

The Institute's primary research groups

The coordinators of each of the Institute's five primary research groups report on their group's activities during the 2004/2005 academic year.

The Environment and Culture Research Group

Coordinator: Andrew Garrard

The group brings together the many staff, research students and honorary members of the Institute whose research is concerned with past interactions between people and the environments they occupied. Members of the group also participate in the activities of the UCL Centre for the Evolutionary Analysis of Cultural Behaviour which is directed by Stephen Shennan.

Research projects

Several members of the group are involved in research on the origins, development and impact of agriculture. Dorian Fuller and Eleni Asouti have continued their field studies of early agricultural systems in southern India, looking particularly at the use of woodland resources. Arlene Rosen has continued her investigation of environmental changes that accompanied the spread of rice agriculture in the Yellow river basin of China and the impact of agricultural changes on the development of complex society there. She is also working with Emma Jenkins on the ecological impact of early agricultural societies in Southwest Asia using phytolith analysis, and Eleni Asouti is analyzing macrobotanical remains from terminal Pleistocene and early Holocene sites in that region. In North Africa, Dorian Fuller has undertaken archaeobotanical research at Roman Volubilis in Morocco and at Meroitic sites in northern Sudan, and Mary Anne Murray is studying ancient Egyptian crops and the agrarian landscape (see pp. 38–42 in this issue of *AI*). Mark Lake and Alex Bentley have continued their studies of the spread of farming in Neolithic Europe and interaction between foragers and farmers, using, respectively, agent-based computer simulation and strontium-isotope analysis (see pp. 29–32). Sue Colledge and James Conolly have edited a series of papers on early Neolithic agriculture in Southwest Asia and Europe arising from an international conference held at the Institute in December 2003. The resulting volume, entitled *Origins and spread of farming in Southwest Asia and Europe*, is scheduled to be published by UCL Press in 2005.

Research on Epipalaeolithic and Neolithic hunting strategies and animal management in Southwest Asia has been continued by Louise Martin who has been analyzing bone assemblages from sites in

Jordan and from Çatalhöyük in Turkey. Jane Sidell has studied remains of eggshell from Çatalhöyük and found evidence of bird management. She has also been working on eggshell from Viking sites in Iceland. Ken Thomas and Marcello Mannino completed their archaeological and ecological study of prehistoric shellfish exploitation in the coastal zone of northwest Sicily, and have received a grant from the Leverhulme Trust for a new phase of research there on the impact of Holocene sea-level rise on prehistoric settlement.

Simon Hillson has continued his work in human osteoarchaeology. His projects include study of two first-millennium BC cemeteries on the Greek island of Astypalaea, one of which has yielded 1800 burials of young children and provides a unique opportunity to study child growth and development in detail. He is also studying human remains from Çatalhöyük, has continued his investigation of dental disease in Peruvian mummies (see pp. 44–47 in the 2003/2004 issue of *AI*), and with Daniel Antoine is completing research on the impact of the Great Famine of AD 1315–17 on the health and growth of children in fourteenth-century London (see pp. 26–28).

Several members of the group are engaged in field research on Palaeolithic and Mesolithic sites and landscapes. Mark Roberts and Matthew Pope are continuing their work at the Lower Palaeolithic site of Boxgrove and their associated survey of parts of the Sussex coastal plain (see pp. 13–16 in the 2003/2004 issue of *AI*), and Simon Parfitt has discovered the first evidence from the Cromer Forest-bed Formation on the Norfolk coast of human presence in Britain more than 500,000 years ago (see pp. 14–17). Norah Moloney participated in a further season of excavations at the Middle Pleistocene site of Azokh cave in Nagorno Karabagh in the Caucasus. Corine Yazbeck and I continued our investigations of Palaeolithic and Neolithic adaptations to the high-rainfall forest environments of the northern Lebanese mountains, with a first season of excavations at Moghr el-Ahwal in the Qadisha Valley, where the cave we investigated proved to have a well preserved Epipalaeolithic–Neolithic sequence. Tim Schadla-Hall continued his analysis of Mesolithic landscapes in the Vale of Pickering in Yorkshire and undertook further work on Mesolithic material from the islet of Lihou

off Guernsey in the Channel Islands. Ole Grøn continued his ethnoarchaeological fieldwork with the Evenki forest hunters of Siberia and completed the analysis and publication of the submerged Danish Mesolithic site of Møllegabet II (see pp. 18–21).

