

Editorial

☞ The turn of the year in London saw three major archaeological exhibitions. Some of the Chinese terracotta army came on a second visit to Britain (they had already seen Scotland) for an exhibition put on as a commercial venture rather than by an academic institution. The British Museum had 'Glass of the Caesars', the dazzling show of Roman glass which started at the Corning Museum and goes from London to the Römisch-Germanisches Museum, Cologne, in April, and then to the Capitolini in Rome: its catalogue will be reviewed in the next issue.

At the Royal Academy was a very large exhibition, called 'Age of chivalry'. The name suggested knights and all the romantic apparatus of heraldry; but not a joust was visible, and not many coats of arms. The actual subject was in the sub-title, 'Art in Plantagenet England 1200–1400', and the strongest theme was religion and religious expression. (Perhaps chivalry sounds more attractive to sponsors than the unreasonable intensity of medieval religion.) Really it was an exhibition of Gothic art, mostly from England, the third of a cycle to go with Anglo-Saxon art (British Museum & British Library 1984–5) and Romanesque (Hayward Gallery 1984).

I was particularly struck by colour in the show, in the wall-paintings, for example, from St Stephen's Chapel, Westminster, 'the walls of which in the year 1800 . . . were swept away with a haste so barbarous, as scarcely to allow a moment to artists to endeavour to preserve them by copies'. (Fragments survived, and a water-colour drawing was made.) There was colour again in the manuscripts, in embroidery, the *Opus anglicanum* that England was famous for, and in the faintest traces on sculpture (we usually see Gothic buildings and statues, as we do classical sculpture, in the inappropriate state of naked stone). It was instructive to see side by side misericords from different churches that may have come from the same workshop, to look at stained glass and vault bosses close up, and to see how few we have of the craftsmen's tools. I liked very much the animal-heads set on the end of swirling lines of ironwork, like medieval portraits of the varieties of Bronto-

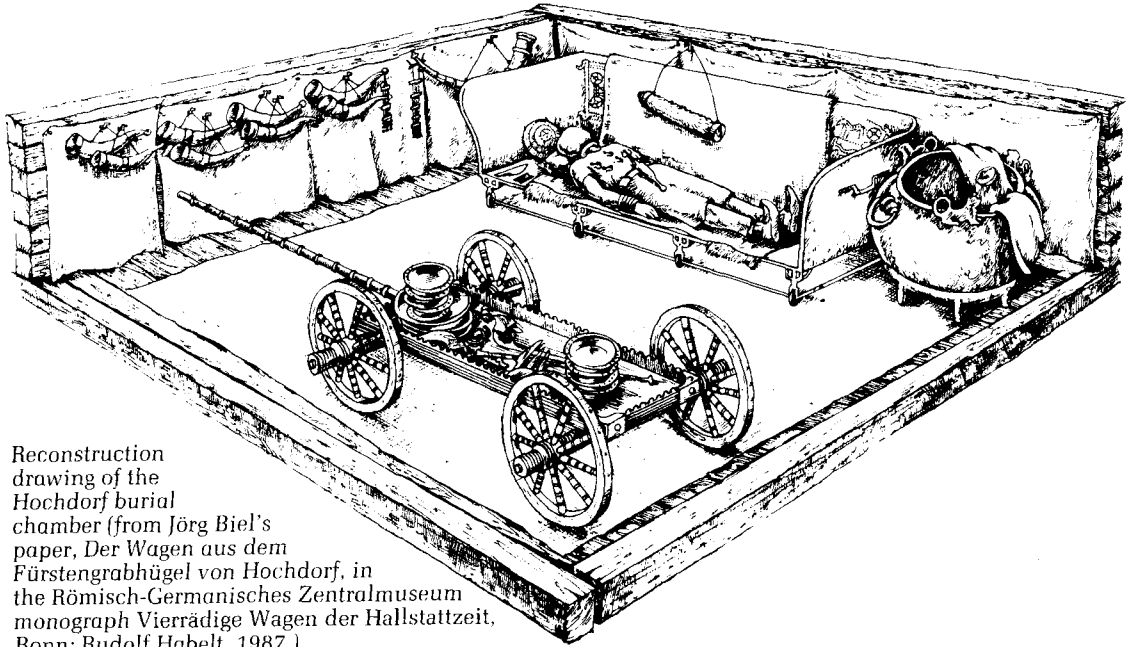
saurus, from a Yorkshire church door; and among the smaller things, the pilgrim badges, and John Aubrey's sketches, from *Chronologia Architectonica*, that are the first ordering of the sequence of Gothic styles.

