

NYAME AKUMA

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

It was originally planned that the 1975 meeting should be held in Calgary but as I shall be on sabbatical in the Sudan in the spring of that year, and as there was some opposition to changing the time of the meeting to the Fall, the 'Steering Committee' has accepted the offer of the University of Massachusetts at Boston to hold it there. Perhaps Calgary in 1977 ! Please see the notice on page 2 and make use of the enclosed slip to indicate your date preference.

Organising of the Association which was decided on at our last meeting proceeds slowly and I have nothing further to report, except that Mrs. Isaac sent me the results of the poll taken concerning title and objectives. From this it seems clear that S.A.A.M. is the favoured name. The objectives met with general agreement though a few points of detail were made. The only matter on which I felt strongly was that the limiting of the activities by inclusion of the words 'prehistoric and protohistoric' was unfortunate since such a formula would exclude the work of Neville Chittick and myself and probably others - I suggested that they be omitted.

Please note that I shall be away on six months sabbatical from 1st January 1975 (hopefully I shall get away a bit earlier), most of the time will be spent in the field at Meroe, after that I shall be in Egypt, Greece, and Poland returning to Calgary late summer 1975. I hope to have the remainder of my sabbatical year from 1st January 1976. In my absence Mr.J.H. Robertson of the same address in Calgary will act for me and will edit the April 1975 number (No.6) of Nyame Akuma.

P.L. Shinnie.

Conference of Africanist Archaeologists

The University of Massachusetts at Boston and Boston University will cosponsor the Africanists meetings--or rather, are offering to do so. The local arrangements committee will consist of Creighton Gabel and Charles Nelson. Questionnaires, etc., may be directed to Dr. Nelson. Suggested alternative dates are as follows:

March 28 - 30
April 4 - 6
April 25 - 27
May 2 - 4

Paper titles and suggestions for sessions are invited, as well as alternative dates. A voting slip to indicate date preferences is enclosed, please indicate your preference and mail to:

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Boston, Mass. 02125
U.S.A.

I have been asked to insert the following and willingly do so.

The International Journal of African Historical Studies wishes to remind readers of this newsletter that it welcomes suitable manuscripts in prehistoric or historic archaeology for publication. Contributions for review should be sent to:

Prof. Norman R. Bennett, editor
African Studies Center
Boston University
10 Lenox St.
Brookline, Mass. 02146

PANAFRICAN PREHISTORIC CONGRESS

The Proceedings of the Seventh Panafrican Congress of Prehistory and Quaternary Studies, held in Addis Ababa in December 1971, are now in press in Ethiopia. Some contributors have already received proofs of their papers, and others should expect to receive theirs shortly. (Those who submitted summaries only will not, unless they have specially requested, be sent proofs.) It is hoped that this publication which contains over sixty papers - edited by Dr. Berhanou Abebe (Secretary-General), Dr. Jean Chavaillon (French-language) and Dr. J.E.G. Sutton (English-language) - will be ready in a few months' time.

Conflicting reports have been received about the date of the next Congress which is to be in Nairobi. It is hoped to have a firm date for publication in Nyame Akuma No.6.

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. Augustus Sordinas, chairman of the Anthropology Department of Memphis State University has returned from the Central Sahara in Southeastern Algeria. In the now totally uninhabited regions of the Tassili Plateau, Dr. Sordinas conducted archaeological investigations on sites formerly occupied by Stone Age hunters and pastoralists.

Dr. Sordinas comments, "One of the nice things I noted (this might interest others) was the hospitality displayed by the Algerian authorities at Djanet and their eagerness to help visitors of the Tassili frescoes. My visit was limited to the group of sites around JABBAREN where I located very diagnostic impressed, incised and/or stamped pottery. Of course, the frescoes are exhilarating. The Tuareg were reserved. Their camels most obstreperous."

East Africa.

The British Institute in Eastern Africa

Excavations have been conducted by the Director, Mr. Neville Chittick, at Aksum in northern Ethiopia during January - April 1973 and January - May 1974. It is planned to continue the work for a similar period in 1975. The excavations are carried out under permit from the Antiquities Administration of the Imperial Ethiopian Government, to which the Institute is greatly indebted for unfailing assistance and co-operation. Work has so far been concentrated in the main group of stelae (monoliths) at Aksum and evidence has been obtained that many at least of these famous monuments belong to the time after the conversion of the Aksumite Empire to Christianity and that they are of funerary significance. In this area two large subterranean megalithic tombs have been located, one - with ten chambers, as yet incompletely investigated - adjacent to and apparently intimately connected with the largest of the

obelisks. Two further tombs partially of brick construction have also been located beneath the region of the main group of stelae; these are of particular interest in that they incorporate both horseshoe arches and vaults, features believed to be otherwise unknown in Aksumite architecture. Much of the area has been shown to be underlain by a complex system of interconnecting underground chambers and passages which are best interpreted as funerary catacombs. Excavations have also been conducted on a smaller scale at the megalithic structure known as the Nefas Mawcha, in the Addi Kilté area of Aksum town and in the Stele Field of Judith, 2 km to the west.

Mr. D.W. Phillipson joined the Institute as Assistant Director in May 1973 and has commenced a programme of fieldwork in the Marsabit and Moyale areas of northern Kenya aimed at elucidating the later prehistoric succession in the region. Particular attention is being paid to ascertaining details of the inception of pastoralism in the area and to illustrating contacts with southern Kenya and with the Ethiopian highlands. Detailed reconnaissance has so far been conducted in the Marsabit, Moyale and North Horr areas. Sites already excavated include extensive 'Late Stone Age' settlements situated beside a former lake at North Horr, and Kulchurdo rockshelter on Mount Marsabit. Although the industries from these sites are markedly distinct, both are thought (in advance of receipt of radiocarbon dates) to have been occupied around the first millennium B.C. The presence of stone bowls and platters at North Horr is of particular interest.

In February 1974, Mr. Phillipson investigated a 'Late Stone Age' occurrence on Bobodura Hill, 6 km west of Aksum, northern Ethiopia; three phases of occupation were discerned and a detailed analysis of the associated stone artefact aggregates has been completed.

The Institute's Staff Historian, Mr. Patrick Pender-Cudlip, has continued his fieldwork in Iramba in central Tanzania, collecting material on ancestral cults as well as historical data on Iramba culture.

Volume VIII of the Institute's annual journal AZANIA is now published and Volume IX in the press. AZANIA is issued free of charge to members of the Institute, who are also entitled to a substantial discount on purchase of copies of the memoir series. The following memoirs are published in 1973/4 and are distributed by Messrs. Thames and Hudson:

4. J.E.G. Sutton: Archaeology of the Western Highlands of Kenya (£ 6.00);
5. N. Chittick: Kilwa - an Islamic Trading City on the East African Coast (2 vols., £ 25.00)

Memoir No.3 (J.S. Kirkman: Fort Jesus) is published this year on behalf of the Institute by the Clarendon Press at £12.50.

Non-members may obtain copies of the memoirs through booksellers at the prices shown, but members should order direct from the British Institute in Eastern Africa, P.O. Box 47680, Nairobi, Kenya, or from the London Secretary, Mrs. J. Filson, 99 Queen's Road, Richmond, Surrey. Enquiries concerning membership may also be sent to either of these addresses.

Ethiopia.

Mission de l'Institut d'archéologie du Service des antiquités d'Ethiopie, en mai et juin 1974, dans le Soddo.

Francis Anfray

Le but de cette mission a été l'inventaire, le relevé topographique, le dessin et la photographie des monuments du Soddo.

Le Soddo est une région située au sud-ouest d'Addis-Abeba, au sud de la rivière Aouache, entre une chaîne de montagnes à l'ouest et la faille des lacs à l'est. Sur une centaine de kilomètres à partir de l'Aouache, vers le sud, on trouve de nombreux monuments monolithiques. C'est le Soddo de l'archéologie, car le véritable occupe une aire plus restreinte et s'identifie pratiquement avec le canton de Bouy.

La population appartient au groupe oriental de l'ethnie gouragué.

La région est divisée administrativement en quatre cantons dont les chefs-lieux sont : Silté, Boutagira, Bouy et Tya.

Plusieurs des monuments monolithiques sont connus depuis les publications de Chollet et Neuville en 1905, de Azais et Chambard en 1931, principalement.

Cette année, l'enquête de l'Institut d'archéologie a été effectuée dans les cantons de Silté et de Boutagira, les plus au sud.

