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BIEA archaeological research in Southern Sudan

From late September to early November, a BIEA team led by the Assistant Director, Matthew Davies, and assisted by BIEA staff members Benson Kimeu and Joseph Mutua, as well as Graduate Attachees, David Conway and Jessica Petts, conducted a



Revetment walls overlooking the Nile at Laboré, south Sudan

preliminary impact assessment of archaeological and historical sites in relation to the proposed Bahr El-Jebel hydroelectric power scheme. This project aims to construct a series of dams on the Nile and, if implemented, will create a sequence of shallow reservoirs between Juba and Nimule. The BIEA team adopted a twofold strategy, firstly focusing on the identification of all major historical sites in the impact



Survey on the Nile by inflatable boat

region through literature reviews and questioning informants and secondly, conducting a systematic field-walking survey with the aim of identifying a representative sample of archaeological sites from all periods. Both techniques were highly informative, the systematic survey recorded large numbers of pre-mid 19th century settlement sites and associated agricultural features such as field terraces and clearance cairns. These data demonstrate that vast parts of the region, now largely abandoned, were previously densely populated and cultivated. The survey of historical sites focussed principally on the forts of Emin Pasha and succeeded in locating the fort at Labore (some 50 km north of Nimule). This proved to be a substantial and extensive site comprised of a sub-rectangular dry-stone walled enclosure some 160m by 180m in size and with large revetment walls overlooking the Nile. Perhaps most interesting were the high concentrations of material artefacts at the site (including ceramics, grindstones, and iron slag) and the abundance of village/agricultural features occupying a large area around the fort. These findings suggest that a detailed archaeological study of the relationship between those occupying the fort and those occupying the land around it would add substantially to information gleaned from historical sources. Overall, this brief BIEA survey located some one hundred and fifty sites has hopefully served to re-establish BIEA-led archaeological research in the Southern Sudan.

With the public in mind by *Monica Bonaccorso*
 ‘With the Public in Mind’ investigates the transnational and national production and dissemination of

knowledge on HIV/AIDS and malaria in diverse contexts in Kenya: in the media; in scientific/clinical institutions; and in civil society organisations (non-governmental, community and faith based). Fieldwork is taking place both in urban and rural settings.



Inscription on a rock in Kakamega Forest

Preliminary findings show that despite 20 years of substantial efforts in transnational and national wide-ranging humanitarian, aid and public engagement initiatives - described by locals as ‘awareness’ activities - the number of people suffering from HIV/AIDS and malaria might not really be in decline. The wide range of programmes implemented in the region with respect both to HIV/AIDS and malaria does not seem to tackle core issues. Rich interview material reveals that a new generation of Kenyans will continue to get infected and



Bonaccorso (left) with Sister Mary Owens of Nyumbani

affected by both conditions. For radically divergent reasons wealthy, vulnerable, and informed publics tend to distance themselves from bio-medical knowledge and the behavioural change that it promotes. Denial, together with significant, largely under-recognised and under-represented gender, cultural and social constraints often make it impossible to act upon the knowledge that is circulated, and which could ultimately alleviate much suffering and even prevent deaths. This is particularly

true for women and children who still remain the most exposed and at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and malaria. These findings contrast with some reports published in 2009 by large international organizations and the media, which claim that, statistically, the number of infections is stabilising itself and, in some cases, even declining. They also claim that Kenyans are now ‘aware’ and ‘empowered’ enough to fight back against HIV/AIDS and malaria.

Monica Bonaccorso is a lecturer and senior research fellow in social anthropology at Goldsmiths College, University of London. She is currently on research leave running a 4-year Wellcome Trust funded project titled, ‘With the Public in Mind: Ethnographic Investigations of Medical Science and the Media in Kenya’ (grant number GR082950MA). Monica enjoys the logistic support of the BIEA and the collaboration of excellent graduate attachées of the Institute.

Profile of a graduate attachée

Each year BIEA offers a number of attachments to recent graduates from the UK, Ireland and Eastern Africa. These attachments provide the graduates with a wide range of research experiences and help them to develop topics for further study. Graduate attachées also provide assistance for ongoing research projects, and those wishing to make use of this scheme should visit our website for more information. In this issue we profile the experiences of a recent attachée, Juma Ondeng.

Juma Ondeng

I joined the BIEA as a graduate attachée in July 2006, a few months after graduating from the University of Nairobi with a BA in Anthropology. As a fresh graduate, the attachment had a stimulating effect in shaping my career goals while at the same time honing my skills in both academic work and the management of research projects. Being an institution with a large pool of partners, BIEA helped me to effectively develop my networking skills, which have proved very valuable in my career.



Some of the projects I participated in during my internship were; digitisation of BIEA archives for Aluka, research into Trauma and Personhood in Late Colonial Kenya, an archaeological survey of the Mafia Archipelago and archival research on various subjects. During the recently concluded European Union funded re-development of the National Museums of Kenya's Nairobi Museum, BIEA seconded me to the National Museums of Kenya Support Programme (NMKSP) as a research assistant for a few weeks. This later culminated into my appointment as a consultant for the History of Kenya Exhibition Team for a period of six months with a brief of doing archival research, object identification and sourcing for the proposed History of Kenya Gallery at the National Museums of Kenya.

