

India and Sri Lanka

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23.1 Introduction

The reporting by John Evans in London of the discovery by Boucher de Perthes of Palaeolithic flint tools in the gravels at St Acheul in June 1859, just a few months before the publication of Darwin's *Origin of Species*, is often put forward as a formative moment for modern anthropology and archaeology (e.g. Evans 2009: 458; see Chapter 10), and especially for those parts of these disciplines that were most influenced by the approaches with the Pitt Rivers Museum (PRM) (e.g. Trautmann 1992: 379). However, in considering the Asian archaeological collections of the PRM, a more significant mid 19th-century milestone was perhaps the Indian Rebellion of 1857, and the subsequent formation of the British Raj in 1858. The archaeological collections from India and Sri Lanka held by the Pitt Rivers Museum (PRM) are intimately bound up with the history of the Raj (1858–1947): virtually all of the artefacts from these countries were obtained through British colonial institutions or from administrators, military personnel, missionaries, plantation authorities, and professional archaeologists and anthropologists. As this chapter will show, behind these fieldworkers stood collectors, whose interests in stone tools were global, such as John Evans, John Wickham Flower, A.M. Bell, and Pitt-Rivers himself. But while the focus of the collecting activities represented in the PRM collections was largely on Palaeolithic and Neolithic stone tools, a range of other Holocene archaeological material culture is also present.

This chapter presents an overview of the collections from India (23.2) and Sri Lanka (23.3), and reflects on their significance in a concluding section (23.4). The PRM holds *c.* 7,029 'archaeological' objects from India and Sri Lanka (*Figure 23.1*): *c.* 5,449 from India, and *c.* 1,580 from Sri Lanka. A few collecting activities undertaken before 1857 are represented by these collections but, while there were transfers, exchanges and purchases between museums, virtually no collecting was carried out after the Second World War and Independence from Britain. Almost all are prehistoric stone tools, although a range of other material is also present. These collections are virtually unstudied, although many were published around the time of their discovery or donation,¹ and are often unquantified, but they include some unique assemblages for the history of archaeology in the region.

¹ Some partial notes on the Indian stone tool collections were assembled by Sarah Milliken (Milliken 2004).



Figure 23.1 Map of India and Sri Lanka showing sites referred to in Chapter 23.

23.2 India

23.2.1 Overview

The following sections provide an overview of the PRM's *c.* 5,449 'archaeological' objects from India. Some 70% of this material is from two states: *c.* 1,941 artefacts from Maharashtra (23.2.2), and *c.* 1,891 artefacts from Madhya Pradesh (23.2.3). There are also *c.* 299 artefacts from Nagaland (29.2.4), *c.* 280 artefacts from Tamil Nadu (29.2.5), *c.* 205 artefacts from Karnataka (23.2.6); *c.* 142 artefacts from Uttar Pradesh (23.2.7); *c.* 119 artefacts from Meghalaya (23.2.8); *c.* 90 artefacts from Jharkhand (23.2.9); *c.* 54 artefacts from Assam (23.2.10); *c.* 41 artefacts from Orissa (23.2.11); *c.* 33 artefacts from Kerala (23.2.12); *c.* 18 artefacts from Arunachal Pradesh (23.2.13); and *c.* 12 artefacts from Andhra Pradesh (23.2.14). The *c.* 125 artefacts from the Andaman Islands and Nicobar Islands are considered in section 23.2.15, before the *c.* 17 objects from other regions not mentioned above (Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Rajasthan, West Bengal) are outlined (23.2.16). The

c. 192 'archaeological' objects from India for which no more detailed provenance is currently known are considered in section 23.2.17.

There are c. 180 archaeological objects from India in the PRM founding collection: c. 125 from the Andaman Islands (23.2.15 below), 11 from Madhya Pradesh (23.2.3), 3 from Tamil Nadu (29.2.5), one from Karnataka (23.2.6), one from Kerala (23.2.12), one from Rajasthan (23.2.16), and c. 38 of unknown provenance (23.2.17). These include objects collected by Edward Man, George Godfrey Pearse, and Robert Bruce Foote. There are no archaeological objects from Sri Lanka in the PRM founding collection.

Apart from the PRM founding collection, a number of other collectors or donors appear in the accounts of several regions of India below: K.R.U. Todd, Robert Bruce Foote, Frederick John Richards, James Philip Mills, Walter Seton-Karr, and John Henry Hutton. The archaeological collections of K.R.U. Todd mainly comprise the 1,927 objects from Maharashtra (23.2.2 below), but also include 109 objects from Tamil Nadu (29.2.5), and c. 121 objects for which no detailed provenance is currently recorded (23.2.17). There are c. 22 archaeological objects collected by Robert Bruce Foote: 2 objects from Andhra Pradesh (23.2.14), 2 objects from Gujarat (23.2.16), 8 objects from Karnataka (23.2.6), 5 objects from Tamil Nadu (29.2.5), and 5 objects for which no detailed provenance is currently recorded (23.2.17). There are c. 272 archaeological objects collected by Frederick John Richards, mainly made up c. 196 objects from Karnataka (Bellary District) (23.2.6), but also including one object from Andhra Pradesh (23.2.14) and c. 75 objects from Tamil Nadu (29.2.5). There are c. 21 archaeological objects collected by Walter Seton-Karr (in addition to the PRM archaeological objects collected by him from Egypt, Somalia and Lebanon), comprising c. 12 objects from Tamil Nadu (29.2.5), and c. 9 objects from Uttar Pradesh (23.2.7). As well as c. 112 objects from Nagaland, James Philip Mills donated c. 5 objects from Arunachal Pradesh (23.2.13), c. 31 objects from Assam (23.2.10), and c. 11 objects from Meghalaya (23.2.8).² John Henry Hutton donated c. 113 archaeological objects from Nagaland, but also smaller quantities of 'archaeological' material from Jharkhand (see 23.2.9 below), Assam (23.2.10), Orissa (23.2.11), Arunachal Pradesh (23.3.13), and the Nicobar Islands (23.2.15).

23.2.2 Maharashtra

The PRM holds c. 1,941 'archaeological' objects from the State of Maharashtra. An unquantified assemblage of c. 14 stone tools collected by Gerald Francis Keatinge from the Mula River Valley at Ghotawade, Pune District were donated in February 1910 (1910.44.1). The remaining c. 1,927 artefacts were all collected by K.R.U. Todd from sites near Mumbai, probably during the 1930s (see Chakrabarti 1999: 45, 202–3).

