Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Anthro Log

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May to December

- 530 Archival images used in 100 catalogs or other books., 37 exhibits, 27 journals and 10 video productions.
- Images of 280 objects were used in 25 catalogs, 6 exhibits, 9 journal articles, 2 video documents and 2 online databases.
- 37,000 images of artifacts were added to the electronic catalog called EMu.

Inside this issue:

Inuit Tourism Expanding 2

Congratulations New AAAS Fellow 2

Iroquoian Tattoo Resurgence 2

Turkmen Textile Exhibit opened in DC. 3

Physical Anthropology Outreach 4

Anthropology in 3D 5

Recovering Voices Program News 6

Mali Mud Masons Exhibit Open in Focus Gallery

Mud Masons of Mali opened August 31, 2013 in the Focus Gallery of the *African Voices* permanent exhibit. Co-curated by **Mary Jo Arnoldi** and Trevor Marchand, Professor of Anthropology, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, the exhibit includes photographs, objects and four films made in collaboration with five masons from Djenné, Mali. Ranging in age from 77 to 21, each mason brings different experiences to this story as they speak about the pride they take in their city, the skills they have acquired, and the different challenges they face in the 21st century (http://www.mnh.si.edu/exhibits/mud-masons/).

War in northern Mali and the overthrow of the government in 2012 prevented us from filming in Djenné, so in September 2012 we brought the masons to Leiden, the Netherlands where we filmed interviews and shot footage around the city. While visiting an architectural restoration project the Malian and Dutch masons bonded easily over their mutual respect for their craft. We sent a camera back with the masons to Djenné and they shot footage of their building sites and city scenes. Peace has been reestablished and a new president elected in Mali. All of us look forward to peace and prosperity for Djenné in the coming years.

Mary Jo Arnoldi

Photo by Trevor Marchand

Material Intimacies of Mobile Phones Studied

In June 2013, a group of 14 international scholars explored the ways in which the social, linguistic, cultural, and material facets of cell phone use overlap and intersect. The workshop hosted by **Joshua A. Bell** (NMNH Anthropology), Joel Kuipers (GWU Anthropology), Briel Kobak, Amanda Kemble, and Jacqueline Hazen titled *Linguistic and Material Intimacies of Mobile Phones*, resulted in papers that as a volume will contribute to broader anthropological theory on materiality, technology studies, linguistics, and anthropology of the self. This workshop grew out of the team's Consortia funded project *Fixing Connections: The Art & Science of Repair* (www.si.edu/consortia).

Since May 2012, the SI/GWU team has been conducting ethnographic research in cell phone repair shops across the Washington, DC area to investigate the cultural intimacies associated with cell phones as well as their materiality.

Inuit Tourism is Thriving in Labrador

Archaeologist **Bill Fitzhugh**'s research in Labrador 40 years ago is having an impact on Inuit tourism today. Fitzhugh, an invited guest at the latest Cultural Heritage Forum in Rigolet, lectured on the cultural and historical significance of the Nunatsiavut region that emerged through his field work in the 1970s. Several of his lectures at the Forum provided valuable information and resources that can be used for tourism development. In the forefront of the growing industry are Inuit led initiatives in culture, heritage and history in contrast with the more usual methods of historic tourism. Another factor in the increase of Arctic tourism is reduced summer sea ice and the opening of major passageways for shipping and cruises. During the next few years the Arctic Studies Center will also provide Labrador communities with the information to further education and economic development.

Congratulations are in order

"...a proud moment for Smithsonian science"

Physical Anthropologist **Matt Tocheri** was elected as a Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He was awarded this distinction in recognition of his contributions to the study of comparative anatomy and human evolution, particularly the evolution of the wrist. Matt was among 4 Smithsonian scientists who received this honor this year. "This is a proud moment for Smithsonian science," said Wayne Clough, Secretary of the Smithsonian, regarding the announcement of the 2013 AAAS Fellows. "There are now 47 Smithsonian scientists who are AAAS Fellows. Congratulations to my colleagues; they are making a mark and advancing scientific discovery in their respective fields of endeavor to the benefit of the scientific community and the public at large."

Iroquoian Tattoo Resurgence

Photo by Lars Krutak

Lars Krutak delivered the opening lecture for the new exhibition *Indian Ink: Iroquois and the Art of Tattoos* at the Iroquois Museum in Howe's Cave, New York. The exhibition traces the history of Iroquoian tattooing through objects of material culture, mixed media, and contemporary tattoo art. Once widespread among indigenous peoples of the Northeast, the tradition of tattooing had declined by the mid-1800s as a consequence of religious influence, assimilation, and relocation. Today, this ancient practice is undergoing a spectacular resurgence in Native America, and "Indian Ink" showcases contemporary expressions of this body of art through cultural, philosophical, and personal meanings. Over 100 Iroquois people from across the country participated in the exhibition.