Absences showed themselves, too: for reasons of past survival – Norwegian wooden sculptures, some still fully coloured, filled in for English wooden sculpture from the period that is lost; and for reasons of future survival – the Westminster Retable was too fragile to move from the Abbey.

Architecture is the major Gothic art-form, both in the reality and in what survives; there were many good architectural things in the exhibition, but how is one to display great buildings on any fair scale by means of photographs, drawings and those detached portions small enough to be portable?

Again there is an immense catalogue, preceded by 200 pages of illustrated essays, which ANTIQUITY will review.

☞ The Grand Palais, Paris, meanwhile, had a sumptuous exhibition, 'Trésors des princes Celtes', which centred on the great burial of Hochdorf near the *oppidum* of Hohenasperg, Stuttgart, that has been excavated and studied since 1978 by Dr Jorg Biel and his team at Stuttgart. The finds offer the full splendour of a chieftain's burial: the gold adornments on the deceased from the torc on his neck to the gold plates on his shoes; an iron-sheathed wagon with four 10-spoked wheels; a long bronze couch, decorated with warriors and dancers, and supported by eight figures of women on wheels, on which the chief's body lay. Also in the chamber were a bronze cauldron, with a capacity of 500 litres and a residue in the bottom that proved to derive from mead; on the walls were nine horns covered with sheet gold. The horns, the set of nine bronze plates in the waggon, the cauldron, and other domestic artefacts remind Dr Biel of heroic assemblies like the Round Table, as well as recalling the great feasts of Germanic and Nordic legend. The cauldron, of course, is related to the Mediterranean world. Residues from gold-, iron- and



Reconstruction drawing of the Hochdorf burial chamber (from Jörg Biel's paper, *Der Wagen aus dem Fürstengrabhügel von Hochdorf*, in the *Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum monograph Vierrädige Wagen der Hallstattzeit*, Bonn: Rudolf Habelt, 1987.)

bronze-working show that grave goods were made or altered on the spot and at the time of the burial, which Dr Biel dates to 550 BC. The exhibition and its catalogue, *Trésors des princes Celtes* (266 pages, many illustrations, 1987. Paris: Éditions de la Réunion des musées nationaux; ISBN 2-7118-2.148.X paperback 150F), focus on Hochdorf, but display material also from other great burials, like Vix and Klein Aspergle.

Worldwide Treasure Bureau, of Sunnyside Avenue, Visalia, California, invites us all to buy, with its no-risk order form, Roman coins at \$19.95 each – \$5 discount coupon attached, and less for multiple orders. The brochure explains:

These hoards of ancient Bronze coins have been lying secretly beneath the English countryside just waiting to be discovered for over 1600 years! Modern-day treasure hunters using state-of-the-art equipment have finally located and recovered some of them.

Have you ever found an old coin? Even if it was just a penny or nickel that you found in your pocket change, you know that it is kind of exciting. Imagine what it would be like to find a coin that was 16 centuries old! Well, that is exactly what these treasure hunters are doing in England, and their finds make these ancient coins available at such low prices that they are now affordable for all collectors!

We have just made an absolutely outstanding purchase, and we want to share our good fortune with our customers. We were given the opportunity to have the

first choice of a large number of bronze Roman coins which have been discovered by treasure hunters in England.

Finding a spare \$20 bill in ANTIQUITY's desk-drawer, I thought of writing for a coin with a naïve letter that would ask, with an attempt at sweet innocence, exactly which ancient site my coin had come from. But the bill was mislaid, and I realized the Treasure Bureau might not tell me, especially if ANTIQUITY's coin *did* come originally from a scheduled, legally protected site. How many coins, how many hoards are going to the likes of Sunnyside Avenue, Visalia, converted into haphazard curios from their real worth as further clues to some understanding of antiquity?