Most of the stone tools in the Todd collection from Maharashtra come from his pioneering studies of Palaeolithic sites in the Mumbai region (Todd 1950). There are c. 674 stone tools from Kandivali (Kandivli/Khandivli), c. 305 stone flakes from Kasu Shoal (Raigad District), c. 132 from sites at Pali Hill and Kasu Shoal, c. 47 from Reclamation, and c. 769 from unrecorded sites in the Mumbai region (1966.2.41-93). On the basis of Todd's maps, the precise location of the archaeological sites can be pinpointed with accuracy. All sites fall within the urban core of the present day city of Mumbai. Todd – a Lieutenant-Commander of the Royal Indian Navy, and an amateur archaeologist – made his first discoveries in the Back Bay on the Mumbai's southern tip (Todd 1932), before working at Khandivli, to the north of the city, and other sites until 1939. Todd conducted his fieldwork in areas being actively quarried: for example, soil from Khandivli was being used in a reclamation scheme to create

² in addition to a single stone tool from Aberdeenshire, donated by Mills in 1948 (1948.10.52).

new land between the urban centres of Churchgate and Colaba (Kennedy 2000). The stone tools in the Todd collection were retrieved from the surface, stratified alluvial sections, and excavations, at sites that are no doubt long since destroyed or buried by Mumbai's development. The collection is diverse in terms of represented technology and typology, and many of the artefacts in the PRM show relatively fresh edges, indicating that they have not suffered long-distance transport by fluvial processes. Guzder's (1980) suggestion that the Mumbai deposits are Late Pleistocene is sensible given the fact that the artefacts found by Todd appear to be Late Acheulean handaxe forms which are now dated to *c.*130–120 ka in India (Haslam *et al.* 2011).

A small sample of Todd's collection, which is housed in the Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL), was re-examined by N. Isaac, one of H.D. Sankalia's doctoral students in the Department of Archaeology, Deccan College (Sankalia 1962). Isaac described only two handaxes from the London collection, and Sankalia (1962: 159) notes that: 'we have no exact idea as to the number of tools found by Todd... at Kandivli'. The UCL collection has often mistakenly been identified as the only surviving collection made by Todd (e.g. Ghosh 1989: 202). Indeed, the PRM collection outlined here represents a genuinely 'lost' collection of very considerable research value, offering the possibility to throw new light on the subsequent revisions of Todd's conclusions by Malik (1959), Sankalia (1962), Guzder (1980, 1989) and others.

23.2.3 Madhya Pradesh

The PRM holds *c.* 1,891 'archaeological' objects from the State of Madhya Pradesh. Some 68 of these came to the Museum during the 19th century. The PRM founding collection contains *c.* 8 stone cores recorded as from Jabalpur (1884.131.40–45, 1884.140.1182–1183), and 2 stone axes from Bundelkhand (1884.126.228, 1884.126.235).³ There is also a specimen of meteoric iron from Parnali, Jhabua District, purchased from Bryce McMurdo Wright, and recorded with the date (presumably of purchase or collection) of 28 February 1857 (1884.120.5). As well as these *c.* 10 objects from the PRM founding collection, there are *c.* 55 stone tools collected at Jabalpur by Colonel R.E. Oakes in 1877, acquired by George Rolleston, donated to the OUMNH, and transferred to the PRM in 1887 (1887.1.395–396). Another stone tool, collected at Gâdur Hâta in the Vindhya Hills (Rewa District) by Archibald Campbell Carlyle, was purchased from Charles Seidler in November 1892 (1892.58.49). Also possibly collected by Carlyle are a stone tool simply recorded as from 'the Vindhya Hills', purchased from Sydney Gerald Hewlett in 1927 (1927.73.12), and 6 more objects – 2 flint drills from the Naro Hills (1927.78.16–17) and 4 stone cores from Jabalpur (1927.78.19–22) – purchased at Stevens Auction Rooms in March 1927.

As part of the donation of artefacts from the estate of John Evans by his son Arthur Evans in 1928, the PRM received *c.* 10 stone cores collected at the very early date of 1864 by Henry Peveril Le Mesurier (1829–1889) from the banks of the Mahanadi River (1928.68.242–251). Le Mesurier was a Chief Engineer on the Jubbulpore Line of the East Indian Railway Company, who had reported his first discoveries of stone tools, made in the mid-1850s at Nyagurhee and the Tonse River, in 1861 (Le Mesurier 1861; Kennedy 2000: 25).

Another very early – but also very large – collection was made by Lieutenant-Colonel Spencer Charles Dudley Ryder (1825–1873) in 1864–1865. In 1941, his son Charles Ryder donated an assemblage of *c.* 1,333 stone flakes and cores from

³ One of these may be, or have been collected with, the 'large Indian celt...found in Bundelcund' that was described by John Evans as in Pitt-Rivers' collection (Evans 1897: 89).

Narmada River Valley, Jabalpur. This unquantified and unstudied collection consists of numerous microblade cores, microblades and blades, made from a variety of raw materials (1941.4.64).

There are *c.* 477 artefacts collected by Guy Gunning Ratcliffe Hunter, and donated between 1932 and 1938. These comprise an unquantified assemblage of at least 123 stone tools and glass beads excavated from Jambudpi Shelter, Pachmarhi, Hoshangabad District (1934.58.1–73), and at least 300 stone tools from Dorothy Deep Cave (Bharat Neer Cave) (1934.74–91). The stone tools include a range small tools and débitage, including microblade cores, microblades, flakes and shatter of a variety of raw materials. Hunter recorded rock art and stratified deposits of microlithic stone tools and burials at these two sites (Hunter 1935; 1936; cf. Gordon 1950a, 1950b). An earlier donation by Hunter of *c.* 40 stone cores and flakes, recorded as ‘found together in a cave, Mahadeo Hills’, appears to derive from earlier fieldwork or reconnaissance at these sites by him (1932.31.1–40). In August 1932, Hunter read a paper on the rock art of the caves at the International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences in London (Anon 1932: 216). The PRM also holds a 4-page typescript report written by Hunter, titled ‘Ancient Man in the Mahadeo Hills’ and dated 26 January 1933, which describes his studies of the rock art, and his identification of the stone tools, and which appears to be the same paper that was read at the 1932 Congress (Hunter 1933). Hunter – who seems to have been a former student of Henry Balfour’s⁴ – sent this sample of artefacts to Balfour at the PRM for identification in April of 1932 (Hunter 1933).⁵ A letter from Balfour to Hunter, dated 4 November, 1934, strongly encouraged Hunter to conduct further work, and discussed the two main forms of microliths in the assemblage:

‘These two types are the chief ones to be noted in your series. Both the ‘crescent’ and the ‘scalene triangle’ types are characteristic of the Tardenoisian. There are other worked implements (drills, scrapers, etc.) of less defined form. Most of the specimens sent are just flakes, and it suggests that Jambudwip Cave may have been a factory site... Ever since the discoveries of microliths in the Vindyan Hills caves, the interest in these ‘mesolithic’ types has been increasing, and the spread of the microlithic culture is now proved to be very great. It is most important to get all the evidence possible from India, and, particularly to ascertain to what extent a succession of stone-age cultures can be determined stratigraphically...’ (Hunter 1935: 5).

Although Hunter described the recovery of ceramics, metal objects and human remains from the sites, and the analysis of the skeletal remains by Leonard Halford Dudley Buxton in Oxford and by Geoffrey M. Morant of University College London, the PRM does not appear to hold this material (Hunter 1933, 1935, 1936; Morant 1936). Also donated by Hunter is an surface-collected assemblage of *c.* 7 stone flakes from Jabalpur (1938.11.1–6); a further *c.* 7 stone tools recorded as from Jabalpur also appear to have been collected by Hunter, and came to the PRM as part of the purchase of collections from Ipswich Museum in 1966 (1966.2.94).