Other members of the group have carried out geoarchaeological investigations of later-period landscapes. Fekri Hassan has been working on several projects in Egypt concerned with ancient water management. They include the oldest known earth-fill dam in the world, at Sadd El-Kafara near Helwan; large-scale waterworks in the Faiyum depression; and artificial mounds used to harvest rainwater during the Roman period in the Maryut region west of Alexandria. David Jeffreys continued his survey of the landscape of ancient Memphis, concentrating on sediment coring and small-scale excavations to trace shifts in the course of the Nile. Jane Sidell undertook further work in the Thames estuary and is developing a model of Holocene sea-level change and estuarine evolution against which to examine archaeological patterning and flood-risk management.

Seminars

Daniel Antoine organized a seminar series for the autumn term entitled "Famine, Black Death and health in the past: a multidisciplinary approach". Derek Keene (Institute of Historical Research, University of London) discussed the Great Famine in fourteenth-century London; Lavinia Ferrante de Ruffano and Tony Waldron spoke about archaeological and clinical aspects of cranial pathology; Fekri Hassan gave an account of famine in ancient and medieval Egypt; Daniel Antoine described how he is using the remains of Londoners who died from the Black Death to investigate the effects of the Great Famine; and Sam Cohn (Department of History, University of Glasgow) presented documentary evidence which suggests that plague may not have been the cause of the Black Death pandemic.

For the spring term, a seminar series entitled "Submerged cultures and landscapes from the Stone Age" was organized by Ole Grøn. He described his research on submerged Mesolithic cultural landscapes in the Baltic, focusing particularly on excavations at the Danish site of Møllegabet II. Nicholas Flemming (Southampton Oceanography Centre) and Geoffrey Bailey (Department of Archaeology, University of York) gave seminars concerned with submerged Palaeolithic landscapes in relation to Pleistocene colonization and coastal adaptations, and Eske Willerslev (Ancient Biomolecules Centre, University of Oxford) described new developments in the analysis of ancient DNA from such sources as lake sediments, permafrost horizons and fossil remains.

The Material Culture and Data Science Research Group

Coordinator: Thilo Rehren

The group brings together staff, research students and honorary members of the Institute who are interested in the analysis of archaeological materials, particularly by instrumental and quantitative methods, within broader archaeological frameworks. It aims to apply these methods to archaeological questions by generating data that are independent of, and complementary to, traditional archaeological methods of enquiry. A major aim of the group is to study ancient technologies by analyzing the form and composition of artefacts, raw materials and waste products, and by means of experimental studies. We endeavour to optimize the productivity of the Institute's substantial human and technical resources in this field of research, and to promote the understanding of science-based archaeological information as an essential component of material culture. One way to achieve this is for the group to facilitate the early integration of quantitative methods and data in projects being developed by the Institute's other research groups, and for its individual members to contribute to group research, in addition to their own projects.

Research projects

Most of our research is done collaboratively, with colleagues in the Institute and with external partners. From the wide range of research undertaken by members of the group, I highlight in this year's report three areas of activity: ancient glass and glaze production, ceramics, and past iron technology. Three research students, Satoko Tanimoto, Fatma Marii and Christy Henshaw, work on ancient glass, together with several staff, honorary members of the group and master's degree students. The research focuses on the Late Bronze Age and the early Islamic period, and recently it received international recognition when a paper reporting the first direct evidence for Late Bronze Age glass making in Egypt was accepted for publication in *Science*.¹ This study combined fieldwork in the eastern Nile delta with experimental and analytical work in the Institute, including material from Amarna in the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology.

Research on ceramics is also increasing. Two new members of staff, Ethan Cochrane and Marcos Martín-Torres, are studying ancient pottery from, respectively, Fiji and central Europe. The recent refurbishment of the Institute's Wolfson Archaeological Science Laboratories (see below) will further strengthen our research and teaching in ceramics. Also, a book on the medieval pottery of Novgorod and its hinterland, edited by Clive Orton, is due to be published by UCL Press in the near future. It is the first of three volumes

reporting the results of collaborative research at Novgorod.