Single coins at \$20 a throw are one end of the market. The other end is represented by objects like the late medieval Middleham jewel, sold at Sotheby's last year for well over £1 million, and the early medieval Derrynaflan Chalice hoard, awarded to the metal-detector users who found it by the Republic of Ireland's High Court; the Court took note of auction-house opinion in valuing it at IR £5.5 million. No wonder that 'treasure-hunting hopefuls have descended upon the site – an old abbey – and systematically turned it upside down'. (The Supreme Court reversed the decision and awarded ownership to the State.) Ireland has particularly suffered from an antique scale of

penalties in its otherwise progressive legislation: last year the man who tried to sell an 8th-century cross, from the river Shannon near the monastic site of Clonmacnoise, was fined the maximum the legislation then allowed – just IR £10. His asking price, when trying to sell the cross to the Getty museum, had been \$1.5 million. (I suppose he went to the Getty because it is famous for having more money than it seems to know what to do with; it has become a place of first recourse when you find yourself with something artistic in your grasp that you want an awful lot of money for.) The new Irish antiquities law is, with reason, much tougher.


Martin Henig's paper, 'From the field to Bond Street: the pirates and their loot' (in H. Mytum & K. Waugh (ed.), *Rescue archaeology – what's next?*, York: University of York, 1987), identifies the dilemma and the underlying problem. Henig's own research speciality is Roman gemstones, and he is acutely aware that his own corpus of them has mainly been purchased by dealers and collectors; he fears that any and every catalogue of antiquities, whatever its academic ambition or worth, acts to stimulate the market. The problem lies ultimately in the rising cash value of antiquities; Geraldine Norman, who has reported the London art market for many years, remarks, 'the well-publicized sales of antiquities at Sotheby's and Christie's, with glossy catalogues and high prices, are a major encouragement to the *tombaroli*. They provide information on prices and demonstrate that there is a ready market.' And museums are often uncomfortably placed in this, as their combined functions of spectacle, show business and scholarship provide contrary impulses.

Meanwhile, one is aware of how many fields are already corrupted by looting. It is necessary to begin the special section on Maya decipherment in this issue with an account of how much has been lost – *all of it since 1965* – by treasure-hunting. The loot has ended up in respectable museums and in the collections of respected citizens. Some of the information, fragmented when stelae are chopped up and provenances hidden or forgotten, can be laboriously recovered.

Adovasio & Carlisle's paper in this issue addresses the shift in the centre of gravity within American archaeology, now that salvage work under the statutory 'CRM' provisions is

the context of most archaeological fieldwork in the USA. Contrast the scale of CRM funding, not infrequently running towards the million-dollar mark for a major project, with the research grants given for archaeology by the National Science Foundation, not one of which exceeded \$100,000 in the 1986 fiscal year. The Pittsburgh department is one of the larger CRM contractors, and its purchase of the Smithsonian Institution's radiocarbon lab is a sign of the American times. A sign of the times in Britain is the developer-funded salvage programme now in progress in Kent where the Channel Tunnel will make its environmental impact. The Eurotunnel company, dependent on small shareholders for some of its capital and controversially by-passing the public inquiry usual for a planned development of this scale, is particularly aware of its public relations. It adds to the fast growing number of British cases where the promoter of a development has taken financial responsibility for the archaeological consequences.

Salvage archaeology under a Federal framework in the United States is not new any more. It is more than 60 years since the first campaigns of rescue work, carried out in advance, especially, of reservoir construction under the Works Progress Administration during the New Deal years of the depression, as the photograph overleaf illustrates. No full account of that vital episode in American archaeology exists, although it was the major provider of systematic information for regional culture-histories; may one please be written, whilst some of the veterans of it can still be consulted in person?

 BANE, the new British Association for Near Eastern Archaeology, held a lively first meeting at Manchester in December. The audience of more than 100 heard short reports on current research in the Near East ranging from more Early Neolithic skulls to robes from the Ottoman court, interspersed with longer talks on the year's special topic, Urartu. (Note for the ignorant, of whom I was one: Urartu is the intriguing kingdom centred on Lake Van in eastern Turkey, but reaching across modern frontiers into Iran, Iraq and Soviet Armenia, which was a principal rival to the Assyrian Empire in the 9th–7th centuries BC.) The home team was represented by Charles Burney, David



Excavation of a large Late Mississippian (c. AD 1450) platform mound at the Bell site in eastern Tennessee (from the archive of the Frank H. McClung Museum, University of Tennessee, Knoxville).

The standard technique for excavating mounds at the time was to cut a series of slices away, moving the profile back by degrees. Lines marking the edge of stratigraphic units can be seen scribed into the section in the foreground.