Finally, a single stone flake, possibly from a site at Barela, Jabalpur District, was donated by C.D.A. Fenwick in 1999 (2000.18.1).

⁴ Letter from Miles Burkitt to Balfour, dated Christmas 1938 (PRM Related Document File (RDF) for 1932.31.1). The letter is in response to receiving the offprints of Hunter’s excavation reports in the *Nagpur University Journal* in which Burkitt expresses concern at Hunter’s attribution of the microliths to the Mesolithic period. Burkitt argues on comparison to ‘Major Gordon’s’ work that a date between the 1st and 10th centuries CE is more likely.

⁵ In a letter of 1 February 1933, Hunter states that he also sent Balfour another small box of stone artefacts for identification (PRM Related Document File (RDF) for 1934.58.1).

23.2.4 Nagaland

The PRM holds *c.* 299 'archaeological' objects from the State of Nagaland. More than one third of these – *c.* 116 artefacts – were collected by John Henry Hutton, and donated by him between 1914 and 1929. Hutton is best known for his ethnographic studies Nagaland (Hutton 1921a, 1921b), but he also published several papers on prehistoric and modern stone tools in the Naga Hills (Hutton 1924, 1926a, 1926b).

Some 10 of the Hutton 'archaeological' donations from Nagaland have no detailed provenance recorded: 3 stone axes (1923.84.100, 1923.84.197, 1923.84.359) 3 blacksmith's hammer-stones (1923.84.122, 1923.84.169–170), 3 stones 'used for boring spindle whorls' (1923.84.85, 1923.85.352), and a pipe bowl (1923.84.139). A number of artefacts relate to mortuary practice, and have in some cases been listed as archaeological simply because of this association. There are 3 carved sandstone heads recorded as 'placed over the grave of a warrior of the Chakkrima Angami to represent heads taken by the deceased' (1923.84.156–158), and an 'ancient Llota spear from a grave' (1923.85.29), for which no detailed location is listed. From Karaura village, there is a collection of miniature weaponry made of reed and bamboo – 2 spears, 6 arrows a crossbow, a quiver, a shield, and a dao – that were collected 'from a grave' (1923.85.462). A small assemblage collected from a granary at Laruri (Karami) comprises 2 ceramic funerary urns (1923.85.421–2), a human skull (1923.85.678), and 2 stone axes (1923.85.3–4). There are also 2 models of skull cists from the village of Wakching (1923.85.368, 1923.85.502), which were the subject of Hutton's 1927 paper 'The Disposal of the Dead at Wakching' (Hutton 1927).⁶ There are 3 objects from Champhimi: 2 stone axes (1923.84.515, 1923.84.524) and a stone rubber (1923.85.540). There are *c.* 65 further stone axes, collected from Chebi River (1923.84.197), Henema (1923.85.1), Intuma (1923.84.886, 1923.85.516), Kitami (1923.85.517), Kohima (1923.85.2, 1923.85.539), Lazami (1923.85.377–379, 1923.85.518–523), Phakungri (1923.85.373), Phuyetomi (1923.85.513), Rokimi (1923.85.514), Seromi (1923.84.193–196, 1923.84.355–365, 1923.84.372–374, 1923.84.383–385), Shevekke (1923.84.525), Tichipami (1923.84.258–262, 1923.84.266–267), Tseminyuu (1923.85.375–376), Wokha (1923.85.374), Yehimi (1923.85.270–282). Two more stone axes were collected from a deserted village near Sirhima (1923.84.910–911). Finally, there is an iron hoe-blade and a stone spindle whorl (1923.84.206–207), recorded as 'dug up on the site of a deserted village of the Sangtam tribe' at Mokokchung.⁷ Probably from the same site are 3 more stone spindle whorls (1923.84.236, 1923.84.252, 1923.84.307), and a fragment of an undated ceramic dish (1923.84.329).

A second large tranche of the Nagaland material comprises *c.* 115 artefacts collected by James Philip Mills, and donated by him in 1928 and 1934.⁸ Mills was an anthropologist who specialized in north-eastern India (Hutton 1960), and who also donated 'archaeological materials' from the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya (see 23.2.8, 23.2.10 and 23.2.13 below). Apart from a stone pipe bowl and a hammer-stone used in pipe-making, both from Longmisa village (1928.69.438, 1928.69.442), all of the 'archaeological' material donated by Mills from Nagaland is made up of stone axes. The axes are recorded as coming from a range of sites including Aichisagami, Aochagalimi, Changki, Chedi, Emilomi, Kamahu, Kanching, Kitami, Lazami, Mongenyimti, Okotso, Pangti, Seromi, Shitsimi, Themokedima, Tichipami, Tsingaki and Yezami.

⁶ There is also a stone pounder from Wakching (1923.85.380).

⁷ Henry Balfour discussed the relationship between iron and bamboo hoes, with particular reference to Hutton, in a paper in 1917 (Balfour 1917).

⁸ PRM Accession numbers 1928.69.233–242, 1928.69.351–360, 1928.69.364–381, 1928.69.438, 1928.69.442, 1928.69.510, 1928.69.563–567, 1928.69.619–621, 1928.69.888–928, 1928.69.1109, 1928.69.1185, 1928.69.1192–1199, 1928.69.1235–1243, 1934.82.32, 1934.82.73, 1934.82.81

There are also *c.* 62 stone axes collected by Charles Ridley Pawsey, who worked for the Indian Civil Service and co-authored a paper on 'folk tales from the Naga Hills' with Hutton (Pawsey and Hutton 1922). These axes are recorded as collected from a number of locations, including Aochagalimi Borduria, Chingchung, Lazamu, Lungithang, Phuyetomi, Sapotimi, Shahapfimi and Tichipami (1926.20.1–10, 1926.20.24–64, 1927.3.1, 1927.3.7–10, 1929.22.1–6).

Finally, there are 2 possibly natural stones collected by Eric Thomas Drummond Lambert, and donated by him in 1935 and 1936 (1923.85.1006, 1936.36.62).

23.2.5 Tamil Nadu

The PRM holds *c.* 280 'archaeological' objects from the State of Tamil Nadu. Three of these are from the PRM founding collection: a collection of 3 undated stone axes collected by George Godfrey Pearse from a grove at a hilltop temple at Malayali in the Servarayan Hills, Salem District, at some point before 1873 (1884.126.67–68, 1884.126.70). Pearse was stationed with the Madras Artillery, and published a number of papers on the archaeology of India (Pearse 1869). Pitt-Rivers published a paper discussing these stone axes – along with four more collected 'from the hill tribes of the Shevaroy hills' that were 'presented by Colonel Pearse to the Christy collection' – in 1873 (Lane Fox 1873: 349). Pitt-Rivers described how these axes were prehistoric artefacts collected by indigenous people:

It appears that these celts are deposited as votive offerings by the Malayalis in their temples to Purinall, their chief deity, and are called by them 'Wigginespoora', which means 'that which takes our ills upon itself'. They are not made by the Malayalis, but are found by them in the bed of a river half-way up the hills, i.e. about 2,500 feet above the sea level, and chiefly in one place where the present British road crosses the river. There are not many of these aboriginal temples existing now-a-days, and they are chiefly in out-of-the-way hill places, and are constructed of wood. Colonel Pearse adds that these celts, when found by the Aryan populations of the plains, are considered by those who know anything about them (and there are not many who do) to be the thunder-bolts of Vishnu, i.e. of God' (Lane Fox 1873: 349).

