestres du Jebel Uweinat.
 - Poursuite de son étude du matériel archéologique du Jebel Uweinat.
 - Poursuite de l'étude du matériel de l'âge du fer récolté au Nigeria lors de la Benue Valley Expedition.
- Dr. D. Cahen, archéologue, assistant au M.R.A.C.
 - Achèvement de son étude du site archéologique de la Kamoia. Présentation d'une thèse doctorat sur ce site et préparation de la publication.
- M. P. de Maret, archéologue, aspirant au Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique.
 - Préparation d'une thèse de doctorat sur l'âge du fer au Zaïre.
 - Achèvement d'un mémoire de licence en Sciences Sociales (Université Libre de Bruxelles) : Le forgeron dans le monde bantou. Statut, technique et symbolisme.
 - Etude de linguistique comparative des termes de métallurgie dans les langues bantoues (en collaboration avec M. F. Nsukka).
 - Etude de la technologie de la céramique au Bas-Zaïre.

- M. J. Moeyersons, géomorphologue, assistant à la Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.

- Achèvement de son étude géomorphologique du site de la Kamoia.

- Préparation de sa thèse de doctorat (K.U.L.) consacrée à une étude géomorphologique du pays Mumuye au Nigeria.

- Contribution à l'étude de la "culture matérielle" des Mumuye (en collaboration avec ^{Dr}A. Maesen).

- Dr. E. Roche, palynologue, chargé de recherches F.N.R.S.

- Achèvement de son étude palynologique du site de la Kamoia.

- Etude palynologique de divers sites archéologiques africains (Gwisho, Zambie; Jebel Uweinat, Lybie; Gongola, Nigéria).

- Poursuite de la constitution d'une collection palynologique de référence (recherches sur herbier, échanges internationaux).

Plusieurs étudiants de l'université de Gand ainsi qu'une étudiante de l'université de Liège ont effectué ou préparent leur mémoire de licence dans le cadre de la section.

Le 10 mai 1973 eut lieu à la section une réunion consacrée à l'étude du début de l'âge du fer en Afrique. Il s'agissait d'une confrontation des données linguistiques, ethnologiques, anthropologiques et archéologiques.

Publications récentes en archéologie du Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale :

CAHEN, D. et MARTIN, Ph. 1972. - Classification formelle automatique et industries lithiques. Interprétation des hachereaux de la Kamoia - *Ann. Mus. Roy. Afr. Centr.*, Tervuren, Sci.hum., sér.in-8°, n°76.

CAHEN, D. et MORTELMANS, G. 1973.- Un site tshitoliien sur le plateau des Bateke (République du Zaïre) - *Ann. Mus. Roy. Afr. Centr.*, Tervuren, Sci.hum., sér. in-8°, n°81.

FAGAN, B.M. and VAN NOTEN, F.L. 1971.- The Hunter-gatherers of Gwisho - *Ann. Mus. Roy. Afr. Centr.*, Tervuren, Sci.hum., sér. in-8°, n°74.

HIERNAUX, J., LONGREE, E. de, et DE BUYST, J. 1971.- Fouilles archéologiques dans la vallée du Haut-Lualaba I. Sanga, 1958 - *Ann. Mus. Roy. Afr. Centr.*, Tervuren, Sci.hum., sér. in-8°, n°73.

VAN NOTEN, F.L. 1972.- Les tombes du roi Cyirima Rujugira et de la reine-mère Nyirayuhi Kanjogera - Description archéologique - *Ann. Mus. Roy. Afr. Centr.*, Tervuren, Sci.hum., sér. in-8°, n°77.

California State University, Fresno: Information wanted on
African Obsidian Studies.

I am presently conducting research on obsidian trade and technology in California and Nevada. Through the use of obsidian hydration and X-ray fluorescence, attempts are being made to detect sources and trade networks of aboriginal populations. In the future, I hope to carry out similar studies on African materials. I would therefore appreciate information, comments, and suggestions concerning previous and current research in African obsidian studies, especially as related to my research interest. Send to: C.W. Ritchie, D/A, CSUF, Fresno, Ca. 93740.

Michigan State University:

The Lothagam Late Stone Age site report will appear in the Michigan State University Museum, Anthropological series later on this year. A related report on early Holocene age human skeletal material from west of Lake Rudolf is now being written by Dr's. T. Phenice, L. Angel and L. Robbins.

In addition to the above, a report on the Late Stone Age site of Rangi is in its final stages of preparation by L. Robbins, J. Brower and A. Hoffman. This is a very late site from Kadam mountain in southern Karamoja District, Uganda. The microliths from the site have proved to be especially interesting and a Masters thesis is being written by Ms. C. Brewster on the edge damage patterns found on these tools.

Larry Robbins.

