

The Museum of Antiquities

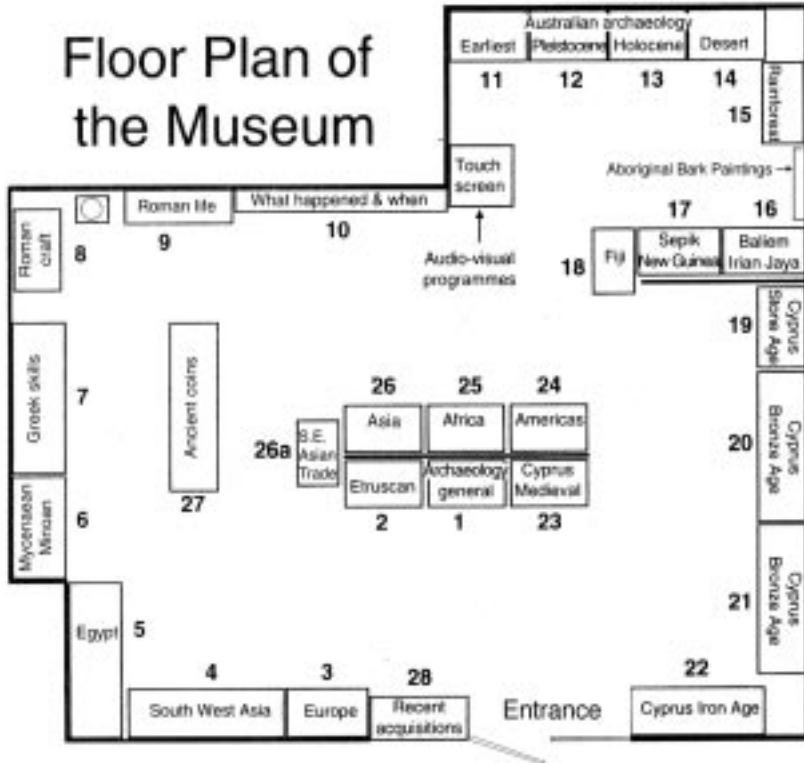


A guide to the displays



Welcome to the Museum of Antiquities

The Museum began in 1959 as part of the Department of Classics and consisted of two cases with Iron Age pottery from Cyprus as the first major display. In 1961 the Museum had its own room in what is now the Oorala Centre when Classics moved to this location. At this time the Museum received an ancient coin collection and further Cypriot material. An Aboriginal collection was added in 1967 and a new location was developed in the New Faculty of Arts Building with two rooms on the first floor. As a Bicentennial Year Project in 1988 the Museum moved to its present purpose-built location. There has been a steady increase in the number of artefacts over the years as a result of purchases and donations, particularly of the Woite and Stewart Collections.



Case 1

Archaeology

Archaeology studies things made by people of the past, in an attempt to understand the way they lived. This display traces the process by which archaeological evidence is acquired and studied by archaeologists. The varied nature of that evidence is explained and details are given of how that evidence is dated and interpreted in order to throw light on past human behaviour. At the bottom of the case some information is provided about archaeology in Australia, in response to the common belief that there is none. Although the display consists mainly of photographs and drawings, it also contains a sample-column from a prehistoric shell midden on the New South Wales Coast and a selection of objects from Egyptian, South West Asian, New Guinea and Australian sites.

Case 10

What Happened and When

'What Happened and When' is a comparative chronology of the cultural evolution of the human race in the major land masses of the world. The display starts at the bottom of the lefthand side, with the evolutionary associations of the Australopithecines leading to *Homo habilis* and *Homo erectus*, the latter moving out of Africa into Europe and Asia. From the *Homo erectus* stem evolved *Homo sapiens* (archaic) and from this form two lines evolved, ie. *Homo sapiens* (Neanderthal) and *Homo sapiens* (modern), the former found in Africa, South West Asia and Europe but replaced by the latter about 30,000 years ago. Between 30,000 years ago and 12,000 years ago *Homo sapiens* (modern) spread out to occupy the various major land masses and many islands (with the exception of Antarctica) and developed into the various races past and present. Some of the material cultural differences of the world are also indicated, starting about 9000 B.C. and moving up to the top of the left display. These continue up to A.D. 1800. For example, Pyramid building was at its height in Egypt about 2700 B.C. but is not found in Middle America until A.D. 800.

Mediterranean Civilizations

Case 2

The Etruscans



Terracotta head

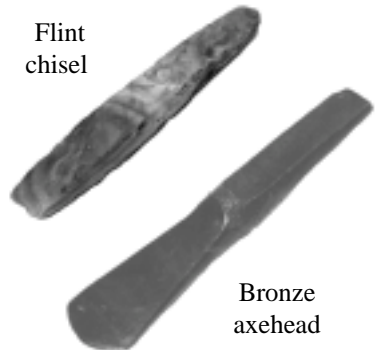
There are many puzzles surrounding the Etruscans, including their place of origin. They were at their most prominent between 700 and 500 B.C., comprising a loose federation of agricultural, seafaring and commercial cities in north-western Italy. Most knowledge of this lively culture comes from frescoes and artefacts found in their elaborate rock-cut tombs, often clustered in large numbers. The cutaway model in this display with the sculptures of a man and woman, is characteristic of tombs about 400 B.C. Great technical competence and vigour rather than brilliant artistry is seen in the typical 'Black Pottery', painted terracotta head and bronze fibula. The Etruscans merit attention in their own right, but it is their influence upon the Romans which is best remembered. Examples here are the introduction of the arch and barrel vault, chariot racing, gladiatorial contests, use of symbols of authority (the *fascies*) and the use of omens in the administration of the state.