Documents relating to Pearse's interests in antiquities and archaeology (dating from between 1861 and 1887) are held in his papers at the British Library, and may hold further details of the circumstances of their collection, or the relationship with Pitt-Rivers.⁹

An unquantified assemblage of human bone, ceramic mortuary urns, and metalwork from a burial cairn in the Nilgiri Hills was collected by J. Griffiths in June 1844, and donated to the Ashmolean Museum. It is unclear whether this assemblage was transferred to the PRM in 1886 or not (1886.1.215–222). Also recorded as from a cairn 'in the Toda country, Nilghiri Hills' are 4 ceramic objects, including a figure of an animal, collected by Griffiths Evans in 1881, and donated to the PRM in 1930 (1930.35.2–5). Some 32 further fragments of ceramic figures, recorded as collected from Pykara Hill, Nilgiri Hills by Patrick Millen in 1940, were donated in 1952 (1952.7.11).

There are 2 stone axes from the Servarayan Hills that were collected by Robert Bruce Foote before 1873, acquired by John Wickham Flower, donated to the OUMNH, and transferred to the PRM in 1892 (1892.67.759–760).

A collection of 12 stone axes from Poondi, near Thiruvaiyaru was collected by Heywood Walter Seton-Karr and donated through the Society of Antiquaries of

⁹ British Library, Mss Eur E417. Papers of General George Godfrey Pearse, Madras Artillery, later Royal Artillery. Item 11: Papers concerning antiquities and archaeology, *c.* 1861–1887. More of Pearse's papers are held by the Royal Artillery Museum and Trinity College Cambridge.

Newcastle upon Tyne in February 1903 (1903.23.1–12). Seton Karr (1859–1938) was a big game hunter and explorer, who obtained collections from many regions of the world, including Egypt and India. He maintained an interest in Indian prehistory, re-arranging the stone tool collections of the Madras Museum in the mid 1920s (Seton-Karr 1928). Seton-Karr sold collections to many museums around the world, including the British Museum in London to the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. (Petraglia and Potts 2004). Seton-Karr also donated material from Uttar Pradesh (see 23.2.12 below).

An assemblage of 6 lead bullets and specimens of magnetite from the ‘citadel’ at Jagadevi-Durgam, near Krishnagiri was collected by Frederick John Richards (cf. 23.2.6 below) and donated in 1914 (1914.12.190–191). Richards also donated 2 ceramic objects and a copper alloy toe-ring excavated at ‘old village sites’ at Tirunelveli and Karivalamvandanallur, Tirunelveli District (1917.29.2, 1917.29.4–5), and *c.* 15 shell and ceramic artefacts excavated from ‘ancient Iron-Age graves in stone circles near Adugattur’ [Odugathur, Vellore District] (1924.42.10–19, 1925.17.4–7), which he published in 1924 (Richards 1924).

A single stone tool, collected by Frederick Fawcett at Arakkonam, Vellore District was donated in 1911 (1911.42.14). A donation from the Government Museum at Madras in 1916 comprised *c.* 16 iron and stone objects excavated from a cemetery at Adichanallur, Tirunelveli District (1916.21.1–15; cf. Codrington 1930: 191). In 1924, James Hornell donated 7 fragments of shell (1924.21.1) from an ‘ancient bangle factory’ at Korkai (see Hornell 1914: Plate VI, figure 1). Three stone tools from the collection of John Evans, collected by Robert Bruce Foote from Attirampakkam, and from a site ‘between Davendawaucum [Devadandavakkam] and Calavay [Kalavoy]’, were acquired in an exchange with the Ashmolean Museum in 1931 (1931.71.6–8).

Some 120 artefacts from the region, collected in the early 20th century, came to the PRM after 1947. An assemblage of *c.* 11 ceramic fragments (1956.12.29–30) are recorded as recovered from a cist burial at Vellore by ‘J.H. Holland’ (possibly J.H. Hutton), and were donated to the PRM by Herbert Henery Coghlan in 1956. Finally, there are *c.* 109 stone axes, flakes and cores – mainly Palaeolithic in date – recorded as from Chennai, that were collected by K.R.U. Todd and transferred to the PRM in the purchase of collections from Ipswich Museum in 1966 (1966.2.95).

23.2.6 Karnataka

The PRM holds *c.* 205 ‘archaeological’ objects from the State of Karnataka. The earliest object to be collected is a marble fragment with a carved design of a lion, recorded as collected by the wife of Rev. F. Spring (of Madras) ‘from the Coorg Rajah’s Palace’ in 1836, was transferred from the Ashmolean Museum in 1886 (1886.1.254.2). This appears to be a reference to Nalknad Palace, which was built in Coorg by the last king of Kodagu, Chikka Veerarajendra, between 1792 and 1794 – before he was deposed by the British in 1834 (Richter 1870: 180–1).

Almost all of the material from Karnataka is made of *c.* 194 artefacts that were donated by Frederick John Richards in June 1914. Richards worked for the Indian Civil Service, and later was appointed Honorary Lecturer in Indian archaeology at University College, London (Allchin 1957: 322). As well as this large collection of archaeological material from Karnataka Richards also donated ‘archaeological’ material from Tamil Nadu (see 23.2.5 above) and Kerala and Andhra Pradesh (23.2.12 and 23.2.14 below). The Karnataka material donated by Richards comprises an unstudied, undated assemblage of stone tools and ceramics from Kupgal (Peacock Hill) and Kumbara Gudda (Face Hill) in the Sanganakallu-Kupgal landscape, Bellary District (1914.12.1–189).¹⁰

¹⁰ As well as the *c.* 193 objects donated in 1914, one further artefact – a worked sandstone block from

The Neolithic sites of Bellary had been first investigated by Robert Bruce Foote in the 1880s (Foote 1914: 33–111, 1916), and later, by more focused excavations of habitation sites by archaeologists from Deccan College (e.g. Subbarao 1948). Richards' collection was made in the interval between these activities. However, there are also *c.* 8 objects that relate to this earlier fieldwork. One of these objects is from the PRM founding collection: a stone scraper (1884.122.504) collected by Robert Bruce Foote, and recorded as from 'Tolanmuttee', which appears to refer to Tolanmatti in Bijapur District, a site he makes only passing reference to in his publications (Foote 1880: 545). There are also *c.* 7 stone axes collected by Robert Bruce Foote from sites at Tarpultree (Bellary District), and Gokak, Kidachi and Ramdurg (Belgaum District), and acquired by John Wickham Flower in 1871–1873, before being donated to the OUMNH and transferred to the PRM in 1892 (1892.67.280–282, 1892.67.780–782, 1892.67.787). As well as the donations by Flower and Richards, another stone tool, recorded as from Bellary District, from the collection of Alexander James Montgomerie Bell was purchased from his son in 1921 (1921.91.117). This may also have been collected by Foote.