The study of past iron technology maintains its central position in the work of the group. Xander Veldhuijzen and Shadreck Chirikure are currently completing their PhD theses on, respectively, the earliest known iron-smelting site in the Middle East, at Tell Hammeh (az Zarqa) in Jordan, and Early and Late Iron Age smelting in northern Zimbabwe. The third field season of my project on ancient crucible-steel production in eastern Uzbekistan was successfully completed in May 2005, including a geophysical survey by Simon Groom using UCL's new caesium magnetometer.

Artefact studies

The Artefact Studies MA, coordinated by Bill Sillar, provides training in the analysis and interpretation of artefacts, and each student undertakes a placement in a museum or an archaeological unit to gain practical experience in artefact recording and to develop a topic for their dissertation. Recent placements have included Museum of London Specialist Services, the Ure Museum at the University of Reading, the Horniman Museum, the British Museum and the Portable Antiquities Scheme. As this issue of *AI* goes to press 12 more placements are being organized and we would like to express our thanks to all the institutions and individuals who support this scheme.

Refurbishment of the Wolfson Laboratories

Work on the building that will house UCL's Department of Anthropology continued throughout the year, causing considerable disruption to the Institute's teaching and research, especially in the basement laboratories. However, the final phase, scheduled to be completed in the late summer of 2005, will see the sample-preparation laboratories re-instated in their previous space, and two small laboratories created in spaces between the steel supports of the anthropology building above. One of them will house a clean chemical facility to enable more demanding chemical extraction processes for isotopic and trace-element studies to be carried out, and the other will be a teaching and research laboratory for optical microscopy, fitted out with a set of new microscopes. When all the work is completed, the layout and instrumentation of the Wolfson Laboratories will have been considerably improved.

International recognition

The award in the summer of 2004 of a four-year grant from the European Commission under the "Marie Curie Action for Early Stage Researchers" programme enables us

to offer each year between eight and eleven visiting fellowships and MA, MSc and PhD scholarships in the field of materials science and geographic-information systems in archaeology (see the back cover of this issue of *AI*). This reinforces the position of the Institute at the forefront of the field and enables us to recruit outstanding European students. The international standing of the group's work was also reflected in, for example, an invitation to Clive Orton to speak at the 24th International Research Symposium "Reading historical spatial information from around the world: studies of culture and civilization based on geographic information systems data" in Kyoto, Japan, in February 2005.

The Wolfson Laboratories continue to attract researchers from around the world to join us in collaborative projects. For example, this year Dr Jianjun Mei from the Institute of Historical Metallurgy and Materials at the University of Science and Technology in Beijing spent three months with us investigating prehistoric and early-modern copper slag from northwestern China – a project that also forms part of the group's growing involvement in the International Centre for Chinese Heritage and Archaeology (see p. 3 in this issue of *AI*); and Blanca Maldonado from Pennsylvania State University spent five months working on slag from pre-Spanish and early Spanish copper smelting from Itziparatzico in western Mexico, the earliest such evidence so far found in Mesoamerica. Both these studies link to previous research at the Institute on copper metallurgy, such as that by Myrto Georgakopoulou, who this year submitted her PhD thesis on the Early Bronze Age copper metallurgy of Seriphos in the Aegean and who is now continuing to work at the Institute on Late Bronze Age copper-smelting slags from Cyprus, in a joint project with Dr Vassiliki Kassianidou from the University of Nicosia.

Note

1. Th. Rehren & E. Pusch, "Late Bronze Age Egyptian glass production at Qantir-Pirameses, in press, *Science*, 2005.

The Social and Cultural Dynamics Research Group

Coordinator: Ruth Whitehouse

The group brings together staff, postgraduate students and honorary members of the Institute whose primary interest is in anthropological and sociological approaches to the study of material culture. Its members share the common aim of studying the dynamics of material-culture systems comparatively, cutting across the regional and chronological boundaries that have traditionally divided archaeology.

Research projects

Several existing field projects organized by members of the group continued and some new ones were initiated or are in advanced stages of planning. One of the main themes of this research continues to be island archaeology. In the Mediterranean, Cyprian Broodbank's Kythera island project is in its post-survey stage, Andrew Bevan is developing a new project on the nearby island of Antikythera, and Todd Whitelaw's major project at Knossos in Crete is getting into gear, with a first field season planned for July 2005. In the Caribbean, José Oliver has begun a new project at Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic while continuing to work in Puerto Rico, now at the site of Vivi Arriba near Utuado; and Jago Cooper is engaged in a project at Los Buchillones in Cuba (with Elizabeth Graham and David Pendergast).

