

BYWAYS IN OXFORD ANTHROPOLOGY

Notes on Ethnographic Collections in Oxford

South American Indian collections in the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford

The Pitt Rivers Museum contains extensive collections of South American Indian material culture. The extent and depth of the material represented provide a valuable research tool for cross-cultural comparisons and, for many tribal groups, detailed analysis. It seems appropriate to offer information about these collections in the present issue of *JASO*.

The Museum keeps three card catalogues, arranging information about the collections by region, typology and acquisition details. Using these sources it is possible to see quickly which types of specimens and which geographical areas and tribes are represented.

If a specimen can be ascribed to a tribal group or has come into the collections with good documentation of its origin, then it is indexed under the tribal heading. Much of the earlier material arrived with little information and can be catalogued only by region or country. Obviously the more specific the provenance, the more valuable a specimen becomes for research. This proves especially true in the case of Peruvian archaeological material, much of which has been acquired through the saleroom or donated by interested laymen picking up surface finds. Only from Ancon and Arica do we have properly excavated material from named and numbered grave sites.

In order to give a useful overview of the Pitt Rivers Museum collections, it seems best to start with the material listed as originating from geographical and politically defined areas, mentioning only those collections outstanding in their quantity, quality or accompanying information. Then collections from tribal groups will be listed. Although 103 tribes and ethnic groups are represented in the collections, only those with more than five specimens are mentioned here.

Argentina - archaeological material from nine sites in Catamarca Province and one site in La Rioja Province, excavated in 1882-86 by H.D. and C.L. Hoskold; pottery and stone tools.

Bolivia - some ethnography from Col. Fawcett, especially from the Matto Grosso. Archaeological material, mostly pottery, from Tiahuanaco excavated by Prof. J.A. Douglas in 1911.

Brazil - thirty-five pottery figures from Pernambuco, collected by Dr. Goncalves in 1945.

Chile - varied archaeological material from Quillagua,

donated by a Mrs. Jones, 1933; pottery from Coquimbo, Diaguita culture, donated by G.H.S. Bushnell, 1947.

Ecuador - archaeological material: pottery (no specific provenance) from A. Ruthven-Murray 1929; original Pitt Rivers Collection - stone tools from Macas; pottery from Manta, Louis Clarke 1920; large collection of pottery figurines from La Tolita, R.H. Thomas 1924-25.

British Guiana - some provenanced, much unprovenanced ethnographic material, especially weapons, musical instruments and ornaments; collectors: ImThurn 1880s, Burchell pre-1865, S.W. Silver pre-1900; Miss E.C. Bell 1905, William Clark pre-1908; original Pitt Rivers coll., pre-1883.

Patagonia - many unprovenanced stone implements, original Pitt Rivers coll. and Baldwin-Spencer Expedition, 1929.

Peru - ethnographic material, especially weaving, from H.M. Gibbs 1900; Lt. Maw 1828; fourteen well documented and photographed specimens collected in 1971-72 by N. Stevenson in Santiago de Chocórvos. Archaeology: much unlocalized material of all types, often assigned to styles, especially textiles and weaving purchased in 1934, pottery from the original PR Coll. and W.M. Ogilvie 1852-1901. Sites: a large amount from Ancon, Louis Clarke 1919, H.O. Forbes 1921, well documented mummies from Cmdr. W. Acland 1883-84; Arica, an early post-conquest site, material from Rev. Warner Parry 1884, Lt. M.J. Harrison 1868, Chancay - mostly purchased from Stevens Sale Room 1902; Chillón Valley - Forbes 1921; Cuzco - pottery excavated in 1911 by Prof. J.A. Douglas; Nasca - especially pottery and textiles purchased 1933; Lake Titicaca/Island of the Sun - excavated 1911 by Douglas; Trujillo (Chimu Valley) - pottery from A.R. Murray 1929.

Tierra del Fuego - a small but varied ethnographical collection mainly from South American Missionary Society 1892; R. Whaits 1893; Prof. Moseley from 'Challenger' voyage 1873-76; Adm. MacLear from 'Alert' 1879; Baldwin-Spencer 1929.

Aguaruna (Peru) - many types of object, especially ornaments, R.H. Thomas 1923.

Akawaio (Br. Guiana) - very extensive and well documented collection made by Dr. Audrey Butt in 1951-52, 1957.

Araucanian (Chile) - collections from H.C. Colvin-Smith 1955 and Rev. P.E. Class, pre-1925.

Arawak (Br. Guiana) - E. ImThurn 1880s; (Jamaica) - Prof. W.F. Harper 1950, photographs of deformed skulls, excavated.