Case 3

European Prehistory

The idea of prehistory first developed in Europe during the nineteenth century. It was there that a Dane, Christian J. Thomson, thought up the 3-Age System: the idea of dividing prehistoric time into a Stone Age, a Bronze Age, and an Iron Age. This system was based on the material of which tools and weapons were made at different times. Subsequent archaeological research subdivided these main ages and modern archaeologists have largely abandoned the terms because they can now use radiocarbon and other dating methods that give approximate dates in years. Nevertheless, the 3-Age System was an important step in the development of prehistoric archaeological studies.

Flint
chisel



Bronze
axehead

Case 4

South West Asia , 7000 B.C. to A.D. 400

South-West Asia, long known to Europeans as 'The Near East'. is the area bounded by the eastern Mediterranean, the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf, and the Red Sea. This was the location of major developments of human culture before and during the period covered by this display. The first domestication of sheep and goats occurred here, as also the first domestication of wheat and barley. These developments of a food-producing economy, or farming as it is more commonly known, were the achievements of people who were still making tools of stone.

As time went on, however, the area became the scene of some of the world's earliest examples of metallurgy, particularly in copper and its alloys. Following these economic and technological developments, South-West Asia was also the location of the oldest of human civilizations, that of the Sumerians who developed the first form of writing. The area continued to play a major role in human history, through a succession of major empires and kingdoms, until parts of it were incorporated into the Roman Empire, and subsequently it became the heartland of the Islamic World.



Cuneiform envelope & tablet



Yortan ware jar



Luristan
bronze axe



Limestone stele

Case 5

Ancient Egypt

Egypt of the Pharaohs was remarkable for its cultural continuity for some 3000 years. Its literate civilization flourished from about 3100 BC till 30 BC in the lands irrigated by the River Nile. A strong belief in life after death led to the construction of elaborate burial places such as the Pyramids and underground tombs, like that of the Pharaoh Tutankhamen. The daily life of this agriculturally-based society was a rich and varied one of which this display gives a general impression. It consists largely of photographs, diagrams and models, as well as two modern reproduction papyri with hieroglyphic writing but there are also examples of ancient pottery and jewellery, two original inscriptions, shabtis and a mummy's foot.

Case 6

Minoan Crete and Mycenaean Greece

The Minoan Civilization, which is named after the legendary king of Crete, Minos, flourished from about 2000 to about 1500 B.C. The most notable remains of this culture consist of palaces at Knossos, Phaistos, Mallia and Zakro. The palace at Knossos was reconstructed largely under the direction of Sir Arthur Evans, and a cutaway model can be seen in the display case. This palace featured magnificent wall paintings which have been restored from fragments discovered in the excavations. Also to be noted are the characteristic Minoan columns which taper downward and the 'horns of consecration', which stand like battlements around the roofs and terraces of the palace. In the Museum's collection there is only a stone bowl (1750 B.C.) and an Early Iron Age juglet (950 B.C.). The Mycenaean period is named after the citadel of Mycenae in the northeastern Peloponnese. From here the legendary King Agamemnon is believed to have set forth for his invasion of Troy. The rich finds from the shaft graves in the burial circles of the citadel are dated from about 1600 to 1500 B.C. From about 1500 B.C. the wealthy Mycenaeans began to bury their dead in *tholoi*, or 'beehive' tombs of which a model can be seen in the display case.



Minoan stone bowl



Mycenaean terracotta animal

Case 7

The Skills of the Ancient Greeks

The skills represented in this display case consist predominantly of the work of the potter, but they feature also work in bronze, lead and ivory. They cover a time-span from the late Geometric period, about 750 B.C., to the Roman Imperial Period, as late as A.D. 350.

The earliest pottery in this collection is late Attic Geometric of about 750 B.C., followed by Corinthian black-figure ware, which dominated trade in fine ceramics during the first half of the 6th century B.C. It is important to understand that pottery of this quality was valued as a luxury, and that the popularity of Corinthian vases may not indicate that Corinth controlled trade in any other commodities, such as olive oil, grain or wine. Corinthian pottery yielded in popular choice to Attic black figure ware in the late 6th century, and in the 5th century B.C. Athenian potters began to make the red-figure vases, which represent the highest achievement in vase painting. The masterpiece in this collection is the Attic kylix representing two men engaged in conversation or perhaps a courtship (about 450 B.C.).



Skyphos



Kylix

The red-figure pottery continued in the 4th century B.C., but the pictures declined in quality. The examples from this period come from South Italian cities, which the older Greek states of the eastern Mediterranean had founded as colonies in the 8th and 7th centuries B.C.