With the much larger assemblage donated by Richards there is also a hard-bound manuscript catalogue, titled 'Bellary Neoliths – Catalogue of Neolithic Implements from Bellary Dist.',¹¹ listing the artefacts, with descriptions, measurements, site locations, and a bibliography. The notebook is one of the very earliest surviving recordings of an early 20th-century researcher involved in collecting archaeological material in India. The accession is also accompanied by 18 remarkable photographs of specific site locales taken between 1913 and 1914 by Richards, which also is quite an extraordinary record, as these document Neolithic ash mounds (*Figure 23.2*), rock art (*Figure 23.3*), and megalithic stone features (*Figure 23.4*), many of which have since been destroyed or altered. There are also 16 photographs of the objects.¹² More than 50 years ago, Raymond Allchin (1957) reviewed the stone tool collections from Bellary District held by the PRM, along with those in the British Museum that were surface collected in the later half of the 19th century. Allchin's article described the processes of axe manufacture, from initial stages of 'rough primary flaking' to final 'grinding' processes, and provided tabular data on the Bellary collections in both museums. Drawing on some of Richards observations, Allchin made a number of interpretations about stages in axe manufacture that are consistent with the conclusions drawn from more recent site excavations (e.g. Brumm *et al.* 2007; Risch *et al.* 2009; Shipton *et al.* 2012).

23.2.7 Uttar Pradesh

The PRM holds *c.* 142 'archaeological' objects from the State of Uttar Pradesh. The first to come to the PRM were 2 stone objects collected by Robert Tadman (or Tudman), which were donated to the Ashmolean Museum before being transferred to the PRM in 1886. These artefacts – a polished stone with a bevelled end (1886.1.271), and an opaque stone, possibly the stud of a ring (1886.1.272) – were both 'found in the ground at Muret' [Meerut].

The first artefacts from the region to be donated directly to the PRM were *c.* 39 stone tools from the Banda District and Mirzapur donated by Indian civil servant and ethnologist William Crooke in 1892 (1892.49.13–20, 1893.12.1–26, 1893.48.99–102, 1893.48.124), and a cast of a stone tool from Akkahabad donated by John Evans in March 1897 (1897.13.9).

Bellary District, recorded as 'found with ground stone celts' – was donated by Richards in 1925 (1925.17.3).

¹¹ PRM Accession Registers; Donations V. 85. 'Bellary Neoliths: Catalogue of Neolithic Implements, etc., from Bellary District, South India, Presented to the Pitt-Rivers Museum by F. J. Richards, ICS, 1913–1914'. There is also some correspondence on file at PRM Related Documents File for 1914.12.

¹² PRM Photographic Collections 1998.178.4.1–18; 1998.498.1–16.

Figure 23.2 Photograph by Frederick R. Richards of a mound at Peacock Hill, Bellary, India, donated to the PRM in 1913 (PRM Photograph Collections 1998.178.4.13). The accompanying notes read as follows: 'Ashmound no.1 Peacock Hill. Ashmound no. 1 is rudely square, each side measuring about 60 yards, and the valum is 15 or 16 feet high where best preserved. Several celts were found by Bruce Foote in the cinder slopes here, and also in mound 2.'



Figure 23.3 Photograph by Frederick R. Richards of 'Rock art on Peacock Hill', Bellary, India, donated to the PRM in 1913 (PRM Photograph Collections 1998.178.4.12).



Figure 23.4 Photograph by Frederick R. Richards of 'Group of "placed" rocks in field to north of Face Hill', Bellary, India, donated to the PRM in 1913 (PRM Photograph Collections 1998.178.4.6).



There is an assemblage of *c.* 67 microliths from Morhana Pahar Cave, Vindaya Hills, Mirzapur District collected by Archibald Campbell Carlyle (also known as Carlleyle): *c.* 50 purchased from Charles Seidler (1892.58.1–50), 2 donated by Henry Balfour (1901.14.9), and *c.* 15 purchased at Stevens Auction Rooms in March 1927 (1927.78.11–15). Carlyle (1831–1897) was First Assistant to the Archaeological Survey of India from 1871 to his retirement in 1885 (Cook and Martingell 1994), and subsequently disposed of his archaeological collection through sales or donations to museums and to individuals (Cook and Martingell 1994). He discovered the archaeological site of Morahna Pahar Cave in 1880 (Carlleyle 1885; see Allchin 1958a).

Five more stone tools from the region appear to derive from Carlyle's collection. A stone pounder from Kabrai, Mahoba District that was purchased by Louis Colville Gray Clarke at Sothebys on 9 November 1921 and was donated to the Museum in the same year, is recorded as from the Carlyle collection (1921.67.85). Two stone tools, purchased at Stevens Auction Rooms in March 1927, are recorded as from Bharkacha, (1927.78.10) and Baghai Khor (1927.78.18), and were both possibly collected by Carlyle. Two more stone tools from Gharwa Pahâri Cave, Vindaya Hills, were possibly also collected by Carlyle, and were purchased by the PRM from Sydney Gerald Hewlett in February 1927 (1927.73.13–14). There are also *c.* 9 stone tools obtained by Heywood Walter Seton-Karr 'from native precious stone merchants who had found them in the Bundelkhand and Banda districts', and donated to the Museum in 1904 (1904.24.50–58). Seton-Karr also donated material from Tamil Nadu (23.2.11 above). Further stone tools comprise a ground stone axe from Allahabad collected by William Theobald (1909.12.50; see Theobald 1862; Lane Fox 1873: 349); a stone tool from Marfa, Banda District purchased from Sydney Gerald Hewlett in 1912 (1912.66.34); and another stone tool from Marfa, purchased at Stevens Auction Rooms in 1920 (1920.88.28).

Apart from these stone tools, there is a stamped clay seal, and 2 incised pottery discs, a ceramic bead, a ceramic ball, and a carnelian bead 'from Buddhist ruins of Sankissa' [Sankissa], all collected by John Henry Rivett-Carnac in 1880, acquired by John Evans, and donated to the Museum from his estate in 1928 (1928.68.252–257). There is also a pottery lamp from Mirzapur donated by William Crooke (1932.88.604); a ceramic tile found during excavations at Kankali Tila, and donated by E. Sykes in June 1953 (1953.6.58); and an assemblage of 5 ceramic sherds from the site of Ahichatra, collected by Stuart Piggott and donated by Herbert Henery Coghlan in 1956 (1956.12.26–28), and another sherd of pottery from Mathura District (1956.12.31).

23.2.8 Meghalaya

The PRM holds *c.* 119 'archaeological' objects from the State of Meghalaya. There are *c.* 108 undated stone axes collected from the Garo Hills by George David Walker (1931.87.1–108), including axes from sites at Bangiri, Dilmagiri, Makkre Adap, Marakgiri, Molmegiri, Rongkhongiri, Ronjeng, Tura and Wadanangiri. There are also *c.* 11 undated ground stone axes from the Garo Hills, collected by James Philip Mills (cf. 23.2.4 above) before 1934 (1938.82.34–44).

