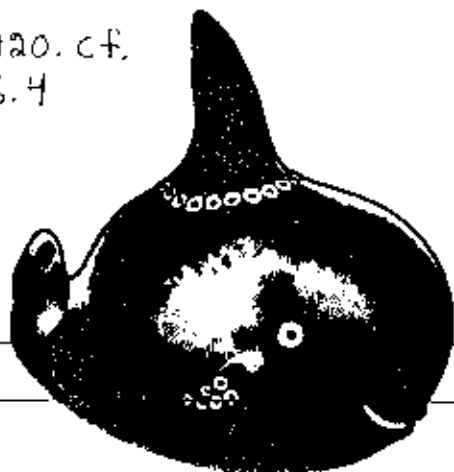


Archaeology at UCLA

Edited for the Institute of Archaeology by Giorgio Buccellati

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THE INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Giorgio Buccellati, Director

When we think of archaeology we normally think of archaeologists, digs, artifacts; and progress in the discipline is most naturally measured in terms of individual finds, original interpretations and underlying theories. But, as in everything else, such progress is not done in isolation: an active exchange of ideas is essential for a fruitful discovery process, and cooperation in practical matters is the basis for the best utilization of resources. Archaeologists at UCLA have been aware of this for a long time, and have been striving to achieve not only closer ties at the level of personal collaboration, but also more efficient organization at the level of institutional structures.

Needless to say, a development in that direction was as difficult as it was desirable. For all its apparent clarity of goals, archaeology suffers an identity crisis of sorts, and it is not immediately identifiable with an established academic discipline: it enjoys such close links with other disciplines firmly rooted in traditional departments (Anthropology, Classics, Art History and the like), that it is often difficult to conceive of it on its own merits. If one archaeologist conceives of himself as an anthropologist, another as a cultural historian, and so on, it is obvious that to single out the common denominator, i. e. precisely the archaeological component of everybody's trade, may not be an easy task. In point of fact, this has caused difficulties, of an intellectual and an organizational nature: yet the validity of common concerns and methodologies has been such as to override the separateness of the approaches. And concrete steps have been taken over the years to implement plans of consolidation and expansion.

In 1969 a new graduate Program was established under the chairmanship of Clement W. Meighan; now under James R. Sackett, it has reached a respectable size, including as it does a total of about 30 students. The Program provides a curriculum for M. A. and Ph. D. degrees in Archaeology; the interdisciplinary nature of the Program is guaranteed by the academic structure of the curriculum and the active involvement of faculty from all sides of the archaeological spectrum. The Archaeology Program was specifically *not* designed to replace other archaeology degrees on Campus; rather, it was meant to add a new dimension next to those already tested as viable in the individual

departments. What was new was the opportunity for overarching plans of study, cutting across disciplinary boundaries to establish a broad methodological basis while at the same time providing an in-depth specialization in archaeological skills and techniques.

While the Archaeology Program has served as the regular meeting ground for both faculty and students of all archaeological persuasions, other campus facilities too have contributed their resources and manpower for the sake of Archaeology writ large, i. e. beyond the level of individual research projects. Thus the Museum of Cultural History—which was started in 1963 by the late Ralph Altman as the Museum and Laboratories of Ethnic Art and Technology, and was given its present name and orientation in 1971 by Pierre Delougaz—has provided space and care for some of the Archaeological collections on Campus and has organized exhibits with a strong emphasis on archaeological documentation; the Archaeological Survey has provided space for other archaeological collections besides serving as a basic training ground for field techniques; the Anthropology Department, besides administering the Survey, has acted on behalf of all archaeologists on Campus in securing from the Ford Foundation a major grant for student field training; the Friends of Archaeology were able to mobilize a good portion of the lay community by providing a well balanced program of lectures and field trips, while contributing each year a certain number of grants-in-aid for UCLA archaeology students.

It is against this background of common efforts and achievements that a new development has now taken place. Implementing a plan which had been in the making for a number of years, the Regents of the University of California have established a new Institute of Archaeology at UCLA, beginning in the academic year 1973-74. The physiognomy of the Institute is conditioned by the factors, sketched above, which have led to its establishment, and it rests, for the future, on the commitment of the Faculty to our common goals. The core of the Institute is formed by the Archaeological Survey, which has been absorbed into a broader organizational structure to widen the range of its activities. The Survey has played a major role in the development of archaeology at UCLA, since it was first started by Clement W. Meighan in 1958. It has served primarily as the training arm of the Department of Anthropology, but it has also gone much beyond: it has started the publication of a journal and a series of monographs, has provided a laboratory and storage facilities for collections which Campus archaeologists have brought back from all parts of the world, has sponsored excavations not only in the local area but as far afield as the important site of Solvieux in France. The Institute is fortunate to be able to build on such foundations, which it will certainly expand and enlarge.