In mainland areas, several existing projects have continued and new ones have been started. Elizabeth Graham's Maya project at Lamanai in Belize, and Kevin MacDonald's Cane River African diaspora project in Louisiana have continued. In Africa, Kevin has undertaken extensive field survey in the Ségou region of Mali and has located one exceptionally large settlement which may have been a capital of the historical Ségou state; and Andrew Reid has begun work at Bweyore in Uganda, which was also the capital of a former state. In Europe, Sue Hamilton and I have continued our Neolithic–Iron Age project in northern Puglia, Italy; and the other Italian project entitled "Developmental literacy and the establishment of regional and state identity in early Italy: research beyond Etruria, Greece and Rome", which I direct (with John Wilkins of the Accordia Research Institute of the University of London) assisted by Kathryn Lomas as research fellow, completed its second year with concentrated study of inscriptions from southeast Italy. Katherine Wright continued her research on the evidence for and the cultural significance of cooking in prehistoric Southwest Asia, focusing on its changing technology from the Palaeolithic to the Neolithic (see pp. 33–37 in this issue of *AI*).

Conferences and lectures

In November 2004 the group, together with the Complex Societies Research Group, sponsored a one-day conference on the theme of literacy in the ancient world. It was organized by Kathryn Lomas under the title "Literacy and state development: comparative perspectives". It brought together scholars studying literacy in Egypt, western Asia, the Mediterranean and Peru and provoked some fascinating and wide-ranging debate. We hope that, with some additional invited papers, it will result in a valuable publication.

In April 2005 the group sponsored the sixth workshop on Celtic–Romano-British religion, known by the acronym FERCAN (Fontes epigraphici religionis Celticae antiquae). The three-day workshop, entitled "Continuity and innovation in religion in the Roman west", was held at the Institute and organized by Sue Hamilton, together with Professor Tony King (St Alfred's College, Winchester) and Dr Ralph Häußler (University of Osnabrück), with support from the British Academy. The event included a reception at the Institute and a book launch for the proceedings of the FERCAN workshops held in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, in 2000 and in Osnabrück, Germany, in 2002. It is expected that the proceedings of the sixth conference will be published in the same series.

The Forum for Island Research and Experience (FIRE), established last year under the aegis of the Social and Cultural Dynamics Research Group, is now continuing as an independent forum run by Jago Cooper and Helen Dawson. In February 2005 they organized a very successful conference at the Institute on the theme "Learning lessons from cultural heritage for sustainable island development". It brought together archaeologists, geographers, social anthropologists, and emergency and disaster managers and will lead to the publication of a volume of papers.

In the autumn term the group hosted two lectures by distinguished American scholars on the subject of gender archaeology. In November Anne Pyburn, from Indiana University, gave a lecture entitled "Archaeology and the gender without history" and in December Joan Gero, of the American University, Washington DC, spoke to the title "Sexpots of ancient Peru: is sex below gender?". Both lectures were very well attended and enthusiastically received.

In the spring term a half-day meeting was held at which members of the group presented their own research. Six papers were given, by three members of the academic staff and three research students. The group introduced this type of meeting last year and because it worked well then we decided to repeat it this year. Finally, in

May 2005, the group sponsored a lecture by the Colombian archaeologist Augusto Oyuela-Cayced, who spoke about his research in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta of northern Colombia under the title "From the Tairona to the Kogi: a case study in the historical ecology of religion".

Publications

The first of the three volumes being published by UCL Press, which I mentioned in my report last year – *Agency uncovered: archaeological perspectives on social agency, power and being human*, edited by Andrew Gardner – was published in July 2004. *Archaeology and women*, edited by Sue Hamilton, Ruth Whitehouse and Karen Wright, is in press for publication in the autumn of 2005, and *The archaeology of water: social and ritual dimensions*, edited by Fay Stevens, is also expected to be published in the near future.

The Complex and Literate Societies Research Group

Coordinator: Andrew Reynolds

The group has continued to provide a cross-cultural forum for academic staff, postgraduate students, and honorary members of the Institute whose research interests and expertise concern the archaeology of literate societies worldwide. I succeeded John Tait as coordinator in 2004 and thanks are due to him for his efforts during his three-year term. In future, the group aims to strengthen support networks for its postgraduate students, in particular by organizing seminars on themes related to research methods. The first of these meetings, concerning the uses of texts in archaeology, was held in the summer term. David Wengrow, a new member of staff who works in Egypt, has joined the group and has completed a book on the archaeology of early Egypt which is due to be published by the end of 2005.