Following this, in 2007, I got an opportunity to visit the United Kingdom to attend an archaeological excavation field school in Marcham Oxford as part of my internship, and soon after my Oxford trip, I was engaged by Dr Sloan Mahone to work on the Mathari Hospital Historical Project.

I would say that the holistic training which interns get is particularly useful in shaping career goals for young scholars. For example, it was during my trip to Mafia Archipelago that I developed definitive interest in pursuing postgraduate studies in heritage and development. This was after I encountered challenging questions in the course of conducting oral interviews of potters in Mafia. However, an immediate obstacle to my quest was the lack of an appropriate postgraduate course, not only at the local universities but in the entire eastern Africa region as well. Luckily for me, the then director of BIEA, Dr Justin Willis and his assistant, Dr Stephanie Wyne-Jones, were both instrumental in helping me to identify potential universities in the United Kingdom where such a combination was offered. Their collective efforts enabled me to finally secure a place at the University of East Anglia (UEA) for an MA in Cultural Heritage and International Development, which I completed in November 2009.

During my time at UEA, I had an opportunity to

do a museum placement at the British Museum. In addition I was awarded a grant by BIEA to support my dissertation fieldwork in Marsabit, northern Kenya.

Most recently the skills that I have developed during my association with the BIEA, and which were further polished during my time in the UK, resulted in the British Museum engaging me as a consultant for their capacity building project in Kenya.

I truly remain indebted to BIEA for my many successes and look forward to even further collaboration!

BIEA news, updates and announcements

Change of Director

The Director, Dr Justin Willis, left BIEA in early september to resume his teaching post at the University of Durham. Dr Willis oversaw many changes at BIEA, including the construction of our new building, and all the staff wish him the very best for the future.

Dr Willis has been succeeded by Prof. Dave Anderson who will hold the position of Acting Director for one year while on sabbatical from the University of Oxford. As a longstanding council member, Prof. Anderson is well acquainted with BIEA and is looking forward to the challenges of the year ahead! He will be based in the UK but will make a number of visits to Nairobi throughout the year.

New staff at BIEA

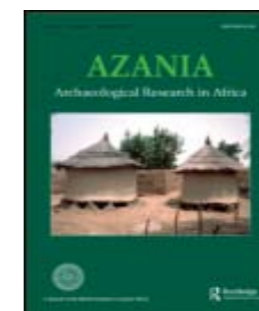
At the commencement of the new year, BIEA has welcomed two new members of staff. Janet Njoroge has taken up the post of Bookkeeper/Receptionist, assisting our Office Manager, Humphrey Mathenge, with the day to day administration of our premises.



And thanks to a generous additional grant from the British Academy, we have been able to appoint a Research Fellow on a two-year fixed-term contract. This post has been filled by Kerry Kyaa, an MPH graduate from the University of Nottingham, whose research at BIEA will focus on social and health aspects relating to the continued practice of female genital mutilation in eastern Africa. In addition, James Smith joined the BIEA Graduate Scheme from January, and will stay with us for a period of six months. James completed an MSc in African Studies at the University of Oxford last year, and while with BIEA he will undertake research on projects run by Prof. Anderson, and by Dr Bonaccorso. In December 2009 the BIEA bid farewell to Susan Mwangi, who had worked for six years as our Publications Officer. In the coming weeks we hope to add a further member to our staff, with the appointment of an IT Officer – a post now much needed to service the growing community using our Kileleshwa premises.

New Look Azania

The 3 issues of Volume 44 (2009) of the new-look Azania are now out. The re-launched Azania aims at becoming the premier outlet for publishing archaeological research on the African past. Papers are invited from the entire region of Africa, and should address ethno-archaeology and archaeologies of the African Diaspora, Classical North Africa and Pharaonic Egypt among other aspects of African archaeology.



BIEA/IFRA Library

The collections of BIEA and IFRA libraries are now under one roof at the BIEA new offices. With a combined book collection of about 10,000 and over 100 journal titles; and a wide range of grey literature, the BIEA/IFRA library is one of a kind in the



region. The library is connected to wireless broadband internet, providing users with an expanded online resource facility that includes JStor. BIEA/IFRA Library is managed by Mr Innocent Mwangi.

Annual Lecture

The 2009 annual lecture was given on Thursday 5th November at 6pm at the British Academy, by Professor Henrietta L. Moore. The topic was 'Educating Desire: Technology, Sex and Modernity in Eastern Africa'.

Membership updates

Subscriptions for 2010 are now due. Please subscribe ASAP to ensure the timely arrival of your copies of Azania and/or JEAS, and to continue enjoying our library services. Both journals are published three times annually in March, July and November. For more information, contact us at office@biea.ac.uk.

In order to improve communication with members, we are currently updating the details in our membership database. If you feel that our record of your details may be inaccurate, please forward updates to office@biea.ac.uk. In the future we hope to principally communicate with members via email and we therefore recommend that you ensure we have an up-to-date email address for you.

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