23.2.9 Jharkhand

The PRM holds *c.* 90 'archaeological' objects from the State of Jharkhand. These comprise *c.* 42 stone axes (1923.85.538, 1930.19.1–41), a perforated hammerstone (1930.19.42), *c.* 45 stone beads (1930.19.45–89), and 2 further stone objects (1930.19.43–44). This assemblage was collected by Reverend Paul Olaf Bodding, and donated to the Museum through John Henry Hutton. Bodding (1865–1939) was a

Norwegian missionary with an interest in the ethnography of the tribal peoples of the Santal Parganas District. He published on the stone implements of the area, giving an account of the folklore attached by the Santals to the Neolithic objects, which, he reported, they described as ‘thunderbolts’ that had medicinal properties (Bodding 1901). All of these stone objects are undated, although in a letter to Hutton, Bodding noted that he ‘suppose[d] the places where [the beads] are found are old burial sites’.¹³

23.2.10 Assam

The PRM holds *c.* 54 ‘archaeological’ objects from the State of Assam. A collection of *c.* 12 stone axes from the Dima Hasao District (North Cachar Hills) was donated by John Henry Hutton (see 24.2.4 above) in 1929 (1923.85.526–537).¹⁴ Some 17 further stone axes from the same region, collected by James Philip Mills (cf. 23.2.4 above), were donated in between 1928 and 1934 (1928.69.1099–1108, 1928.69.1183–1184, 1928.69.1200–1201, 1928.69.1354, 1934.82.82–83 (cf. Mills 1930).¹⁵

As well as these stone axes, Mills also donated a stone used as a potter’s tool, from Loskor Village, also in Dima Hasao District (1928.69.1020), and *c.* 13 undated ceramic tiles with moulded designs from the Cachar District (1928.69.1169–1181). There are also *c.* 11 stone cannon balls, of graduated sizes, recorded as ‘part of a large number dug up at Kar Ghuli’, near Guwahati, that were donated by Suryya Kumar Bhuyan in 1926 (1926.58.1–11).

23.2.11 Orissa

There are *c.* 41 ‘archaeological’ artefacts from the State of Orissa. There are 3 stone axes: one donated by John Strode Wilson in February 1893 (1893.24.1), and 2 collected by Rai Bahadur Sarat Chandra Roy and donated by John Henry Hutton (cf. 23.2.4 above) in 1923 (1923.6.1–2). There are also *c.* 16 stone beads from Ganjam District (1894.32.75–90) and 9 ceramic beads from Tentelagod (Gumsur Taluk, Ganjam District; 1894.32.91) collected by Wilson and donated in 1894.

23.2.12 Kerala

There are *c.* 33 ‘archaeological’ artefacts from the State of Kerala. The first is an ethnographic object acquired by Pitt-Rivers for interest in the manufacture of stone objects: a hafted iron adze (1884.140.629) from the PRM founding collection, which appears to be the object described by Pitt-Rivers in his 1873 paper ‘On stone celts...’ as collected by George Godfrey Pearse at Kannar (Cannanore):

“Together with the stone implements, Colonel Pearse also sends a large iron adze and handle of very antique form, respecting which he says, “I bought it of a stone cutter on the western-coast of India, at Cannanore. It is for smoothing laterite stone, a soft spongy stone of which all the buildings there and thereabouts are built. You see how simply it is put together, as the men of other days no doubt hafted their adzes. And the shape tells us the use of many of those huge stone hatchets, one of which I have seen in your collection, and another found in Guernsey, I saw with Mr. Lukis. I thought you might like this, and thus secured it’ (Lane Fox 1873: 350).

¹³ PRM Related Documents File for 1930.19.

¹⁴ The sites represented by these *c.* 12 stone axes (donated by Hutton) are listed as Bolasan, Indunglo, Gunjong, Kobak, Mūchidui, Ramji and Waichang.

¹⁵ The sites represented by these *c.* 17 stone axes (donated by Mills) are listed as Boloson, Chaikombao, Gunjong, Haflong, Lungkho, Pawa, Robi, Thaijuari and Thangpu.

As well as this object, there is a stone quern-stone purchased from the London Missionary Society (1910.62.64). There are also *c.* 28 carnelian stone beads donated by Frederick Fawcett (1911.85.20–21), which were recovered by him during excavations of stone cists at Malabar (Fawcett 1896), and a carved soapstone figure of a woman, collected by L.A. Cammiade ‘in front of a carved stone idol close to a ruined temple of Vishnu’ at the Panamaram River, Wayanad District, and donated by Frederick John Richards (cf. 23.2.6 above) in 1917 (1917.29.1).

23.2.13 Arunachal Pradesh

The PRM holds *c.* 18 ‘archaeological’ objects from the State of Arunachal Pradesh, all of which are stone axes. There are *c.* 4 ground stone axes collected by James Philip Mills (cf. 23.2.4 above) from Ningru village, near the Noa Dihing River (1928.69.1668–1671), and a further *c.* 11 ground stone axes from the same village, donated by John Hutton (see 23.2.4 above), but recorded as obtained from John Henry Crace (1935.27.1–11). This assemblage was published in Ahmad Hasan Dani’s survey of *Prehistory and Protohistory of Eastern India* (Dani 1960: 60–2, plates 8–9; cf. Ashraf 1990: 5). Another stone axe collected by Mills is recorded as from ‘Tigra, Abor Hills’ in the Upper Siang District (1934.82.33). Two further stone tools – one collected from the Mishina Hills, and one from the Abor Hills – were donated by Charles Robert Stonor, who at the time was undertaking ‘a general study of agricultural implements among the hill peoples of Asam’ (Stonor 1949: 133), in January 1949 (1949.1.98–99).

23.2.14 Andhra Pradesh

The PRM holds *c.* 12 ‘archaeological’ objects from the State of Andhra Pradesh. The earliest object to have been collected is a fragment of a stone axe, recorded as collected by Robert Bruce Foote and given to John Wickham Flower in 1873, was transferred to the PRM from the OUMNH in 1892 (1892.67.757–758). There are also 2 Palaeolithic stone axes found by ‘B. Macleod’ (possibly Bannatyne Macleod) in the Kadapa District, and purchased from William Ockelford Oldman in 1907 (1907.60.1–2). An unidentified ceramic object from Polavarum, West Godavari District was donated by Frederick John Richards (cf. 23.2.6 above) in 1917 (1917.29.3).

There is also an undated ceramic vessel and lid, collected by Edmund Henderson Hunt from an assemblage ‘surrounding an Iron Age stone burial cist’ at Raigir near Hyderabad (1920.9.1; cf. Taylor 1869). These objects appear to be from the excavations described by Hunt in a paper in the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* in 1924 (Hunt 1924; cf. Hunt 1916). A second undated ceramic vessel and lid, along with 3 pottery sherds, were also donated by Hunt in 1926, and are recorded as ‘excavated by himself from Iron Age stone-slab cist graves’ at Raigir (1926.61.1–4).¹⁶ This may be the assemblage discussed in a paper titled ‘On some pottery from Raigir’ given by Henry Balfour at the International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences in London in August 1932 (Anon 1932: 216).¹⁷

A stone tool collected by Robert Bruce Foote, passed to John Evans, donated by Arthur Evans to the Ashmolean Museum, and transferred to the PRM in an exchange in 1931 (1931.71.9) is recorded as from ‘Amerumbardoo’ – a name that may refer to Arrambakam in the Tiruvallur District.