Research projects

The research of many members of the group relates to Europe. Kris Lockyear continued his collaborative project at Roman Noviodunum in Romania (the first phase of which he described in *AI* 2002/2003). In the 2004 field season, further resistivity survey of the site was undertaken, as were trials to assess the potential value of magnetometry survey. Analysis of the pottery retrieved so far was completed and the results of the first four seasons (2000, 2002–04) will be published in the next volume of the *Journal of Roman Archaeology* in 2005. The continuation of the project for a further four years is now assured by an award from the UK Arts and Humanities Research Board. Alan Johnston continued his work on pottery from the ancient Greek world in the Mediterranean (see pp. 25–28 in *AI* 2001/2002) by studying sherds from the Institute's Kythera island project and the University of Toronto's excavations at Kommos, Crete, as well as inscribed pottery from the Adriatic area, from Gravisca on the Etrurian coast and from Naukratis in the Nile delta. Mark Hassall is maintaining his longstanding commitment to the annual summary publication in *Britannia*, with Roger Tomlin (University of Oxford), of new finds in Britain of Roman inscriptions, and he also continued his research on routes of medieval Christian pilgrimage by focusing on the final stages of the Via Francigena through Lazio to Rome. Gudrun Sveinbjarnardóttir is currently working on two major projects. One concerns Viking settlement in the North Atlantic and its human and ecological consequences. It is funded by the Leverhulme Trust and is a collaborative project with the universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Stirling, Bournemouth and Hunter College, New York. Its central aim is to examine the long-term effects of settlement in environmentally

sensitive areas not previously inhabited. Her second project, at Reykholt in western Iceland (see pp. 22–26 in *AI* 2003/2004) is also interdisciplinary and is a collaboration with the National Museum of Iceland, the University of Iceland and Snorrastofa, the centre for medieval studies based at Reykholt itself.

In Britain, post-excavation work on the Compton Bassett project in Wiltshire that I direct has progressed, and reports on the first two seasons' work recording standing buildings at the Hebridean ecclesiastical site of Howmore on the island of South Uist will be written during the summer of 2005 prior to excavation at the site in 2006. The second phase of excavation at the Anglo-Saxon monastic site at Buckfastleigh in Devon (see pp. 22–25 in this issue of *AI*) will likewise take place this summer. I have also secured an award from the Leverhulme Trust for a three-year project to explore the landscape context of Anglo-Saxon civil defence in the Viking Age. It is a collaborative venture with the universities of Nottingham and York, and Stuart Brookes, who is currently an honorary research assistant at the Institute, will be employed for its duration. Another project in which I have participated, entitled "People and space" and funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Board, explored community definition in the early middle ages in Britain, and a book resulting from it is due to be published in 2006. Martin Welch is currently preparing for publication an important Early Anglo-Saxon cemetery investigated by the late Sonia Hawkes at Eastry in Kent.

Among the research students who are members of the group are several medieval archaeologists. Judie English is examining the spatial, economic and administrative context of a series of excavated early medieval settlements in Britain. Helen Leaf is undertaking a detailed study of medieval bone flutes from the British Isles, and Margaret Broomfield, whose research is based on the Museum of London's leather collection, is examining long-term change in the leather-working industry in London from the early to the late middle ages.

Members of the group also undertake research farther afield: in Turkey, where Roger Matthews has continued working on the results of his regional survey in Paphlagonia; in central Asia, where Tim Williams has maintained his research programme at Merv in Turkmenistan (see pp. 40–43 in the 2002/2003 issue of *AI*); in China, where Luisa Mengoni has examined the role of archaeology in the study of regional cultures (see pp. 52–55 in this issue of *AI*); in India, where Robert Harding has been studying religious, especially Buddhist, topographies (see pp. 48–51); and in Egypt, where Stephen Quirke has

continued his study of Middle Kingdom papyri from Kahun and John Tait has continued his work on the Tomb Robbery Papyri housed in the British Museum.

