THE WEST AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

No. 6 May 1967

Editor: Professor Thurstan Shaw

Asst. Editor: Joel A. Vanderburg

Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

CONTENTS

CONTENTS (cont'd)

Editorial

Since its first inception, both the size of the Newsletter and the number of those asking for it, have increased beyond all expectation. This is very gratifying, both from the point of view of the amount of archaeological work going on in West Africa and with regard to the Newsletter fulfilling a useful function in that work. Hitherto it has been distributed free, out of the funds supplied by the Rockefeller Foundation to the Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, but it is felt that the time has come when the Newsletter should stand on its own feet and no longer be dependent on an outside subvention. Accordingly it has been decided in future to make a charge. After going into the costs of production and postage for the last two numbers, the rate has been fixed at £1.0s.0d. for four numbers post free. In some ways we regret to have to make this charge, but in other ways it may perhaps be regarded as a sounder basis for the Newsletter to have it on a properly viable economic footing. An order form is enclosed, which should be returned as soon as possible by all those still wishing to receive the Newsletter. The Newsletter will no longer be sent to anyone who has not sent in an order form together with the necessary subscription.

In Newsletter No. 4 (p. 3) we raised the question as to whether the fiction of 'For private circulation only', and the rule of not quoting without the original author's permission, should be relaxed. The only communications we have received on the subject are in favour of keeping the rule. In addition, the matter was raised at the Freetown meeting in June, 1966 (W. Afr. Archaeol. Newsl. No. 5) when the launching of a journal was discussed, and majority opinion was strongly in favour of the retention of the rule. Accordingly we shall maintain the status quo.

We must confess a certain sympathy for this decision, for archaeologists are certainly subject to the irritations and indignities of misrepresentation, by misquotation, quotation out of context, or by the plain fact of having their names taken in vain. We ourselves have recently suffered in this way. In the account of the finds from the 1959/60 excavations at Igbo-Ukwu, in the Illustrated London News of 15 September, 1962 (p. 405), there was an illustration of the two sides of a bronze altar stand, which showed respectively a male and a female figure. Without permission or consultation with the author, the editors removed his caption and substituted 'A Nigerian "Adam and Eve"?'. Four years later a typescript for a publication was submitted to us, in which these figures were referred to as having been 'called by the finder "A Nigerian Adam and Eve".'

Worse was to follow. An account of the 1964 excavation was submitted to the Illustrated London News under the title 'Further Discoveries at Igbo-Ukwu in Eastern Nigeria'. Again without permission or consultation with the author, this title was changed by the editors of the issue of 21 August, 1965, to 'A Witchcraft Hoard or a King's Cache from East Nigeria', placed immediately over the author's name. The final indignity came still more recently, when this article appeared in a list of recent publications in the Bulletin of the Historical Society of Nigeria (Vol. IX, No. 1, April, 1966, p. 26) yet further metamorphosed to: 'A Witchcraft Board or a King's Coach from Eastern Nigeria'!

Two archaeologists who 'went West' from the Nile valley have departed from the West African scene since the editorial of the last issue was written. It is with great regret that we record the death in November, 1966 of Oliver Myers, who had been on the staff of the Institute of African Studies, University of Ife, from the end of 1962 until the middle of 1966. He had been a contributor to the Newsletter and we are happy that in this issue we are able to publish posthumously an account of his last work at Ife. Everyone who knew and worked with him enjoyed his gay company and his fund of stories, archaeological and other, admired the courage with which he disregarded his physical disabilities, and was aware of the aura surrounding someone who had worked with Flinders Petrie. Our sympathies go to his family.

The other departure is that of Peter Shinnie, who, after being Professor of Archaeology in the University of Ghana for eight years, has returned to the Nile valley as Professor of Archaeology in the University of Khartoum. Our good wishes go with him. There have been many speculations concerning the connections between West Africa and the Nile valley, and African archaeology needs those who are familiar with both areas to bring more precision into this topic. It was with this in mind that we requested the article in the present number on 'Meroe and West Africa'.

There have been other movements of personnel. Jean Courtin is now in charge of the Prehistory Section at I.N.T.S.H., Fort Lamy; M. Gauthier, from the University of Bordeaux, has been working in Cameroun; Paul Ozanne has moved from the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, to the Institute of African Studies, University of Ife, and Kunle Oyenuga has also been appointed in the same institution; Colin Flight joined the Department of Archaeology in the University of Ghana in 1965. There is a notice on another page concerning Yves Coppens' post in the new Palaeontological Laboratory in Fort Lamy. To all we extend our best wishes for their researches, and ask that they will remember to send contributions to the Newsletter!

We should like to take this opportunity of thanking Dr. A. Herbert, of the Department of Modern Languages, University of Ibadan, for the help he has given with the summaries in French. Dr. Herbert is taking up an appointment as Professor of French in the University of Zambia; our good wishes go with him.

We apologise for the delay in the publication of the present number, resulting in some contributions having been sent in a long time before seeing the light of day. The delay has been due to circumstances beyond our control.

EXCAVATIONS AT IFE, NIGERIA

by

Oliver Myers

Obameri's Shrine

The shrine at Ife known as Igbo Obameri lies very near the Mokoro Waterworks Road in an area marked down for development, and Mr. Frank Willett recommended some time ago that it should be explored. Dr. S. O. Biobaku, then Director of the Institute of African Studies, University of Ife, supported the project and two short seasons were carried out there with the support and help of H.H. the Oni and the Nigerian Government Department of Antiquities. The shrine is in current use and it was necessary to undertake to restore the shrine after excavation. In fact it was considerably improved, because the bush had been steadily encroaching for at least a decade; this was cleared back to the original walls of the shrine, resulting in the finding of five rooms in all, one or two of which may once have been roofed.

When we started there were only exposed two rooms, the sanctum sanctorum and the antechamber. The chief in charge, Chief Olukore, remembered two other rooms to have been in use and an idol being buried there; however, he was unable to find the spot again, and several efforts of our own failed to locate it.

The shrine is about 25 m. square and is lodged in the centre of a grove about 60 m. square, now under the protection of the Antiquities Service. The principal feature is a mound in the sanctum under which Obameri, brother of Oduduwa, is said to have been buried. The major 'find' was near the surface and consisted of a collection of broken fragments of classical Ife terracottas which I judged had been dug up annually and reburied; in fact fragments of one of the finest pieces were found in three widely separated places. Among these terracottas may be mentioned a unique piece which seems to represent a mask from which projected originally the lower halves of four faces, of which two now remain, one human and one fish.

A tree survey by Mr. Redhead, of the Forestry Department of the University of Ibadan, showed that the walls had fallen down not later than 80 and probably not earlier than 120 years ago. There was some evidence that the terracottas were already in fragments when the mound was made, and everything seems to point to the fact that the shrine was one of those made to house sacra recovered when the people of Ife returned home after exile in the nineteenth century. All the objects

manifestly connected with the shrine were recent or even contemporary. The exceptions are 1) the terracottas (which on one occasion were described by the Chief as being Obameri himself), 2) part of a stone phallus, with the glans penis missing, described as "Ogun's Staff" and buried upside down in the antechamber, and 3) a number of potsherds, which we discovered belong to an earlier occupation, when the whole area was a part of a greatly extended Ife.

Dr. Griffin, of Michigan University, kindly arranged for the radiocarbon examination of charcoal specimens which were collected from the inner parts of the fallen walls, and these gave a date of 1380 A.D. ± 100.[1] It is thus to the earlier occupation that we attributed the charcoal (which must clearly have been there when the walls were built), though there is no proof. The date agrees very well with a period of a greater extension of Ife.

Résumé

L'Autel d'Obameri

par

Oliver Myers

Des fouilles pratiquées à Igbo Obameri ont attesté de l'existence de cinq pièces dans lesquelles il a été possible de déterrer plusieurs fragments de terre cuite, ainsi qu'un grand phallus en pierre et quelques tessons de pots cassés. A en juger d'après la surface mise à jour jusqu'ici, les murs semblent avoir été construits il y a 80 ou 120 ans. Un échantillonnage au carbone donne, pour les couches se trouvant sous les murs, la date de 1380 ± 100 (après J.C.), ce qui coïncide bien avec une période où Ife occupait une plus grande superficie.

1. Professor Frank Willett informs us that when the same laboratory processed this sample a second time the result came out at A.D. 1730 ± 100.

Oduduwa College Site

In the course of enlarging one of the fishponds of Oduduwa College at Ife, one of the workmen hit with his pick a terracotta head, and the fisherman in charge had the good sense to bring it straight up to the College Authorities, as a result of which I subsequently went to investigate. The University of Ife agreed to lend my services to the Department of Antiquities to investigate the site of the find as they had no one available to do the work. The matter was urgent as the rainy season had begun and the College planned to reflood the area as soon as the dam between the two ponds had been satisfactorily raised. The work was necessarily an emergency rescue operation rather than a true excavation, though, of course, the best methods possible were used. Work began on the 19th of April, 1966.

The first task was to test the immediate area of the find to see if any fragments remained; however, many of these had been collected by the fisherman, though a number had, alas, been irrevocably lost; deeper testing found no more, but it did show that sherd-bearing material still continued below the present subsoil water level.

It was immediately apparent that the original excavations for the ponds, as well as the present deepening, had cut into at least two ancient pavements, and as the area in which they lay was to be flooded these had to be investigated; work was accordingly set on hand to explore the area; other remains began to appear and the labour force had soon to be increased. A man was set to clear all the vegetation from three spoil pits used in building the first dam as these provided ready-made sections in the area. Quite early we noticed in the nearest pit a suspicious ring in the side and this proved to be the section through another terracotta head, the top of which had been removed in the original excavations. The head was clearly, as was the first, of the classical period of Ife, but whereas the remains indicated that the first head had been in situ when found, the second one was buried at a higher level with two pots and appeared to have been placed in the position in which it was found at a relatively recent date - in fact it seems probable that it was ceremonially placed there at the time of the return to Ife after exile when so many shrines were set up. The Principal of the College pointed out that before the ponds were made there was a streamlet running down the middle of the valley and that the shrine, and indeed the original site, may have been in honour of Olokun.

A second pit produced another interesting relic, an endocranial cast in clay, with fragments of the cranial bones adhering. As this was found in the sub-soil yellow clay and was itself of red clay from an upper layer, we had great hopes that it might prove to be the cast of the brain of an early type of man but our hopes were disappointed,

though the find is not without interest, and is under study by Professor Harper of the Anatomy Department of the University of Ibadan.

In the walls of this pit can clearly be seen ancient burial pits, or perhaps filled gullies, with considerable pottery and probably pebbles from a cobbled pavement. As this pit is not due to be flooded it was only briefly investigated, to see that no further damage was done in seeking material for the dam.

At yet another of these pits, this time at the far end of the lower fishpond (our work being in the upper), there was a small remnant of a pavement of mixed potsherds and cobbles and this was used for some simple statistical calculations, which are now complete, about the accuracy of workmanship of the ancient Ife craftsmen. Nearby, lapped by the wavelets of the pond, was another potsherd pavement and yet others were to be seen higher up on one of the playing fields and in a field of maize beside the lower pond.

These finds were only ancillary to our work but their interest lies in the fact that there appears to have been a series of buildings along the side of the brook, that may well continue on either side into the bush and may represent sacred buildings or, more probably, a series of belvederes along the stream side.

The main site stretches for about 80 feet along the west edge of the upper or southern pond. Its width has not yet been reached except perhaps in the N.W. spoil pit and may continue considerably up and into the side of the valley which terminates at one of the Ife city walls. As has been explained, the bottom of the site, at least near the stream, is lost below water level. To the south the site terminates clearly with a fine potsherd pavement whose width has yet to be fully determined. It shows interesting and delicate patterning in its construction and two semicircular "bites" out of it, the purpose of which is not clear but may possibly have housed the base of mud and reed columns of the construction. While working back to find the back of the pavement we found, first a large pot decorated with applied chameleons and other ornaments and, later, at a much higher level, a stone pavement of a more recent date containing a fragment of a stone mould for metalwork. The pot was in no particular level and appears to have rolled down the hill from a site higher up the valley.

The next find, moving northerly, was a cobbled pavement of no particular distinction but regular construction whose limits have not yet been determined.

Close to it was a complex of some difficulty. A small and much damaged cobbled pavement was removed to show some very irregular steps of larger stones leading down to another, lower level, cobble pavement,

which seems to have been a road up the valleyside. This is confused by two strange depressions filled with large stones, in one case centred by two upended querns. These may be drains or alternatively the ground may have sunk at these spots and the large stones may have been inserted to restore the level; the problem is not yet resolved.

Possibly the most interesting find was the next pavement, a combination of cobble and potsherd pavements in alternate bands. The bands are very irregular and our first hope that we might be able to discover an ancient unit of length by inductive metrology was disappointed. However there is another very curious feature of this pavement; it is built around two pots (there may have been more for much of the pavement has been destroyed) which were certainly put into place before, or more probably simultaneously with, the pavement. Mr. Kenneth Murray has suggested that these may be libation pots and that a burial may perhaps be found below them.

Further north again was a burial, supine extended, hands over pelvis, and ritually protected on the east and south by broken household crockery set on edge, which Mr. Peter Olagunju, Officer in charge of the Ife Museum, recognised as belonging to the age of his grandparents or great-grandparents. Moreover, although the surface layer produced one blue Segi bead of the Olokun Grove type (having no significance in that position) the sieving of the contents of the grave produced half an ear-ring of a very modern type. It seems most probable that the burial was only coincidentally on the site - it being reported that in the past people were drowned in the stream and were buried there - though how this happened I do not know, unless it was during a heavy flood.

Beyond this again was a small area of charcoal and the remains of a large pot, together with the nozzle of a bellows that had been subject to great heat. It was hoped that this might be the remains of a furnace, but neither the pot nor the surrounding ground had been heated more than could be explained by cookery.