Quarante-sept sites ont été répertoriés, qui se situent à une altitude comprise entre 2140 et 2700 mètres.

Nombre de ces sites étaient inconnus. Plusieurs stèles figuratives ont été découvertes.

Les monuments du Soddo se répartissent en sanctuaires rupestres, "pierres à glaives" (appellation d'Azais et Chambard), stèles anthropomorphes, stèles-colonnes, stèles phalloïdes, stèles figuratives, tumulus et groupes de monolithes simples.

Les sanctuaires rupestres se distinguent des autres monuments. Ils constituent in domaine archéologique séparé. Ce sont des églises et des ermitages à dater des environs du quinzième siècle. Ils se trouvent près de l'Aouache.

Les "pierres à glaives", les pierres anthropomorphes, les stèles phalloïdes, les stèles-colonnes, les tumulus et les autres monuments forment un ensemble unitaire. Des traits communs réunissent les divers éléments de cet ensemble. La question n'en demeure pas moins de savoir s'ils sont tous de la même époque et du même système culturel. La légende populaire les rassemble sous la désignation de "pierres de Gragne".

Les monuments les plus remarquables sont les stèles figuratives. Hautes pierres plates portant sur les deux faces une ornementation qui peut être dite simple ou multiple. La hauteur de certaines atteint cinq mètres. Le décor est sculpté. Les plus élaborées des stèles présentent une sorte de tableau où des éléments décoratifs sont en creux, d'autres en relief.

La nomenclature de ces éléments peut s'établir de la manière suivante:

- objets identifiables: pendentifs, disques, animaux, hommes, cavaliers, bras, lances, arcs et flèches, glaives, guebetas (jeux traditionnels);
 - objets non identifiables: sorte de "meuble" de "battoir", de "louche", de "bouclier", de "sandales", de "plante";
 - glyphes: zigzags et géométries diverses.
- Ces assemblages de zigzags et géométries couvrent le revers des stèles et dessinent comme une draperie.

Les glaives et la "plante" occupent une position de premier plan dans le décor.

Il faudrait pouvoir fournir une explication précise de tous les accessoires des stèles figuratives. Dans sa diversité et sa bizarrerie, leur assortiment constitue une imagerie assez énigmatique.

Plusieurs indices attestent que ces monuments ont un caractère funéraire. En 1926, Azais et Chambard pratiquèrent des fouilles sur quelques-uns des sites et trouvèrent des restes de squelettes humains.

D'autre part, on a constaté que souvent ces stèles sont à mettre en ligne de compte avec un entourage de pierres satellites sur de vastes espaces.

Des tessons de poterie ont été recueillis au voisinage des sites et des monuments, ainsi que des grattoirs d'obsidienne. Certains de ces objets sont récents, d'autres anciens; il n'est pas prouvé que ces derniers soient à associer aux monuments.

Ces monuments n'ont rien qui permette de les lier à la tradition du pays, chrétienne ou musulmane.

L'aspect de la pierre, usé, grêlé, paraît témoigner d'une grande ancienneté. Il arrive qu'une partie de stèle soit profondément enfouie dans le sol.

Comme leur signification, leur datation est problématique. Un élément du décor peut apporter une indication chronologique: le glaive dont la forme est assez proche de celle des épées de l'âge du fer (certains ont dit du bronze) en Méditerranée orientale (Egyptiens et Hittites).

Les stèles figuratives, par leur dimension, leur forme et leur décor, ne sont pas sans rappeler des monuments de la culture mégalithique, notamment ceux de l'Aveyron en France. La comparaison ne s'impose pas forcément.

En Afrique, des monolithes, nombreux en pays ekoi, au Nigeria, (pierres phalloïdes à décor) offrent une similitude vague.

Des fouilles archéologiques on peut espérer qu'elles livreront des renseignements utiles à une datation. Pour le moment, ils échappent à l'atteinte.

La mission de l'Institut d'archéologie compte poursuivre son entreprise d'inventaire en 1975 dans le Soddo. Elle établira une carte de répartition des sites et des monuments. Elle dressera des tables typologiques et statistiques où figureront les fréquences et les variances. Des fouilles seront effectuées.

La Mission de l'Institut d'archéologie a reçu la participation de Eric Godet, Kebbede Bogale, Isabelle Pierre, Fr. Anfray.

Dr. Desmond Clark sends the following summary of the results of his Ethiopian fieldwork earlier this year. Participants were Dr. M.A.J. Williams, geomorphologist from Macquarie University, N.S.W. Kenneth D. Williamson and Ronald W. Reeves, graduate students in African Prehistory from Berkeley; Esmail Hussein, Haile Selassie I University, student. We were also assisted in the field by Dr. W.H. Morton and Miss F. Dakin, geologists at the Haile Selassie I University. The survey of prehistoric sites and rock art on the Harar Plateau was carried out by Pat and Patricia Carter from Cambridge in association with our own group.

Summary of Results of the 1974 Season.

1. The 1974 survey and excavation programme has established the existence in the southern Afar Rift of a number of stratified, primary context sites and has suggested the high potential to be expected from them.

The data have been collected for geomorphological and sediment studies and these are providing an understanding of the palaeo-ecological setting at these sites and a more reliable assessment of the flora and fauna they contain. The base now exists, therefore, for reconstructing the economy of the prehistoric settlements and the activity patterns of the human groups at several different times in the past.

2. Evidence for contemporaneity of late Quaternary high lake levels and increased spring activity in the southern Afar Rift is in general agreement with the record of fluctuating lake levels in the East African region and the Nile flood levels in the south central Sudan.
3. No cultural or fossil remains earlier than the later Pleistocene were found but faulted sediments and volcanics of Plio-Pleistocene age were shown to be present in places along the foot of the escarpment and would repay closer study especially since, to the north in the central Afar, Acheulian artifacts have been found in secondary context by another Expedition.

4. The "Middle Stone Age" is present in workshop (Garibaldi), hunting camp (Porc Epic) and watering place (Aladi) contexts. The Levallois technique is much in evidence for the manufacture of foliate and triangular points which are the most characteristic shaped tool at these sites, of which at least one can be dated. The Dire Dawa "neanderthaloid" jaw fragment has been shown to belong with the "Middle Stone Age" occurrence at the Porc Epic cave; and a model for the seasonal

movement of game and hunting groups can be adduced that will serve as a basis for catchment analysis studies accompanying more extensive excavations projected at this site.

5. In the terminal Pleistocene some time prior to 9000 B.C., the "Middle Stone Age" technology was replaced by one using prismatic cores for the production of blades which were then retouched into a number of backed forms (both macrolithic and microlithic), burins and scrapers that suggest affinities on the one hand with the Kenya Capsian of the East African Rift and, on the other, with the late Pleistocene blade industries of the Nile Valley.
6. Three Phases of the blade tradition were found; in the second of these evidence was forthcoming for contacts with the plateau peoples and the coastal regions. This is the earliest evidence as yet for the pattern that has pertained throughout historic times. The economic base was hunting and fishing with some grinding of plant foods. This phase probably belongs in the third or fourth millennium B.C.
7. In the third and latest Phase of the blade industry complex dated to 1500 B.C., scrapers become important, probably for working hides, and it is likely that domestic stock was already present in the Rift by this time. A stone bowl indicates affinities between the later Ethiopian occurrences and the "Stone Bowl Tradition" of East Africa strengthening the possibility that both are the work of Cushitic-speaking pastoralists.
8. A number of painted caves and rock shelters were visited and an important record of the painted friezes was made; there were often cultural deposits in the floor of these shelters. The art is of major importance in helping to document and date the origins of the pastoral way of life in Ethiopia, the manner of its introduction and the changes that it underwent. There are promising indications that traditions still exist which will provide information on the socio-economic motives that underlie this art.
9. Until the plateau sequence has been studied it would be premature to try to estimate the extent to which movements took place between the plateau and the Rift. Indications from the rock art suggest, however, that in late prehistoric times both regions formed part of the same Culture Area. Although, therefore, today's traditional pattern of nomadic movements fanning out to east and west along the escarpment from winter retreat areas in the foothills has clearly been the practice for a long time, prehistoric pastoral groups in the Rift may also have had more direct access to the plateau at a time before the restrictions imposed by expanding cultivation and political concerns.