Basically, the new Institute will be concerned with all archaeological activities on Campus, trying to enhance existing resources and to develop new ones. Concrete plans are being drawn up with the advice and support of all interested Faculty, and their implementation will proceed apace with the availability of funds and the growth of interest on and beyond the Campus. At this point only the major lines of development may be sketched. Some aspects of our program will require greater financial expenditures than others, and are therefore predicated on the underlying commitment on the part of the Institute to search actively for support. But effectiveness in many areas can be immediate even with the minimal resources available at present, so that plans may be made operative without delays.

In terms of priorities one must certainly stress the need to provide adequate support for *archaeology students* at UCLA. Our degree program has the unusual strength which derives from the active participation of excellent faculty with very different research interests. This means that our students may in fact be trained in a unique way and thus be ready to play a considerable role on the educational scene (and the relative job market).

Another concern of the Institute is to provide outlets for *scholarly publications* in archaeology. On the one hand it will continue the publications of the Archaeological Survey, namely the Annual Reports and the Monographs, both of which are highly specialized and are addressed to a limited audience. On the other hand, it will produce a new series of site reports and other similar publications destined to a broader audience.

It goes without saying that *excavations* will play a major role among the concerns of the Institute. So far all major expeditions have been funded through extramural, non-State resources, which were secured through the personal efforts of individual faculty members—for an impressive total of about 20 projects in the early 70's. While this pattern will still prevail in the future, the Institute will provide a stronger institutional backing for individual grant proposals, and will also gradually develop a program of partial support for some projects.

A proper complement of *Faculty and staff* is the indispensable nucleus on which alone any other superstructure can rest. The Institute will help in integrating to the fullest the resources already available, which, with a Faculty of more than twenty archaeologists, are truly of major proportions. But even so there are areas where we should improve our offerings to achieve a richer and more balanced program. In addition, we will expand our research facilities to include Research Associates, i. e. scholars who are connected with the Institute and are normally in residence here while working on specific projects. This provides an unusual means for enriching the pool of human resources from which we draw to rejuvenate our program on a continual basis.

Public interest in archaeology has been growing at a sustained pace, and a number of initiatives have come into existence to answer the need. The Faculty, University Extension and a highly motivated group of people have all shared in giving shape and direction to a movement which is still vigorously with us now: as the result of our Extension course coordinated in 1965 by Jay D. Frierman and Marija Gimbutas, the Friends of Archaeology were organized, and a long series of lectures and other public events was ushered in. The Institute will now give its full support to these and new types of *public programs*. Besides concerning ourselves with the organizational aspect, new ways will be explored for making our programs a more meaningful and enjoyable experience. For instance, we are experimenting with new techniques in order to provide truly professional and attractive visual materials to illustrate public lectures—such as tridimensional slides. Also, we will continue and expand the program of Bibliographical Leaflets which we have begun to issue for some of the lectures during this year, so as to provide the means for a more lasting and effective learning process. A similar function will be served by the present Newsletter, which informs our members on the Institute's ongoing projects.

Beyond this, even more structured and, we feel, more rewarding approaches will be introduced. In cooperation with University Extension, we are in the process of setting up a special *Certificate Program* which will bring together a meaningful cluster of courses, thus providing a well-rounded preparation in given cultural areas and an effective technical training. Serving as a realistic layman's alternative for a regular University program which is by necessity highly specialized and professional, the Certificate Program will insure a solid background which may be tailor-made to suit personal interests. As a result, a "certified" student will be in a position to engage more directly and actively in archaeological projects, from field work and laboratory analysis to the interpretation of the excavated material.

Practical possibilities of applying skills and training to specific research problems will be offered to students who have completed the Extension Certificate Program. A special group of *Research Collaborators* is being formed within the Institute, in order to provide a viable outlet for the activities of a trained interested layman. Normally on a volunteer basis, the group will work on the principle of talent exchange. Faculty and graduate students will give of their time in order to integrate Research Collaborators in their research projects, training them in the specifics of the project and closely supervising their progress—and in turn the Collaborators will contribute the special expertise they have thus acquired by working on the pertinent segments of the project for which they have become qualified.

The future, then, holds in store for the Institute a great promise and a great challenge: as in all human ventures, we are going to reap the one in the measure in which we rise to meet the other.