All these remains along an 80 foot frontage, and so far explored to a width of a few feet only, show that we are dealing with an important site; how important can only be estimated, for we do not know how much has been destroyed. At an inspection of the site by the Director of the Nigerian Department of Antiquities it was decided that it was too important to abandon at this stage, when it was getting too late into the rainy season for further efficient work to be practicable. It was therefore decided, with the kind agreement of the Principal of the College, to build a subsidiary dam to keep the new pond away from the site.

The dam is now being built. A protective ditch, together with some subsidiary works, has been dug uphill of the site to carry any stormwater clear of the dammed off area. The pavements have been covered with silver sand and, over this, with earth, while movable objects have been stored in the Ife Museum and the Department of Antiquities quarters at Ita Yemoo. Needless to say, the area excavated has been planned and drawings made of the section and many photographs taken.

The work was done under the auspices of and paid for by the Nigerian Department of Antiquities with help from the University of Ife in personnel, transport, equipment and other matters. The Ife Museum staff played a big part in the work.

The work was honoured by a visit from H.E. the Military Governor, at the time, the late Lt.-Col. Adekunle Fajuyi, who showed great interest and expressed his support for the work. There was a number of visitors and it was encouraging to find such interest among all classes of people in Ife. Particularly valuable to the excavator were visits by fellow archaeologists from the University of Ibadan.

Résumé

Le Site d'Oduduwa College

par

Oliver Myers

Monsieur O. H. Myers a pratiqué des fouilles d'urgence à Ife à un endroit qui devait bientôt être submergé par la construction d'un étang destiné à l'élevage de poissons.

Il y trouva quelques morceaux de pots cassés et des chemins pavés, ainsi que deux têtes en terre cuite. La saison des pluies interrompit le travail, mais comme le site semblait être assez important, un barrage fut construit tout autour afin de le conserver pour des fouilles futures.

MEROE AND WEST AFRICA

by

P. L. Shinnie

The idea that the ancient state of which Meroe was the capital was a centre of diffusion of technical and political advances, (particularly of iron working and state organisation) into other parts of Africa, has often appeared in recent years in the writings of Africanists. So often is it referred to that there is a danger of an uncritical acceptance of this as a dogma, particularly since this view is set forth in such widely read books as Arkell's History of the Sudan and Fage and Oliver's History of Africa.

It is perhaps as well to look at what we know of Meroitic civilization and to establish a few facts before becoming too bemused by Meroe's fame. Very briefly we know that after the end of Pharaonic Egyptian occupation of the Nile valley from Aswan to the fourth cataract a line of local rulers, including the famous Piankhy and Taharqa, established a state in the middle of the eighth century B.C., modelled closely on Egyptian patterns and based on the town of Napata. This state, usually known as Kush, survived in various forms until the end of the third century A.D., with the centre of power shifting to the town of Meroe, some way to the south, at an uncertain date but perhaps in the sixth century B.C. It is only the period from c. 300 B.C. to A.D. 300 that can properly be called Meroitic and which can in the archaeological record be seen to be culturally distinct from the earlier period with its markedly Egyptian flavour. During this period Meroitic culture, so far as pressnt knowledge goes, was spread along the Nile from near the first cataract to Sennar up the Blue Nile.

The cultural change which marks the emergence of a distinctive Meroitic culture is partly the result of changes in Egypt brought about by the Hellenistic influence of the Ptolemies, but there are also indigenous elements in the culture, whose antecedents, though not well understood, show that Meroe was not merely a provincial copy of Ptolemaic Egypt but that Africa had made a contribution of its own.

The material culture of Meroitic times is now reasonably well known from excavations, and the characteristic artefacts have been found at many sites along the Nile. Very little is known of historical events apart from some details given by Greek and Latin writers. However, a chronological framework has been established from study of the royal burials, and their associated material, and a king list has been drawn up which spans the whole period. Though, as normally

published, this list has a greater air of reliability than the evidence warrants, we now know the names of many rulers and have a rough idea of their dates.

What is still not firmly established is the dating of artefacts, since the material in the royal burials is of a specialised and luxury type and gives little help in the chronological ordering of more common objects. In particular no dating, whether relative or absolute, has been possible for the pottery. A chronological scheme for grave types and the pottery contained in the graves was worked out by Griffith from the vast amount of material in the cemetery at Faras where over 1,000 graves were cleared. Further study, and in particular an examination of the imported pieces from the Mediterranean, suggests that no great time span is covered here and that the different grave types indicate social stratification rather than chronological development. Concentration on the digging of cemeteries has not taken us much further, but some stratified domestic sites have now been dug in the northern part of Meroitic territory and a first attempt at a systematic ordering of the pottery has been made.[1] One of the main tasks in the forthcoming University of Khartoum excavations at the town site of Meroe itself will be to try to establish a pottery sequence for the 1,000 years of occupation, and if this is successful the results should be significant for the closer dating of Meroitic sites and may also be of some help in establishing chronology further south in Africa.

The relevance of all this for West Africa is not immediately apparent except to those committed to a theory that all West African culture came from the Nile valley. Until recently the apparent resemblances between artefacts, religious beliefs, and notions of Divine Kingship in the Nile valley and West Africa were attributed to influence from Ancient Egypt. The more preposterous linguistic comparisons have now been dealt with[2] and it is doubtful if any serious scholars support them, nor the equally wild theories that derive Mossi,[3] Yoruba, or Asante administrative forms and court etiquette from those of the Pharaohs. Even did the enormous gap in time and space not make the connections highly unlikely, a rational look at these comparatively recent West African phenomena shows that the resemblances are illusory.

---

1. W. Y. Adams, An Introductory Classification of Meroitic Pottery, KUSH, XII (1964), 126-173.
2. Shinnie in 'Legacy of Egypt' in the press. Wescott, 'Did the Yoruba Come from Egypt?', Odu, 4, 10-15.
3. Pageaud, 'Civilisation Mossi et l'Egypte Ancienne, Genève-Afrique, II, 183-206.

Now the diffusionist view has shifted from assuming Pharaonic Egyptian inspiration to one that makes Meroe responsible. There are two issues involved here, firstly that the culture traits referred to are of Meroitic origin, and secondly, one that has possibly more substance, that the African Iron Age was initiated after the fall of Meroe by wandering royalties and blacksmiths. Perhaps the fullest statement of this view is given by Arkell,[4] who suggests that after the end of the Meroitic state in the early fourth century A.D. the ruling house of Meroe, or Kush, moved westwards leaving their name amongst various peoples of Darfur and neighbouring regions who contain the element Kaj in their tribal and other names. Considerable thought has been given to discovering routes by which Meroitic skill in iron working could have spread West and South.

If one makes the assumption that it was from Meroe that the knowledge of iron smelting was diffused it is not unreasonable to look for routes for the transmission. What needs to be looked at rather more closely is the assumption itself, and it as well for the archaeologist to concern himself primarily with archaeological evidence and to see what there is. If he does this he will find that there is none - Meroitic culture, so far as is known at present, was entirely riverain: the only known sites away from the river are in the area between the rivers Nile and Atbara, none of them are more than thirty to forty miles from the Nile, and no Meroitic material has been found further west than the banks of the river. This makes arguments based on assumption and rather sketchy etymological evidence (and we do not know what the language of Meroe was) not ones that should be accepted by the archaeologist, nor indeed on the ordinary principles of scholarly evidence should they be accepted by anyone except as intriguing and interesting hypotheses.

There are, in spite of the warnings given above, hints of common elements in the culture of Pharaonic Egypt and other parts of Africa but the resemblances of head rests, musical instruments, ostrich feather fans etc., if indeed more than coincidences, may as well be evidence for Africa's influence on Egypt as the other way round. They are in any case not objects of distinctively Meroitic type and suggest that contact, if contact there was, took place at an earlier date.

The idea of Meroe as a source of the knowledge of iron smelting has much to commend it. It was an important centre of iron smelting from as early as the sixth century B.C. and the large mounds of iron

---

4. Arkell, 'History of the Sudan'; 174.

slag to be seen there today are good evidence for this. Meroe was certainly producing large quantities of iron over a long period of time and it is by no means unlikely that the knowledge of the processes of smelting diffused from there, though it is not necessary to assume that it was the fall of Meroe that caused this. Recent work at the site suggests that iron smelting went on until a much later date than is generally thought and it may well have continued until the eight century A.D. or so, and if, as I have suggested elsewhere[5] the main period of effective Nile valley influences in West Africa was considerably later, it could be that the iron working techniques were diffused at that time also.

But even if it is right to be cautious in accepting Meroe as a centre of diffusion we can and should regard Meroitic culture as crucial for African archaeology, and further study of it is of value for increasing our knowledge of other parts of Africa. Here the first point to be made is that in the cultural development of Africa, Meroe was a remarkable phenomenon; it was a sophisticated and literate civilization deep in the African continent, and even if much of the inspiration behind it was of Ptolemaic Egyptian origin, the very marked African elements in art and pottery show that local influences were present and important. Our inability to understand the Meroitic language, though the phonetic values of the signs are known, is a barrier to a fuller understanding of the history and civilization, but the very existence of an alphabetic system of writing an African language at this early date is striking.

What Meroe can probably most contribute to African archaeology is a chronology. Along the Nile is the only part of tropical Africa with an established chronology going back for hundreds of years. The material is known and can be grouped into at least broad chronological divisions and when Meroitic pottery is more precisely dated we will have a tool which will make it possible to establish a chronology for other parts of the Sudan and possibly further afield. It is unlikely that the very fine, northern inspired, painted pottery of Meroe is going to be found elsewhere, but dating of it will enable the pottery of African type associated with it to be dated and it should be possible by extension to carry the chronology further and further afield.

The principles by which the dating of tobacco pipes on the Accra plains can help in dating objects in far inland Ghana can be applied in the Sudan, and if criteria for dating the pottery are established many so far obscure questions of Sudan chronology can be answered.

---

5. Shinnie, Meroe - A Civilization of the Sudan (in the press).

An obvious area for research, once we have this knowledge of the indigenous material, is the White Nile where already many sites are known. These sites consist of mounds along the river bank stretching far into the southern Sudan and surface collections of pottery from them certainly suggest a link with Meroe.[6] If this is so and a chronology can be established on a sound factual study of the pottery for sites to south and west a more useful contribution will have been made to the understanding of African proto-history than by inventing blacksmiths' routes back and forth across the continent.

Information of a general sort on Meroe is not easy to find. My book, now in the press will, I hope, help and has full references. Arkell's History of the Sudan is useful for the history of the period. The earlier excavations at Meroe were badly done and worse published - the first season is covered by Garstang - Meroe; City of the Ethiopians; subsequent seasons only by articles in Liverpool Annals of Anthropology and Archaeology, IV, 45-71: V, 73-83: VI, 1-21: VII, 1-24. The royal burials at Meroe and other places are now fully published; Dows Dunham, Royal Cemeteries of Kush, I - V. The large cemetery at Faras was published by Griffith in Liverpool Annals, XII, 57-172. This is not a full publication and the complete tomb register can be seen at the Griffith Institute in Oxford. A good bibliography is given by Fawzi Gadallah in KUSH, XI, 196-216. Recent volumes of KUSH contain preliminary reports on new excavations, particularly important being those at Musawwarat es Sofra by Hintze.

Résumé

Meroé et l'Afrique Occidentale

par

P. L. Shinnie

L'idée que la civilisation de Meroé était un centre pour la diffusion de l'artisanat du fer est une hypothèse souvent admise mais qui ne repose sur aucun témoignage archéologique. Cependant, elle fut un centre important pour l'extraction du fer, depuis le sixième siècle avant J.C. et probablement jusqu'au huitième siècle après J.C. Elle a aussi l'avantage d'avoir une chronologie bien établie. Si en relation avec sa chronologie générale on peut établir pour ses poteries une concordance de temps, ceci pourrait être très utile pour la détermination d'une chronologie des régions voisines en Afrique.

---

6. Arkell, Current Anthropology, 7 (1966), 452.

RECENTES DECOUVERTES PREHISTORIQUES ET PROTOHISTORIQUES AU TCHAD

par

Jean Courtin

Situé au Centre du continent africain, le Tchad s'étend de la zone de la forêt au désert libyque, du 8e au 23e parallèle. Bien que l'extraordinaire richesse archéologique de cet immense territoire, dont la superficie égale deux fois et demie celle de la France, soit connue, pour le Nord-Tchad, grâce aux travaux de Dalloni, Burthe d'Annelet, P. Huard, G. Bailloud à qui l'on doit une synthèse de la préhistoire de l'Ennedi, et Y. Coppens qui découvrit au Kiri le premier Australopithéciné d'Afrique Centrale (Tchadanthropus Uxoris), bien que, dans le delta du Chari-Logone, au sud du lac, les fouilles du Docteur Pales, et surtout, depuis bientôt trente années, d'Annie et Jean-Paul Lebeuf aient fait connaître la culture préislamique des "Sao", passés maîtres dans l'art de la terre cuite et les techniques du bronze, de vastes régions, principalement dans le nord du Tchad, restaient (et restent encore) inexplorées du point de vue préhistorique et archéologique.

C'est grâce à l'aide de l'Institut National Tchadien pour les Sciences Humaines que nous avons pu, en 1964-65, effectuer dans le Nord-Tchad une longue mission de prospection. C'est pour nous une tâche des plus agréables que de remercier ici Monsieur le Ministre de l'Education Nationale de la République du Tchad, Monsieur le Professeur Jean-Paul Lebeuf, Directeur de l'Institut National Tchadien pour les Sciences Humaines, et Monsieur Jean Chapelle, Administrateur de l'Institut, ainsi que toutes les personnes qui d'une manière ou d'une autre, nous ont permis de travailler au Nord-Tchad.

La région prospectée :

Cette région, nord du Mortcha et Borkou, était presque inconnue du point de vue archéologique, en raison de sa position excentrique et de son caractère désertique. Elle s'inscrit en gros entre les 19e et 21 degré longitude Est et les 16e et 19e degré latitude Nord. Audelà du 19e parallèle, nous avons parcouru la région d'Ounianga, de Gouro et de Gara Louli.