Conferences and seminars

In November 2004 the group sponsored, with the Social and Cultural Dynamics Research Group, a one-day conference on literacy in the ancient world (see p. 6 in this issue). Also in November, Alan Johnston and Vassos Karageorghis (of the UCL Department of Greek and Latin) organized a highly successful one-day meeting on the theme "The work of UCL alumni in the archaeology and history of the ancient Mediterranean". Additional sponsorship for the event was provided by the Leventis Foundation, the UCL Centre for the Classical World and UCL's Development and Corporate Communications Office. The Institute's medievalists maintained links with the British Museum through the jointly organized Early Medieval Studies seminar, with an impressive list of speakers that included Janet Nelson (King's College London), Helen Geake (University of Cambridge), Jo Story (University of Leicester); and in May 2005 the group organized a seminar given by Boyan Dumanov (New Bulgarian University, Sofia), who spoke about his research under the title "Ethno-cultural transformations in the early medieval Balkans".

The Heritage Studies Research Group

Coordinator: Nick Merriman

The group brings together those staff, postgraduate students and honorary members of the Institute who are involved in research on the conservation, management and interpretation of the cultural heritage. Members of other UCL organizations such as the Centre for Sustainable Heritage also participate in the group's activities.

The members of the group have a wide range of expertise and backgrounds in conservation, heritage theory and management, museum curatorship, museology and ICT (information and communications technology). Members' research interests are correspondingly wide. They include the investigation, interpretation and conservation of artefacts, the conservation and management of sites and monuments, art law and the antiquities trade, ethics, training, the impact of museums and heritage sites on visitors, the role in heritage of digital technologies, cultural diversity, memory, politics and representation. The group also supports many research students working on a diverse range of topics. It aims to provide a forum for these students to enable them to develop their ideas and exchange them with their peers, and in which training in specific heritage-related issues may also be provided.

Research and publication

The research of members of the group continued to focus on the themes and projects reported in last year's issue of *Archaeology International*, with emphasis on the publication of results before the next Research Assessment Exercise (the national assessment of research in UK universities). Following her sabbatical in the autumn term, Suzanne Keene has been putting the final touches to a book on the uses of museum collections, and Sally MacDonald and Elizabeth Pye are contributing to a volume arising from the "Magic Touch" conference that took place at the Institute in December 2004 (see the next section). Clifford Price has continued his research on salt damage to monuments, which is part of an inter-institutional collaborative project funded by the European Union to December 2006 (see pp. 56–58 in this issue of *AI*). John Merkel has worked on publication of various metallurgical projects, including one on the Chalcolithic copper mines and smelters in the Timna Valley in Israel with Beno Rothenberg, who is a visiting professor at the Institute.

Dean Sully's research on the conservation, history and function of the Maori meeting house Hinemihi at Clandon Park in Surrey (see pp. 53–56 in *AI* 2003/2004) continues, as does Kathy Tubb's on metalwork from Petrie's excavations in Palestine and Egypt. Beverley Butler is now

developing a project concerned with the archaeology and heritage of Palestine which was reflected in the seminar she organized in the autumn term (see the next section), and I am developing a research project on sustainability and collecting for museums, as part of a Clore Foundation fellowship. Paulette McManus will retire in the summer of 2005. She has done a huge amount to establish the importance of museum communication and interpretation in a variety of courses at the Institute, and her own research on visitor evaluation of museums and heritage sites has been internationally recognized.

The group's involvement with the international project at the Neolithic site of Catalhöyük in Turkey has continued to expand, with a significant presence of Institute conservation staff and students during the 2004 field season. Both on-site consolidation and laboratory treatment and analysis of finds has been undertaken, and several museum- and heritage-studies students are now working under my direction to improve the presentation and interpretation of this important site to the public.