The labels bear the names of various types of pots in the language of Ancient Greece, and it is useful to have translations. The *lekythos* was an oil-flask for olive oil, which was rubbed into the body after exercise. The beautiful white-ground *lekythos* in the display case was a special type buried with the dead. There also are various perfume bottles, all with small mouths, like the modern variety, to preserve the precious contents. They include the *aryballos* and *alabastron*, both globular oil-flasks, the latter often made of alabaster. In addition there are fusi-form *unguentaria*, sometimes called tear-vases from the mistaken belief that they held the tears of the mourners because they are found buried with the dead. There are also drinking vessels, the *skyphos*, a cup used by peasants, and the *kylix*, a more elegant wine cup. The *krater* was a bowl in which wine was mixed with water (the ancient Greeks and Romans seldom drank wine neat), and the *kyathos* was a ladle for drawing wine out of a *krater*. The *oenochoe* was a wine jug, sometimes having a trefoil mouth ('three-leaved' like the clover), a useful shape for pouring. The *hydria* held water. Another small jug for general use was the *pelike*, while the *amphora*, a name which indicates it has handles on both sides, was a large pot for storage. A number of miniature pots have been found, of which there are examples in the display case, and these are designated by the diminutive form of the name of their larger counterpart: for example, *amphoriskos* is a name given to a small *amphora*. In some instances these small pots are thought to have been toys, in others replicas of vases offered to the gods.



Aryballos



Alabastron



Oenochoe



Lekythos



Pelike



Krater



Hydria



Amphora

(example shown not in UNEMA collection)

Case 8

Roman Arts and Crafts

Although the influence of Greece is apparent in most of the arts and crafts of the Romans, it combined with influences from other cultures, and with the technology and robust creativity of the Romans themselves, to generate a range of arts and of crafts that clearly expressed the complex society which the Roman Empire had become.

Pottery on display here reflects particularly clearly the Romans' conquest of Greek cities in southern Italy as early as the 7th century B.C., which brought skilled Greek craftsmen to Rome. The conquest of mainland Greece in the 2nd and 1st centuries B.C. continued the Romans' exposure to the artistic excellence that that culture had attained.

The making of glassware was a feature of Roman crafts, as the series of pieces on display illustrates. Examples range from the relatively common perfume jars recovered from Pompeii to the exquisite small jug and bowl from the 3rd and 4th centuries A.D.



Glass juglet



Roman bronze stylus 2nd cent. A.D.



Small lamp



Bronze figurine

Case 9

Daily Life in Ancient Rome

The conquest and rule of the Mediterranean world and beyond brought the Romans into contact with other peoples and created a need for an organization capable of maintaining supremacy over them. Items such as those on display in this and the previous case, together with well preserved remains (e.g. architecture), combine with an extensive body of literary evidence to provide excellent insight into the ways of living of people in the Roman world.

Extensive trading and communication networks benefitted from centuries of relative stability, enabling the Empire's resources to be tapped and to serve the demands of the dominant power. Life in Rome for the wealthier classes, as reflected in the items in this case, was probably quite luxurious. Bronze cooking implements would have been used to prepare varied meals in wealthier homes, and the instruments of the surgeon, little different from their modern counterparts, point to a high level of medical sophistication. This existed, paradoxically, alongside a religious system that gave sway over many matters to one of their rich pantheon of gods. Domestic accommodation varied from the atrium (courtyard) style of house shown in this display to the often dangerous wooden tenements of several stories that were home to the lower-class Romans.

Australian Archaeology

The next three cases illustrate the Australian cultural sequence from its beginnings in island South East Asia to the European contact period.

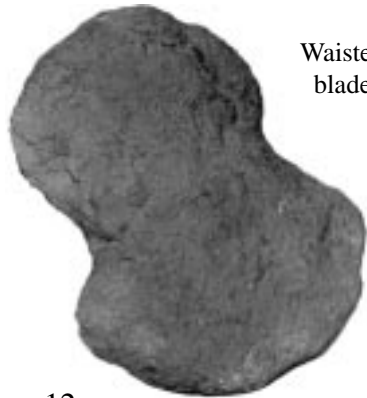
Case 11

The Earliest Australians

This display shows material from central Java, which was first occupied by populations of *Homo erectus* about 1 million years ago. Although evidence is sketchy, it suggests that Australia's first human inhabitants probably migrated to Australia via the Indonesian Archipelago but are unlikely to have evolved from Indonesian *Homo erectus*.



Grooved axehead



Waisted
blade

Case 12

Pleistocene

This display illustrates aspects of Australian Aboriginal life from the time Australia was colonised, about 55,000 years ago, until the end of the last Ice Age, 10,000 years ago. Included are a range of artefacts made from stone and other materials and illustrations of rock art of the period. The first Australians shared the continent with a range of large animals now extinct, known as megafauna. Bone fragments from some of these animals are also on display. It is uncertain whether Aboriginal hunting and firing or environmental changes were the cause of their extinction.

Case 13

Holocene

This deals with changes that occurred in Aboriginal society from about 4,000 years ago to the period of European and Macassan contact. During this time there were substantial changes in stone artefact technology and food getting. These appear to be associated with a major increase in the Aboriginal population. The European contact period was marked by many other developments (e.g. use of metal, glass and tobacco pipes) but also saw the drastic reduction of Aboriginal populations.