Les résultats :

Nos prospections ont montré que le Mortcha, comme le Djourab, était très peuplé au début de notre ère (Fer Ancien) et jusque vers le Xe siècle, ainsi que le prouvent les "doungous" et les buttes de "haddad". Les habitats, établis sur des dunes anciennes, en bordure des dépressions, sont essentiellement des villages de pêcheurs (ossements de

poissons, tests de mollusques, harpons en os). La céramique est identique à celle décrite en Ennedi par Bailoud; les vases sont tous à fond rond, dépourvus d'anses, et de forme simple. Dans toute cette zone dépourvue de roches, on trouve cependant des meules, des broyeurs, des pilons et, sur les ouadi descendus de l'Ennedi (Ouadi Haouach, Ouadi Chili, Ouadi Sala), des bracelets de pierre et des haches polies en grand nombre.

Au Djourab et au Mortcha, le Néolothique Ancien n'apparaît qu'au-dessus de la cote 300, les plaines des Bas-Pays du Tchad étant sans doute inondées en grande partie à cette époque. C'est un Néolithique à affinités soudanaises, caractérisé par la poterie du type de Khartoum et d'Esh Shaheinab, avec une industrie lithique en quartzite et en silex à base de microlithes géométriques (segments de cercle, trapèzes, triangles scalènes). Ce Néolithique devient très abondant dans le nord du Borkou. Ce n'est également que dans le Nord, au-delà du 18e parallèle, qu'ont été repérés de très vastes stations appartenant au Paléolithique inférieur : il s'agit d'un Acheuléen évolué, caractérisé par des bifaces lancéolés, très éolisées.

Au Néolithique moyen, la céramique, dont le décor imite la vannerie (style de Hohou de Bailloud) est toujours accompagnée de microlithes géométriques; les haches polies et le matériel de broyage deviennent beaucoup plus abondants.

Le Néolithique final voit l'apparition de plusieurs styles céramiques, les uns issus des civilisations préexistantes, les autres manifestant des apports nouveaux. Le style le plus original est une poterie décorée partiellement d'impressions au peigne en métopes ou en bandes, laissant des zones portant parfois des motifs zoomorphes. Cette poterie, qui n'est pas sans rappeler les poteries à décor zoomorphe du "Groupe C" de Nubie, est accompagnée de pointes de flèches en silex à base concave, de haches polies et de labrets en quartz.

L'Age du Fer est extrêmement abondant dans tout le Nord-Tchad, il est très bien représenté dans les Bas-Pays, au Djourab, au Mortcha et le long du Bar-el-Ghazal où de nombreux sites avaient déjà été signalés par Y. Coppens.

La phase ancienne est caractérisée par une poterie rouge fine, décorée au peigne à dents carrées, qui apparaît à la fin du Néolithique. Y est associée une poterie ornée de cannelures, de petits chevrons excisés ou d'impressions au peigne disposées en bandes obliques sous la lèvre.

La phase moyenne voit l'appauvrissement du décor, limité aux chevrons excisés, beaucoup plus épais, et aux cannelures larges; les harpons en os à deux rangs de barbelures et à perforation basillaire

et les amoncellements d'ossements de poissons attestent une économie basée sur la pêche.

L'Age de Fer dit "récent", limité aux rives du Bhar-elGhazal et au Goz Kerti, est connu par d'énormes habitats jonchés de tessons de poterie et de restes de fonderies de fer. Ces villages de "haddad" ou forgerons sont surtout connus par leur céramique : la série commune comprend pour le première fois de très grands vases, épais, à bord évasé, décorés d'impressions de vannerie ou de nattes; le poterie fine comprend des bols, écuelles ou vases à petit fond plat, sans anses, décorés de motifs géométriques peints en noir sur un fond rouge. Des formes et des décors similaires ont été signalés en Nubie chrétienne ce qui situerait ces buttes de forgerons vers les Xe-XIIe siècle de notre ère (Mauny).

Contrairement à l'Ennedi, le Borkou est pauvre en peintures rupestres; toutes celles rencontrées sont tardives et très souvent dégradées. En revanche les gravures, bovidiennes et plus récentes, sont très nombreuses et attestent au Néolithique un élévage de bovins très développé. Les figurations de grande faune comprennent des représentations d'éléphants, de rhinocéros, de girafes, d'autruches et d'antilopes.

Les missions futures seront consacrées à l'exploration du Tibesti et aussi de la dépression du Mourdi, au nord de l'Ennedi.

Summary

Recent Prehistoric and Protohistoric Discoveries in the Republic of Tchad

by

Jean Courtin

Reconnaissance in the north of Mortcha and Borkou and in the districts of Wanyanga, Gouro and Gara Louli have established the existence in northern Tchad of a developed Acheulean, of an earlier Neolithic (with Khartoum and Esh Shaheinab type pottery and geometric microliths), of a middle Neolithic (with Baillaud's Hohou type pottery), and of a later Neolithic (with pottery of "C Group" style) as well as of an earlier Iron Age (with fine painted pottery), a middle Iron Age (with coarser pottery and harpoons with basal perforation and a double row of barbs), and a later Iron Age ("Haddad" villages).

While 'Bovidian' style rock engravings are encountered, paintings are on the other hand very rare.

DECOUVERTE D'UN SANCTUAIRE SAO A FORT-LAMY, TCHAD

Par

Jean Courtin

En septembre 1964, un nouveau gisement appartenant à la civilisation préislamique du delta Chari-Logone, culture dite sao, bien connue depuis les importants travaux du Professeur J-P. Lebeuf et de Madame Annie Lebeuf, a été découvert à 2 Km du centre de Fort-Lamy, à 600 m à l'est du terrain d'aviation civil, en bordure sud d'un grand marigot temporaire ("Bout-Al-Kebir"). En l'absence totale de restes d'habitations, de foyers, nous avons conclu qu'il ne pouvait s'agir que d'un lieu de culte, peut-être lié à la butte d'Azeguène, au bord du fleuve, à environ 2 Km de là, butte qui a fourni au Dr. Pales puis tout récemment à Mr. Jean Chapelle, des fragments de statuettes absolument identiques.

La découverte du site sao de Bout-Al-Kebir (ou Bouta-Kabira) est due à M. Motet, Directeur du Jardin d'essai. Le propriétaire du terrain où se situe la trouvaille, le Médecin-Capitaine Tachon, a bien voulu nous accorder toutes facilités dans nos travaux: nous tenons à le remercier.

Un décapage d'environ 5 m de diamètre a permis de dégager plusieurs statuettes et figures de terre cuite, plantées dans des vases, et pour la plupart orientées vers le Sud-Est. Entre ces objets en place se trouvaient quelques débris de statuettes et de poteries, et quelques rares ossements de poissons (Siluridés), ainsi que des petits vases à col, peut-être utilisés lors des libations.

Au total on compte une trentaine de statuettes en terre cuite, toutes anthropomorphes; aucune représentation animale n'a été trouvée à Bout-al-Kebir, contrairement aux autres sanctuaires sao connus, et notamment à Tago. Les statuettes où bras et corps sont figurés ont toutes été trouvées lors de travaux de plantation d'arbustes; de ce fait, nous ne savons rien sur leur situation initiale, si ce n'est qu'elles étaient groupées. Une seule, incomplète et renversée, a été découverte in situ à la limite nord-ouest du gisement. Les autres figurations humaines, limitées à la tête, base ovale ou rectiligne, sont d'assez grande taille (0m,20 à 0m,30), et beaucoup ont été retrouvées telles qu'on les avait déposé lors de l'établissement du sanctuaire. Le fait est assez rare pour qu'on y insiste; en effet les sanctuaires sao ont souvent été saccagés par les populations islamisées.

Appartenant à un seul niveau, tous les objets recueillis à Bout-al-Kebir sont donc contemporains. Il n'est pas inutile de

rappeler qu'à Tago, gisement fouillé par M. le Professeur J-P. Lebeuf et Madame Lebeuf, quelques statuettes reposaient sur les fragments de jarres.

On peut distinguer les types suivants :

- statuettes à corps cylindriques, bras figurés, seins et nombril saillants,
- statuettes à bras et corps décorés; la tête est traitée dans plusieurs styles; l'une d'elles porte une barbe à trois pointes, comme à Tago;
- masques ou représentations humaines limitées à la tête :
  - à une corne non décorée,
  - à une corne décorée,
  - à trois cornes inégales,
  - à trois cornes égales, décorées ou non,

qui se subdivisent en sous-types: sans narines, à narines larges, à narines étroites, etc.

Il est frappant de constater la parenté des figures d'un même groupe, qui peuvent être soit l'oeuvre d'un même potier, soit plus probablement la représentation conventionnelle des ancêtres d'un même clan. Certaines figures portent des traces de terre rouge (ocre ?).

La poterie comprend des vases à fond rond ou conique, rarement plat, sans anses ni moyens de préhension. Le décor intéresse le haut de la panse, ou toute la panse, jamais le col, rarement la lèvre; ce sont les motifs sao habituels: zigzags, chevrons, impressions de cordelette, de vannerie. Les petits vases à goulot sont généralement inornés.

Cette découverte est actuellement exposée au Musée National Tchadien de Fort-Lamy; certaines pièces étaient montrées à Dakar au cours du Festival mondial des arts nègres en avril 1966, puis à Paris.

Summary

Discovery of SAO Shrine at Fort Lamy

by

Jean Courtin

The new Sao site of Bouta-Kabira, on the outskirts of Fort Lamy, discovered in September 1964, may be considered as a shrine, certain terracotta statuettes and figures having been found in position. The majority are orientated towards the south-east and are sometimes covered with ochre.

Study of the 30 or so terracotta statuettes (of which some were exhibited at Dakar at the World Festival of Negro Arts, and later in Paris) has made possible the recognition of several distinct types (e.g. those with cylindrical body, those with arms and bodies decorated, masks etc.) each one very characteristic, which makes one suppose that they are conventional representations of ancestors.

The accompanying pottery bears Sao type decoration of the kind already known from previous work.

RADIOCARBON DATES FOR DAIMA, N.E. NIGERIA

by

Graham Connah

The following radiocarbon results have recently been received from Isotopes, Inc. for the 10.63 metres (34' 10½") of stratified occupation deposits at the tell of Daima, Dikwa Division, Bornu Province, N.E. Nigeria. This site is situated on the Nigeria/Cameroun border in the "firki" lands of old lake sediments some 30 miles south of Lake Chad. Excavations were carried out there during the 1965-1966 dry season and a summary of their results will be found in the West African Archaeological Newsletter No. 5, pp. 23-25. Examination of the material is only just commencing but it seems that a cattle-rearing people with polished stone axes, polished bone "harpoons" and other bone tools, using pottery which included a fine ware with burnished red surface often decorated with toothed comb or roulette patterns, was superseded by an iron-using people with carnellian and other beads, bronze personal ornaments and a heavy type of pottery. Crouched or flexed inhumation within the settlement remained the usual burial throughout, and there was an unbroken series of miniature animal figurines of fired clay. Recognizable fragments of structures were isolated at various levels. The radiocarbon samples do not cover the whole range of the stratigraphy: no samples were taken from the loose upper deposits and the lowest deposits were sparse in suitable material. It is now intended to attempt to fill these gaps, however. In the meantime, while the nature of radiocarbon dates needs to be understood and they always have to be interpreted with caution, this block of dates makes it seem reasonable to presume a date for the first occupation of the site somewhat before the 5th century B.C., and to interpret the presence of a few broken smoking pipes in the uppermost spits as evidence of its occupation extending to as late as the 17th or 18th century A.D. This is assuming a continuous occupation, which seems at the moment probably to have been the case.

Isotopes, Inc. sample No. (Numeraux des Chantillons)	University of Ibadan sample No.	Material (Matériel)	Spit No. (Niveau)	Depth (Profondeur)	Age in years B.P. (Age avant au jourd d'hui)	B.C/A.D date (Age avant ou aprés J.C.)
I-2368	UI/6615	Charcoal (Charbon)	13 & 14	2.40-2.80m	1,140 ± 90	810 A.D.
I-2369	UI/6616	Charcoal	15 & 16	2.80-3.20m	970 ± 90	980 A.D.
I-2370	UI/6617	Animal bones (Os d'animaux)	31 & 32	6.00-6.40m	1,470 ± 270	480 A.D.
I-2371	UI/6618	Animal bones	33 & 34	6.40-6.80m	1,500 ± 670	450 A.D.
I-2372	UI/6619	Charcoal	47 & 48	9.37-9.82m	2,400 ± 95	450 B.C.
-	UI/6620	Animal bones	51 & 52	10.25-10.63m	Sample unsatisfactory: too much mineralized.	

Résumé

Dates selon la méthode radiocarbone pour Daima, N.E. Nigeria

par

Graham Connah

Des fouilles ont été faites dans une butte, à Daima, dans le Nord-Est du Nigéria. L'examen des matériaux vient juste de commencer, mais il semble qu'une race d'éleveurs de troupeaux utilisant des haches de pierre polie et des outils d'os, ait été supplantée par une race de gens utilisant le fer, portant des perles carnéliennes et des ornements personnels en bronze. Les indices que l'on possède à présent, grâce aux dates assignées par la méthode radiocarbone et quelques pipes cassées, indiqueraient une occupation continue depuis avant le cinquième siècle avant J.C. jusqu'au 17 ième ou au 18 ième siècle après J.C.

PROFESSOR COON'S EXCAVATION AT YENGEMA CAVE

by

Thurstan Shaw

The following account of Professor Coon's excavations at Yengema Cave has been prepared with permission from his full report.