10. Ethnographic evidences of house, shelter and hearth types, of the transport, flaking and use of obsidian and of the manufacture of pumice bowls are indications for the persistence in the Rift of a technology of considerable antiquity that forms a link between the later prehistoric peoples and the present day.

Kenya

Mr. Gramly of Harvard University reports that a sample of animal long-bone from site GvJm/3, Lukenya Hill, Kenya was submitted for collagen dating and the following result obtained: (half-life 5568 yrs; calibrated) N-1827

1501±170 B.P. or 449±170 A.D.

The sample was derived from archaeological deposits containing a microlithic flaked stone assemblage, domestic (cattle and ovicaprids) and non-domestic (warthog, zebra) animal remains, and sherds with dentate impressions reminiscent in form, decoration, and body to pottery from the Hyrax Hill "neolithic" midden, which is undated by absolute means. No analysis of faunal remains from the "neolithic" midden has ever appeared. A second bone sample has been submitted to a different dating laboratory for confirmation of the results given above.

A sample of animal long-bone from site GvJm/14, Lukenya Hill, Kenya was submitted for collagen dating and the following result was obtained: (half-life 5568 yrs; calibrated) N-1884

1891±133 B.P. or 53±133 A.D.

The sample was found in association with microlithic flaked stone tools, non-domestic animals (zebra, gazelles, antelope), sherds of a newly-recognized (Bower, forthcoming) East African ceramic ware --- T.I.P. ware, and sherds that might be described as Kantsyore ware (Chapman, Asania, vol.II). T.I.P. ware has been discovered recently as far north as Rumuruti, north of Mount Kenya, and as far south as Seronera on the Serengeti Plains. A second bone sample has been submitted to a different dating laboratory for confirmation of the above results.

The assemblages of flaked stone tools from site GvJm/22, Lukenya Hill, Kenya that were found in association with a partial human skull dated to ca. 17,760 B.P. (Gramly and Rightmire, Man, Dec. 1973) have been shipped to the Peabody Museum for study and description. Excavations in 1973 at GvJm/22 showed that the 17,760 year-old assemblage is not the oldest at this site. A metre of deposits below the level of the human skull find have yielded another rich assemblage of LSA flaked stone tools, which is as yet undated. A.C. Hamilton (University of Ulster) is presently examining a series of pollen samples collected from the entire two and one-half metre section of the site.

Professor Pilbeam reports:

Yale Peabody Museum recently began field work at Homa Mountain, Nyanza Province, Kenya, at sites near Kanam and Kanjera. These sites were worked most intensively by L.S.B. Leakey in the 1930's. Preliminary geological and paleontological surveys were conducted at Kanam. Detailed geological work was begun at Kanjera, samples being collected for sedimentological and petrological analysis, paleomagnetic analysis, and amino acid racemisation measurement. The first micromammals were recovered. Tools and hominids were also found.

Dr. Robbins writes:

The report on the Lothagam Late Stone Age site is now out in the publications of the Museum Michigan State University - Anthropological series Vol.I, No.2, 1974.

Dr. Bonnefille sends the following:

In August 1973, 30 samples from plio-pleistocene sediments have been collected for pollen analysis at East Rudolph. Special attention was given to the archaeological sites and hominid sites at Illeret and in the area 130. The first pollen spectrum is from a sample taken in the Illeret area related to the Hominid K N M - Er 1592. This is situated between the K.B.S. and the Middle Tuff complexe (1,8 M.A.?) grasses are very abundant (42% of the total pollen) and suggest a grassland vegetation. Juniperus is quite well represented in the transported pollen from the highlands. Much additional work is required before more precise interpretations can be made.

Tanzania

- (i) Lake Ndutu and Ngorongoro Crater Research Projects: the Department of Antiquities under the direction of A. A. Mturi will resume the excavations of Lake Ndutu Stone Age site on September 9th and the Ngorongoro excavations in Mid-October.
- (ii) Rock Art Research Project: Mr. F.T. Masao of the National Museum of Tanzania started the project in June. The whole of the month of June and part of July was spent in general reconnaissance work and recording, tracing and photographing of rock painting sites in Central Tanzania - Singida and Dodoma Regions. Late July and the whole of August was spent excavating rock shelters in Kondoa area. The Research team has now moved to Isanzu area where they will undertake excavations of a number of shelters.
- (iii) M.S.A./L.S.A. Research. Mr. Michael Melham of the University of Illinois U.S.A. plans to undertake the re-excavation of the Apis (Nasera) Rock shelter as well as undertaking general reconnaissance work in lake Eyasi area. The project is expected to start in October.

Dr. R.L. Hay of University of California, Berkeley is finishing up a monograph on the geology of Olduvai Gorge ("Geology of the Olduvai Gorge - a study of sedimentation in a semiarid basin"). This will be published by the University of California Press.

Dr. Bonnefille reports:

At Olduvai Gorge, during a field expedition in October 1973, extensive sampling of pleistocene sediments has been done on different well known sections: FLK, FLKN, RHC etc... where archaeological and hominid remains were found. Deposits at Olduvai Gorge seem to be particularly suitable for pollen analysis as they represent lake sediments deposits in a small basin. Also, there are several arguments based on geological, sedimentological and faunal studies in favor of a climatic change between Tuffs I^D and I^F, roughly 1.75 million years ago.

In order to perform the interpretation of fossil sequence, a study of the existing pollen rain patterns of the contemporary vegetation in the two area has been undertaken.

Laboratory treatment of the samples and microscopic observations will be done in "the Laboratoire de Géologie du Quaternaire, CNRS MEUDON Bellevue, where there is a reference pollen slide collection of 4.000 species from East Africa.

Egypt.

The Combined Prehistoric Expedition jointly sponsored by Southern Methodist University, the Institute for the History of Material Culture of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and The Geological Survey of Egypt and funded by the National Science Foundation and Smithsonian Institution has just completed its third field season of archaeological and geological excavations in the southwestern desert of Egypt. Members of the party included Fred Wendorf, Rushdi Said, Romuald Schild, Vance Haynes, Achilles Gautier, Michael Kobusiewicz, three junior geologist trainees from Egypt and four SMU students (Peter Jeschofnig, Herbert Mosca, Mike Wendorf and Tom Ryan).

The party was in the field during the months of February and March and concentrated its efforts at two localities. The first was an Aterian kill site with several associated living sites of the same period located around a Pleistocene lake at Bir Terfawi, an unoccupied and now dry oasis some 400 kilometers west of Abu Simbel. This locality yielded a very interesting and highly distinctive tool kit associated with numerous kills of eight different species of megafauna including hippopotamus, large Bos, Pleistocene camel, and large gazelles. The contemporary and adjacent living sites had a very different tool kit which may offer a unique opportunity for functional interpretations of Middle Paleolithic tools. Several Aterian occupations occurred in situ through two meters of pond sediments at this site.

The second area investigated was at a playa near Gebel Nabta about 125 kilometers west of Abu Simbel. This site yielded a Neolithic occupation with Khartoum-like pottery and an underlying and every extensive series of Terminal Paleolithic occupations. The Terminal Paleolithic sites are particularly outstanding in that after abandonment they were almost immediately sealed by the expansion of the playa silts. These sites yielded numerous fireplaces, bell-shaped storage pits, post holes, and other cultural features previously unknown for this time horizon in North Africa.

The group plans to return to the Gebel Nabta area for further archaeological and geological work next season.

Mr. Allyn L. Kelley of the Royal Ontario Museum reports:

I have completed the preliminary draft of A Corpus of Egyptian Pottery. This compendium contains at this point, 590 plates with accompanying ware descriptions and provenances. The corpus is primarily drawn from the pottery published by the Egypt Exploration Society and the now defunct British School of Archaeology in Egypt, with the additional inclusion of selected forms from other publications and covers Dynasty I through Roman times. It is hoped that the corpus will be published shortly by the Royal Ontario Museum, possibly in an unbound, boxed format which will permit the inclusion of further wares from additional sites.