Hawkins and John Curtis, and new results were presented from the field by three Turkish colleagues, A. Çilingiroğlu on burial customs in the region, V. Sevin on the westward expansion of the kingdom, and T. Tarhan on his work at the citadel at Van.

Dr Sevin's report on an Urartian highway attracted most comment. Over 5 m wide, it connected the Bingöl region with the Malatya plain to the west, and was easily traced in many places on the high ground where it is paralleled by the modern road. Complete with stations at intervals and a bridge emplacement, this is a worthy forerunner of the Achaemenid Royal Road. Contemporary Assyrian texts mention

'the king's road', but this is the earliest road on such a scale to be identified on the ground in the Near East.

BANEA's main function is to organize an annual meeting: 1988's is in Oxford, on 8–10 December. Proceedings will not be published, but there will be an Association newsletter.

Is there really a need for a new body like this, when most of the Near Eastern countries have a British School or Institute, each with its own journal and arrangements for major lectures? As the Manchester meeting showed, the point actually lies in their separateness; there are other, collective needs BANEA can meet. It gives younger scholars a chance to talk about

their work, and for their colleagues to hear of it; it provides a forum for airing new ideas and mentioning smaller projects; it is especially useful for countries like Cyprus and Syria which have no Institute; it crosses the frontiers between modern states; and it is intended to counteract the bias towards London, where all the School meetings are held.

Enquiries about BANEA and its newsletter: Dr J.E. Curtis, *Department of Western Asiatic Antiquities, British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG*; about the Oxford conference: Dr P.R.S. Moorey, *Ashmolean Museum, Oxford*.

☞ One of the banes (not BANEAs) of computer work, as you slowly construct a data-base structure, or a routine to explore this or that pattern in the data, is the knowledge that someone somewhere surely has put together just what you need – but you have no means of finding who they are. The same goes for databases, so here is mention of two that make available bodies of reference material.

The Bead Study Trust now has a computer-based catalogue for the European part of the Beck Collection, the major reference collection of beads in the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology & Ethnography. A version of the database will be printed out as a tabular record of all the information available for each bead, together with two microfiches, each with 60 colour frames, of illustrations, a biographical note on Beck and a bibliography. Microfiches are available now: £6 from Leo Biek, *Bead Study Trust, 58 Belsize Lane, London NW3 5AR*.

Surveyors working for the first edition of the Ordnance Survey, in the first decades of the 19th century, amassed and collected a great deal of varied topographical material – especially in Ireland, where the scale of their work in the 1830s was so conspicuously full that after a time they were reined in to a narrower compass. Until then, the surveyors were instructed to examine and record ancient monuments by enquiring of local inhabitants as well as drawing and describing visible antiquities; also to search out and question those owning ancient objects, such as crosses, coins and manuscripts; sometimes even to collect such objects for the Survey. Because of the importance of place-names for the Survey, 'Ancient Topography'

was a special concern, with the antiquarian George Petrie as consultant. Very few of the Survey's parish Memoirs, which are now in the Royal Irish Academy, have been published. The Institute of Irish Studies at Queen's, Belfast, is transcribing and indexing the complete Memoirs, which can now be searched by all significant words; counties Antrim, Armagh, Fermanagh, Monaghan and Tyrone are now available, and Donegal, Down and Londonderry will follow in the next year. Details from: Angélique Day, *Institute of Irish Studies, 8 Fitzwilliam Street, Belfast BT9 6AW*.

Culture & History is a new journal from the Center for Research in the Humanities, University of Copenhagen, publishing two numbers a year of about 100 pages each. It 'will be broad in scope, eclectic in its choice of subjects and viewpoints, fiercely interdisciplinary and willing to run the risk of making interesting mistakes'; like the Research Center, it is concerned particularly with establishing a dialogue between different academic traditions in that region where history, anthropology, and sometimes archaeology run into each other. I found issue 1 hard and worthwhile going; issues 2 and 3 are to look at relations between literacy and orality. The subscription for the first two issues is DKr 180: *Museum Tusulanum Press, University of Copenhagen, Njalsgade 94, DK-2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark*.