Yengema is situated in the Kono District of the Southeastern Province of Sierra Leone, near the larger community of Sefodu, also called Koidu. The country is hilly, heavily forested and has a rainfall of about 98 ins. a year. Yengema village is located at 8°9' N, 10°58' W and the cave is at a height of about 1320 ft. above sea level. It is a true tunnel cave, not merely a rock-shelter, formed by a huge block of granite leaning upon another. At the entrance a block of granite bears grinding hollows on its upper surface. The excavation was carried out in November 1965.

The excavator recognised three elements in the industry, which he calls A, B, and C respectively:

A: 'A culture of uncertain immediate affinity, although it has many parallels elsewhere in Africa, especially with the quartz industry associated with bone harpoons found by de Heinzelin at Ishango, on Lake Edward; characterised by tiny quartz choppers and chopping tools, with a few other quartz pieces made on flakes.

B: is Lupembo-Tshitolian, a bifacially flaked pick and hoe industry widespread in the tropical forests of Africa. Our picks and hoes are made of dolerite.

C: is one phase of the Guinea Neolithic, characterised by polished stone celts and simple pottery, decorated on the outer surface by impressed punctations. This element was probably derived from the North African Neolithic. But it is not a proper Guinea Neolithic because it has no microliths.'

The excavator proposes to call 'the earliest horizon in the cave, with only A, the Lower Yengeman; the middle horizon, with A and B, Middle Yengeman; and the upper horizon, with mostly A and C, the Upper Yengeman'.

A depth of soil not less than 2.8 m. was ascertained with prospecting rods, but the excavation was not carried below a depth of 1.7 m. at the west end and 2.00 m. at the east end where a sterile

layer was encountered. A trench 5.00 x 2.50 metres was taken out, and the artifacts picked out by hand as the soil was too damp to be sieved. 20 cm. levels were kept, except in a rather rich layer where 10 cm. levels were kept.

The majority of the artifacts were made of quartz, but there were no microliths. There was a tendency for the tools to be smaller and lighter in the lowest and uppermost levels but to be larger and heavier in the middle levels. 'Burins, thumbnail scrapers, notched scrapers and denticulate scrapers are concentrated near the top; the core, steep, end and concave scrapers, unbroken choppers and hammer-stones are most frequent in the middle and lower levels, and the utilised flakes are predominant in the middle ones where a unique bifacially-flaked point was also found.' In short, the quartz industry changed slowly at Yengema and gives a continuity to the whole series.

There was also a considerable industry in dolerite, producing bifacial tools, bevelled pieces, unifacially flaked pieces and unretouched blades, ground stone axes and rough-outs for them, whet-stones, rectangles, etc. The bifacial tools and bevelled pieces came predominantly from below the 60 cm. level, while the unifacially flaked pieces, unretouched blades, ground stone axes and rough-outs came predominantly from above the 60 cm. level. There were also a number of pieces of worked schist; one piece of chalcedony was found, a pièce esquillée. Pieces of haematite, some of them showing rubbed surfaces (probably to make a red pigment), occurred throughout the deposit.

'The thin, flat celts or "skinning knives" apparently served the same, or a similar, purpose as the pièces esquillées, one of the bifacially-flaked dolerite tools, and the ground dolerite wedges. These flat celts were apparently replaced in turn by the small polished celts found higher in the deposit.'

Rather poor, coarse pottery was found; commonly the outer surface is gritty, the inner surface smooth; no shape was determinable. Most sherds are decorated with square, rectangular, oval or triangular impressions; cord impressions, grooved and incised lines and comb impressions also occur. Four kinds of ware were distinguished. Sherds were found down to a depth of 100 cm., although they were not numerous below 60 cm., and were most numerous in the top 30 cm. There appeared to be no modern pottery from a recent occupation of the cave.

'The pottery assemblage suggests a single ceramic tradition throughout all levels of the excavation.'

Pottery from the excavation has been dated by thermoluminescence as follows:

0-30 cm. - B.C. 1500 ± 350
40-60 cm. - B.C. 2200 ± 470

Résumé

Fouilles pratiquées par le Professeur Coon dans la grotte de Yengema

par

Thurstan Shaw

Le Professeur Coon a pratiqué des fouilles dans la grotte de Yengema en Sierra Leone en novembre, 1965. Les objets découverts se classent en trois catégories, désignées par les lettres A, B et C. La catégorie A est caractérisée par de petits couteaux en quartz; la catégorie B appartient à la culture Lupembien, avec des pioches et des houes taillées sur les deux faces. La catégorie C semble être une phase de la culture néolithique guinéenne, avec des haches polies et une poterie élémentaire, mais ne contenant pas de microlithes.

Les dates assignées à la poterie par la méthode thermoluminescente sont les suivantes:

0 - 30 cms. - 1500 ± 350 ans avant J.C.
40 - 60 cms. - 2200 ± 470 ans avant J.C.

STONE MONUMENTS OF THE GOLA, SIERRA LEONE

by

Donald Roll

Archaeological work in Sierra Leone has not yet been developed as compared with other West African countries. From the late fifties to the present scattered work has been carried on, however, with few published results. In view of the lack of organized field work, the Sierra Leone Museum prepared an expedition to investigate stone monuments reported in the southeastern area of Sierra Leone.

The area is in the Gaura Chiefdom of the Gola Forest. The Gola proper has few inhabitants and is principally virgin forest used by the timber industry. Because of this it is believed that at one time forgotten peoples inhabited the area. The present inhabitants are Mende and can provide no historic background for the stones.

The expedition's work was at two sites. The first site consisted of tall, vertical stones - one group of two stones, placed at right-angles to each other; and the other a single similar stone standing alone. The second site was situated approximately two miles from the first and consists of several stone circles. Other similar stone groupings of the latter are known to exist in the Gola; however, tall stones such as those found at the first site are not known in any other area.

Few material remains were found in the excavations. The soil is duri-crusted laterite with numerous stones and quartz deposits. The stone monuments are of weathered granite, rectangular shaped, which is probably due to jointing fractures which give right-angular planes. Many granite boulders are found throughout the Gola area. The vegetation is quite thick, with roots continually encountered in digging. The rainfall is one hundred to one hundred and twenty inches during the rainy season each year.

Site One

The first site is situated (7°40' 10°56') one mile south west of a junction on the forestry road four and a half miles beyond the village of Lalehun, which is near Joru. It is within the Gola Forest, and stands on a ridge forming a watershed between the Mano and Moa rivers.

Construction of a forestry road several years ago has caused considerable disturbance to the site. Immediately prior to excavation,

the site consisted of three tall standing stones. Two of these stood together, forming a right-angle. The third stood 12.19 m. due north. (See A, B and C, fig. 1)

In addition, there were numerous stones lying horizontally but it was impossible to be specific about their original position or size, because of the action of the bulldozer during the construction of the road. The three standing stones were measured. Stone A measured 1.905 m. above the surface and about 0.483 m. in width; it extended to a depth of 1.22 m. beneath the surface, and faced due west. Stone B measured 1.83 m. above the surface, and 0.66 m. in width. Stone B faced north. Stone C stood 1.52 m. above the surface, and was 0.51 m. in width. At its base were a number of fragments of one or more other stones.

The stones did not appear to bear any obvious carvings. Several were characterized by notches on one 'shoulder', about 0.09 m. from the top. Next to Stone C several fragments of pottery were found at a depth of 0.1 m. No remains were discovered. Excavation went to a depth of 0.76 m. in the areas shown on fig 1. At Stones A and B a trench was dug within the right-angled enclosure to a depth of 1.24 m.

Site Two

The second site was situated on a spur projecting from the western side of a high hill in the North Wepe forestry block. From Lalehun a road runs two and one half miles south to a Forest Ranger's camp. Half a mile beyond this, a path on the left, beside a compartment sign, leads uphill to the site.

The site consisted of a number of stone circles, of which four were positively identified. However, it did not appear that the site had been disturbed by recent forestry activities.

The stones, standing upright, were comparatively small (about 0.6 m. in height and 0.3 m. in width). All except one group stood on or around the spur. One of the 'circles' (circle C) consisted of a small rectangle, composed of four stones. Circles A, B, F and G were composed of a large number of stones (see fig. 2). In the centre of circles A and C lay a flat horizontal stone slab. Around the circles were a number of smaller stones.

The diameters of the circles varied in size from approximately 0.6 m. to 1.8 m. There were no obvious entrances; the circles were not perfect, and seemed to bear little relationship in situation to one another. The stones comprising the circles were irregular in shape and size and did not appear to be carved.

Circles A, C and G were excavated. The stones extended to a depth of about 0.45 m. from surface level. Fragments of pottery were found at a depth of 0.08 m. in circle C. Possible traces of charcoal were found in circles A and C. No other remains were discovered, although excavations extended to a depth of 1.1 m. from the surface. In all excavations only duri-crusted laterite soil was encountered.

A full report of the Stone Monuments of the Gola, with complete measurements and photographs, is available at the Sierra Leone Museum, Cotton Tree, Freetown.

SITE ONE

Category 1: Stones still standing:

	Height	Width	Breadth
A	2.06m	.48m	.14m
B	1.83m	.66m	.15m
C	1.52m	.50m	.15m

Category 2: Stones horizontal:

D	+	.38m	.33m
E	–	.33m	.10m
F	.36m	.50m	.06m
G	.78m	.25m	.12m
H	.71m	.33m	.12m
J	1.04m	.46m	.18m
K	.61m	.30m	.18m
L	.71m	.28m	.25m
M	–	.46m	.30m

SITE TWO

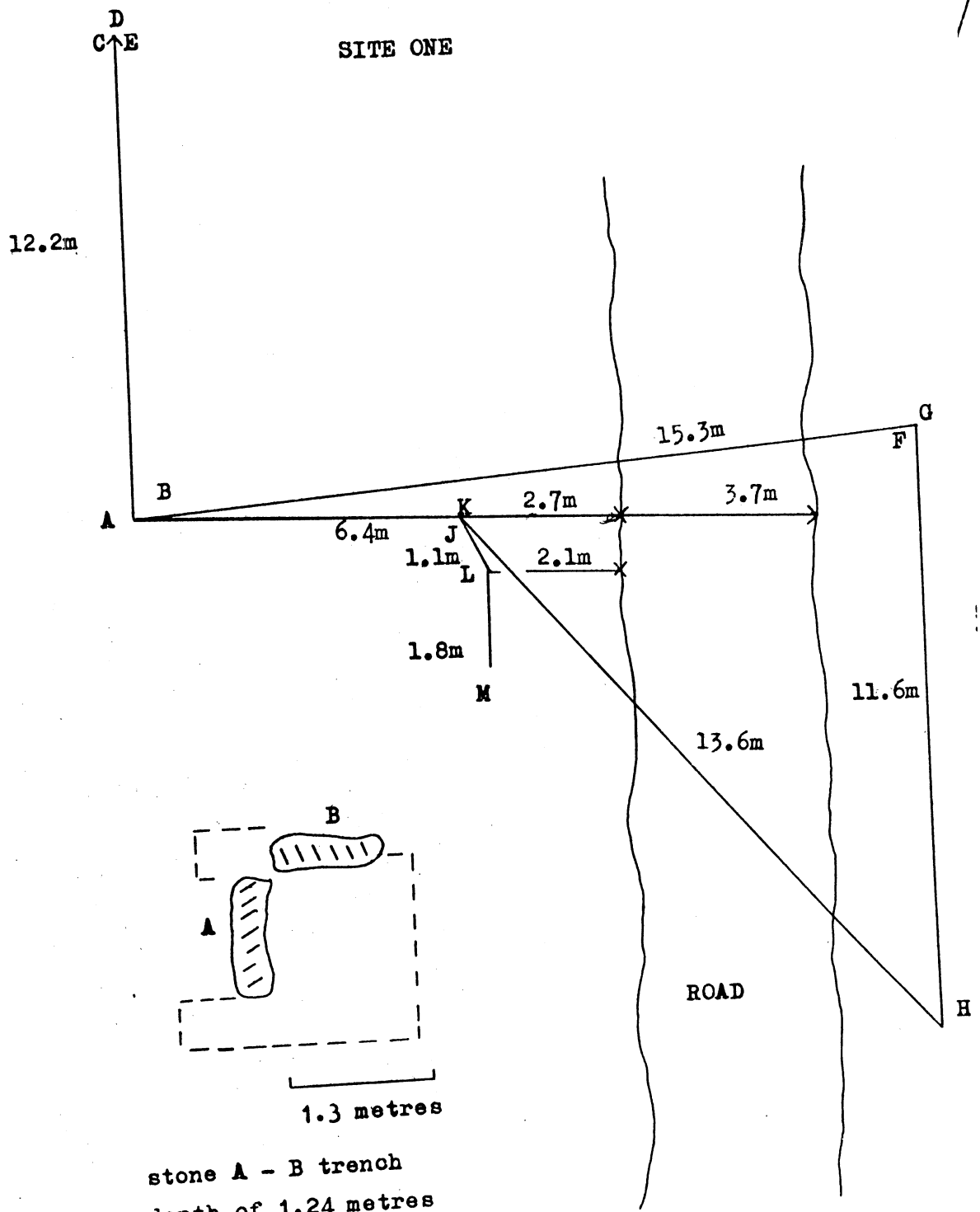
Circle A:

Stones	Height	Width
1	.09m	.32m
2	.39m	.30m
3	.58m	.26m
4	.71m	.40m
5	.30m	.38m
6	.38m	.20m
7	.30m	.34m
8	.28m	.40m
9	.40m	.64m

Notes

1. width and breadth measurements are approximate.
2. height measurement from soil surface.
3. full length of stone A – approx. 10'.

\+ circular.



stone A - B trench
depth of 1.24 metres

Figure 1.

SITE TWO

scale: 1 cm. = 1.2 m.