King plate



Stone bifacial
point

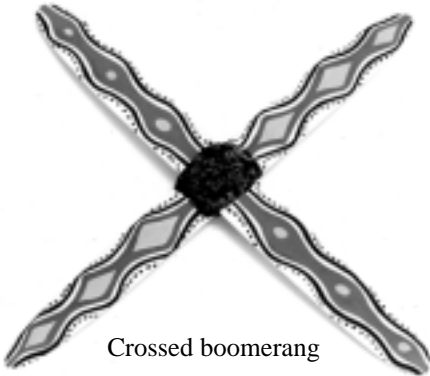


Glass
'Kimberley' point

Case 14

Desert Culture

This case is one of two illustrating the cultural diversity of Australian Aboriginal life. It depicts aspects of Aboriginal life in the desert regions. A range of tools and weapons is included (e.g. shields and boomerangs). Many of these implements were multipurpose.



Crossed boomerang



Knife



Hafted
gouge

Case 15

Rainforest Culture

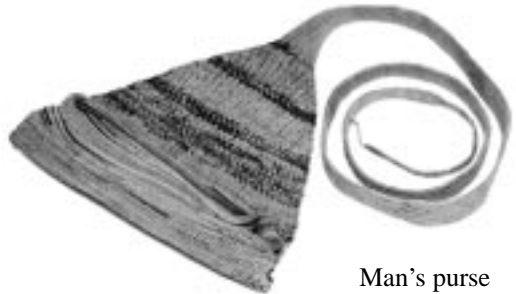
This illustrates aspects of Aboriginal life in the rainforest area of north east Queensland. The range of material culture, plus information on economic activities, provides a marked contrast to the Desert Culture display. Note the difference in weapon types, shields, spear-throwers and basketry.

Irian Jaya and New Guinea

Case 16

Baliem Valley Culture

This display concerns the Dani people, who occupy the Baliem Valley in the highlands of Irian Jaya. The display includes information on settlement type, the horticultural economy, warfare, and the effects of outside contact.



Man's purse



Bowl for mixing pigments & paint

Case 17

Sepik River Culture

People of the Sepik River region on the north coast of New Guinea are renowned for the richness of their decorative arts. This display includes a number of decorated items from the Sepik (e.g. pots, carvings, ornaments). It also includes information on local food staples, warfare and exchange.

Between cases 15 and 16

Aboriginal Bark Paintings

Painted by Peter Banjurljurl, of the
Tribe Burada (Murungan), in 1968.
Arnhem Land, Northern Territory.



“All the goannas are coming
and going out of the hole in
a hollow tree. A man and
wife with a dilly bag on her
head are looking at the tree.”

Painted by Mick Magani of the
Tribe Djinang, in 1968.
Arnhem Land, Northern Territory.



“At Man-jing-arra the snake
Jak-marrarra lives, and two
milk snakes with poisonous
tails walk about with a frog,
kangaroo and a small bird.”

The Pacific

Case 18

Aspects of Fijian Culture

Fiji comprises a cluster of over 300 islands on the boundary between Melanesia and Polynesia in the Pacific.

This display includes a number of Fijian tools, weapons and ornaments. It also provides information on Fijian geography, prehistory and history. The islands were first settled by people using a distinctive pottery, Lapita, about 3,300 years ago. Since that time many cultural changes have occurred, including the appearance of a different pottery tradition.

The making of tapa cloth and the drink kava or yangona is characteristic of this region.



Throwing club

Whale tooth pendant

Cypriot Archaeology

Case 19

Cyprus: The Stone Age

This case contains the oldest Cypriot material from the J.R. Stewart Collection and is the first display in a series covering the Stone Age, Early Bronze Age, Middle and Late Bronze Age, Iron Age and the Roman period in Cyprus.

The display starts at the bottom with the first colonists in the Neolithic I period, which is characterized by the use of stone implements, agriculture, domesticated animals and hunting. The Neolithic II period is characterized by the addition of pottery to the above culture. In Cyprus there was a gap of about 1500 years between the above two periods, suggesting the Neolithic II or Sotira Culture may have started with a new colonization. The Chalcolithic period saw further cultural changes with new pottery styles and the first appearance of metal implements. The transition from this period to the Early Bronze Age is a shadowy one.



Stone axe



Broken stone bowl

Case 20

Cyprus: The Early Bronze Age

The Early Bronze Age is divided into three phases: Early Cypriot I (2500 B.C.-2075 B.C.), Early Cypriot II (2075 B.C.-2000 B.C.), and Early Cypriot III (2000 B.C.-1900 B.C.). This was the period on which Professor J.R. Stewart did most of his excavation work which was later published in the Swedish Cyprus Expedition reports of 1962. The period is characterized by an increase in population with colonists from Anatolia introducing new pottery forms and more advanced metal technology. However, the range of bronze tools and weapons remained limited and the technology of manufacture relatively basic. The economy of the island was essentially agricultural and the mining and trading of copper was not yet playing a major role. The characteristic pottery was Red Polished Ware, which was undecorated or incised in the EC I, but became more decorated with a greater variety of form in the EC II and EC III. A second style, known as Black Polished Ware, also came into regular use towards the end of the period. No Cypriot Bronze Age objects have been found outside of Cyprus and only a few objects from Crete and Egypt in the EC III phase indicate a little outside trade. Cyprus was clearly relatively isolated in this period.