Archaeological Research in The Gambia, 1974

Matthew H. Hill, University of Waterloo/Royal Ontario Museum

In January and February; with the assistance of Ron Wright, University of Calgary, and Ephraim Joiner, Banjul; I carried out an extensive reconnaissance in MacCarthy Island and Upper River Divisions, The Gambia. 40 sites were located, none having any very great, apparent, antiquity and many being referable to the nineteenth, or even the twentieth century. Of particular interest are a series of Tatolu, mud-walled forts, dating from the Soninke-Marabout wars of the last century. Oral tradition referring to the defenders or conquerors of several of these were collected. A major focus was the location of European trading sites which could provide datable imports in association with local products, as an aid in sequence building. Several such sites, some with buried deposits were found. The most interesting of these the site which I am calling Gassang, after the name of the forest park in which it is partially included. Gassang can almost certainly be identified with Cassan which was first mentioned in European documents in 1620 but had earlier been a residence of Portugese traders.

On the basis of the extensive reconnaissance, an area of Niani district, MacCarthy Island Division, which includes Gassang, was selected for intensive survey. During February, March and April an intensive site survey located additional sites to the total of 41 in this area and test excavations were carried out in 4 of these. At Gassang, two test pits were carried to sterile soil, one at a depth of 2.3 metres. Field observations do not suggest that a date any earlier than the Eighteenth century is needed to account for the materials recovered. Since the site is over 300 metres long it is not surprising that our 7 square metres of test pit did hit the older deposits. Ample evidence of trade was recovered, both in the form of European goods and African. The latter includes marine shell ornaments and shell-tempered pottery and beads of agate or carnelian resembling those of saharan origin in the collections of IFAN.

Other excavations included a test adjacent to the stone circle site of Wassau, where I hoped to locate associated ~~village~~ materials. Very little material was found in this test, but our observations support Ozanne's (1968)

conclusion that approximately a foot of deposit has accumulated at the site since the occupation 1000 - 1500 years ago.

Between excavated materials and surface collections, it should be possible both to produce a ceramic sequence for the area of Niani district and to make some suggestions as to shifting settlement patterns for the periods between the construction of the stone circles (radiocarbon dated to the second half of the first millenium a.d.) and the present.

In addition to the up-river sites, several sites were located along the coast in the vicinity of Banjul (ex-Bathurst). Extensive shellmound sites, similar to those excavated in the Bandiala river region to the north (Descamps 1971) are, unfortunately, being extensively quarried for building material. Ceramic parallels to the Bandiala sites suggest a similar dating, roughly equivalent to that for the stone circles.

The research was financed by the West African Exploration Fund of the Royal Ontario Museum and the Canada Council.

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9 Mars au 15 Avril 1971 - Memiographed

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1968 The Anglo-Gambian Stone Circles Expedition. West African Archaeological Newsletter 4:8-18.

Ghana

The following reports of activity by the Department of Archaeology in the University of Ghana have been received:

From Dr. Dombrowski:

During the month of August a field school was conducted at Hani (Begho), Brong Ahafo. Work was continued at the site of Mumute, a Kintampo Neolithic site located about half a mile beyond the Brong quarter of Begho. The site yielded several mammalian teeth, which have been tentatively identified as Bos by Dr. A. Smith. Given the fact that domestic Bos has been recognized from Kintampo and Ntereso, the assumption is made that these teeth also represent domestic animals (Carter & Flight, 1972, Man Vol. 7 No. 2 pp. 277-282). Enough charcoal was found this time for dating, so we hope soon to have a date for this site.

In one area of the site a red slipped pottery was found below the levels containing typical Kintampo Neolithic material. The stratigraphy indicates that this area did not contain any pits, and therefore the pottery is stratigraphically older than Kintampo material.

Test pits were also dug at the site of Bonoase (first discovered by D. Calvocoressi and called variously Chekru and Nsukawkaw - the name has now been verified by the Hani chief). This is a very extensive Kintampo Neolithic site, but unfortunately most of the material is exposed on the surface. The test pits only continued to a depth of about 5-15 cm. before encountering sterile clay. During the Easter vacation two house bases of laterite blocks had been found. These are definitely of Kintampo age, as both house bases contained polished stone axes, pieces of rasp, dimpled and or bored grinding stones, stone bracelets, and other material representative of the Kintampo Neolithic. Near one of the house bases was found a complete rasp. Pits were put into a corner of both house bases, this summer, but were very shallow. A part of another house base was found, as well as a large area of laterite blocks with some indications of planning, which may well be a compound area.

Mr. Rod McIntosh, from Cambridge, was also in Hani during the summer working on a small excavation of a modern wall collapse. We hope that such excavations will yield information about how mud wall construction can be more easily identified by the archaeologist.

From Mr. Musonda:

During July and August this year excavations of several rock-shelters were carried out in Ghana. Near Agogo, Ashanti Region, two shelters at Mponisaa produced shallow deposits with pottery. Work at a third shelter in this area, Tetewabou, thought to contain a micro-lithic industry, had to be postponed due to the rains.

At Pepease, Kwahu, several kilometres from Bosumpra Cave (Abetifi) which was excavated by Prof. Thurstan Shaw in 1940, two other shelters were dug, Apreku and Akyekyema Buor. Although the deposits in the two shelters were not deep (about 1.5 metres in both cases), they yielded a substantial quantity of cultural material, including micro-liths, pottery, a stone bead, some bone and quantities of kernels of the oil-palm, Elaeis guineensis. Charcoal samples were also collected for radiocarbon dating. Analysis of the cultural material has not yet begun, however, three main stratigraphical units were found at both sites. At Akyekyema Buor the sequence was as follows:

- a) Top layer mainly loose light brown soil with no cultural material.
- b) Middle layer of dark brown soil containing pottery and large quantities of quartz flakes,
- c) Lower level of light brown soil, gravelly in nature, producing the largest number of stone tools and virtually no pottery.

A preliminary study of the stone material from both sites suggests that the tools vary in both form, type and raw material used. Poorly metamorphosed quartzite forms the significant rock type in the manufacture of tools obtained from the lower levels, while quartz is the commonest material used in the upper levels. The quartzite was obtained locally, but the quartz had to come from several kilometres at both sites.

From Dr. Wai-Ogosu (now of the University of Ibadan):

The present phase of Field work at Asokrochona was completed during the 1973/74 academic year. Miss. Signe Nygaard and myself are busy analysing finds from the various areas excavated; and Mike Talbot of the Geology Department Legon is preparing a report on the geology of the site and general area.

Nigeria

PRIORITIES IN ARCHAEOLOGY IN NIGERIA
AND
THE PROPOSED RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

Apart from our priorities in Archaeology which include well defined long-term projects such as (i) Nok Studies (ii) The Jukun Project (iii) Archaeology of Ife (iv) Benin Studies (v) Archaeology in South Eastern Nigeria (vi) Stone Age Archaeology on the Nigerian Plateau (vii) Bornu and Hausaland, the proposed rescue operation by its very nature assumes a particularly urgent character. It becomes a subject of this special announcement precisely because of the need to bring it's urgency to the attention of professional archaeologists in all institutions. We also want to inform other professional personnel of cognate or ancillary disciplines so that they too will see the picture of the current situation in the field.

A. DECREE No. 32 AND THE CHAD BASIN RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGY:

Decree No. 32 - Federal Government Gazette No. 43 Vol. 60 of 14th August 1973 (Supplement A pages 557-558) - established the Chad Basin Development Authority. The area covered by the development project of the authority is defined elsewhere to embrace the territory of the North Eastern State, East of the lines of demarcation joining the towns of Matsena, Damaturu and Mubi.

Since the principal functions of the Development Authority in the area include the construction of dams, irrigation canals and resettlement scheme, the usual rescue archaeology operation connected with such projects becomes inevitable and imperative.

The University of Ibadan, Department of Archaeology had earlier undertaken research in the area now covered by the Chad Basin Development Authority. In this respect, the work done by Graham Connah in the Daima area is of cardinal importance and must be emphasized.

Hudson Obayemi of Ahmadu Bello University also conducted research in the North Eastern State. The Federal Department of Antiquities, among other things had located and recorded 19 historical sites in the area. There is no doubt that many more sites remain to be discovered, recorded and excavated.

Concerning the proposed rescue archaeology of the Chad Basin, the Department has completed the preliminary formalities and arrangement for field work which will be undertaken in three stages. The first phase will be from 1975-1980. The area of concentration will be what is described in the Chad Basin Development Authority Bulletin as the South Chad Irrigation Project Area.

B. DECREE No. 33 AND THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE
SOKOTO-RIMA BASIN:

In the scheme of rescue archaeology of no less importance and urgency is the Sokoto-Rima Basin Development Authority Area established by Decree No. 33 of 14th August 1973. As the name implies, this extensive area is watered by the Sokoto-Rima System with their network of tributaries and rivulets that join up near Kende before entering the Niger.