Turkmenistan Culture Days Celebration

The Asian Cultural History Program (ACHP) co-organized this year's *Turkmenistan Culture Days*, coinciding with the release of a new bilingual (English and Turkmen) book, *Turkmenistan: Arts from the Land of Magtymguly*, by ACHP director **Paul Michael Taylor,** and the program's volunteer researchers **Trevor Loomis Merrion, William Bradford Smith, and Jasper Waugh-Quasebarth**. Turkmenistan's Ministry of Culture and Academy of Sciences sent an 82-person delegation for these events, led by H.E. Guncha Mammedova, Minister of Culture. Working with the U.S. Department of State, and Turkmenistan's Academy of Sciences and Ministry of Culture, Paul Taylor on December 2nd hosted a symposium on the 18th century Turkmen poet Magtymguly Pyragy, followed by the screening of a new documentary film about him. That evening, at the Amphitheater of the Reagan Building and International Trade Center, musicians from the National Conservatory of Turkmenistan and Turkmen dance groups performed traditional *bagshy* music along with modern arrangements of ancient Turkmen songs, accompanied by impressive choreographed dance sequences and vocal performances. The following day featured a reception at the Meridian International Center for the opening of Meridian's Turkmenistan exhibition, for which **Paul Taylor** and **Trevor Merrion** served as co-curators. Chevron U.S.A. provided financial support for the research and publication; other activities were supported by Chevron and the U.S. Department of State, and by Turkmenistan.

From "Music of Turkmenistan: A Celebratory Concert," Performance by Jemal Saparova and the *Weavers* dance group.

Physical Outreach

Dr. Dave Hunt spent 3 weeks lecturing and training the Fellows of the Forensic Science Academy (FSA), a part of the Central Identification Laboratory (CIL), in skeletal and forensic investigatory techniques. The mission of the FSA is to serve as a scientific training center of excellence for forensic anthropology, archaeology and odontology and was set up by the CIL, part of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. JPAC's mission is to conduct global search, recovery and laboratory operations to identify unaccounted-for Americans from past conflicts in order to support the Department of Defense's personnel accounting efforts. The CIL is the only accredited skeletal Identification Laboratory in the United States. Academy fellows receive training in anthropology, archaeology and odontology and is led by former Anthropology department staff member, **Robert Mann**.

"The mission of the Forensic Science Academy (FSA) is to serve as a scientific training center of excellence for forensic anthropology, archaeology, and odontology."

Anthropology Shines in 3D

The Smithsonian conference on the use of 3 dimensional technologies and their usefulness in "capturing an iconic collection of objects" as well as the documenting of scientific missions was held in November. The conference was augmented by a display in the Castle Commons which was open to the public. The archeological site of Ling Bua, Indonesia, was highlighted where physical anthropologist **Matt Tocheri** has conducted fieldwork. Another Anthropology feature of this Smithsonian X3D collection was the Tlingit Killer Whale hat project led by **Eric Hollinger**. The original hat, repatriated in 2005, was returned by *Dakl'aweidi* Clan leader Edwell John, Jr., who allowed the hat to be laser scanned and reproduced by the Office of Exhibits Central using CNC milling. The completed replica, highlighting this unique collaboration, went on exhibit in NMNH's new education center, Q?RIUS, in December."

Photo by Don Hurlbert

"Killer Whale hat replica on display in Q?rius.

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Major Grant Will Aid Digitization of Fragile Sound Recordings & Manuscript Materials

The National Anthropological Archives received a $1 million grant from the Arcadia Fund to launch a long-term project to digitize one of the largest collections of endangered-language materials in the world. The Recovering Voices Program will be collaborating with the NAA on development of outreach activities. The team will digitize ethnographic and sound recordings estimated at 3,000 hours and 35,000 pages of manuscript materials, using techniques that will make these electronic sources readily available to the public through the Smithsonian's online catalog system. Experts estimate that more than 50% of the world's living languages will cease to be spoken by the end of this century. The materials in this archive preserve an unparalleled collection of primary sources for investigating endangered cultures and languages, environmental knowledge and the connections between these subjects. The current recordings are at risk of degrading and online access will provide availability without damage to the historic originals. **Joshua Bell**, director of Recovering Voices, and **Gabriela Perez- Baez** will collaborate on new forms of access with **Stephanie Christensen,** of the NAA as project manager. The Project will be implemented by the National Anthropological Archives.

Language Revitalization Program for Native Americans

Native Americans representing 21 languages explored the linguistic and cultural resources at the National Museum of Natural History, the National Museum of the American Indian and the Library of Congress as participants of the Breath of Life Archival Institute for Indigenous Languages, which was coordinated by the Recovering Voices Program. The Institute's goal is to assist Native communities in the revitalization of endangered languages.

The 55 Native American participants partnered for two weeks in June with professional linguists to navigate available archives and collections, locate and acquire documents, interpret writing systems, and transform archival materials into practical lessons for language learning. In the archives the researchers found a range of useful linguistic and cultural heritage materials. Uncovering and making connections with these materials greatly contributes to the language revitalization efforts being undertaken in the participants' indigenous communities.

Beyond discovering linguistic and cultural collections, the researchers were able to share with one another issues relevant to their languages and communities, including methods implemented for language revitalization. Most importantly, however, was gaining a sense that they were not alone in their hard work to revitalize their languages. In a follow-up survey one researcher said, "I'm inspired by [the others'] work and accomplishments and I believe that we too can awaken our language."

Alexia Fawcett

Photo by Gabriella Perez Baez

Members of the Wendat/Wyandot, Maidu/Konkow and Menominee language teams. Clockwise from left front: Craig Kopris, Richard Zane Smith, Benjamin Grignon, Karen Washinawatok, Matthew Williford, Wallace Clark, Jennifer Gauthier, Monica Macaulay, Megan Lukaniec and Nathalie Picard.