

Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st September 2014

Nigerian Field Society and the Cambridge African Archaeology Group

A Symposium on ‘West African Art in Context’

This Symposium on “West African Art in Context” has been jointly arranged by the Nigerian Field Society (UK Branch) and the African Archaeology Group in Cambridge, thanks to whom we are fortunate to be able to hold the meeting at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Downing Street, Cambridge, CB2 3ER. The meeting is open to all members of these two organisations and also to any others who have an interest in the subject. Anyone wishing to attend should fill in the attached booking form and send it, with a cheque made out to “**NFS UK Branch**”, to Raymond & Lilian Coe at the address indicated, by 25 July 2014.

The programme includes a session on Modern Nigerian Arts and Crafts, when there will be a round-table presentation and discussion of some Nigerian artefacts, led by Pat Oyelola. Members of the NFS (UK Branch) who would like to take part in this discussion and show some of their own possessions are encouraged to do so, but it would be appreciated if they could please contact Philip Allsworth-Jones about this beforehand at philip.allsworth-jones@blueyonder.co.uk.

Those coming to the meeting will need to arrange their own accommodation, and since Cambridge is always busy it is advisable not to delay. The Cambridge Tourist Office has very good information about this. They can be contacted at www.visitcambridge.org. Accommodation is also available at some of the University Colleges. Details and availability can be checked at www.universityrooms.com. You are advised not to try to bring a car into the city centre.

We look forward to see you at this event. If you have any queries or suggestions please contact Philip Allsworth-Jones at the address given above.

Saturday 20 September 2014, McDonald Institute Cambridge

Nigerian Field Society/African Archaeology Group

Symposium Programme 'West African Art in Context'

8.45-9.15 a.m. Registration and Welcome to participants.

9.15-10.00 a.m. Fiona Savage (Sainsbury Research Unit, UEA).

Regarding the Other: The Power of Representation and the Representation of Power.

An examination of the way in which cross-cultural interactions between Europeans and local communities in Sierra Leone, Ghana and Nigeria generated depictions and representations of each other on a diverse set of artefacts ranging in date from the 16th to the 20th centuries, using three different object-studies which show a long-term fascination with visual signifiers of ethnic, cultural and social difference.

10.00-10.30 a.m. Pat Oyelola (Institute of African Studies, Ibadan).

Remembering With Cloth.

The ways in which cloth is used by the Yoruba and others to mark an event, recall history or commemorate a person with examples from kente, aso oke, adire, the current aso ebi phenomenon, factory-printed cloth and the work of modern artists El Anatsui and Yinka Sonibare MBE.

10.30-11.00 a.m. Charles Gore (SOAS, London).

Early Photography in Lagos Colony.

This talk looks at early photography by Africans in Lagos colony and examines through a case study of one of them (1880's-1910) how this new technology contributed to new ways of seeing. It considers how such photographers (who had studios and also traveled along the steam ship routes of West Africa) participated in a range of discourses on photography as well as expressing ideas of local modernities and modes of self presentation.

11.00-11.15 a.m. Discussion.

11.15-11.45 a.m. Coffee break.

11.45 a.m.-1.00 p.m. Modern Nigerian Arts and Crafts.

A round-table presentation and discussion of some Nigerian artefacts, led by Pat Oyelola.

1.00-2.00 p.m. Lunch break. Possible visit to the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

2.00-2.30 p.m. Angela Rackham (formerly Federal Department of Antiquities, Nigeria).

Nok terracottas in context.

A review of the evidence from the first alluvial sites found, and the excavated material from Taruga, Katsina Ala, and Samun Dukiya. A comparison of some attributes of the terracottas located then and more recently.

2.30-3.00 p.m. Philip Allsworth-Jones (University of Sheffield).

"Nok, ein Ursprung Afrikanischer Skulptur": the exhibition concerning the work of the German project held at Frankfurt from October 2013 to February 2014.

A German team led by Peter Breunig has renewed work on the Nok Culture from 2005 onwards. The exhibition showcased what has been achieved so far and the German language catalogue provided a comprehensive analysis and narrative. A summary is provided of the outstanding points arising from this work, thanks to which we now have some information about at least 250 sites.

3.00-3.30 p.m. Charles Gore (SOAS, London).

Commemoration and brass casting in Benin City: Reconceptualising art(efacts).

This paper considers the way in which royal art objects made by the brass casters of Benin have been the major focus of attention since their removal from the palace of the Oba in 1897. Much of the range of artefacts made by brass casters has been ignored, in favour of the canon as removed and defined by the British Punitive Expedition at that time. There is another range of artefacts which are central to how kingship is constituted in the Benin kingdom and among the wider Edo population, and this is as significant as the known canon of Benin art.

3.30-3.45 p.m. Discussion.

3.45-4.15 p.m. Tea break.

4.15-4.45 p.m. Nikolas Gestrich (UCL, Institute of Archaeology).

Style, grammar, and techniques: Archaeological approaches to decoration on West African pottery.