Composite juglet



Bronze axe



String-hole jug

Case 21

Cyprus: The Middle Bronze Age

The Middle Bronze Age, or Middle Cypriot, follows in an unbroken sequence from the Early Cypriot Bronze Age and its beginning is defined by the appearance of White Painted II Ware. The period is divided into three phases, each lasting about 100 years. The island was widely inhabited but suffered internal conflicts, the result of enmity between the west which controlled the copper and the east that had the good arable land. Foreign relations developed in MC II, with copper the main export, but by MC III the centres Lapethos and Kalopsidha had declined in importance and the harbour town of Enkomi became the major port for trade. The characteristic pottery of Middle Cypriot is Red Polished and Black Polished Ware, particularly in MC I, along with White Painted, Red-on-Black, Red-on-Red, and Black Slip Wares appearing in the other phases.

Case 21

Cyprus:

The Late Bronze Age

The Late Bronze Age, or Late Cypriot, is also divided into three phases, each of about 200 years, and it was in this period that complete cultural uniformity was achieved in the island. There was increasing prosperity due to the export of copper and pottery along with a great expansion in the population due in part to the immigration of Mycenaeans from Greece. These people brought new techniques and this can be seen in the silver, gold and bronze artefacts: particularly burial ornaments, jewellery and ornamental bowls. The chief local pottery of the Late, Cypriot period was White Slip Ware with painted black or brown decoration and Base Ring Ware, with Bucchero Ware being introduced from the west at the end of the period.



White-slip jug

Case 22

Cyprus:

The Iron Age and Roman Period

The Iron Age in Cyprus started with the Cypro-Geometric Period (1050-750 B.C.), which saw a cultural decline from the Late Bronze Age due to wandering raiders causing trade disruptions. The period was characterized by the use of iron, and increasing Cypriot features in the pottery styles with geometric motifs on White Painted Ware, Black-on-Red Ware and Bichrome Ware. The Cypro-Archaic Period (750-474 B.C.) was one of changing domination by foreign overlords, but the culture remained basically Greek. Pottery styles of the previous period continued but the appearance of pictorial designs of animals and flowers in a free-field composition are characteristic of this time. The Classical and Hellenistic Periods were ones of turmoil for Cyprus but the basic culture remained Greek and this was particularly true in the latter period. The Roman Period (30 B.C. to A.D. 395) saw new pottery styles, i.e. Terra Sigillata ware and mould-made lamps, and now the increased use of glass vessels. In this period many fine theatres, public baths, temples and villas were constructed, and in the latter two have been found impressive mosaics characteristic of this time. In the later part of this period many Cypriots were practising Christians.



Bichrome barrel jug



Terra Sigillata bowl

Audio-visual programmes

Next to Case 10 is a touchscreen facility with over thirty programmes, covering a wide range of topics. The individual programmes can be stopped at any time by touching the screen, and the duration times are given under the various titles. In the Aboriginal programmes it is necessary to press *information* to proceed to the next programme.

Ancient Egypt

14 mins.

Vesuvius A.D. 79

6 mins.

Central Mexico

11 mins.

The Etruscans

9 mins.

Pompeii

13 mins.

The Maya

7 mins.

Archaeological Sites

interactive

Herculaneum

9 mins.

Coastal Peru

7 mins.

Rock Art at Barunga

(Aboriginal)

interactive

Minoan Crete

10 mins.

Highland Peru

7 mins.

Ancient Coins

The Origin of

Coinage

3 mins.

Mycenaean Greece

7 mins.

Stone Age Monuments

7 mins.

Roman Cyprus

13 mins.

Avebury & Stonehenge

8 mins.

Ancient Greek Coins

6 mins.

The Phoenicians

13mins.

Dynastic China

13 mins.

Roman Republican Coins

5 mins.

The Sea Peoples

6 mins.

Terracotta Warriors

10 mins.

Roman Imperial Coins

7.5 mins.

The Carthaginians

8 mins.

The Indus Civilisation

12 mins.

Byzantine Coins

7.5 mins.

The First Americans

8 mins.

The Iceman

6 mins.

The Olmecs

8 mins.

Case 23

Cyprus: Medieval Byzantine Pottery

Displayed is a range of Byzantine pottery from Cyprus which shows examples from the 13th to the 16th centuries A.D. These examples are based on techniques that evolved in Asia Minor during the 10th century A.D. with finds from Istanbul showing painted decoration in various colours under the glaze. The scratched or sgraffito type of decoration became wide-spread in the 12th century. Several examples displayed here show Christian symbols and people who are definitely Christian and Byzantine in their style of dress and general depiction. The examples we have follow this trend, but are about 200 years later in each case.



Sgraffito bowl, 14th cent. A.D.