The *Journal of Prehistoric Religion* is edited by Paul Åström & Jan van Leuven. Åström, and his publishing house, are known for their publications on Mediterranean archaeology. So volume 1 has articles on two Aegean subjects, on inverted vases in Old World religion, and on André Leroi-Gourhan's work, plus notes on congresses and book reviews in its 64 pages. The annual subscription is \$15, 100 Crowns, or DM 28: *Paul Åströms Förlag, PL 425, Jonsreds Herrgård, S-43376 Partille, Sweden*.

The *Manchester Archaeological Bulletin*, published twice annually in duplicated form since 1987, provides a forum for archaeologists based at Manchester University and in north-west England generally: details and prices from *Department of Archaeology, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL*.

Not at all new, but filling an important and otherwise empty ecological niche in the subject's literature is the *Quarterly Review of Archaeology*. Published in the unusual format

of a 16-page tabloid newspaper, it prints only book reviews, eight or so to an issue and several thousand words long when they need to be: volume 8, number 3, for Fall 1987 covers topics in primate and human evolution, the Ordos-style bronzes of north China, prehistory of the eastern North American Arctic, physical anthropology in the USSR, recent research on El Niño (the periodic upsetting of the Pacific currents of the South American coast), zooarchaeology in New Mexico, recent research in dating methods, and the prehistory of arid north Africa. The annual subscription is \$12, plus \$4 for overseas airmail: *Quarterly Review of Archaeology*, 10 Liberty Street, Salem, MA 01970, USA.

🐼 The World Archaeological Congress, feeling its Southampton congress of 1986 was a success, has decided to establish itself as a continuing institution, and plans a second meeting in Venezuela in 1990. The congress is to have individual membership, which costs \$20; \$10 for students; \$100 for institutions. For further details or to join, write to: *Professor Peter Ucko, World Archaeological Congress, Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton, Southampton.*

The Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) held a first conference in Birmingham last Easter; it went well, and so did the annual TAG meeting held at Bradford in December. Together, they make a good and complementary pair of British general conferences. The IFA is British-specific, concerned especially with current fieldwork, and with its role as the subject's professional institute. TAG is international, concerned especially with new research and more theoretical issues. This year's IFA conference is at Birmingham on 18–20 April, and costs £37 for non-members; for details: *Steve Wells, IFA, Minerals Engineering Building, University of Birmingham, PO Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT.* This year's TAG will be just before Christmas, probably in Sheffield; details available later.

A casualty, perhaps, of so much other conferencing and congressing is the usual Prehistoric Society spring conference, which is not to take place this year.

🐼 This beguiling picture of *Dodo britannicus* (cheerful, stupid and doomed?) comes from the cover of *The heritage industry*, Robert Hewi-

son's vigorous polemic about 'Britain in a climate of decline' in which economic uncertainties and cultural convulsions have led to a creeping takeover by the past. Peter Fowler noticed in our last issue (*ANTIQUITY* 61 (1987): 409–15) the narrow economics by which value is given to the heritage. Hewison dislikes all that the word 'heritage' is coming to stand for, not an understanding of any real past, but a cosy, nostalgic never-never land in which everything from speculative office buildings to junk-food snacks can be blessed by the façade of 'period' appearance:

I criticise the heritage industry not simply because so many of its products are fantasies of a world that never was; not simply because at a deeper level it involves the preservation, indeed reassertion, of social values that the democratic progress of the twentieth century seemed to be doing away with, but because, far from ameliorating the climate of decline, it is actually worsening it. If the only new thing we have to offer is an improved version of the past, then today can only be inferior to yesterday.

The cult of the English country-house is a particularly striking example, especially for the conflation of interest in the stately home as an object with respect for the social structures and values that went with it, 'hierarchy, a sturdy individualism on the part of their owners, privilege tempered by social duty, a deference and respect for social order on the part of those who service and support them'. Or, in the words of Mrs C.F. Alexander that the Church of England used to sing:

The rich man in his castle,
The poor man at his gate;
God made them high or lowly,
And order'd their estate.

For a different opinion of the history and values of English landowners, see Williamson and Bellamy's *Property and landscape*, reviewed in this issue (page 186).

Oxford: the buried city, by Tom Hassall, is certainly about a real past that really was. Its 48 pages give an essay-length account, with good pictures, of the structures of the city as they were made from Saxon times to the English Civil War, as 20 years of work by the Oxford Archaeological Unit has uncovered them. Recommended as a model account of what urban archaeology finds out (1987; Oxford:



Dodo Britannicus by Chris Orr, cover illustration to Robert Hewison's book, *The heritage industry*.