Northwestern University:

You may like to know that I have had prepared a listing of all the papers published in the VI^{ème} Congrès Panafricain de Préhistoire -- Dakar, 1967 since the volume itself has neither a list of contents nor an index. It amounts to six typewritten pages and if anyone would like to have copies of it, I should be happy to provide them. If the demand is sufficient, I should be able to supply them at \$25 which will cover the cost of postage. Otherwise, it may cost as much as \$75.

Frank Willett.

SOURCES OF PERMITS FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

It is hoped, as information becomes available to list all the organisations in Africa from which the necessary permits to carry out archaeological work can be obtained and also to list institutions such as universities and research institutes where research and teaching are carried out in the African continent. If it seems useful the next step would be to list all those institutions outside Africa where such research and teaching is being done. If the information is made available to the editor of Nyame Akuma and if it seems useful the intention is to publish a handbook giving all this information - it would perhaps appear as a special number of Nyame Akuma.

The present listings give what information is at present available here concerning the issuing of permits. The gaps will be obvious and those who have information are urged to send it in. In particular information concerning Francophone countries is much more difficult to come by and those working in any of those countries are especially urged to make information available.

Botswana

Permits for archaeological work are issued by the Ministry of the Interior and Home Affairs. Application should be made in the first place to Mr. Alec Campbell, Honorary Curator, National Museum, Gaborone, Botswana.

Tanzania

All research in whatever subject, not only archaeology, requires Government clearance. To obtain this application should be made to the University of Dar es Salaam for the status of Research Associate. The University has the responsibility for assessing and recommending applicants and their projects to the Government. Archaeologists should apply to the History Department and allow at least six months for the processing.

In addition archaeological and excavation and ethnological collecting are governed by the Antiquities Act and permits are issued by the Conservator of Antiquities, P.O. Box 2280, Dar es Salaam. Licences must be applied for separately from the research clearance.

Kenya

To undertake research it is necessary for research clearance be obtained from the office of the President, followed by (if excavation is intended) a permit from the Ministry of Natural Resources. Intending researchers in all the East African territories (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda) would be well advised to discuss their projects with the Director of the British Institute in Eastern Africa, P.O.Box 47680, Nairobi, since he will be informed as to any changes in the regulations.

Sudan

Permits are required for both excavation and survey, and even casual observation is best done with a permit, since without it surface collections cannot be picked up. Application should be made to the Commissioner for Archaeology, P.O.Box 178, Khartoum, Sudan. Permits are only issued to institutions not to individuals and on occasion the institution may be required to confirm that an individual has the right to use its name. Finds are divided, the Sudan Government has first claim on unique pieces, the remainder is equally divided between Government and expedition .

Nigeria

Application should be made to the, Director, Nigerian Federal Department of Antiquities, Nigerian Museum, Lagos, Nigeria.

Rhodesia

Recent changes in the antiquities organisation mean that there may be new regulations. At present it is suggested that contact be made with, The Director, Museums and Monuments, P.O.Box 8540, Causeway, Salisbury, Rhodesia.

South Africa

Foreign archaeological expeditions are made welcome provided they attach themselves to some South African institution, either a museum or a university. Permission to excavate should be obtained from the National Monuments Council, P.O.Box 4637, Cape Town, Republic of South Africa.

Egypt

Permits are issued by The Director, Egyptian Organisation of Antiquities, 4 Ramses Street, Cairo, Egypt.

Ethiopia

Application should be made to: Ethiopian Antiquities Administration, P.O.Box 1907, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Authorities require a monetary deposit, of not less than Ethiopian dollars 3,000 as a guarantee.

Ghana

Application should be made to, Director, Ghana National Museum, P.O.Box 3343, Accra, Ghana.

Zaire

Application should be made to: Monsieur le Professeur L. Cahen, Directeur général de l'Institut des Musées Nationaux (I.M.N.Z.), B.P. 4249, Kinshasha II, Zaire.

Rwanda

As for Zaire application should be made to Professor Cahen but at the following address: Monsieur le Directeur, L'Institut de Recherches Scientifiques au Rwanda, B.P. 218, Butare, Rwanda.

Zambia

Excavation permits are obtained from, National Monuments Commission, P.O. Box 124, Livingstone, Zambia. Since all collections are housed in the Livingstone Museum all those wishing to make use of the facilities of the Museum should make contact with the Director of the Museum at P.O. Box 498, Livingstone. The Monuments Commission may give permission for the temporary export of archaeological material which otherwise should be deposited with the Keeper of Prehistory at the Livingstone Museum.

For the Francophone countries of West Africa especially Mauritania, Mali, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Niger, Senegal, Professor R. Mauny advises that approach should be made impersonally to: M.le Ministre de l'Education nationale (Institut de recherches scientifiques) of each republic. For other countries there is no information presently available.