The Area Authority is charged with the responsibility of land and water development, a scheme which is meant to include, as in the case of the Chad Basin, the construction of dams and reservoirs, irrigation canals and the resettlement of displaced persons of the area to be flooded. It is estimated that, all told, some 2,000,000 people will benefit from the irrigation scheme when the project is completed.

There are 12 main development areas of the Sokoto-Rima Basin that require our immediate attention. Considering the schedule and time table of work of the Irrigation Engineers, the TALATA-MAFARA DEVELOPMENT AREA with the Bakolori Dam Project is the most urgent. Feasibility studies had been completed and the launching of the Dam Project was done by the Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon, in January of this year at the Bakolori site. The Dam, construction of which starts in September this year, will have a reservoir covering 20,000 acres. The village of Maradun, Birnin Kaya, Ruba, Old Bakolori and New Bakolori are among the sites which will be submerged to bring some 75,000 acres under cultivation by irrigation.

The Federal Department of Antiquities fielded two Archaeologists, Francis Bassey and John Adeduntan, to prospect for sites in this area of the project during the last dry season. The history of the Old Sokoto Caliphate of which Talata Marafa Development Area with the Bakolori Dam site formed a part is undoubtedly of great interest and proto-historic archaeology could shed some light on the existing record. Preliminary evidence in the field, of one group, for example would have us believe that the Maradun District had known human activity and social organization for much longer than the local historian (of oral history) can remember. For one thing, one source here indicated that the people now living in Mafara left Kano seven or eight hundred years ago en route to their present locations when Kano was still a pagan city. That would raise the hope of the investigating field officer if he considers this to

mean between 1100 and 1200 AD. But the question is, when exactly did they arrive in their new district and where in space did they first settle before occupying their present location which would certainly post-date the suggested period of their leaving Kano?

So far, indications in the field suggest no site of great antiquity and no dates probably earlier than the 15th to 17th century for the settlement sites and camping grounds examined. The surface finds of quite modern bits of iron tools and potsherds of the recent past and even holes in the ground described by informants as dye pits in Old Bakolori are, on close examination, not particularly indicative of ancient sites. Of the settlement sites so far investigated, in the opinion of the prospecting archaeologists, those which would best repay excavation are perhaps Maradun and Old Bakolori. Archaeological excavations being expensive and our resources very limited, decision to excavate a site cannot be taken without definite indications of probabilities of the potentialities of sites. Our search still continues however for historical and proto-historical sites. The Department, therefore, hopes to complete the reconnaissance, then begin excavation in the Bakolori area immediately after the rains.

In this announcement, we have taken a particular case to illustrate some problems of field work in the grassland areas where movement was relatively easy compared with the forest area, and settlements often of short duration. This is the type of area where settlements could have been sacked and rebuilt and sacked again, as one dominant group after another gained ascendancy, established hegemony over others and distributed available arable land to allies. But it also suggests a typical area where states and kingdoms could have been more easily built by coercion as one group became powerful enough to dominate the others even if allegiance changed often as it would have certainly done. This is the Sudanic zone where the Zamfarawa, then the Gobirawa and later the Fulani fought it out for the ultimate control of the economic resources and the organization of the society. We are here called upon to try and shed light on what happened in the past in that area but principally through the testimony of the spade - the study of the material remains they left behind. The urgency of the challenge is obvious. The privilege and the responsibility are great.

To bring this announcement, of the priorities in the field in the area of the proposed rescue archaeology of the North Western State to a close, we acknowledge with gratitude, the co-operation the Department has received from the North Western State History Bureau in their Sokoto Secretariat. They very kindly introduced us to Local Historians, a most noteworthy example being the WAZIRI OF SOKOTO, the venerable Dr. JUNAIDU. We had discussions and useful contacts with the Local Administration including cordial and fruitful exchange of views with local Historians and custodians of tradition.

REFERENCE

1. Sokoto Provincial Records
2. "The Sokoto Caliphate" by Murray Last (1967)
3. Gazetter of Sokoto Province: Arnett E.J. (1920)
4. The Rise of the Sokoto Fulani: Arnett E.J. (1922)
5. Field Notes and Interviews: (conducted by Francis Bassey 1974)

University of Ibadan

Professor Thurstan Shaw has retired from the chair of archaeology at the University of Ibadan, his address is now 37 Hawthorne Road, Stapleford, Cambridge, England.

Professor Nicholas David has taken up an appointment (presumably the chair) at the Department of Archaeology, University of Ibadan.

Rwanda

A collaboration between the Prehistory-Archaeology Section of the "Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale" at Tervuren and the "Institut National de Recherche Scientifique du Rwanda".

In December 1973, Dr. F. Van Noten continued his research on the Royal tombs, undertaken in 1968 and 1969.

He discovered the burial of Kigeri Rwabugiri, who died in 1895. The grave goods corresponded more or less with those mentioned in the royal ritual, i-c: say two pots. The elephant tusk, however, was not found, as it should have been.

Further research for more ancient graves remained unsuccessful.

In Bukiri he visited a capital of the Ndorwa kingdom, called Rya Murari. This site is well preserved and shows a number of cattle enclosures (?) and deep pits to be considered as water containers. Small cuttings were made through two ramparts, one considered by oral tradition as belonging to the royal courtyard, the other one as being part of a royal cattle enclosure. The first was built earth, the second mainly of cattle dung and kitchen refuse. Charcoal samples of each of the test pits have been submitted for dating.

South Africa

University of Cape Town

1. Mr. J.E. Parkington is presently on sabbatical leave at Queens College, Cambridge, where he is working on his Ph.D. thesis. His replacement here is Mrs. Jarette Deacon.
2. Professor N.J. van der Merwe recently joined Dr. Tom Huffman during excavations at Zimbabwe (Ranche House College Field School) accompanied by two U.C.T. students.
3. Professor N.J. van der Merwe will be carrying out a short field project at Phalaborwa in September 1974; (a) site mapping by aerial stereophotogrammetry (with Mr. H. Rütter, Land Survey Department, U.C.T.) and (b) investigation of smelting furnaces (with Prof. Don Avery, Department of Metallurgy, Brown University).
4. Mr. Robert Scully (S.U.N.Y. Binghamton) has started two-year field project at Phalaborwa on the ethnohistory of the BaPhalaborwa of Makushane. He is delivering a series of lectures on Sotho peoples at U.C.T. during September 1974.

University of the Witwatersrand

Early Iron Age Site, Broederstroom 24/73.

Broederstroom 24/73, located approximately 25Km due west of Pretoria, and 35 Km north of Johannesburg, was discovered in 1973 and partially excavated in that year. Renewed excavations in June 1974 are still continuing. The following statement summarises discoveries to the 4th September, 1974:

Date of 24/73: 3 radiocarbon dates

UCLA - 1791 A 24/73J West, 10cm below psc 1500 + 50 A.D.490

[illegible]

RL - 351 24/73K 6.5-7.5/c 1520 + 110 A.D.430

Huts discovered at 24/73.

30 huts have been excavated to date. This number is but a small fraction of the total number of huts at 24/73, but recovery of more huts is going to depend on the use of special discovery methods. Trenches dug for electrical cables reveal the existence of huts buried at depth and accessible only by special techniques.

Area of 24/73

At least 600 metres by 600 metres.

Human Burials at 24/73

Six human burials, including a complete skeleton which may be the earliest Iron Age skeleton in complete form in Africa, presumably of Negro type.

Food Economy of 24/73.

The presence of domestic cattle, sheep or goats, and wild species of African animal are confirmed. No definite trace of grain cultivation can be found.

Trading Economy of 24/73.

Cowrie and Conus shells suggest contact with East Coast.

Metal Economy of 24/73.

Very extensive iron production and one copper artifact are present.

Pottery of 24/73.

24/73 pottery is closely similar to Early Iron Age pottery from East Africa to southern Natal. The broad-line incision motifs of 24/73 are very similar to the broad-line incision surface decoration on one of the famous Lydenburg heads whose discovery was announced by R.R. Inskip and K.L. von Bezinger in "Man", March 1966, suggesting a cultural relationship between the makers of these extraordinary clay heads and the builders of 24/73, as I announced at the "Ancient Mining & Metallurgy Conference", October 1973. The Iron Age penetration of S.A. as far south as the Cape border was probably established by A.D. 400 if not much earlier.