← denotes compass bearing

- - - - - - - - - -

From stone 1 to 5 . . . 2.1m (from outside edge)

From stone 3 to 8 . . . 1.5m (from outside edge)

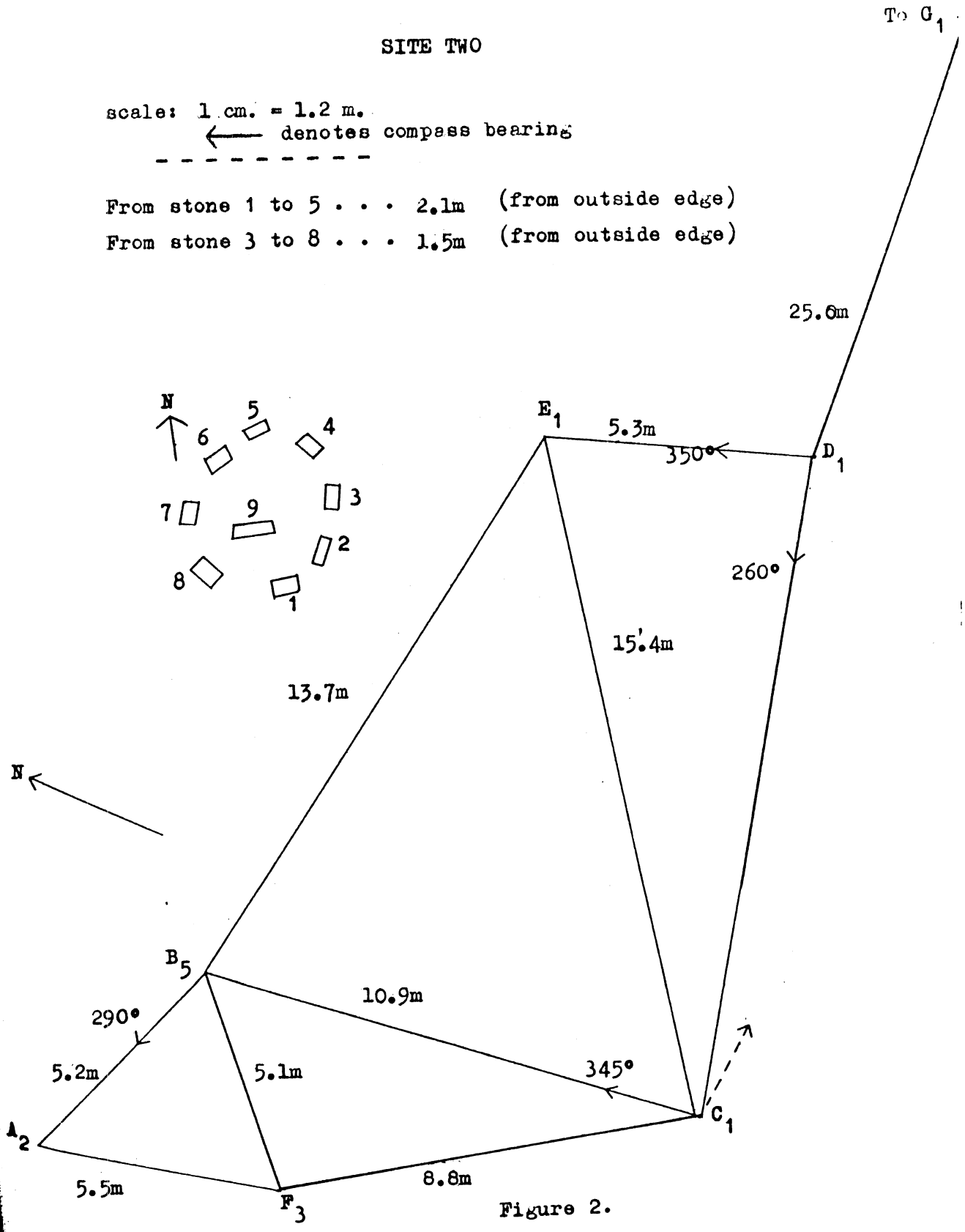


Figure 2.

Résumé

Monuments de pierre des Golas

par

Donald Roll

Une expédition dans la région Sud-Est de la Sierra Léone a permis de découvrir deux emplacements avec des monuments de pierre. Le premier emplacement contient un certain nombre de hautes pierres verticales, tandis que le deuxième consiste en plusieurs cercles à pierres multiples. Les fouilles n'ont révélé qu'un petit nombre de tessons de pots.

A NOTE ON THE ARTIFICIAL ROCK-HOLLOWS ON KUFFENA INSELBERG, ZARIA, N. NIGERIA

by

George Jackson

Photographs by Gareth V. Williams

Grinding hollows on the surfaces of rocky outcrops and inselbergs are found in many places in Nigeria and across the Sudan zone of Africa to East Africa. The most common type is that of the elongate elliptical hollow which has been associated by H. Clapperton (1829), M. B. Gleave (1963) and Robert Smith (1964) with the grinding of cassava, maize and yams. Smith mentions them as still being used for this purpose in the country towns and villages of Yorubaland, the grinding instrument being usually a round stone.

Kuffena inselberg, which is close to the site of the present walled town of Zaria and within one of the ancient town walls, has numerous grinding hollows of this type, all apparently not used at present and indeed without a known use, according to the present nearby villagers. They are about 50 - 55 cms. in length and 30 - 32 cms. broad across the centre at the broadest point. There is a tendency for the hole to be ovoid in shape, in that one end is slightly wider than the other. They are up to 18 cms. deep. Many are very weathered and have also collected organic and inorganic debris. Below the line of the debris, weathering is less apparent and the walls of the hole less rough.

Separate grinding stones, which were obviously portable, are also to be found on Kuffena. They are often broken, and hollows in them have less well defined edges. They are about the same size. (Fig. 1)

In distribution the elliptical hollows are towards the upper slopes of the inselberg, wherever there is a suitable open rock surface.

On the lower slopes there are numerous smaller hollows which are round, from 10 - 12 cms. in diameter and up to 4 cms. deep. They are often associated with shallow, narrow (10 cms.) elongated abrasions. These hollows are still in use for the grinding of leaves used in medicine. The author was present when the fresh young leaves of Bombax costatum were being treated in this way. Apparently an infusion made from the leaves so ground is used as an emollient.

The hollows in actual use are in a rather unique position being on the top of a waist-high boulder, perched on a flattish rock surface. There are three round hollows, 11, 10 and 8 cms. in diameter and 3.4, 2.5 cms. and shallow in depth, one elongated abrasion 22 by 10 cms. and 2 cms. deep and one less well defined abrasion 20 x 13 cms. and shallow.

Two of the rounded hollows and the elongated abrasion were in use, a rounded stone being used for the grinding. (Fig. 2)

Of more interest perhaps is a games board cut in the rock which is a series of twelve rounded depressions in a rough circle, on a flat rock surface shaded by a nearby perched boulder. There is a shallower, wider depression in the centre of the arrangement.

The holes resemble in shape and size those used as mortars.

The sizes are given in the Table below:-

Hole Number	Diameters (cms.)		Depth (cms.)
1	9.5	9	3.0
2	9	9	3.8
3	8	9	3.3
4	8.5	9	3.0
5	9		3.5
6	9		3.8
7	8.5		3.0
8	10	9.5	4.0
9	9	9.5	3.5
10	8	7.5	2.8
11	9.5	9	3.5
12	9	10	3.8
Centre depression	13	14	1.2

The holes lie in an area about 105 cms. by 95 cms. on what appears to be rock of an even consistency. Even so the holes, roughly equal in diameter, and presumably in the course of play evenly used, are of varying depth from 2.8 to 4.0 cms. in depth.

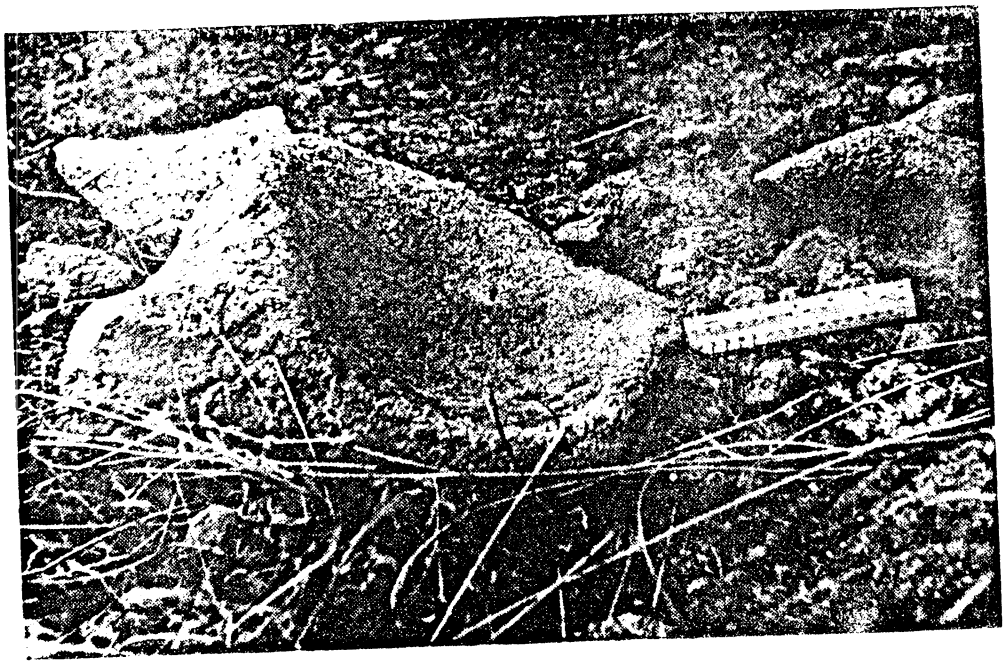


Fig. 1 - Portable grinding stone.

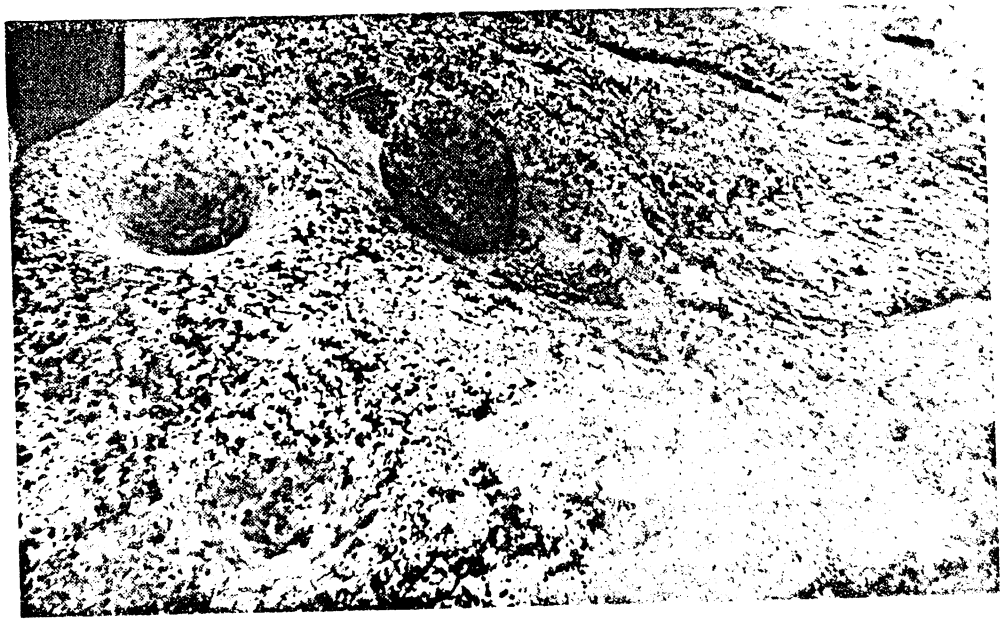


Fig. 2 - Two mortars and close-up [illegible] assembly in use, [illegible] grinding stone and the mortar bowl

Fig. [illegible] — Stone circle.

Fig. [illegible] — Small stone [illegible]
on Pine Valley Road.

Résumé

Une note sur les creux artificiels dans les rochers de l'inselberg de Kuffena, Zaria, Nigéria du Nord.

par

George Jackson

L'inselberg de Kuffena contient quelques creux à moudre ayant à peu près 50 à 55 cms. de longueur, 30 à 32 cms. de largeur et 18 cms. de profondeur. Aucun d'entre eux ne semble être utilisé à présent. On trouve également des creux ronds ayant un diamètre de 10 à 12 cms, et une profondeur allant jusqu'à 4 cms; ceux - ci sont utilisée actuellement pour écraser des feuilles dans la fabrication de médicaments. Ces derniers creux se trouvent souvent à proximité d'éraflures superficielles ayant 20 cms. de longueur sur 10 cms. de largeur et 2 cms. de profondeur.

En plus il y a un dispositif à jeu constitant en douze creux arrondis ayant 8 à 10 cms. de diamètre et 2, 5 à 4 cms. de profondeur arrangés en un cercle grossier avec, au centre, un léger creux ayant 13 à 14 cms. de diamètre et 1, 2 cms. de profondeur.

SOME ARCHAEOLOGICAL FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTIONS

by

S. G. H. Daniels

At the conference of West African Archaeologists at Freetown in June 1966, I gave my opinion that a number of the variables commonly measured on archaeological artifacts would approximate to the lognormal rather than the normal distribution. This opinion was based on rapid and approximate graphical tests of the comparative goodness of fit of the two types of distribution. I have since made more accurate numerical tests on nine variables; the results of these tests, together with tests on the usefulness of several other transformations, are presented here.

The Variables

The observed frequency distributions for the nine variables are given in Tables 1(A) and 1(B), where the value given for each class is the mid-point of the interval, and the column f contains the actual frequency of observations.

1. Stone Measures: Linear Measurements: Sample collected by Mr. J. F. Eloff and Professor B. M. Fagan, from the surface at the Pietersberg site of Rooiberg, Transvaal. The collection was intended for statistical analysis but no rigorous sampling techniques were employed. Whole flakes only were measured. (Daniels 1967)

   (a) Flake Length (mm.). The flake was orientated on a rectangular measuring board so that the butt was in contact with the left hand edge, while the extent of the flake parallel to the bottom of the board was a maximum. This maximum constituted Flake Length.