Conferences and seminars

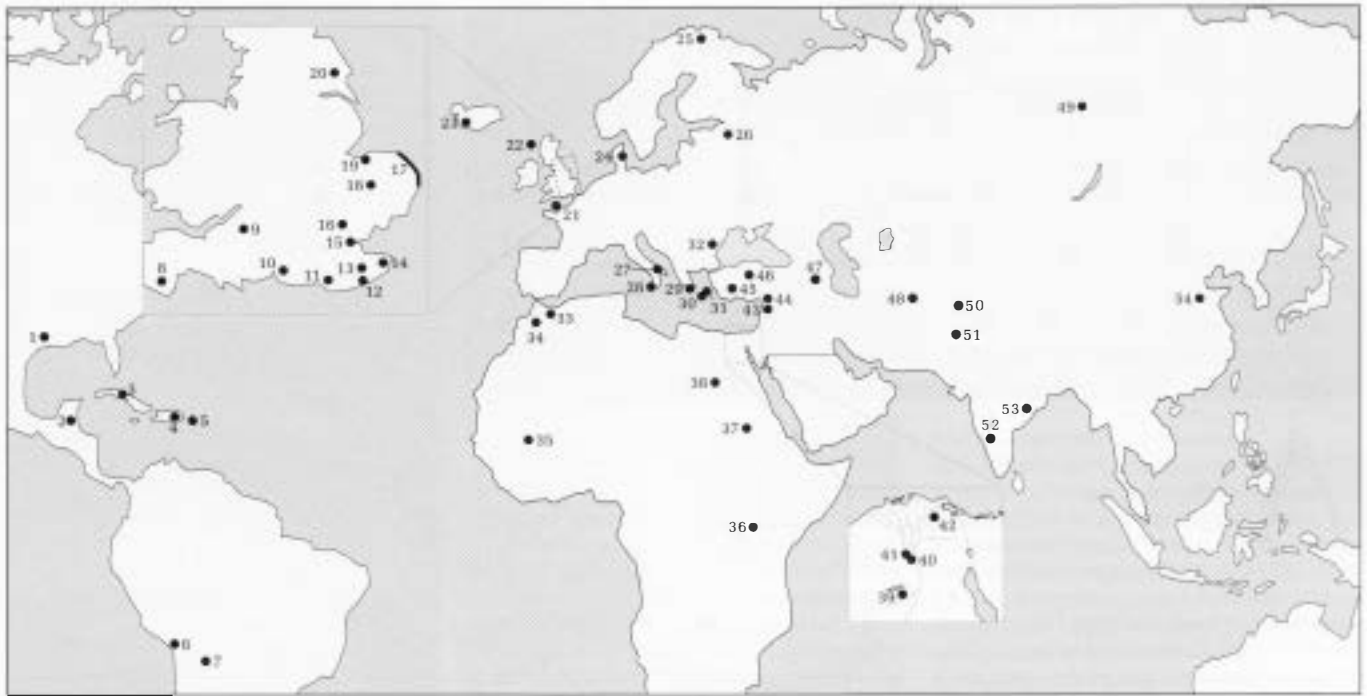
Following a successful seminar series last year, and production of the group's Forward Plan to 2010 (see my report in last year's issue), we decided to concentrate our efforts this year on the development of conferences. The first, organized by Sally MacDonald, Elizabeth Pye and Beverley Butler, took place on 20 December 2004 and was entitled "The Magic Touch: touching and handling in a cultural heritage context". It focused on the following themes:

- How does touch relate to the other senses?
- What is the connection between tactile perception, pleasure and power?
- Is it possible to touch more discerningly?
- Can touch be redefined in a virtual environment?
- What role does touch play in the deeper understanding of objects?
- Can concepts such as sympathetic magic and contagion help such understanding?

Speakers and other participants included psychologists, anthropologists, practising artists, archaeologists and heritage professionals. The conference was a very stimulating interdisciplinary event and the organizers are currently working on an edited volume based on its proceedings. In addition to the main conference, several individual seminars were arranged to take advantage of the presence of visiting academics. These included two given in November 2004 by Dr David Clarke of the

National Museums of Scotland, one on the future of museums and the other on the issue of disposal from collections.

This year the group did not offer a seminar series in heritage studies because Beverley Butler accepted responsibility for organizing the Institute-wide series in the autumn term. It was entitled "Archival memory: the case of Palestine", and in ten two-hour seminars led by Institute staff and invited speakers issues relating to identity and the past in a fractured and displaced society were examined. The seminars were very well attended, and, as has already been mentioned in the previous section, Beverley is now developing a wider research project related to the archaeology and heritage of Palestine (the Director of the Institute also comments on the seminar series in his report on page 3 of this issue).