Iron Age Research by Other Workers in Transvaal.

Mr. T.M. Evers is making extensive Iron Age discoveries in the Eastern Transvaal, where Mr. M. Klapwijk is also operating. Mr. H. Pronslöo is excavating extensively in the Central Northern Transvaal on Iron Age sites. Professor H. Eloff, Mr. A. Meyer, and Mr. Hanich are excavating in the North Western Transvaal. Mr. U. Kusel and Dr. H. Friede are making intensive studies of Iron Age Metallurgy.

Dr.O.Davies reports as follows:

The material from Shongweni cave, excavated in 1971 with assistance from the Boise Fund of Oxford University, is now being sorted, and it is hoped that a report will be ready for publication in the 1975 number of the Annals of the Natal Museum, at latest in the 1976 number. The cave lies about 30 km. inland from Durban, in a high cliff overlooking R.Mlazi. There were two principal periods of occupation. In the lower, seven layers have been identified, of dates ranging from 11870 ± 130 (Pta-682) to 22990 ± 310 (Pta-966). The layers are massive deposits of ash, separated by sterile sand. The lowest ash rested on large fallen slabs, below which it was not possible to excavate. Between the lower and upper occupations there was an unconformity, during which apparently some rain penetrated the otherwise very dry cave. This indicates a period when rain-bearing winds must have blown from east or south-east, as against south or south-west at present. In the upper occupation six layers were identified, from 1170 ± 50 (Pta-821) to 3870 ± 60 (Pta-823) and 4060 ± 55 (Pta-1061); there must have been a seventh surface-layer which has been removed by wind. Layers were distinguished by bands of ash and floors of compressed dung, leaves and reeds.

The microlithic artifacts in both occupations are deplorable. In the upper occupation thumbnails and chisels are the most numerous, and there is one barbed and tanged arrowhead; in the lower, worked stones were even more scanty, on the whole bladelets and gouges are the most numerous; probably bone-splinters were widely used. In the upper occupation was a little pottery; sharp cuts on reeds and twigs indicate fairly efficient blades, perhaps untrimmed lydianite microflakes.

The interest of the site lies in the abundant and well-preserved vegetable remains from the upper occupation. There is very little from the lower; some of it may have been displaced from above. There are sliced and split twigs and reeds, a wooden link-shaft, a netting-needle (?), large thorns collected for perforating, knotted bunches of grass, and many cut pieces of wood of unknown purpose. Two-ply twine was made from narrow strips of pliant bark, cut lengthways and twisted. This is the first collection of this kind from the Natal coastal bush.

Small animals and fish were eaten. Freshwater-molluscs were collected and their shells made into beads. Mussels (*Perna perna*) were brought from the coast. The most abundant wild fruits are marula (*Sclerocarya caffra*), Monkey-apple (*Strychnos* sp.) and *Strelitzia nicolai*. Less abundant are shells and stones of other nuts and fruits, some of which have not been identified. Certain leaves (not yet identified) were chewed into tight wads before being spat out.

Heads and panicles of three types of cereal have been identified, mostly threshed. Of these, there was very little sorghum in the lower levels of the occupation: most of it came from what must have been a pit dug from the surface, and has been dated 730 \pm 60 (Pta-1060). There is not a watertight case for considering that sorghum (almost certainly cultivated) was in use earlier than the arrival of Bantu-speakers in Natal. *Pennisetum americanum* (uncommon) and *Eleusine coracana* (abundant) were found down to the lowest level of the upper occupation (about 200 B.C.). It is uncertain if they grew wild in the vicinity or had been introduced, with perhaps proto-cultivation.

There are rinds of *Citrullus lanatus* (Tsamma-melon) and *Lagenaria siceraris* (bottle-gourd). The wild habitats of these cucurbits are thought today to be regions warmer and drier than near Durban; but owing to long cultivation and escapes, they are difficult to define exactly. It is possible that seeds had been humanly transported and scattered by a form of proto-cultivation. At any rate, the occurrence of bottle-gourd lends weight to the theory of an African rather than an American origin of the plant.

Sudan

The following report on the activities of the University of Khartoum has been received:

Fieldwork

The Sarurab project which was started two years ago by Dr. A.M. Hakem, will be continued this winter with the help of the Archaeology Department students. Forty-five burial mounds were excavated last season and thirteen were excavated the season before. One large habitation site was located in the cultivated area. The burials were either contracted or extended. Chronologically they seem to belong to the Late Meroitic, so-called X-Group and Christian phases. The stratigraphy of the burial mounds exhibits a regional sequence of Meroitic followed by Christian, then Muslim, with two transitional sequences.

Mrs. Randi Haaland, who was working with the Polish Expedition at Kadero Neolithic site in February 1974, will continue doing so during this coming winter.

Publications

Dr. Hakem's article "The City of Meroe and the Myth of Napata" will appear in ADAB - the journal of the Faculty of Arts, University of Khartoum, Vol. 2, 1974.

Dr. Hakem and Abbas Sid Ahmed are writing a book in Arabic (Vol. I. History of the Sudan) on the history and archaeology of the Pre-Napatan Meroitic period in the Sudan i.e. its prehistory and the history of the Early Nubian Groups (?-1000 B.C.)

Mrs. Randi Haaland's chapter on the lithic material from Neolithic sites in Nubia, has appeared in SJE 3:1 "Neolithic and A-Group sites" ed. by T.S. Soderbergh.

Also Mrs. Haaland's article on the "Socio-cultural development and archaeological classification: A Consideration of Gordon Childe's Evolutionary Theory" will appear in Etnografisk Museums Arbok 1974.

Research

Dr. Hakem is working on Garstang's cards of the Meroitic Necropolis which were supposed to have been lost during the World War II.

Mrs. Haaland is working on the social and technical aspects of iron-working and pottery making in a traditional Fur village. This study is based on ethno-archaeological fieldwork in Western Sudan made in May 1972 and September 1973.

She is also preparing an article on "Lithic material and the concept of ethnic groups".

Movement of People

Mrs. Randi Haaland (M.A. Bergen) who joined the department two years ago as a prehistorian is now moving back to Norway where she will be working in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Bergen.

Mr. Ali Osman (M.A. Calgary) is progressing with his Ph.D. in Medieval Nubian Archaeology at Cambridge.

Mr. Abbas S. Mohammed (M.A. Calgary) will move to Cambridge to start his Ph.D. research in the Neolithic of the Sudan.

Mr. Yousif Mukhtar (B.A. Hon. Khartoum) will finish this academic year with his second B.A. at Cambridge with specialization in the Palaeolithic.

Mr. Khidir A. Karim, who is finishing his M.A. thesis under the supervision of Dr. Hakem, is showing extremely interesting results in his research on the archaeology of the Beg. West Cemetery.

Mr. Ibrahim Musa (B.A. Hon. Khartoum) has joined Professor Charles Maystre of the University of Geneva to do Islamic Archaeology.

Three members have been appointed in the staff of the Department:

1. Mr. Gowlett, from the University of Cambridge
2. Mrs. Elise Kleppe, from Norway
3. Miss P. Stuart, from the University of Calgary

The joint project of the University of Calgary and the University of Khartoum at Meroe will continue from January to March 1974 under the direction of P.L. Shinnie with Dr. Hakem as co-director.

Polish Excavations at Kadero

The third season of excavations at Kadero, site no. 1, carried out by the Polish Centre of Archaeology in Cairo and the Archaeological Museum in Poznań, Poland, started on the 18th December 1973 and lasted until February 26, 1974. The Expedition was composed of the following members:

Mr. Lech Krzyżaniak, Ph.D., field director
 Mr. Tadeusz Dzierżykray-Rogalski, professor of physical anthropology
 Mrs. Elżbieta Promińska, D.Med., physical anthropologist,
 Mr. Waldemar Jerke, as photographer (present only in a second part of the season).

On the site, the Sudan Antiquities Service was represented by their Officer Sayed Mohamed Hafiz Nagar.

During this season's work the site at Kadero was surveyed. Thus Mr. Ryszard Sobolewski of the Polish Expedition to Old Dongola established a geodesic axis of north-south and east-west, and further, Dr. Philip O'Keefe and Dr. Anthony Parsons of the Department of Geography, University of Khartoum, made a contour map of the site.

The main purpose of this season's excavations at Kadero was to continue digging in the southern portion of the settlement and within the cemetery, which had been discovered during previous seasons in the eastern part of the site.