Inuit carving in antler

Mayan
child's rattle



Paracas culture
black ware vase
with birds,
Coastal Peru

Case 24

The Americas

North America - Covers the evidence for the colonization via Beringia into Alaska and the subsequent migration southward. The trends in the Paleoindian and Archaic traditions are shown with graphics, replicas and genuine projectile points. The eskimo cultures in the arctic region are covered with graphics and examples of bone and antler carving. The last example considered is the desert culture in the southwest and in particular the Pueblo Bonito and Mesa Verde buildings.

Middle America - Deals first with the Olmec civilization which is the oldest in America. Most emphasis is given to the Maya civilization on which the Museum has the most artefacts. There is a model of a Mayan temple with a burial site below.

Cultures evolving in other regions are considered briefly with the last culture that of the Aztecs who were conquered by the Spanish in 1523.

South America - Considers the cultures that developed along the coast with most attention given to the Paracas and Mochica cultures, with brief mention of Chavin, Viru, Nazca and Chimú. There are also artefacts displayed from various cultures in Ecuador and Colombia. The highlands beyond Tiahuanaco saw the development and the expansion of the Inca Empire which was the largest pre-industrial state in the New World.

Case 25

African Archaeology

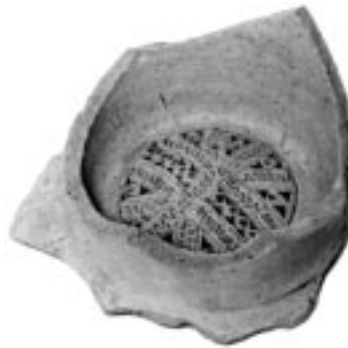
Africa's recent past shows the development of agricultural systems, the emergence of cities and independent states, the growth of extensive trading networks, the attainment of technological skills particularly in metallurgy, and the appearance of unique art forms.

The Islamic Culture in Egypt is represented by material from Fustat, the predecessor of Cairo set up by Amr ibn al-As who conquered Egypt in A.D. 639 to 642. The artefacts from Fustat range in age from A.D. 1100 to 1860.

The X-Group and Early Christian cultures of the first and early second millennium A.D. are represented by material from Qasr Ibrim, a fortified settlement on the east bank of the Nile north of Abu Simbel.

Aksum saw the development of multistoried buildings and large stone monuments from A.D. I to XI century, and early acceptance of Christianity. Gedi was a centre on the Kenyan coast with Arab merchants involved in the Indian Ocean trade. The Swahili culture combines elements from both African and Arabic sources which remains the case. The Kingdom of Bunyoro, one of the Interlacustrine states of East Central Africa that developed over the last 1000 years, is featured briefly in this case. The African city at Zimbabwe, dating from about A.D.1250 to 1450, and the smaller settlement at Manikweni in Mozambique, are also mentioned. Nigerian cultures at Nok between 500 B.C. and A.D. 200, and at Benin A.D. 1400 to 1600, the latter well known for its bronze work, are noted as well.

The cultural sequence at Jenne-Jeno in Mali, which shows development from 250 B.C. to A.D. 1000, is covered; it was abandoned about A.D. 1400.



Base of
ceramic
water
cooler

Coptic silver cross,
Aksumite style



Replica bronze
mother head from
Benin in Nigeria



Replica seal from Mohenjo-daro

Case 26

Asian Archaeology

Artefacts and replicas indicating cultural change in India and its influence in South East Asia are shown with the oldest examples at the bottom. India was first settled about 1 million years ago and the earliest farming appeared about 6000 B.C. in the uplands of Afghanistan and Pakistan while urban settlements occur in the Indus Valley about 2000 B.C. at the Harappa and Mohenjo-daro sites.

Asian Archaeology cont'd

Hinduism is India's major religion, and some early traits were apparent in sites of the Harappan civilisation. It later expanded into Nepal and South East Asia (eg. Bali, Java & Cambodia), but has since been replaced in some areas by Buddhism or Islam. Buddhism appeared in India about 500 B.C. followed by Islam in the early 11th century and Sikhism in the 15th century. It is generally held that 'Indianisation' of local politics through trade was a prime factor in the rise of urban centres in South East Asia. Chinese porcelains first appear in island South East Asia about A.D. 950 and indicate a rapid increase in foreign contact at this time.

Trading between China, Southern India and South East Asia was associated with the spread of Hinduism and Buddhism in these regions and saw the construction of Hindu and Buddhist monuments such as Borobodor in Java about A.D. 800 and Angkor Wat in Cambodia about A.D. 880. Between A.D. 1300 and 1600 Islam (from India), spread rapidly throughout the islands of South East Asia, again occurring along established trading networks.



Bronze statuette of Buddha;
Thailand, 17th-18th cent. style



Small Ch'ing dish

Case 26a

South East Asian Ceramic Trade, A.D. 900 to 1400

Chinese ceramic products were traded overseas from A.D. 900 to 1400, and at the end of the 11th century were China's leading export article, reaching to Egypt, Iran and the East African coast. The Chinese government imposed restrictions on this trade at the end of the 14th century (Ming Dynasty), and the arrival of the Portuguese in the Indian Ocean from 1498 affected its organization globally. The examples shown here come from the Philippines and many have been found in the islands of Panay and Mindanao, where they were included in burials. The Philippines being relatively close to China, the trading of pottery products there continued into the Ch'ing Dynasty (1644 to 1911).