Arekuna (Br. Guiana) - a small but well documented collection from Dr. Audrey Butt.

Bororo (Matto Grosso) - Oxford and Cambridge Expedition 1960; G.M. Dyott (in search of Col. Fawcett) 1928.

Botocudo (Brazil) - five specimens, varied types, mostly original PR coll.

Campas (N. Peru) - R.H. Thomas 1923 - weapons, ornaments, musical instruments.

Carib (Br. Guiana) - various donors and types of objects:

original PR coll. pre-1883, ImThurn 1880s, then more recently twenty-eight specimens from Peter Gatrell on the Cambridge Expedition to Guiana 1971. As with all the well documented collections, this gives native names, uses and village localities for most objects.

Cayapas (Peru) - R.H. Thomas 1924-25, the usual mixture of types of objects.

Chaco (Bolivia and Paraguay) - mainly from A. Pride, S. American Missionary Society; some pieces from Col. Fawcett.

Chavante (Rio das Mortes, Brazil) - ten objects of different types, P. Rivière 1960.

Cofane (Colombia) - Maj. R.H. Thomas 1923.

Conibo (Peru) - a few weapons, mostly from E. Bartlett 1865 and Miss Cutter 1901.

Correguaje (E. Colombia) - seven objects from Maj. R.H. Thomas 1924-25.

Huambisa (N. Peru) - a large collection from Thomas 1923, especially ornaments, some pottery.

Huitoto (N. Peru) - Thomas 1923.

Inca, Iquitos, Yurimaguas (N. Peru) - a few pieces, mostly pottery, Thomas 1923.

Jivaro/Xebaro (Ecuador) - a large amount of varied material from different donors including Dyott 1933, Thomas 1923, Buckley 1871. An especially numerous group of necklaces.

Juruna (Upper Xingu, Brazil) - four objects from P. Rivière 1960.

Kaingua (S. Brazil) - four musical instruments from Mayntzhusen 1913.

Kamaiyura (Upper Xingu) - P. Rivière and Oxford-Cambridge Expedition 1960.

Lengua (Gran Chaco) - very large and varied collection; as usual mostly ornaments, weapons and musical instruments in quantity but also stringwork, tools, food apparatus etc. Collectors: A. Pride 1900, J.G. Kerr 1896-97.

Macusi (Br. Guiana) - very large, especially ornaments and weapons, and including photographs. Primary donor Rev. J. Williams, collected before 1940. Also Miss E.C. Bell 1913, ImThurn 1880s.

Mataco (N. Argentina) - bags, stringwork and musical instruments - C.J. Oliver 1923.

Nhambiquara (Matto Grosso) - a few mixed pieces from G.M. Dyott 1926.

Pianoghotto (Brazil/Surinam) - two necklaces from the Schomburg Expedition 1841-1843 (this tribe not seen since the expedition).