   (b) Flake Width (mm.). With the flake in the same orientation as above, Flake Width was defined as the distance from the bottom of the board to the furthest extent of the flake parallel to the left hand edge of the board. The two measures of width and length are thus the side of the enclosing rectangle after orientation.

2. Stone Measures: Ratios: Sample as for Linear Measurements.

   (a) R_1. This is the ratio Flake Width/Flake Length.

   (b) R_2. This measures the extent to which a flake tapers towards

a point. The Flake Length is divided into three equal parts, and the width from edge to edge of the flake measured at right angles to the Flake Length at 1/3 and 2/3 of its length. R_2 is then given by (Width further from butt/Width nearer to butt).

3. Pottery Measures: Linear Measures: Sample A consists of decorated pottery from surface collection and excavation carried out by the writer and Mr. D. W. Phillipson at the Early Iron Age site of Dambwa, Zambia. (Daniels and Phillipson 1967). Sample B consists of diagnostic (i.e. decorated or having rims, handles etc.) stratified sherds from the site of Igbo Jonah, Eastern Nigeria, excavated by Professor Thurstan Shaw. (Shaw 1965). This latter sample is chronologically heterogeneous and discontinuous, having been measured without typological separation of prehistoric and recent wares, and without taking account of stratigraphy.

(a) Maximum Thickness (mm.): The maximum thickness of sherds measured at right angles to the tangential plane, and excluding special features such as rims, handles, carinations, etc. Measured on both Sample A and Sample B.

(b) Rim Thickness (mm.): The maximum thickness of the rims of sherds, measured at right angles to the general slope of the rim at the point of measurement. Measured on Sample A only.

(c) Rim Diameter (mm.): The external rim diameter estimated by matching rim sherds against a series of drawn circles with intervals of 2cm. between the diameter of successive circles. Measured on Sample B only.

4. Pottery Measures: Reciprocal Measure: Sample as for Linear Measures Sample A.

Comb-Stamping (units per cm.). This measure was devised in an attempt to throw light on the variable size and spacing of comb-stamping decoration on Dambwa pottery. A unit consisted of one 'tooth-mark' and one adjacent 'space' along the line of the comb. Since there was some variability on individual sherds, the observation quoted for each sherd was the average of three or four separate counts.

The Transformed Variates

The column heads of Tables 2(A) and 2(B) give the variates for which goodness of fit to the Normal Distribution was tested. Transformation was carried out with the grouped data given in Table 1,

the original class boundaries being transformed and new class mid-points calculated for the transformed variate.

The column headed x shows the values of the sample mean (m) and standard deviation (s) for each group of observed variables. The second column, headed $\log_{10}x$ shows the mean and standard deviation of the transformed variate $y = \log_{10}x$. Logarithms to base 10 have here been used for convenience of calculation, rather than the natural logarithm ($\log_e$) but since the two have a linear relationship ($\log_e x = (\log_{10}x)(\log_e 10)$), it is immaterial.

I have given elsewhere (Daniels 1967) my reasons for expecting the width/length ratio of a flake (being the ratio between the sides of the containing rectangle) to be so distributed that the angle between the diagonal of the containing rectangle and the 'length' side has a normal distribution. This expectation is tested for the two ratio measurements in Column 3 of Table 2(A), where the transformed variate $\tan^{-1}x$ is the angle whose tangent is given by x, the observed ratio. Further consideration suggested that the angle might, like linear measurements, have a lognormal rather than a normal distribution, in which case the variate $\log_{10}\tan^{-1}x$ should have a normal distribution, a hypothesis which is tested in Column 4 of Table 2(A).

In the case of comb-stamping decoration on pottery, the observed variable (in units per cm.) is the reciprocal of the length of unit expressed in cms., and it may be expected that the length of unit should have either a normal or lognormal distribution. These expectations are tested in Table 2(B), Columns 3 and 4 respectively, with the transformed variates $1/x$ and $\log_{10}(1/x)$.

The Tests

To test whether an observed variable or transformed variate had a distribution significantly different from the normal distribution, the population mean and standard deviation were assumed to be equal to the sample mean and standard deviation, and an estimate obtained of the expected number of observations within each interval of the frequency table. Where, at the extremes of distribution, the expected number was less than 5, the end classes were amalgamated to raise the expectation above that level. The observed frequencies were similarly amalgamated so that the classes in the frequency tables of observed and expected numbers corresponded. If the number of classes in the modified frequency table is denoted by k, then the degrees of freedom (given in Table 2) are k-3, being k-1 degrees less two more degrees for the two estimated population parameters. Each frequency table was then tested by χ^2, which measures the overall departure of the observed from the expected distribution, the larger the value of χ^2

the greater being the departure. The rows marked p in Table 2 give the probabilities of a value of χ^2 as great as or greater than the quoted value occurring by chance (i.e. by random sampling of the estimated population). Accepting p = 5% (or 1/20) as significance level, we may say that any distribution for which the value of p is less than 5%, differs significantly from the normal distribution.

It is clear from Table 2 that in every case the transformed variate $\log_{10}x$ provides a better fit than the observed variable x. In only one case is the observed distribution of x not significantly different from the normal distribution, and in this case the difference is not significant for any of the transformations tested: in the remaining eight cases the chance of obtaining such a high value of χ^2 by chance are less than 1 in 1,000. On the other hand there are seven out of the nine cases in which the distributions of $\log_{10}x$ do not differ significantly from the normal distribution, and the two cases in which it does so differ are ones where none of the transformations provide a satisfactory fit, suggesting the possibility of heterogeneity of the samples for the characters in question.

In Table 2(A), Column 3, which tests normality after the inverse tangent transformation for ratios, a satisfactory fit is obtained for R_2, but this is certainly not true for R_1. In view of the fact that the logarithmic transformation in Column 2 provides excellent fits, it would appear that my earlier suggestion of the desirability of the inverse tangent transformation was wrong. It may be noted, however, that the distributions of $\log_{10}\tan^{-1}x$ are not significantly different from the normal, providing a fit slightly less good, but comparable to that obtained in Column 2.

In Table 2(B), Columns 3 and 4, the reciprocal and logarithmic-reciprocal transformations provide unsatisfactory fits which are comparable to those obtained in Column 2. It seems a reasonable hypothesis that the observed distribution here is really a 'hidden' bimodal distribution, in which two or more separate homogeneous distributions are combined.

Conclusions

The results of this limited examination suggest that the hypothesis that the distribution of measurements of (hand-made) artifacts follows the normal law of errors is in general unjustified. The alternative hypothesis is suggested that the logarithms of the observations are normally distributed, or in other words that the data are distributed according to the lognormal law of errors. The lognormal distribution arises not simply from the empirical usefulness of the logarithmic transformation, but from a separate theory of errors,

multiplicative, as the normal theory is additive, and in keeping with the Law of Proportionate Effect: 'A variate subject to a process of change is said to obey the law of proportionate effect if the change in the variate at any step of the process is a random proportion of the previous value of the variate'. (Aitchison and Brown 1963). It seems to me that such a model is peculiarly appropriate to the manufacture of artifacts, in which the maker constitutes a feedback mechanism reacting to the current state of the part-finished artifact.

Aside from the desirability of providing acceptable theoretical models for the genesis of archaeological data, such as we have been considering, the hypothesis of lognormality has certain practical implications. The common large-sample tests for the significance of differences between means of observed data remain valid, but since the distribution is non-normal, such tests do not necessarily imply similarity of over-all distribution. Small-sample tests whose validity depends on the normality of the data become unsatisfactory, except where, as in R_2, the distribution approximates the normal. On the other hand, under the hypothesis of lognormality, the estimated population distribution is completely specified, and the common large and small sample tests may easily be applied to the data after the logarithmic transformation.

REFERENCES

Aitchison, J. and Brown, J. A. C. 1963. The lognormal distribution with special reference to its uses in economics. Cambridge.

Daniels, S. G. H. 1966. Recent statistical work in Nigerian archaeology. W. Afr. Archaeol. Newsl. 5, 17-19.

Daniels, S. G. H. 1967. Statistics, typology and cultural dynamics in the Transvaal Middle Stone Age. S. Afr. Archaeol. Bull. (in the press).

Daniels, S. G. H. and Phillipson, D. W. 1967. Dambwa in Iron Age Cultures in Zambia II ed. B. M. Fagan. London, Chatto and Windus, (in the press).

Shaw, Thurstan. 1965. Further excavations at Igbo-Ukwu, Eastern Nigeria: an interim report. Man, 65, 181-184.

TABLE 1(A)

FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTIONS OF STONE MEASURES: (Rooiberg)

(i) Flake Length	
mm.	f
135	1
125	–
115	–
105	–
95	4
85	–
75	8
65	17
55	31
45	66
35	71
25	11

(ii) Flake Width	
mm.	f
190	1
170	1
150	2
130	15
110	20
90	33
70	68
50	56
30	13

(iii) Ratios		
	R_1	R_2
Value	f	f
2.19	1	
1.80	–	
1.50	5	2
1.27	5	26
1.09	10	51
.93	17	54
.79	30	50
.67	41	19
.56	48	4
.46	24	
.37	23	
.28	5	

TABLE 1(B)

FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTIONS OF POTTERY MEASURES

(i)	Maximum Thickness (Dambwa)	Maximum Thickness (Igbo Jonah)	Rim Thickness (Dambwa)
mm.	f	f	f
22		1	
21		-	
20		-	
19		-	
18		1	
17		-	1
16	2	1	-
15	10	3	6
14	22	12	5
13	38	7	16
12	64	19	29
11	85	26	46
10	157	57	113
9	140	75	93
8	87	109	80
7	42	112	37
6	16	82	14
5		39	3
4		2	1
3		1	

(ii) Rim Diameter (Igbo Jonah)	
cm.	f
41	1
37	4
33	2
29	7
25	14
21	20
17	47
13	25
9	3

(iii) Comb-stamping	
units per cm.	(Dambwa) f
6.75	2
6.25	4
5.75	1
5.25	8
4.75	14
4.25	22
3.75	47
3.25	60
2.75	106
2.25	39
1.75	13

TABLE 2(A)

RESULTS OF DISTRIBUTION TESTS ON STONE MEASURES: (Rooiberg)

				1	2	3	4
Measure	N	d.f.		x	$\log_{10}x$	$\tan^{-1}x$	$\log_{10}\tan^{-1}x$
Flake Length (mm.)	209	3	m	75.26	1.8393		
			s	28.69	0.1710		
			χ^2	25.17	3.25		
			p	$p<0.1\%$	$50\%<p<70\%$		
Flake Width (mm.)	209	4	m	46.20	1.6423		
			s	14.90	0.1266		
			χ^2	44.35	9.09		
			p	$p<0.1\%$	$5\%<p<10\%$		
Ratio R_1	209	5	m	0.678	$\bar{1}.7996$	34.61°	1.4992
			s	0.271	0.1588	9.09°	0.1228
			χ^2	26.89	5.26	17.09	6.25
			p	$p<0.1\%$	$30\%<p<50\%$	$0.1\%<p<1\%$	$30\%<p<50\%$
Ratio R_2	206	2	m	0.951	$\bar{1}.9680$	44.73°	1.6283
			s	0.193	0.0889	5.76°	0.0609
			χ^2	5.07	1.60	2.15	2.77
			p	$5\%<p<10\%$	$30\%<p<50\%$	$30\%<p<50\%$	$20\%<p<30\%$

TABLE 2(B)

RESULTS OF DISTRIBUTION TESTS ON POTTERY MEASURES

				1	2	3	4
Measure	N	d.f.		x	$\log_{10}x$	1/x	$\log_{10}1/x$
Maximum Thickness (Dambwa) (mm.)	663	7	m	9.96	0.9894		
			s	1.93	0.0849		
			χ^2	29.34	12.07		
			p	p<0.1%	5%<p<10%		
Maximum Thickness (Igbo Jonah) (mm.)	547	7	m	8.18	0.8964		
			s	2.26	0.1144		
			χ^2	45.50	4.38		
			p	p<0.1%	70%<p<80%		
Rim Thickness (Dambwa) (mm.)	444	6	m	9.48	0.9675		
			s	2.01	0.0869		
			χ^2	28.20	16.97		
			p	p<0.1%	0.1%<p<1%		
Rim Diameter (Igbo Jonah) (cm.)	123	3	m	19.34	1.2629		
			s	6.27	0.1330		
			χ^2	24.68	7.36		
			p	p<0.1%	5%<p<10%		
Comb-stamping (Dambwa) (units per cm.)	316	4	m	3.01	0.4915	0.335	T.5084
			s	0.90	0.1157	0.089	0.1158
			χ^2	59.67	17.06	16.61	17.48
			p	p<0.1%	0.1%<p<1%	0.1%<p<1%	0.1%<p<1%

Résumé

Distributions de fréquence en archéologie

par

S. G. H. Daniels

Les distributions réelles de sept mesures et de deux proportions concernant des poteries et des éclats de pierres furent comparées avec les distributions statistiques théoriques. On trouva que huit des variables différèrent significativement de la distribution normale. Mais deux seulement s'écartaient à un degré significatif de la distribution 'log-normale', dans laquelle les logarithmes des observations montrent une distribution normale. Il est donc suggéré qu'il convient d'appliquer la théorie multiplicative des erreurs, d'où l'on obtient la distribution 'log-normale', à la production d'objets fabriqués, où l'artisan constitue un mécanisme de 'feedback' par rapport au degré de finition de l'objet qu'il est en train de fabriquer. Selon cette hypothèse, certains critères de validité couramment employés qui se basent sur la distribution normale deviennent inapplicables sous leur forme usuelle, mais peuvent être utilisés après la conversion des données en logarithmes.

CONFERENCES

An account is given below of the Premier Colloque International d'Archéologie Africaine and following it is a copy of the first circular concerning the proposed Second Conference of West African Archaeologists.