Case 27

Ancient Coin Collection

The first section covers ancient Greek coins from Greece and Greek colonies in Italy and South West Asia, dating from 530 B.C. to 168 B.C. Of particular interest are the tetradrachms from Athens with an owl, from Syracuse with dolphins, and from Macedonia with the hero Herakles.

The next section covers the Roman Republican Period, all the coins displayed being silver denarii produced by various moneyers, among them Julius Caesar.

The Early Roman Imperial Period has some coins of particular interest, e.g. of Augustus the first emperor, of Tiberius here represented by the so called 'Tribute Penny', a bronze coin from the time of Pontius Pilate and two bronze coins of Nero. The Middle Imperial Period shows more bronze coinage, including provincial coins from Alexandria with Greek inscriptions. During imperial times there was inflation and debasing of the coinage and towards the end of the third century Diocletian introduced monetary reforms. The Late Imperial Period saw further monetary changes by Constantine the Great, and is largely represented by smaller bronze coins extending to the time when the Roman Empire was divided into East and West.

The last section covers the Byzantine Period from A.D. 527 to A.D. 1071 and is represented by copper coins of various denominations. In the early years Roman influence is still strong, and inscriptions tend to be in Latin, but with time were replaced by Greek.

Coins may also be displayed in other cases where appropriate and others are in storage, including some examples from southern Asia.



Greek tetradrachm from Athens



Roman silver denarius of Julius Caesar



Byzantine copper follis of Romanus IV



Centenary plate 1788 - 1888

Case 28

Entrance Display

Sometimes this area is used to display recent acquisitions, but is mainly used to indicate the diversity and range of the artefacts on display inside the Museum and in the other cabinets outside the Museum in the foyer area in front of the A2 lecture theatre (see plan on next page).

On the inside of Case 28 is a small display of hunting equipment used by the bushmen of Botswana in southern Africa, who are also known as the Koisan or San.



Displays Outside Museum



Solomon Island club



Papua New Guinea ancestor figure



Cup from Gela



Wheel-made lamp

Case 29

Greek Colonial Life 2500 years ago

Ancient Greek culture spread through a number of colonies that were established around the Mediterranean and Black Seas. This display consists of pottery from burials near Gela, a Greek colonial settlement on the south coast of Sicily. The objects are everyday articles, such as would have been found in the houses of the ordinary Greeks of the time, although some of them may have been made specifically for burial with the dead. Thus the display provides an idea of life in a Hellenistic town during the last few centuries B.C. One pot of fine Greek workmanship made in Southern Italy in the 4th century B.C. is included in the display, to emphasize by contrast the plainness of the pottery in everyday use. The material in this case is from the Woite Collection.

Case 30

Cyprus: Medieval Pottery Technology

This display shows a selection of pottery, dating from the 13th-16th centuries A.D., made in Cyprus in the eastern Mediterranean. Cyprus was an important cultural crossroads between East and West, and this is reflected in the technical quality of the pottery shown here. It is richly decorated, glazed earthenware and 'stoneware', superior in quality to much of the pottery being made at that time in Western Europe. Of particular interest is the 'sgraffito' decoration on some of these pots. This was done by scratching the decoration through a surface coating known as a 'slip', before the glaze was applied.



Sgraffito bowl 14th cent. AD



East Sepik River mask from
Timbunke village

Case 31

Sepik River Culture

This case displays further Sepik material with some examples not shown in Case 17, such as the large mask, bird headed flute and the cassowary bone dagger. Other artefacts of particular interest are the carved ancestor figures, ceramic ridgepole base, basket hook and examples of shell and glass currency. The basket hook is used for suspending items such as the woven bilum bags overhead in the house. The two ancestor figures with heads having the form of a duck's bill come from the tribe at Mindam village at the Murik Lakes west of the mouth of the Sepik River, and the history of their belief in this ancestor figure is given.



'Greek Helmets' by Hesling

Case 32

Bernard Hesling Paintings

The paintings by Bernard Hesling on metal trays entitled "Greek Helmets" and "Rome Burns" were purchased by the Museum in 1972. They are used along with a range of artefacts from the Mediterranean region as general advertising for the cultural changes shown in the Greek, Roman, South West Asian and Cypriot displays in the Museum.



Hafted obsidian
knife



Hardwood oval
dish with inlaid
edge

Case 34

Papua and New Guinea

This case houses a range of artefacts from Papua & New Guinea representing cultures, in some instances distinct from the Sepik River region. It includes some material on longterm loan, such as the stone mace heads which show a range of different forms and would have been formidable weapons when securely hafted. Other weapons are a bow with arrows, possibly an adze, and lastly an axe which probably was only used in ceremonial events. Also shown are examples of the so-called "airport" art popular from the 1950s to the 1970s which consists of carved masks, a basket hook and a carved crocodile.

Case 33

The Trobriand Islands

The majority of artefacts displayed here are on longterm loan and consist of a very fine collection of carved spatulas used in the preparation of some of the ingredients that are mixed for the chewing of betel nut. There is a diverse range of necklaces using different coloured threads, shells, dog teeth, boar tusks, beads and a stone disk. Various fine examples of wood carving are shown in the two shields (one for fighting and the other for dancing), the canoe prow and the other wooden artefacts which, along with the obsidian knives, indicate the range of skills in this culture.