Settlement

Two trenches of 2 x 16 m. each were excavated bringing the total excavated area of the settlement to 300 sq.m.. The digging was concentrated on a low prominence in the southern portion of the site, which proved to be the location of the major concentration of artifacts in the cultural deposit.

The digging again confirmed the lack of any significant natural vertical stratigraphy of this deposit. The exploration was effected by excavating a series of 2 meter squares in successive layers 20 cm. thick, to a total depth of 0.5 metres. It is now clear that this way of digging can eventually make it possible to distinguish the horizontal stratigraphy of the settlement deposit. The major concentrations of artifacts undoubtedly occur as the remains of the most intensive habitation on the site.

The artifacts found in the cultural deposit consist largely of numbers of potsherds and grinding stones, with considerable numbers of polished stone gouges and flaked-stone and flint implements. As well, a number of isolated beads of bone, ostrich egg-shell and cowrie shell have come to light. A large collection of broken animal bones, including small numbers of fish bones, has occurred along with shell and shell fragments including those of Nile oyster. Of considerable importance was the discovery of several kernels of the fruit of the tree "*Celtis integrifolia*", identified by Dr. Ikhlas Abdel Bari of the Department of Botany, University of Khartoum. This confirms Arkell's suggestion concerning the type of vegetation in the area during the Neolithic period.

The preliminary inspection of artifacts showed that their typology is similar to that of Khartoum Neolithic (Shaheinab). However, the total absence of wavy-line decoration patterns on the pottery, which very much resembles that of the Nubian A-Group, the patently inferior flaking technology of the stone industry plus the considerable number of polished stone tools points to the acceptance of a later age for the Kadero settlement than for Shaheinab. On the one hand, the total absence of bone harpoons and fish-hooks and the presence of only a small number of fish bones, and on the other hand the finding of large numbers of animal bones and the exceptionally large quantity of upper and lower grinding stones may reflect a shift from a herding-gathering-hunting-fishing pattern of economy to a still varied but more intensified one with incipient agriculture (?) as a dependent means of subsistence.

Cemetery

Two pits of 10 x 10 m. each were excavated in the eastern portion of the site, at the foot of the mound. Six Neolithic burials were discovered in these pits, and three other graves were separately excavated in the south-eastern and south-western sector of the site. This brings the total number of Neolithic graves at Kadero to 18. All burials were considerably eroded.

The preliminary examination of the human remains was done on the spot by physical anthropologists. This Neolithic population turns out to have had exceptional longevity, strongly built body structure and prognathism of facial features. The dead were of both sexes and of various age classes. No pathological changes of bones were observed - e.g. dental caries. Further examination of these remains are in progress.

The bodies were buried in extremely contracted positions with knees at the head. This may perhaps indicate a custom of burying the corpses in tightly fitting containers, such as bags or baskets. Only a few of the graves were furnished with goods. The grave equipment was composed of fine pottery, of a type common to the settlement, necklaces of carnelian and bone beads, and in one instance a garment (?) decorated with shells. It is beyond doubt that the Neolithic graves at Kadero are of the population which inhabited the local settlement.

Conclusions

The third season of excavation at Kadero confirmed the general conclusions made after the last two campaigns. It now seems that Kadero, site no. 1, partly fills the gap which exists in the archaeological spectrum of the central Sudan, between the time of Esh Shaheinab and the Meroitic period. This most probably extends the Khartoum Neolithic temporal development to become contemporaneous with that of the A-Group in Lower Nubia.

More seasons of extensive excavations at Kadero are being planned, both in the settlement and on the unique cemetery.

Dr. Török of the Archaeological Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences continues his researches into problems of the Meroitic and Medieval periods, particularly on Hellenistic and Roman influence in Meroitic art, and on the administration of Christian Nubia. He has several publications in the press including "Meroe and the Graeco-Roman World" and "Money, Economy, and Administration in the Christian Nubian Kingdoms".

Upper Volta

Dr. Bowen of Iowa State University has kindly supplied a copy of the Upper Volta regulations for scientific expeditions. Entitled "Reglementation des Missions Scientifiques Etrangeres en Haute-Volta".

The main point is that contact should be made with the 'Conseil National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique' in the first place and that permits are issued by the appropriate minister of the government, it is not made clear which ministry is responsible but probably that of Education Nationale. The best means of approach is through one's own embassy in Wagadugu.

A copy of the document is held in the office of Nyame Akuma and further copies will be supplied on request.

Zaire

Further Activities of the Prehistory-Archaeology Section of the "Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale" at Tervuren, in collaboration with the "Institut des Musées Nationaux du Zaïre" at Kinshasa. Since the publication of Nyame Akuma, 4 in April 1974, three new expeditions have been completed in Zaïre.

Dr. F. Van Noten (Kivu and Uele).

- continued his excavation at the Matupi cave (Mont Hoyo, Kivu) during the Winter 1973-74. This excavation revealed a deposit of more than 5 metre, which is very poor in the lower depths. At - 125 cm a C^{14} date gave ± 21.000 BP. The very poor industry associated may be an old ISA. At - 40 cm a second C^{14} date gave ± 14.000 BP. A fully microlithic industry mainly on quartz is associated. At a depth of - 115 cm (± 17.000 BP.) a broken decorated bored stone was found. Bone is well preserved at all depths, unfortunately pollen are not. From the first analyses it appears that the Matupi-hunters explored the two very different environments in the neighbourhood of the cave : the equatorial forest and the steppe. Nowadays the cave is situated in the forest, the steppe being 10 km to the East. A third season is planned at the site for 1975.

- In Uele at a site called Buru a workshop was partly excavated during the Winter 1972-73. It looks as if the material brought to light is to be considered as unfinished broken Uelian tools? Pottery, iron slag and tuyères were associated. Two C^{14} dates gave an age in the first half of the 18th c. AD. (to be corrected as within the first half of 17th c. AD.)

Another excavation is planned on this site for 1975.

Dr. D. Cahen (Shaba, Kinshasa and Kwango)

- During his visit at Lubumbashi in the Summer 1974 where he taught at the University (see below), he prospected a series of caves in the Mofya valley, not far from Tenke, (Shaba).

He was assisted by Dr. G. De Plaen, ethnographer and a young Zaïrese archaeologist Muya Kamuanga, both of the "Institut des Musées Nationaux". Another young archaeologist ; Kanimba Misago, assistant at the "Université Nationale du Zaïre" was member of the party.

These caves, formerly explored by amateur archaeologists had been used as refuges at the end of the 19th century, when Sanga and Yoke peoples were at war. The Iron Age material from these sites seems to belong within the Recent Iron Age. A dimple based pot fragment belongs to this recent I.A.

- At Kinshasa, he conducted also in collaboration with the two Zaïrees archaeologists further excavations at Kingabwa. The deposit was found to be far more perturbed than previously thought.

- He continued (assisted by Muya) at Gombe Point (ex - Kalina Point), where work started during the 1973 season. The study of the material excavated in 1973 had revealed the possibility of assembling a series of cores (in one case up to 50 flakes could be assembled). In order to proceed in this same way, a new trench of 15 m² was excavated by 5 cms spits. The position of each artifact was recorded with great precision on graph paper. In addition all soil was carefully sieved.

Mr. P. de Maret (Shaba)

Has undertaken a series of excavations within the Iron Age of Shaba, from April to July 1974. He was assisted by Mrs. Kanimba and Kerremans, archaeologists, Lequarré, geomorphologist and Dr. De Plaen, ethnographer.

Excavations were undertaken at Sanga, site previously excavated by Prof. Nenquin in 1957 and by Prof. Hiernaux in 1958.

The following goals had been put forward during the 1974 excavations :

- 1) To obtain more reliable datations, especially for the three different pottery groups.
- 2) To determine the extension of the cemetery.
- 3) To search for the settlement site.
- 4) To collect more skeletons for physical anthropological study.

This excavation had become an urgent matter for two reasons :

1. The present Sanga village is expanding rapidly and is now overlying the burial ground.
2. Objects from the graves are actually dug out for trading purposes.

30 new graves have been excavated, 4 of which contained Mulongo - Red Slip ware. Numerous samples for absolute dating have been taken. The extension of the cemetery is now known.

A settlement site has been found at 10 km West of Sanga, close to the Katongo village. Below these settlement remains, 3 graves have been found containing some kind of crude Kisalian pottery.