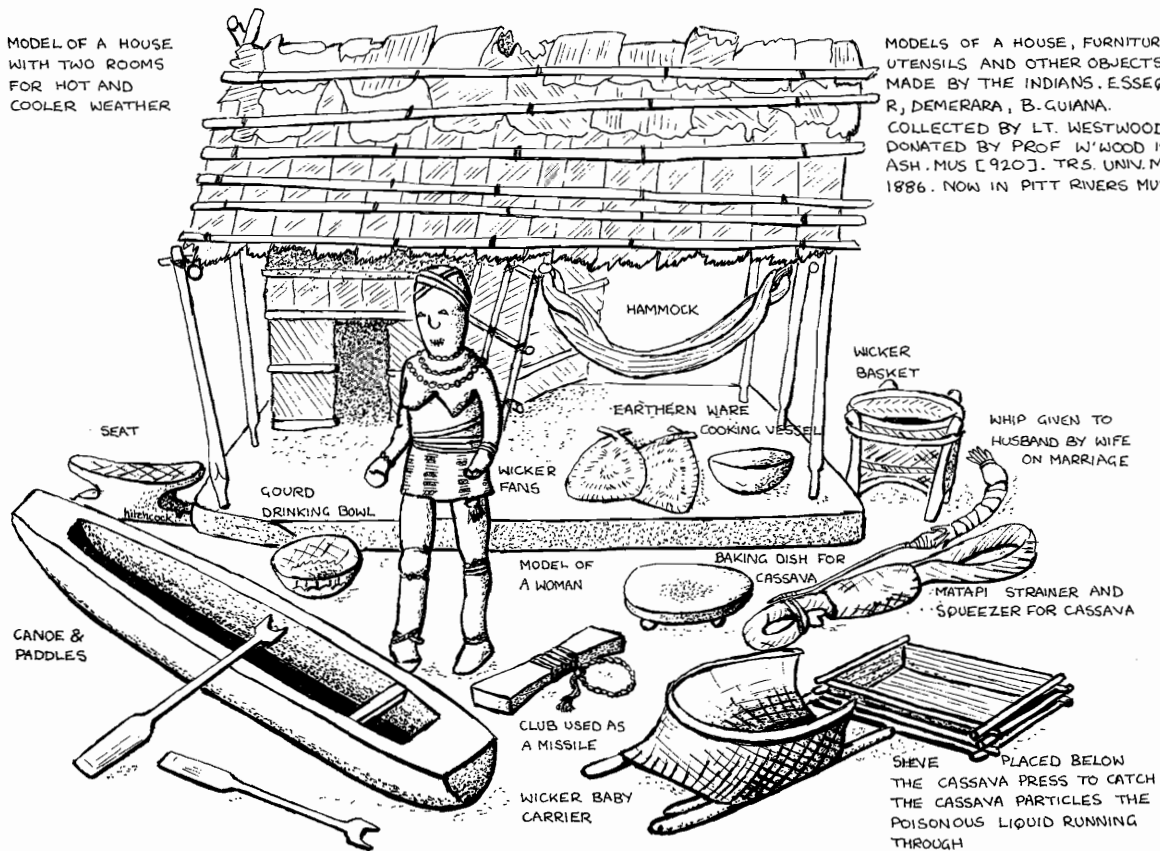
Quechua (Peru) - textiles from the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum 1952.

Sanema (S. Venezuela) - the most recent collection, made by Marcus Colchester 1979-80. 123 objects of most types of the group's material culture.

Secoya (Ecuador) - especially ornaments and musical instruments from the Oxford University Exploration Club 1961.

MODEL OF A HOUSE
WITH TWO ROOMS
FOR HOT AND
COOLER WEATHER

MODELS OF A HOUSE, FURNITURE,
UTENSILS AND OTHER OBJECTS.
MADE BY THE INDIANS. ESSEQUIBO
R, DEMERARA, B. GUIANA.
COLLECTED BY LT. WESTWOOD 1812.
DONATED BY PROF. W. WOOD 1874.
ASH. MUS [920]. TRS. UNIV. MUS.
1886. NOW IN PITT RIVERS MUSEUM.



Serente (Central Brazil) - large, varied collection purchased from D. Maybury-Lewis 1957.

Akwe Shavante (Central Brazil) - as above.

Taulebang (Venezuela) - well documented material from Audrey Butt 1957.

Tehuelche (Patagonia) - mostly stone tools collected by Rev. P.E. Class before 1925.

Trio (Surinam) - a large and well documented collection made by Peter Rivière 1963-64. To give an idea of the range of objects covered in the larger collections, here is a list of subject headings: baskets and boxes, clothing, combs, fans, food apparatus, hammocks, mats, music, ornaments, photographs, pottery, shamans' equipment, stools, vessels, weaving, weapons. In this collection, all the categories are about equally represented.

Toba (Gran Chaco) - mainly bags and stringwork, J.G. Kerr 1891.

Tukarramae (Upper Xingu) - five objects, P. Rivière 1960; two clubs from A. Cowell 1963.

Waiwai (Br. Guiana) - ornaments and costume, Miss McTurk pre-1950.

Waiyana (Surinam) - large collection made by Audrey Butt 1963.

Warrau (Br. Guiana) - ImThurn 1880s and P. Rivière 1960.

Wapisiana (Br. Guiana) - mostly musical instruments obtained by H. Balfour.

Yaguas (N. Peru) - R.H. Thomas 1923, weapons and clothing.

Yaghan (Tierra del Fuego) - interesting material, mixed but mainly hunting equipment. Donors: Baldwin-Spencer 1929, W.S. Routledge 1929, Capt. King 1831, R. Waitts 1893.

Bush Negro (Surinam) - from Boni, twenty-four pieces collected by Audrey Butt 1963; from Paramakka, forty objects from the Cambridge Expedition to Langa Tabiki led by David Hugh-Jones 1965.

In addition to material culture objects, archival photographs exist in the collections. Liz Edwards, the Balfour Librarian, is just beginning to discover the extent of these. The Pitt Rivers Museum collections can be made available for study, and I would welcome scholars wishing to see specimens.

LYNNE WILLIAMSON
Research Assistant,
Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford