A Brief Report on The University Museum
FY'1981

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The past year has been one of transition for the University Museum. Mr. Biddle resigned the directorship effective June 30, 1981, and President Hackney appointed Robert Dyson, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, to include the acting directorship among his other duties. After a lengthy search process, Dr. Dyson was appointed director of the Museum, and is now giving very effective leadership of the Museum on a full-time basis. He has recently been honored by being appointed chairman of the Visiting Committee of the Department of Anthropology at Harvard. During the year a number of administrative and programmatic changes were initiated, and renewed efforts at development were undertaken.

Administration. In the area of administration, Professor William R. Coe undertook the job of associate director for Research and Publication and Professor Gregory Possehl became associate director for Museum Services. The Museum staff was organized into four divisions for purposes of planning and communication: General Administration, Publications and Research, Museum Services, and Public Programs. A Coordinator of Public Programs was appointed, a monthly calendar of events initiated, and the Quarterly Newsletter revised. A half-time development officer, Carroll Sheppard, was provided by Development to reform the Museum's development efforts in anticipation of fund-raising efforts to be connected to the Centennial Celebration in 1987. The Committee organization of the new Board of Overseers was revised to parallel these divisions.

Budget and Membership. In June of 1981 the Museum ended its fiscal year with a deficit of $140,000. As a result of the efforts made since July 1981, the Museum expects to bring that figure down to about $30,000 by the end of the current fiscal year and to eliminate it altogether in 1983. Since May a year ago, membership which was put in the computer last summer has shown a net increase of 200, making a current total of 3,200 members. This increase has moved the operation of the Membership Office from a deficit position in 1981 to a surplus in June 1982 of between $10,000 and $15,000. During the same period the number of Fellows contributing $500 or more was increased by 34 with a resulting increase of $27,639 in the Fellows Fund used to support Research and Publication.

Development. Development efforts during the year have concentrated on an analysis of administrative organization and preliminary planning, looking toward a major funding effort targeted on the Museum's Centennial in 1987. A major first objective is to raise the 2.9 million dollars to repair the main roof and complete installation of the life safety system. Active solicitation for these funds has been initiated by the Board of Overseers and the director with the help of the president.

Grants and Gifts. During the year, in addition to completing installation of the new Polynesian Gallery and the repainting of the Entrance Hall and Peruvian Gallery, the Museum received grants and raised money for other significant projects. Total gifts from all sources showed a slight increase from $290,000 in FY 1981 to $307,000 at the end of May FY 1982.

Exhibitions. Temporary exhibitions were held on The Japanese Samurai, Turkish and Armenian Architecture, and Balinese Painting. The Museum cooperated with The Philadelphia Museum of Art by loaning a large collection for inclusion in its highly successful Nigerian exhibition. On July 20 the University Museum will open a small exhibition entitled "The Lenape Wanderers in Their Own Land" as a contribution to the Century IV celebration. A major exhibition on the Museum's work in Thailand is being planned for next November in cooperation with The Smithsonian Institution.

Research. Members of the Museum's academic staff directed or participated in research projects in 14 countries including Crete, Greece, Libya, Egypt, Jordan,
Syria, Turkey, India, Ireland, Nigeria, Sumatra, Guatemala, Peru, and Utah. Research topics ranged from a study of the relationship of environmental factors to educational success among the urban poor of Guatemala (Frank Johnston) to research on the art and ideology of the 18th century Benin culture in Nigeria (Paula Ben Amos) to an exploration of an early mining town in Utah (Robert Schuyler) as part of a study of the archaeology of the American West. During the spring the Museum Applied Science Center for Archaeology held a two-day symposium on "Farming and Nutrition in Antiquity."

Publications. During FY 1982 the Museum's academic staff published over 60 articles and books, and presented more than 56 papers at national and international scholarly meetings. In addition the Museum published a catalogue for the Samurai exhibition, a revised Newsletter, and a new monthly Calendar of Events. In June, Volume One of the Gordion excavations carried out in Turkey by the late Rodney S. Young will appear. This volume will report on the excavation of three great tumulus mounds, one of which belonged to the legendary King Midas. The newly appointed Publications Committee is hard at work planning for the modernization of the publications program in terms both of administration and equipment.