At 600 metres from there, close to lake Kisale, another cemetery with 9 graves has been discovered, 4 of them containing Mulongo - Red Slip Ware and 1 had the body cut in parts before it was buried. From these places C¹⁴ and TL dates will be worked out.

Several sites over a distance of 150 kms along the river have been prospected. Here new excavations will be undertaken in 1975.

Mr. P. de Maret will make a prospection tour in the South of Shaba during his stay at Lubumbashi where he is engaged as an assistant at the University. He will search primarily for Early Iron Age sites, from Fall 1974 onwards.

Mr. P. de Maret got a first C¹⁴ date for a cave prospected in Lower-Zaïre in 1972.

"The First C¹⁴ Date for a Polished Axe Associated with Ceramics in Zaïre" (in the press) HV 5258 = 2145 ± 45 BP.

Mr. P. de Maret continues his systematic collecting of ethnographical informations on the blacksmith in Sub-Saharan Africa. Part of the data is used for a study in collaboration with Mr. F. Nsuka, linguist, on a comparative study in Linguistics of the metallurgical vocabulary in Bantu languages. More than 3000 words have been collected.

Many attempts have been made to link the success of Bantu groups to the knowledge of iron working. But from the purely linguistic point of view, one observes, comparing metallurgical terms used throughout the Bantu world, that there is great diversity in the vocabulary of forging. However, certain reconstructions suggest the use of iron at Proto-Bantu level, such as the expressions for forging, hammer, and ore. Were these words in the language before the division, or did they enter it as borrowings at some unknown stage in the ramification process? It is not impossible that those words which are widely attested result from a shift in meaning from Proto-Bantu to the present day languages. Thus the word for "forge" would be only a special application of the word for "beat". Finally, other metallurgical terms seem to have the same origins in both Bantu and non-Bantu languages.

When one thinks of how important the ability to work metals was in traditional African societies, it is difficult to see why, if the Bantu worked iron before their expansion, we find no more convincing linguistic traces of it.

Archaeology Courses at the "Université Nationale du Zaïre",
Campus Lubumbashi

Dr. D. Cahen and Dr. F. Van Noten have been asked to organize a series of courses to be given by them as visiting professors. These courses are spread over 2 years and are designed for the 3rd and 4th year (licence) students within the department of Anthropology (Faculty of Social, Political and Administrative Sciences), as well as for the students of the History Department (Faculty of Philology).

Mr. P. de Maret is to be assistant for the coming academic year.

Dr. D. Cahen has lectured in 1974.

The following has been received from Dr. Vansina:

Early Kuba Sites

In the course of writing a Kuba (Zaire, Kasai occidental) history from early times (16th century or before) to 1885, a reconstruction of social life was made from linguistic and oral traditional data. The archaeological implications about settlements could be tested by excavation, thus invalidating or confirming the whole reconstruction. The data are fairly extensive as appears from the following description. For the sake of style "should" and similar conditional tense is replaced by "is" and other affirmatives.

Village sites are located on or at the edge of intercalary savanna, usually not more than one or two kilometers from springs between Sankuru and Lokenye in the present zone of Dekese. The sites are rectangular with rectangular houses arranged on both sides of the central street, oriented east to west or rather upstream/downstream with regard to the general direction of the Lokenye and Sankuru rivers and the terrain permitting. At the downstream end of the village a lightly palissaded court for the headman or chief would be found. It contains several rows of houses and hangars. Few hearths will be found in this vicinity. Behind each house along the street smaller houses with hearths are expected to occur, while the houses along the street itself will not contain hearths, at least not to cook on. On the street there are hangars for meetings, for smithing (hence some metal scrap and pottery nozzles), perhaps for weaving. The rubbish heap of the settlement lies on the upstream side, probably on the right hand side, perhaps one hundred metres from the end of the street. Bones of fish, fowl, goat, game (especially warthog), pieces of pottery, palmnuts, some slag and worn out bits of iron occur. The width of any structure will be presumably not greater than two palmribs and houses are grouped along the street in discrete clusters.

Graves occur on the site which serves also as the cemetery. They can occur anywhere since the village is occupied only for ten years or so and people are buried on the spot of the village of their birth. Grave goods will be rare, usually only including some animal bones and some pots. They are rectangular except for important people who are buried in a side chamber next to the rectangular shaft, perhaps at a depth of over 4 meters. They are also buried sitting. Their graves will contain rings, spears, hammers, anvils, bells and double bells, arrowheads, all in iron. No copper will normally be found. If there is some it will prove to come from the Mindouki mines in the Congo Republic. Pottery is similar to what is still found among the Sankuru and Lokenye with geometrical ornamentation of the same sort and of the different types still found in 1900.

Careful research can identify dawngardens behind the houses all along the sides of the village. Pollen of banana and especially elais palmtrees should be found in great quantity along with medicinal plants. If old landsurfaces of fields can be identified in the savanna or the forest, pollen will indicate the cultivation of sorghum and perhaps, millet as a staple, voandzea, beans and a half dozen species of yams. Eggplant may be important. Palmtrees also occur on such sites.

No special salt processing sites are likely to occur because salt was made from the male fruit of the elais palmtree. For the same period these can be found in known areas of the Mweka zone near the Upper Lucwadi. No special concentration of pottery is expected because plants with a high salt content were merely grown there and processed at home. Indicators of this would be the presence of pottery filters.

The description does not exhaust the implications of archaeological interest in the historical reconstruction. For later periods similar predictions can be made as to the appearance of new plants and imports such as brass and copper to be found in the royal graves among other places.

The case is not uncommon. Archaeological research here would test all the other data and furnish dates for the reconstructed period, especially for its span. The description of the "archaic" village is merely given to indicate what can be predicted. The excavation of such sites is of great importance to pre-colonial history and it is to be hoped that the realization of their value will grow. Meanwhile these and other sites from the same general period (first half second millenium), even where they are well delimited and known, lie neglected in most of Equatorial Africa.

Zambia

During June-July 1974, Joseph O. Vogel of the Livingstone Museum, conducted excavations at the Early Iron Age site at Kabondo Kumbo on the Kabondo River, north of Livingstone in Southern Zambia. An area 40m. x 45 m. was opened and uncovered the remains of 14 hut floors, 2 smelter areas, and an area containing a number of pits. One hut plan could be reconstructed from the remnant posts. It is a small structure approximately 2m.x 2m. rectangular in form, with doubled corner posts, a daga and wattle and daub walls. The form of structure was similar in size and shape to those found earlier at Kumazubo and Zambezi Falls. A large collection of ironwork was found as well as fragments of copper bangles. The pottery collection is attributed to the local Shongroe tradition - Early Iron Age pottery typical of the Victoria Falls region. Radiocarbon dates are awaited on. Datable finds were the discovery of a bored stone and the third Early Iron Age cattle figurine from the Victoria Falls area.

Mr. N.M. Katanekwa Asst. Keeper of Prehistory, Livingstone Museum recently returned from a reconnaissance of the Upper Zambezi Valley in southwestern Zambia. Concentrating upon the stretch of river between Shesheke and Senanga, he followed up earlier work in the area by J.O. Vogel and attempted to visit Early Iron Age sites reported by D.W. Phillipson. He visited nearly 25 old village sites ranging in age from mid first millenium A.D. to 19th century. The geographical range of the Early Iron Age materials is significant and although it has yet to be analysed in detail, it would appear that the area around Shesheke and immediately north was occupied by people making or using pottery similar to that made in the Victoria Falls region and areas to the south, whereas, those from around Sioma northwards were using pottery made in a contrasting tradition which may connect sites like Sioma and Lubusi within a common sphere of potting materials. A great deal of work is intended for this part of the country in the future.

University of California, Santa Barbara

Michael Bisson has taken up a year's appointment at McGill University in Montreal.

Brian Fagan has just finished correcting the galleys of Africa in the Iron Age, a co-authored project with Roland Oliver of the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. The book, a sequel to Oliver and Atmore's Africa since 1800 and in the same format, will be published by Cambridge University Press in May 1975. Research into the animal bones from Phalabora, South Africa, continues at a slow pace, but much energy is going into the design and implementation of a multi-media course on World Prehistory for 400 students, due for its first run through in winter 1975.

No further Iron Age graduate students have been admitted for 1974/5, but one student is already admitted for 1975/6, and some limited expansion for the Ph.D. program is under study.