Premier Colloque International d'Archéologie Africaine Fort Lamy 11-17 December 1966

by

Graham Connah

Since the last war academic research has moved into what might be called the "conference age". From the practical point of view this has only become possible because of the large scale development of civil aviation at an international level. Yet it is quite apparent that the basic reason for this desire to confer springs from a very real demand by scholars for ever increasing international contacts. In this process archaeology has not been left behind. It is with pleasure that one is able to report on yet one more international meeting in the field of African archaeology, expressing, as one does so, the gratitude that all participants must have felt to UNESCO, to the Government of the Republic of Chad, and to the Secretariat of State entrusted with Co-operation at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who collectively made it possible, and in addition to Professor J.P. Lebeuf whose initiative was responsible for the Conference taking place, and to M. J. Chapelle for all his administrative work in running it.

The following took part:

M. HUREL	Représentant de l'UNESCO
Mlle. AUMASSIP	Centre de Recherches Anthropologiques, Préhistoriques et Ethnologiques d'Alger.
M. AWAD SAADAWIA Dept. of Antiquities, Cyrene, Libya.	Direction des Services libyens d'archéologie.
M. G. BAILLOUD	Chargé de Recherches au CNRS (France).
M. le Doyen L. BALOUT	Professeur au Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle et à l'Institut de Paléontologie Humaine (France).
M. G. de BEAUCHÊNE	Section d'Archéologie du Centre des Sciences Humaines du Niger.
M. B. BLANKOFF	Vice-Président de la Société Préhistorique et Protohistorique Gabonaise.

M. BRAHIM BENOÎT	Aide-Chercheur à l'I.N.T.S.H. (Tchad).
M. le Professeur CAMPS	Professeur à la Faculté des Lettres d'Alger.
Mme. CAMPS	Chargée de Recherches au CNRS.
M. J. CHAPELLE	Administrateur de l'I.N.T.S.H.
Mr. G. E. CONNAH	University of Ibadan, Nigeria.
Professor Carleton S. COON	Director of the Department of Archaeology, Philadelphia Museum.
M. Yves COPPENS	Section de Paléontologie à l'I.N.T.S.H. (Tchad).
M. Jean COURTIN	Section de Préhistoire à l'I.N.T.S.H. (Tchad).
Mr. EKPO EYO	Department of Antiquities, Nigeria.
Signor GAMACCHIO	Lerici Foundation, Italy.
M. GAUTHIER	Section d'Ethnologie de la Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines de Bordeaux.
M. H. J. HUGOT	Département de Préhistoire et de Proto-histoire de l'Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire.
Mme. Annie M.D. LEBEUF	Section de Protohistoire à l'I.N.T.S.H. (Tchad).
M. le Professeur J.P. LEBEUF	Directeur de l'I.N.T.S.H. (Tchad).
M. le Professeur C.M. LECLANT	Centre de Recherches Egyptologiques de la Sorbonne.
M. Henri LHOTE	Département de l'Art prehistorique Saharien du Musée de l'Homme.
M. le Professeur Th. MONOD	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, France.
Mr. R. B. NUNOO	Ghana Museum and Monuments Board.
Dr. M. POSNANSKY	Makerere University College.
M. ROLLANDO	Professeur d'Histoire à Vannes (France).
Doktor H. SCHLAGER	Vice-Directeur du Deutsche Archaeologisches Institut (Rome).
M. J.C. SCHNEIDER	Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (Tchad).
Professor THURSTAN SHAW	University of Ibadan, Nigeria.
Doktor H. ZIEGERT	University of Hamburg.

Most conferences tend to have particular themes in their papers and discussions and it was not surprising to find the archaeology of North Africa and of the Sahara playing a predominant part in our meeting at Fort Lamy. Indeed, as the table below shows, these areas together with the Guinea littoral and its hinterland formed the bulk of the subject matter. As one of the small English-speaking contingent at the conference the writer wishes particularly to record gratitude to UNESCO for providing translators and all the necessary earphone equipment to render the meetings completely bi-lingual.

FORT LAMY CONFERENCE - SUBJECTS OF PAPERS

(includes only papers notified beforehand).

ZONES

	1	2	3	4	5	6	
OLD STONE AGE	-	4	1	-	-	1	6
NEOLITHIC	-	7	5	-	-	1	13
IRON AGE	1	5	3	1	-	1	11
	1	2	3	4	5	6	

TOTAL NO: OF PAPERS IN EACH SECTION

ZONES

ZONE KEY:-

1 = Egypt, the Nile, Ethiopia etc:
2 = Sahara and North Africa.
3 = Guinea littoral and its hinterland.
4 = East Africa.
5 = South Africa.
6 = Equatorial rainforest areas.

NOTE:-

1. Three papers dealing with methodology and one with matters of supra-African importance have been omitted.

2. Some papers dealt with more than one period and are therefore counted once for each period covered.

The archaeology of the Republic of Chad received a good deal of attention. Professor Lebeuf was able to speak of his forthcoming archaeological map of the area to the south of Lake Chad and to announce radiocarbon dates which were interpreted as dating his "Sao I" to the 5th century B.C. The Present writer has a similar radiocarbon date for the base of the Daima mound in northeastern Nigeria (see page 23) and was much interested in the Chad material. For the Nigerian material he was not able to accept, however, Professor Lebeuf's ethnic identification of material of such antiquity. Other papers included one of great importance by Dr. H. Ziegert on "Pleistocene climatic changes and human industries in the Central Sahara" which presented new evidence on the cultural succession for the Tibesti area. Similarly a paper by J. C. Schneider on the relationships between fluctuations of the level of Lake Chad and prehistoric settlement was of great interest. Yves Coppens, having first excused himself for being a palaeontologist rather than an archaeologist, then proceeded to give a paper on the protohistoric and historic cultures of the Djourab which was in many ways a model of what the archaeological approach should be. G. Bailloud spoke of his prehistoric pottery sequence for Ennedi, and J. Courtin described the Neolithic of Borku.

For other areas of the Sahara and North Africa the papers included one by H. Hugot on the state of research work in the far west of Africa, one by G. de Beauchêne giving a description of his work in Niger, a discussion by H. Lhote of the Neolithic pastoralists of the Sahara and a redefinition of the Neolithic of Capsian tradition by Professor G. Camps. Hardened to the vicissitudes of fieldwork in the African continent as most of the participants were, all were agreed, however, that the most impressive paper from this point of view was that by Professor Th. Monod describing his discovery of a hoard consisting of the loads of a camel caravan which had some time in the past got into difficulty; its owners had buried their possessions and retreated, perhaps, to safety. This was at approximately 20° 17' N., 8° 33' W. in the Majâbat al-Koubrâ in the western Sahara. The cargo consisted of some 2,000 brass rods of 470 grams each, and a large number of shells (particularly Monetaria moneta) together with rope and packing material. Radiocarbon dates are now awaited for the latter. It seems that the caravan was on its way south from Morocco. When one considers that Professor Monod found this hoard some 18 days camel journey from the nearest water, and that he travelled to the place, excavated the hoard and removed it, all with no other transport than camels, one cannot do other than admire such a memorable piece of fieldwork. Until the radiocarbon dates are available it seems that the hoard might belong to any time between the 13th and 18th centuries. One needs scarcely to remark that dated evidence for the carrying of brass (and this has been analysed as such, being 79% copper and 19% zinc) across the Sahara would be of the greatest interest to those interested in the history of metalworking in West Africa.

The Guinea littoral and its hinterland also figured high in the subject matter of the papers. Professor Thurstan Shaw spoke of his excavation at the Iwo Eleru rock shelter in Western Nigeria, where a human skeleton found during the course of the work has now been dated to the 9th/10th millenium B.C. and is reported to have a skull with Bushman-like characteristics. The present writer discussed his field-work in Bornu from 1964 to 1966 with particular reference to his excavations at Daima mound. R. Nunoo described his excavations at Buruburo in the Ashanti region of Ghana, and Professor C. Coon outlined his excavation of Yengema Cave in Sierra Leone. In addition J. Gauthier spoke of his excavations at Ngoutchoumi in the Cameroun Republic.

Beyond the regions mentioned which formed the predominant subjects of papers the conference was much indebted to Professor Leclant for his descriptions of Meroitic and Ethiopian archaeology, and to Dr. M. Posnansky for his discussion of external culture contacts in the East African Iron Age. It was also much impressed by the labours of the "Société Préhistorique et Protohistorique Gabonaise" (consisting completely of amateur workers) which were described by B. Blankoff. This work, spread over five years and involving both fieldwork, excavations and publication, is a most stimulating achievement by people the greater part of whose time is taken up with earning their living in other ways.

Papers of more general significance were given by Professor L. Balout on the "Fiches typologiques africaines", by Professor Y. Rollando on the problem of the archaic Neanderthals, and by Professor Thurstan Shaw on the Freetown meeting in June 1966 of archaeologists working in West Africa.

In the course of general discussion, particularly with respect to the passing of the resolutions with which the conference closed, many matters were raised. One which seemed of great importance concerned the steps being taken to ensure the training of African nationals as archaeologists. One of the prevailing problems seemed to be that of interesting suitable people in taking up archaeology as a career, when in developing countries there is so much competition from the many other professions demanding candidates with university education. It was no good pushing into archaeology anyone who had no natural inclination towards work of this sort.

Other matters discussed included the need for intensified research in certain specified areas, for funds for detailed publication of excavation reports, for research into early trade beads, for funds for radiocarbon dating, and the necessity to develop palaeobotanical studies in Africa - for the mutual benefit of botany, forestry, and geology in addition to archaeology itself. The difficulty of obtaining funds or personnel to carry out emergency research excavation in

the Kainji Dam area of Nigeria prior to the flooding of numerous sites in the near future was also referred to. The English-speaking participants showed particular interest in the suggestion that a Pan-African archaeological professional association should be formed, although the French-speaking participants (operating in many cases direct from France) seemed to feel the need less.

The proceedings of the Conference are to be published, for which Professor Thurstan Shaw and Dr. Henri Hugot agreed to act as rapporteurs.

After the close of this conference, unique surely in having a special issue of Republic of Chad postage stamps printed in its honour, those participants who wished to go were flown by the Chad Air Force to visit sites in Tibesti in the Central Sahara. Those who were able to see this archaeologically important area would certainly wish their gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Chad to be put on record here.

Institute of African Studies

University of Ibadan

SECOND CONFERENCE OF WEST AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Ibadan, June 7th - 10th, 1967

First Circular:

At the meeting of West African archaeologists held in Freetown in June 1966, it was agreed to meet again in about twelve months time to discuss questions of terminology, preparatory to the holding of the Panafrican Congress on Prehistory and the Study of the Quarternary at Dakar in December 1967, and in the light of the Burg-Wartenstein Symposium of August 1965. (West African Archaeological Newsletter No. 5, pp. 53, 58, 64.)

It is now proposed to hold this Conference at the University of Ibadan from 7th to 10th June 1967. You are cordially invited to attend. It is hoped that it will be possible to accommodate participants in the University guest flats and to provide meals at the adjacent Senior Staff Club restaurant free of charge. Working sessions will be held in the Drapers Conference Hall of the Institute of African Studies.

The time for our discussions is limited, and therefore it is intended that the whole of the Conference shall be devoted to questions of terminology, unless there is time over at the end for other matters. In order to make the most of the time when participants are together, all contributions and papers will be duplicated beforehand, circulated and taken as read, so that almost the whole of session time can be devoted to discussion. Papers and contributions can be of any length - from a simple sentence making a worthwhile point to an exposition of 10,000 words. But they must be sent in by April 15th.

Communications on the subject of the Burg-Wartenstein recommendations can either suggest the way they should be applied to West African archaeology, if they are agreed with; or, if not, what modifications need to be made. It is hoped that at the end of the Conference it will be possible to compile a statement which can be carried forward to the Terminology session of the VI Panafrican Congress at Dakar.

January 1967.

Thurstan Shaw
Research Professor of Archaeology

NOTES AND APPEALS

Palaeontological Laboratory at Fort Lamy.

The Ministry of Education of the Government of the Republic of Tchad has created at Fort Lamy, within the Institut National Tchadien pour les Sciences Humaines, a Palaeontological Laboratory. Monsieur Yves Coppens has been appointed the first Director of this laboratory. It will be recalled that it was Monsieur and Madame Coppens who discovered the important hominid fossil named Tchadanthropus uxoris.

It is planned that the laboratory will become a base for expeditions and will house a workshop where work can be carried out upon materials collected and where casts can be made.

Résumé

Laboratoire paléontologique à Fort Lamy.

Le ministère de l'éducation du gouvernement de la République du Tchad a créé, à Fort Lamy, au sein de l'Institut National Tchadien pour les Sciences Humaines, un laboratoire paléontologique. Monsieur Yves Coppens a été nommé le premier directeur de ce laboratoire. On se rappellera que ce sont Monsieur et Madame Coppens qui découvrirent l'important fossile hominid appelé Tchadanthropus uxoris.

L'intention est que le laboratoire devienne une base pour des expéditions et contienne un atelier où l'on travaillera sur les matériaux des fouilles, et où des moules pourront être faits.

Radiocarbon Dating Lists

The Journal of African History publishes lists of radiocarbon dates for sub-Saharan Africa about every eighteen months. These have become a much consulted source of chronological information for archaeologists and historians and it is obviously desirable that they are as complete and up-to-date as possible.

I am finding considerable difficulty in obtaining details of new West African radiocarbon dates, and would be most grateful if archaeologists possessing new readings could make a practice of sending them for inclusion in the lists.

Dates are accompanied by a short comment of about 150 words, if possible written by the excavator of the sample. The idea is not so much to provide a detailed account of the dates, but merely a readily consulted record for general use.

To be eligible for the list, dates should not be older than 1000 B.C. They should be accompanied by a reference number.

The regular cooperation of West African archaeologists would greatly expedite the appearance of many new and important dates in the Journal's lists.