¹⁶ The British Library (India Office collections) holds photographs taken by Hunt during excavations of cist tombs at Raigir and Bowenpilly, taken in 1923 (British Library Mss Eur F222/33).

¹⁷ E.H. Hunt also gave a paper on the same day, titled ‘Megalithic burials in the Deccan’ (Anon 1932: 216).

23.2.15 Andaman Islands and Nicobar Islands

The PRM holds a body of material from the Andaman Islands and the Nicobar Islands collected by Edward Horace Man and presented to Pitt-Rivers on September 1877. Correspondence with Man, and a 'List of Andamanese and Nicobarese implements, ornaments, etc. presented to Major-General Lane Fox', was published alongside 'observations' on the collection by Pitt-Rivers himself in the *Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland* (Lane Fox 1878; Man 1878). Among these *c.* 1,066 objects, *c.* 125 are currently recorded as 'archaeological': 5 stone tools (1884.127.143, 1884.128.60, 1884.129.18–20); *c.* 11 undated ceramic fragments from a kitchen midden at Port Blair Harbour (1884.35.8–18); 3 ceramic vessels, one of which is broken into 23 sherds (1884.35.19–20, 1884.35.22, 1884.41.53); and *c.* 83 stone and glass flakes (1884.70.29–30). The stone and glass flakes were described as follows by Man:

'61. Tawlm-da. These flints (white quartz flakes) were in former days valued by them as they had no other material with which to tattoo or shave themselves. Nowadays they always perform these operations with glass, which they of course obtain from us without any difficulty. 61*a.* flakes of glass as made and used by them for the above purposes' (Man 1878: 462).

Some 25 'archaeological' objects from the Man collection/PRM founding collection are recorded as from the Nicobar Islands, and represent 7 ceramic vessels, one of which is broken into *c.* 19 sherds (1884.35.3–5, 1884.41.54–57).

One further object from the Andaman Islands is currently defined as archaeological: a stone grinder (1930.74.5) purchased from James Thomas Hoper in 1930. And one further object from the Nicobar Islands is currently defined as archaeological: a *Tridacna* shell armet 'found in a grave with a human wrist-bone inside it' by 'A. Scott', and donated to the PRM by John Henry Hutton (*cf.* 24.2.4 above) in 1931 (1931.38.1).

23.2.16 Other Regions

There are *c.* 18 'archaeological' objects recorded from other districts of India. Six of these objects came to the PRM before 1900. Apart from a stone axe from the PRM founding collection from Kaori, Rajasthan (1884.126.225), the first to be accessioned were a fragment of marble (1886.1.270) and a fragment of carnelian stone (1886.1.273) recorded as from 'the King's Palace, Delhi', collected by Robert Tadman (possibly Tudman), which were donated to the Ashmolean Museum before being transferred to the PRM in 1886. There are 2 stone cores from the Kathiawar Peninsula, Gujarat that were donated by Robert Bruce Foote in 1894 (1894.35.1–2). There is also a single inscribed 'mani' stone, collected by Captain G.C. Rynd 'from a huge heap of such votive stones in Ladakh', Jammu and Kashmir (1899.37.1). Also from Ladakh is a specimen of jade collected by S. Archer in 1860, and donated to the PRM by Manchester College in 1915 (1915.32.81). Four undated ceramic lamps from Calcutta, West Bengal collected by Richard Carnac Temple, were donated to the PRM by Henry Balfour in 1932 (1932.88.593–596). Balfour also donated undated ceramic lamps from Delhi (1932.88.601) and Rajasthan (1932.88.602). Within the donations by Herbert Coghlan to the PRM in 1956 were an undated ceramic fragment donated from Delhi (1956.12.32), and 2 fragments of a ceramic female figure from Lauriya Nandangarh, Champaran District, Bihar, which was obtained through an exchange with the Indian Museum, Calcutta (1956.12.33–34). Two stone cannon shots from the Chin Hills, Manipur, collected by John Comyn Higgins or Elsie Isabel Higgins, were

donated in July 1962 (1962.7.25–26). Finally, an undated bronze axe-head, collected by William Crawford before 1918, was donated in 1984 (1984.24.1).

23.2.17 *Unknown Provenance*

There are *c.* 192 ‘archaeological’ objects from India for which no detailed provenance is currently recorded. Some 39 of these are from the PRM founding collection. These include 5 iron arrow-heads (1884.120.80–84); 3 undated jade thumbguards from ‘northern India’ (1884.15.114–116); an ‘ancient Indian’ sword (1884.21.11); and undated stone figures of a bull (1884.58.12) a peacock (1884.58.20) and a lion with a human face (1884.68.72). There are also *c.* 24 stone axes (1884.122.502–503, 1884.122.505–507, 1884.129.40, 1884.126.69, 1884.126.71–79, 1884.126.226–227, 1884.126.229–234), and 2 stone cores (1884.131.37–38). There is little further information on these objects at present, but 2 of these stone axes are recorded as collected by Robert Bruce Foote before 1874 (1884.122.505–506), and 3 more are recorded as obtained from ‘Mrs Cowie, May 1870’ (1884.122.502–503, 1884.122.507).

Another stone axe collected by Robert Bruce Foote in 1895, from the collection of John Evans, was obtained through an exchange with the Ashmolean Museum in December 1931 (1931.71.5). Three more stone axes, collected by Peter John Jarbo, were donated to the Ashmolean Museum in 1878, and transferred to the PRM in 1886 (1886.1.205–207); *c.* 12 stone axes, and a single piece of jade, from the collection of John Wickham Flower were transferred from the OUMNH in 1892 (1892.67.273–279, 1892.67.283–284, 1892.67.783–784, 2005.101.1, 2009.97.1). Further stone artefacts comprise a stone quern, grinder and rubber purchased at Stevens Auction rooms in 1904 (1904.48.4); *c.* 4 stone axes donated by William Theobald in March 1909 (1909.12.49, 1909.12.52–54); a jasper flake and 2 stone axes collected by Worthington George Smith, and purchased from Archibald Colquhoun Bell in December 1920 (1921.91.114–116); a stone flake donated by Alfred Schwartz Barnes in April 1940 (1940.4.28); and 3 ground stone axes from ‘northern India’ were donated by Henry Balfour in 1923 (1923.39.1–3).

As well as these stone tools, there are 3 unstudied and undated ceramic objects – 2 spindle whorls and an ‘ancient clay seal’ – donated by Richard Carnac Temple in 1889 (1889.38.1–3); an iron arrow-head donated by Robert William Theodore Gunther in November 1907 (1907.50.2); a fragment of a carved stone figure purchased from the London Missionary Society in May 1910 (1910.62.80); a Buddhist inscribed stone fragment and a stone carved Buddha figure donated by ‘Miss G. Verney’ in April 1925 (1925.16.22–23); a stone pendant inscribed in Arabic, from the estate of ‘Miss C.B. Henty’, possibly from India (1937.9.104); a carved stone head of Bodhisattva, obtained through an exchange by Newbury Museum with the Indian Museum, Calcutta, and donated by Herbert Henry Coghlan (1953.3.7); 2 ceramic female figures also donated by Coghlan (1956.12.35–36); and a ceramic bowl ‘from a grave with a contracted burial in a cairn’ in southern India was donated by Mary Sturrock in 1943 (1943.1.2).