World distribution of current field projects

The Americas	Britain	Continental Europe	Africa	Asia
1. Cane River, Louisiana, USA MacDonald: historical (creole)	8. Buckfastleigh, Devon Reynolds: medieval	23. Reykholt, Iceland Sveinbjarnardóttir: medieval-present	33. Taforalt, Morocco Parfitt: Middle-Upper Palaeolithic	43. Sidon, Lebanon Doumet, Griffiths: multi-period
2. Lamanai, Belize Graham: multiperiod	9. Compton Bassett, Wiltshire Reynolds: multiperiod	24. Zealand, Denmark Grøn: Mesolithic underwater landscapes	34. Volubilis, Morocco Fentress, Palumbo: early Islamic	44. Qadisha Valley, Lebanon Garrard, Yazbeck: Palaeolithic
3. Los Buchillonos, Cuba Graham: 12th-17th century AD	10. Boxgrove & Slindon, Sussex Roberts, Pope: Lower Palaeolithic	25. Karasjok, Norway Grøn: ethnoarchaeological	35. Ségou, Mali MacDonald: historical (AD 900-1850)	45. Çatalhöyük, Turkey L. Martin, Rosen, Asouti: Neolithic
4. Punta Cana, Dominican Republic Oliver: Prehispanic	11. Lewes, Sussex Griffin: medieval	26. Novgorod, Russia Orton: medieval	36. Bweyore, Uganda Reid: historical African state	46. Paphlagonia, Turkey Matthews: multiperiod
5. Utuaño, Puerto Rico Oliver: Prehispanic	12. Lydd, Kent Priestley-Bell: medieval	27. Northern Puglia, Italy Whitehouse, Hamilton: Neolithic-Iron Age	37. Nile 4th Cataract, Sudan Fuller: multiperiod	47. Azokh Cave, Nagorno Karabagh Moloney: Palaeolithic
6. Ilo & Leymebamba, Peru Hillson: multiperiod	13. Ashford, Kent Stevenson: Iron Age	28. Northwest Sicily, Italy Thomas, Mannino: Palaeolithic-Neolithic	38. Farafrā Oasis, Egypt Hassan: Late Palaeolithic	48. Merv, Turkmenistan Williams: multiperiod
7. Porco, Bolivia Rehren: 15th-16th century AD	14. Sandwich, Kent Clarke, Milne: medieval (Cinque Ports project)	29. Kythera, Greece Broodbank, Johnston: multiperiod	39. Faiyum Oasis, Egypt Hassan: multiperiod	49. Jerbogachen, Russia Grøn: ethnoarchaeological
	15. Thames estuary Sidell: prehistoric-present	30. Antikythera, Greece Bevan, Conolly: multiperiod	40. Memphis, Egypt Jeffreys: multiperiod	50. Akhsiket, Uzbekistan Rehren: early Islamic
	16. Essex Perring: Roman	31. Knossos, Greece Whitelaw: multiperiod	41. Giza, Egypt Murray: Dynastic	51. Bannu, Pakistan Thomas: multiperiod
	17. East Anglian coast Parfitt: Lower Palaeolithic	32. Astypalaia, Greece Hillson: Late Archaic-Classical	42. Qantir-Piramesses, Egypt Rehren: Late Bronze Age	52. Karnataka, India Fuller, Asouti: Neolithic
	18. Great Dunham, Norfolk Shepherd: multiperiod	33. Noviodunum, Romania Lockyear, Popescu: Roman-Byzantine		53. Gopalpur, India Fuller: Neolithic
	19. Sedgeford, Norfolk Faulkner: multiperiod			54. Yiluo River, China Rosen: Neolithic-Bronze Age
	20. Pickering, Yorkshire Schadla-Hall: Mesolithic			
	21. Lihou, Guernsey Schadla-Hall: Mesolithic			
	22. South Uist, Outer Hebrides Reynolds: medieval			

• The above list includes only the projects that involve survey or excavation (or both) run by members of the Institute or to which they make a major contribution (individual research student's field projects are excluded, as are study visits to museum and other collections), and only the main members of the Institute involved in each project are named. Staff from other UCL departments and other UK and overseas universities and organizations also participate in many projects and in some cases co-direct them, but there is insufficient space to list them all here.

• All the overseas projects depend on collaboration with local archaeologists and with the relevant antiquities services, museums or universities. Several of them also involve collaboration with other UK universities, museums and other organizations, e.g. 26 (Bournemouth), 27 (UMIST), 29 (Cambridge, Oxford, Sheffield), 30 (Sheffield), 32 (Cambridge, Southampton), 33 (Natural History Museum, Oxford), 40 (Egypt Exploration Society), 43 (British Museum), 44 (Lampeter), 45 (Cambridge), 51 (British Museum), 52 (Cambridge).