Much archaeological and ethno-archaeological work on pottery has its own unique take on artistic expression. Rather than asking what the artists want to express in their work, these disciplines have instead tended to focus on what works of art can tell us about their unknown makers. This talk will briefly chart changing approaches to West African pottery decoration, and explore applications with an example from Mali.

4.45-5.15 p.m. Matthew Davies (McDonald Institute, Cambridge).

Potting, smelting, and “art”: Thinking about African material culture.

Archaeologists have tended to study African material culture from a historical and technological perspective, focusing on those materials most likely to survive in the archaeological record. Some later studies dealt rather with questions of identity and status, where material culture - especially iron smelting and potting - was viewed as a passive “symbolic representation” of society. Recent approaches to “materiality” propose a more active role for material culture, as a source of agency in its own right. I apply this theoretical perspective to archaeological studies of smelting and potting in Africa, and relate these to a range of objects more commonly identified as African “art”. I argue for a more integrated appreciation of African material culture, transcending any simple dichotomy between “art” and other material “crafts”.

5.15-5.30 p.m. Final Discussion.

5.30-6.30 p.m. Wine reception at the McDonald Institute.

7.30 p.m. Dinner at the “Bella Italia” restaurant, The Watermill, Newnham Road, Cambridge, CB3 9EY.

Sunday 21 September 2014 NFS Excursion

There will be a Group Guided Tour of Cambridge University Botanic Garden, from 10.00 a.m. till 11.30 a.m. The tour will start at the Brookside Gate entrance on Bateman Street. Payment (£9.50) must be made beforehand to the Treasurer of the Nigerian Field Society. Lunch can be obtained at the Garden Café in the Gilmour Wing of the Sainsbury Laboratory from 12 noon onwards.

Bella Italia

STARTERS

BRUSCHETTA (V)

PLUM TOMATOES, ROCKET, RED ONION, MARINATED IN GARLIC, OLIVE OIL AND FRESH BASIL ON TOASTED CIABATTA

CALAMARI

TENDER SQUID, LIGHTLY BREADED AND DEEP FRIED WITH LEMON & CAPER MAYONNAISE

MOZZARELLA POMODORO

BUFFALO BOCCONCINI MOZZARELLA, BABY PLUM TOMATOES, ROCKET & FRESH BASIL TOSSED WITH BASIL PESTO DRESSING

Funghi Arrosto (V)

Large field mushrooms baked with creamy Mascarpone, spinach & garlic sauce & toasted ciabatta

MAINS

BURGER AMERICANO

Chargrilled beef burger, baby gem leaves, tomato, red onion and mayonnaise in a ciabatta bun, with fries and a smoked tomato and onion relish

BURGER PORTOBELLO (V)

Grilled Portobello mushrooms, goats cheese, lettuce, red peppers, red onions, plum tomatoes and mayonnaise in a ciabatta bun, with fries and smoked tomato and onion relish

POLLO MILANESE

CHICKEN BREAST BAKED IN PARMESAN & LEMON BREAD CRUMBS WITH GREEN BEANS AND SPAGHETTI POMODORO WITH FRESH BASIL

Cannelloni Spinaci e Ricotta(V)

Cannelloni filled with spinach and ricotta, topped with tomato and béchamel sauces and baked in the oven

INSALATA SALMONE

ROAST SALMON FILLET WITH GREEN BEANS, LETTUCE, BABY PLUM TOMATOES, SPRING ONION AND BABY SPINACH IN A ZESTY LEMON DRESSING

DESSERTS

CHOC DIAVOLA

STICKY CHOCOLATE FUDGE BROWNIE WITH PRALINE PIECES AND MELTING CHOCOLATE TOP WITH VANILLA POD ICE CREAM

TORTA LIMONE

LEMON SPONGE LAYERED WITH LEMON CHEESECAKE AND ZESTY LEMON CUSTARD, WITH A POT OF FRESH CREAM

CHEESECAKE

SICILIAN LEMON CHEESE CAKE WITH HONEY DRIZZLE, CHOCOLATE VERMICELLI & CREAM POT

COFFEE

NFS / AAG BOOKING FORM
Symposium at Cambridge on 20th & 21st September 2014

Names of people attending _____

	Unit Cost £	No required	Cost £
Administration	2.00		
Saturday			
Conference Fee <i>This includes coffee, lunch & tea</i>	12.00		
Dinner	20.00		
<i>Choice of courses</i>			
<i>Starter</i>	Bruschetta (V)		
	Calamari		
	Mozzarella Pomodoro		
	Funghi Arrosto (V)		
<i>Main course</i>	Burger Americano		
	Burger Portobello		
	Pollo Milanese		
	Cannelloni Spinaci e Ricotta (V)		
	Insalata Salmone		
<i>Desert</i>	Choc Diavola		
	Torta Limone		
	Cheesecake		
Sunday			
Tour of Botanic Garden	9.50		
Lunch	Buy your own		
		TOTAL	

Please return this form with your cheque made out to "NFS UK Branch"
to Raymond & Lilian Coe, Dean Cottage, Miles Lane, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 2ED

Tel: 01932 863421 e-mail: rhcoe@btinternet.com

by Friday 25th July 2014

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Tel: _____ E-mail _____