Oxford Archaeological Unit; ISBN 0-904220-09-5 paperback), £2.95, or £3.25 by post: Oxford Archaeological Unit, 46 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford OX1 2EP.

Another new archaeology book to mention here: *The social history of the machine-gun* by John Ellis (first published 1975, reissued 1987, London: Cresset; ISBN 0-09-173145-3 paperback) runs from Gatlings and Maxims in the American Civil War to Thompsons in the St Valentine's Day Massacre. Why is it an archaeology book? Not for the particulars of the story, or Ellis's way of telling them, but because it is the story of an artefact, invented by human beings

for a specific (rational?) purpose, which then turns back on the society that made it, and contributes to its further changes. With this artefact came new ways of killing people, new attitudes to killing people – the social and cultural values that the artefact imposed on its makers and users.

1987–8 is the Diamond Jubilee year of the Edinburgh Department of Archaeology, for it is now 60 years since Vere Gordon Childe arrived as first Abercromby Professor – holder of the senior chair of prehistoric archaeology in Britain. Like Oxford, Edinburgh has had three

professors: Childe until he moved south to London; Stuart Piggott from 1946 (who was elected while finishing his first degree) until 1977; and Dennis Harding since then. There is a special exhibition in the university library until the end of April, and other junketings. The Edinburgh department, which runs a four-year undergraduate course rather than the three years usual in England and Wales, is particularly keen on offering a good range of field training and sight of a wide intellectual tradition in archaeology.

Next academic year sees the start of an MSc. course in Cultural Resource Management at Edinburgh. Another new venture is a research centre near the Callanish stone circle, in the Western Isles, intended as the base for fieldwork and experimental agriculture in an environment very different from the soft southern chalklands where most ancient agriculture has been replicated.

Perhaps lost, perhaps found, perhaps whereabouts unknown, is the head of the Egyptologist Sir Flinders Petrie. The rest of Petrie is safely buried in Jerusalem, where he died in 1942, aged 89. His head, by his own wish, was removed and returned to England for the purposes of scientific research. And there is a head in a preserving jar in the London collection of the Royal College of Surgeons – a head which is curiously youthful in appearance for a man of those years and which has dark hair. Late photographs of Petrie show him, reasonably enough for his age, with white hair. Elizabeth Allen, curator of the RCS collection, commented, 'I know you can get rather odd changes when you preserve biological material, but hair does not darken. There is obviously some considerable doubt about whether it is the head.'

What puzzles me is a different matter: why should part of Petrie, tireless excavator of Egyptian burials (and inventor of seriation as a means to order their sequence), have been

pickled? Surely mummification was much more in keeping with his profession, and a label sewn on to a mummified head, rather than pasted to a bottle, is so much more securely attached to the thing it identifies.

This autumn Norman Hammond, one of ANTIQUITY's advisory editors, becomes professor of archaeology at Boston University. The Boston department is unusual in North America for being a Department of Archaeology, rather than a group of archaeologists within an integrated department of anthropology (like the Sheffield department in England, it has grown out of a base in classics and classical archaeology). Under James Wiseman's direction, it has been growing rapidly: by 1992 it will have 14 full-time posts teaching both Old and New World archaeology, and there are also active (and collaborating) archaeology programmes near by at Harvard and MIT.

Corrections

The November 1987 issue had far too many misprints, partly the result of a bug somewhere in our electronics. We apologize, especially to those contributors whose words lost or found extra letters, and are trying to kill the bug for this issue.

In Cramp & Daniels' paper, New finds from the Anglo-Saxon monastery at Hartlepool, Cleveland (ANTIQUITY 61: 424–32), FIGURES 2, 4 and 5 were swapped about:

The drawing at the top of page 426, called FIGURE 2, is actually of Building XIV.

The drawing at the top of page 427, called FIGURE 4, is actually of Building IX.

The photograph at the bottom of page 427, called FIGURE 5, is actually of Buildings VIII/X.

And I did not do my African homework properly. Jos (ANTIQUITY 61: 362) was not the first public museum in British West Africa, though it was one of the earlier ones. Depending on just what 'open to the public' means, credit is due either to the Esie museum, initiated by Kenneth Murray, or to Achimota College Museum, of which Thurstan Shaw was curator from 1937.

CHRISTOPHER CHIPPINDALE