Ceremonial
axe

Stone mace head



Xian warrior

Case 35

India and China

The first half of the case shows a muslim prayer mat along with graphics dealing with Indian cultures, and in particular the rise of the Mogul Empire. The associated photographs give some idea of the different building styles in the region, and here extend to Sri Lanka and Myanmar (Burma). The other half of the case deals with Chinese cultures and displays a small model showing the form of the warriors buried at Xian. The graphics and pictures show examples of bronzes, ceramics and lacquered utensils, in many cases coming from tombs of the different dynasties in various parts of China. Some examples of the characteristic Chinese pagoda are shown, along with the Great Wall of China built in the reign of the first emperor Qin Shi Huang Di about 221 B.C.



Virgin's girdle of seed pods and yellow strips, Samoa



Necklace of fine shell discs from the Solomon Islands

Case 36

The Pacific

This case deals with artefacts from the western part of the Oceania region, which can be here divided into Melanesia (which includes the Solomon Islands, along with Fiji), and Western Polynesia (which includes Samoa and Tonga). Of particular interest here are the examples of tapa cloth from Fiji and Samoa which are made from tree bark and are painted with various designs. This technique is a Polynesian skill that has come to Fiji from Tonga, a relatively near neighbour. The fine weaving shown in the baby's cradle from Samoa is also found in Melanesia along with other skills such as the necklace made out of small discs of shell drilled and threaded on cord.

Case 37

The Philippines & Oceania

The first half of the case displays a mat made by the Bajau people or Sea Gypsies of Zamboanga in Mindanao, in the Philippines. Various pictures show other aspects of the life of these people. The other half of the case shows aspects of the history of Hawaii along with information on the death of Captain Cook, tattooing, tapa cloth making from mulberry bark, and the weaving of pandanus leaves, and lastly displays a very fine example of a chief's woven sarong from Samoa.



Fan made from an anahaw leaf, from the Philippines



Ink bottle from the dump at the prison on Saint Helena Island.

Cases 38 & 39

Australian Historical Archaeology

The artefacts displayed here are from three separate excavations at Australian sites in the 20th century and involve different aspects in the recent history of Australia. One deals with the excavation of the foundations of the large rural homestead 'Winterbourne' built in the 1840s, near Walcha, NSW; another involved a blacksmith's shop at Llangothlan near Guyra, NSW, and the last one excavation of the rubbish dump at the prison on Saint Helena Island in Moreton Bay, Queensland. This study gives information on the diet of the people and examples of articles in everyday use at the prison community.

Aboriginal Rock Art

Facing the concourse to the left of the displays on Australian historical archaeology is a large painting of Aboriginal rock art which was painted at Iona Station near Winbar in the South Darling River District, N.S.W. The painting was done in 1967 by Mr Fred Roberts an Armidale artist whose works are well known in the New England region.

Case 40

Nagakeo and Ngada Culture

This case displays a wide range of artefacts from Flores, East Indonesia showing weapons used in hunting such as the blow gun & darts, spear, harpoon and bow & arrow. The parang or large knife is used in heavy work and for personal defence. Also shown are smaller general purpose knives and a long ceremonial sword. There is a range of utensils including woven baskets, a chicken cage, a woven plate, another plate made from a gourd and a large pottery cooking pot. The clothing is predominantly black with coloured patterns and is woven from kapok thread, spun using a spinning weight. Jewellery here consists of pendant, leaf-shaped gilded earrings with hanging attachments. There is a musical instrument made from bamboo and lastly the carved Andeleo figures on horseback, which would be displayed in the house and represent the ancestors of the inhabitants.



Nagakeo woven plate



Nagakeo woven cotton ikat or sarong



Ngada ceremonial sword



Ngada cooking pot

The Maurice Kelly Lecture

Every year the Museum Committee invites an eminent scholar to give the Maurice Kelly Lecture which is a public lecture held at the University and commemorates the first curator and founder of the Museum. The lectures tend to alternate from year to year on topics from either Classical Archaeology or recent Anthropology. Each lecture is bound into a small booklet with associated graphics and is available for sale from the Museum of Antiquities. Contact the Honorary Curator by email: pwatters@metz.une.edu.au or by phone at 02 6773 3197 or 02 6773 2555



Parang from
Flores

Access to descriptions and pictures of the holdings of the Museum of Antiquities can be obtained from the “Australian University Museums On Line” website:

<http://aumol.usyd.edu.au>

Viewing of the cases and their layout may be made via the Museum’s website which is located in the Arts Faculty entries of the University of New England, or directly at the site below:

<http://www.une.edu.au/~arts/Museum>



Bronze Age terracotta wagon from Syria, 2000 -1900 B.C.

The front cover depicts a bronze figure of Vishnu in Cambodian style, a plaster shabti from Egypt, a carved wooden ancestor figure from the Sepik region of Papua New Guinea, and below an aboriginal woomera or spear thrower from the Kimberley region in northern Western Australia.

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Bronze Age sword from Europe