BRIAN M. FAGAN
Department of Anthropology
University of Illinois
Urbana,
Illinois 61801
U.S.A.

Résumé

Listes de dates obtenues par la méthode radio-carbone.

Il est à espérer que les archéologues possédant de nouvelles dates pour l'Afrique Occidentale, (obtenues par la méthode radio-carbone) voudront bien les envoyer au "Journal of African History" pour les faire publier. Les dates ne devront pas remonter à plus de 1000 ans avant J.C. et devront être accompagnées du numéro de référence, ainsi que d'un court commentaire d'environ 150 mots.

B. M. Fagan
Department of Anthropology
University of Illinois
Urbana,
Illinois 61801
U.S.A.

Pottery Grating Dishes

During excavations in the early part of 1966, at the early iron-smelting site at Taruga, Northern Nigeria, some distinctive potsherds were recovered *in situ* associated with Nok Culture figurines and iron-smelting remains. There appear to be fragments of shallow, sometimes oval, dishes decorated on the under side with curvilinear and straight parallel grooves, together with a foot ring in low relief (comparable to a modern saucer). The inner surfaces are deeply scored with grooves individually cut in a criss-cross pattern. (Figs. 1 and 2)

Somewhat similar dishes (though apparently not so well modelled or decorated) are made today in the Warri district of Southern Nigeria, in Ghana and in the N.E. Transvaal (J. F. Schofield, "Primitive Pottery", South African Archaeological Society Handbook No. 3, p. 179). In these three areas they are used as graters for peppers and vegetables or for grinding tobacco for snuff. (Fig. 3)

It would be most interesting to hear if anyone has seen similar pottery graters, either in a modern or an archaeological context.

Bernard Fagg
Department of Ethnology and Prehistory
University of Oxford
Pitt Rivers Museum
Parks Road, Oxford,
U.K.

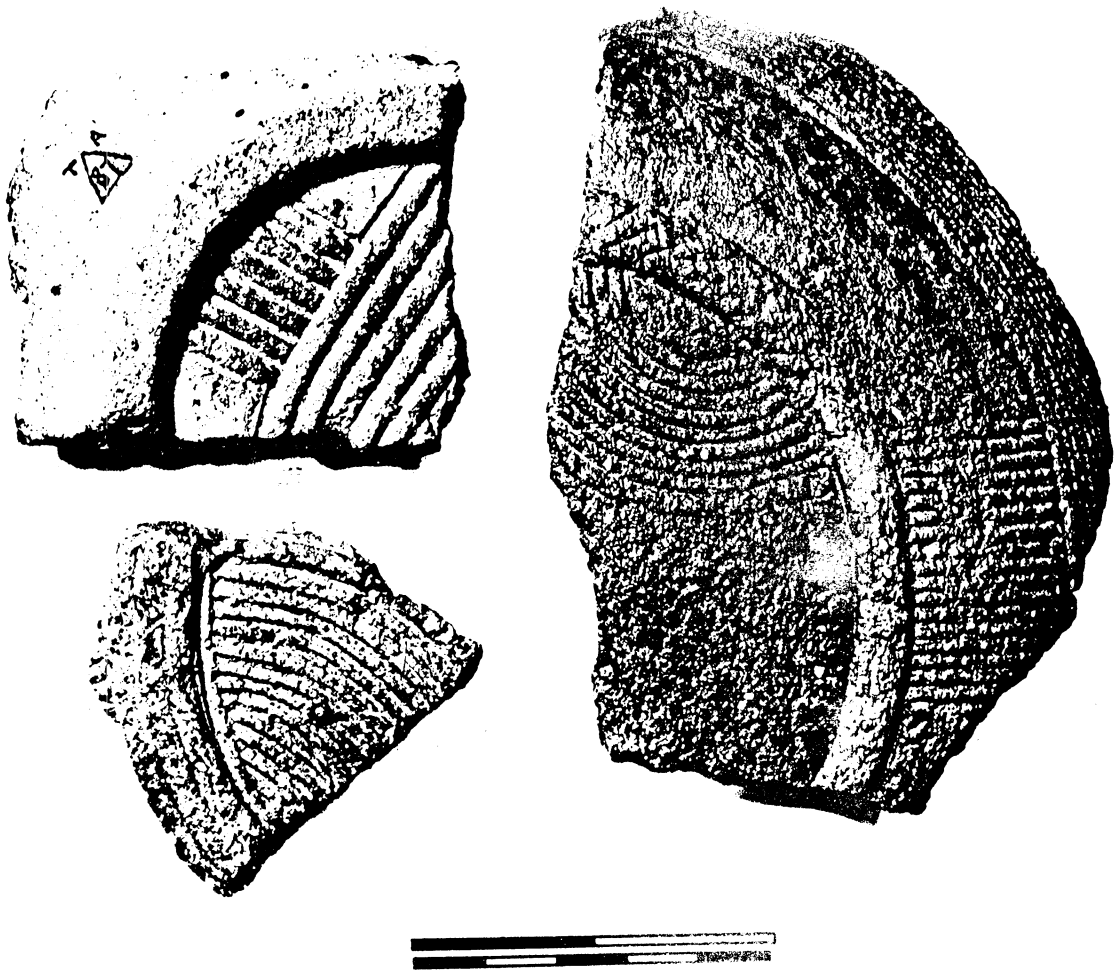


Fig. 1 - Pottery grater [illegible]
from Taruga.

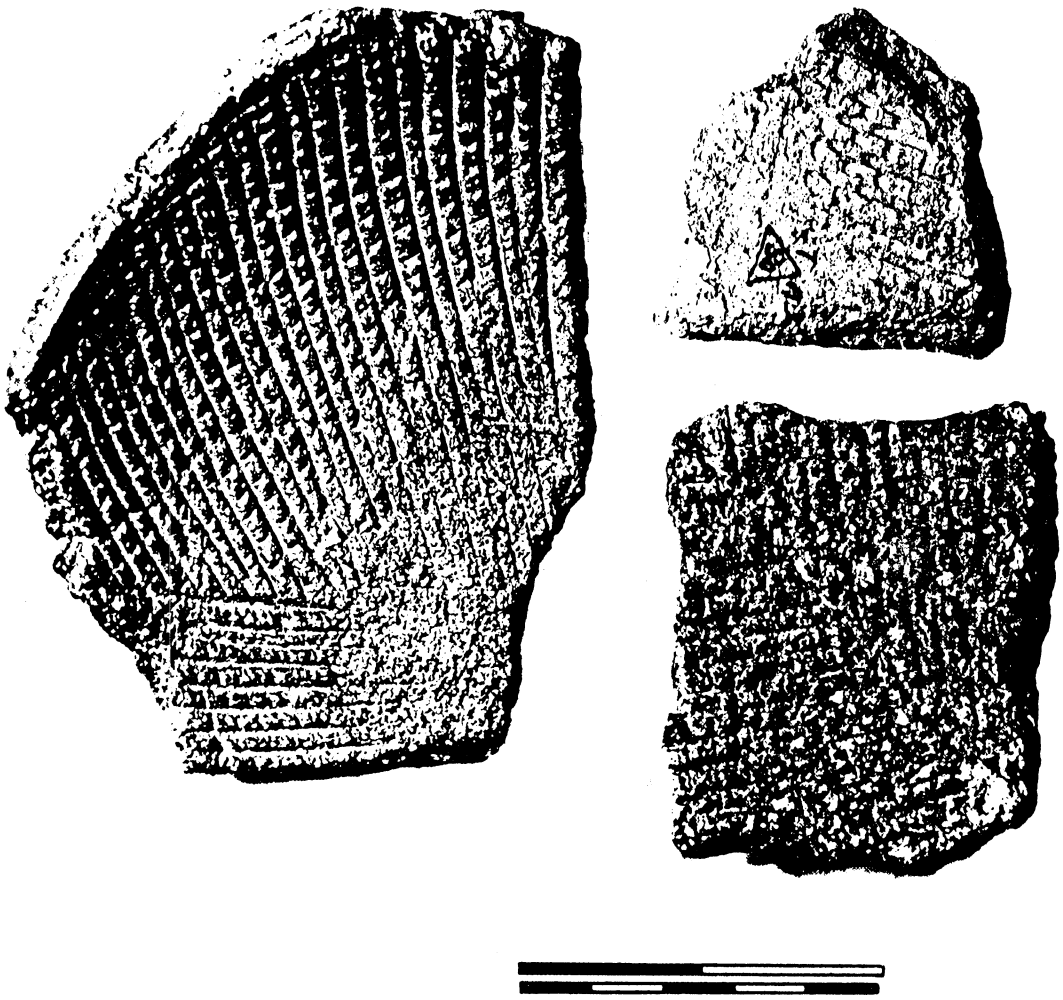


Fig. 2 - Pottery grater fragments from Taruga.

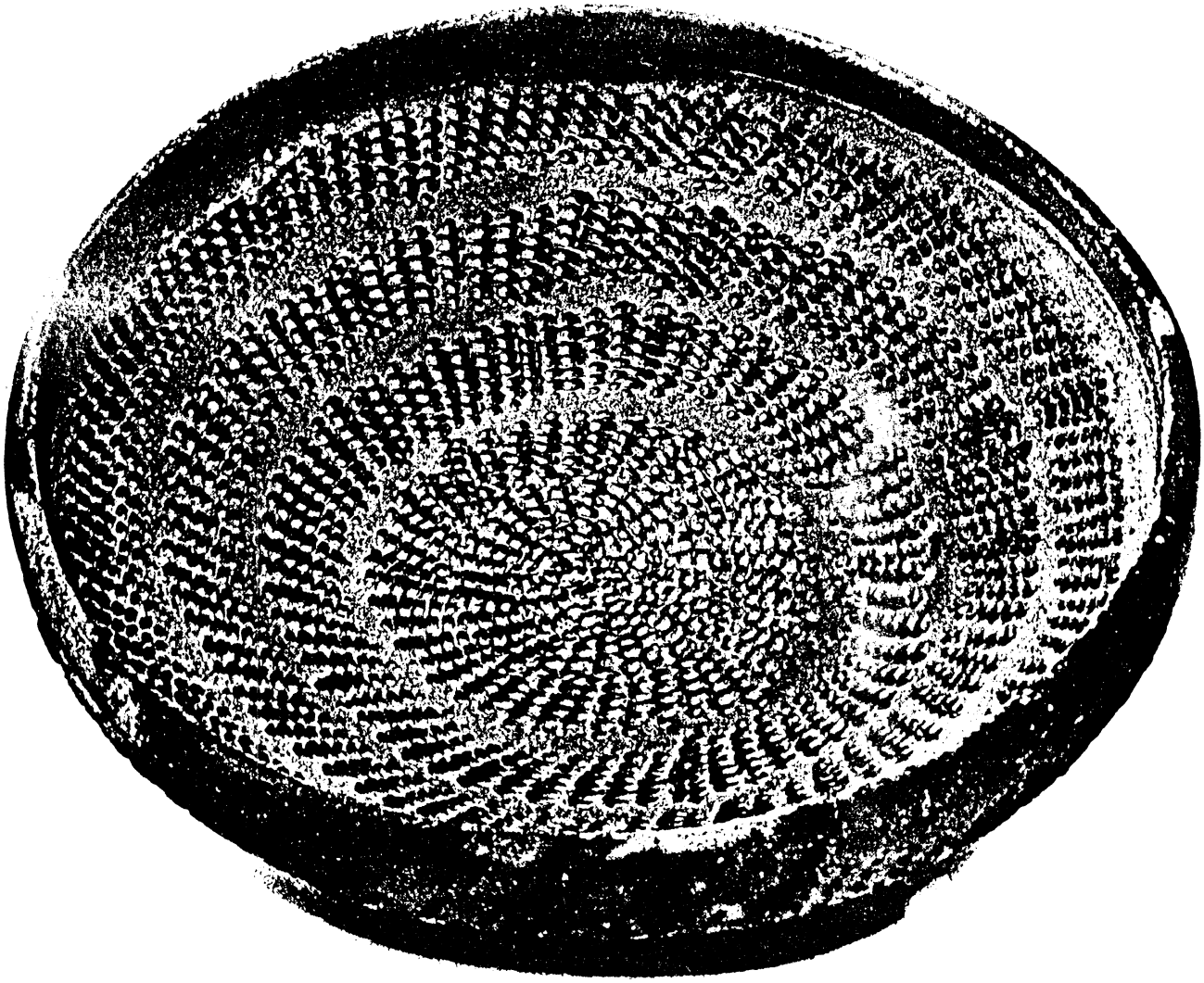


Fig. 5 - Pottery pitcher from Nigeria.

Grattoirs en céramique

Au cours des fouilles pratiquées au début de 1966 à Taruga, dans le Nord du Nigéria, sur un emplacement où très tôt l'on commença à fondre le fer, on a retrouvé, à proximité de figurines appartenant à la culture Nok, des fragments de poteries et des vestiges de la fonte du fer. Ces fragments semblent provenir de plats peu profonds, parfois ovales, décorés sur la surface inférieure de rainures droites et de rainures courbées, avec un cercle légèrement saillant, servant de pied (un peu comme une soucoupe moderne). Les surfaces intérieures sont profondément découpées par des rainures coupées individuellement en un dessin croisé.

Des plats quelque peu semblables (mais apparemment pas aussi bien formés ni décorés) sont fabriqués de nos jours dans la région de Warri, dans le Sud du Nigéria, au Ghana et dans le Nord-Est du Transvaal (J. F. Schofield, "Primitive Pottery", South African Archaeological Society Handbook No. 3, p. 179). Dans ces trois endroits on les utilise comme grattoirs pour les poivrons et les légumes, ou pour écraser du tabac à priser.

Nous aimerions savoir si quelqu'un a vu de semblables grattoirs en céramique, que ce soit dans un contexte moderne ou archéologique.

Bernard Fagg
Department of Ethnology and Prehistory
University of Oxford
Pitt Rivers Museum
Parks Road, Oxford,
U.K.