Finally, there are *c.* 120 stone tools from the collection of K.R.U. Todd that came to the PRM as part of the purchase of material from Ipswich Museum in 1966, which are recorded as from India but for which no provenance is currently known (1966.2.64, 1966.2.66, 1966.2.71, 1966.2.88–89). It is probable that they are from the Mumbai region (see 23.2.2 above), but further collections-based and documentary research is necessary to clarify the provenance of these objects.

23.3 Sri Lanka

The PRM holds *c.* 1,580 ‘archaeological’ artefacts from Sri Lanka. None of these are from the PRM founding collection. The only 19th-century accessions comprise a

single donation of *c.* 36 Buddhist clay models (*chatyas*), possibly of 13th-century CE date, containing ceramic seals inscribed in Sanskrit, collected by Charles Sim in the 1850s from ‘inside a cave on the side of a hill called Moneragalla [Moneragala], or the Peacock Rock, situated on the south-east coast of Ceylon, and not far from the famous Temple Kattedram’ (1886.1.7).

An assemblage of *c.* 569 microliths from hilltops near Bandarawela (Badulla District, Uva Province), collected by Charles Hartley, was donated between 1913 and 1917 (1913.29.1–69, 1915.24.1–480, 1917.19.1–20). The Museum holds correspondence between Hartley and Henry Balfour, dating from 1913–1916, which provides information on the typology and technology of the stone tool assemblage.¹⁸ Hartley published two papers on the Bandarawela sites (Hartley 1913, 1914), describing the first finds of ‘pigmy’ (microlithic) stone tool industries in Sri Lanka. In his 1914 paper, he described recovering most of these artefacts from specific hill-tops:

‘It was, however only on four hills, all in the immediate neighbourhood of the town [of Bandarawela], that I discovered pigmies in profusion. On three of the four pigmies of all types and sizes have been found; on the fourth none but large and massive specimens, usually lunate’ (Hartley 1914: 57–8).

Although Hartley considered these implements to represent ‘Neolithic’ and ‘Pigmy’ industries, he never uses the term ‘Mesolithic’ to describe them, despite the use of the term in India by the 1880s (Deraniyagala 1992: 15). In a letter to Balfour, dated 14 August, 1915, Hartley indicated that he was dividing a collection of 1,800 ‘pigmies’ into four parts, and sending them to the ‘Pitt Rivers, British, Cambridge and Norwich museums’, dividing them according to his classification in his 1914 paper.¹⁹

Some 12 more stone tools from Bandarawela were donated 25 years later by Nora A. Noone and Herbert Vander Vord Noone (1947.9.64–68; Noone and Noone 1940; cf. Deraniyagala 1992: 16). Although the Noones were the first to label these industries ‘Mesolithic’ in Sri Lanka (Noone and Noone 1940: 19), they concluded that the culture should be called ‘Bandarawelian’ given problems of cultural relationships and age adding:

‘Until stratigraphical evidence, showing a sequence of distinct cultures, with perhaps associated animal and human skeletal remains, has been established at several sites, the only procedure seems to be to treat the implements as provisionally of one culture’ (Noone and Noone 1940: 20).

The Noones hopes for stratigraphic and cultural ordering only became realized decades later, with the magnificent excavations of Siran Upendra Deraniyagala (1992) in rockshelters and open-air sites.

A collection of *c.* 393 prehistoric quartz stone tools and fragments collected by Charles Gabriel Seligman, possibly with his wife Brenda Zara Seligman, were donated in 1940. The artefacts are recorded to be from a site at Maskeliya, Sabaragamuwa Province (1940.12.670), and from two sites in the Central Province: Peradeniya (1940.12.672) and Pundaluoya [Pundalnoya] (1940.12.669). The Seligmans produced a classic ethnography of the Veddas (Seligman and Seligman 1911) and it appears that these collections were made around this time. In a paper published in 1908, Charles Seligman described worked quartz implements from a number of locations across Ceylon (Seligman 1908). Most of these stone tools were acquired by Seligman, presumably to inform the writing of the paper, from two individuals: John Pole, a

¹⁸ PRM Related Document File for 1913.29.

¹⁹ Bridget Allchin (1958b) re-evaluated Hartley’s collections in the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and at the British Museum.

planter who began surveys near the Scarborough estate at Maskeliya in 1885 (Pole 1907; cf. Sarasin and Sarasin 1908; Hartley 1914); and Earnest E. Green, a government entomologist who undertook fieldwork at Peredeniya and Pundaluoya.

There are also substantial, unquantified and unstudied assemblages of microliths and quartz cores collected by Charles B. Harvey (*c.* 20 objects, donated by Geoffrey Douglas Hale Carpenter in June 1945, 1945.7.1), and by Oswald Pearce-Serocold (*c.* 500 objects, transferred as part of the purchased of collections from Ipswich Museum in 1966, 1966.2.40A).

The Museum also holds 2 pieces of flaked quartz and a stone saw donated, recorded simply as from 'Ceylon', donated by Henry Balfour in January 1915 (1915.7.72–74), and a specimen of quartz from the collection of Francis Knowles (1940.7.350). Finally, there is a worked stone, recorded as used 'for holding inside a pot as it is being made', collected from the village of Palugama (near Galgamuwa, Central Province) by Arthur Maurice Hocart (1927.44.2), and a ceramic figure of a five-headed snake, recorded as excavated at Anuradapura by Stephen Montague Burrows, which was donated by Lady Isabella Burrows in 1938 (1935.75.21).

23.4 Conclusions and Future Prospects

The material from India and Sri Lanka represents one of the major strengths of the PRM's archaeological collections. Both individual objects and large assemblages are present, reflecting the range of collecting activities undertaken before the more intensive scientific research that occurred in India from the 1930s. The collections are overwhelmingly made up of prehistoric stone tools (many of which are currently undated in the Museum documentation). Assemblages made by many key individuals in the history of South Asian archaeology and ethnography are present, including Robert Bruce Foote – the 'father of Indian prehistory' (Movius 1968: 157; see Foote 1867, 1880) – Frederick John Richards, John Henry Hutton, James Philip Mills, Walter Seton-Karr, Charles and Zara Seligman, and K.R.U. Todd. The Todd collection appears not to have been known about by the numerous Indian scholars who re-evaluated the sites excavated in the period between the 1950s and 1980s, and represents a major 'lost' collection, from the most populous city in India (and the second largest city in the world), currently containing about 14 million people. Mumbai has developed tremendously since Todd's collection activities in the 1930s, thus many of the key sites observed by Todd are now either destroyed or under the fill of the present-day city, and accordingly inaccessible.

Richards' Bellary collection represents a historically and scientifically important collection. It is exceedingly rare to have such a thorough collection record, with an original site notebook with linked illustrations and photographs of artefacts and site locations. The Bellary collection has particular value in light of the area's emergence as a major focus of international research in recent years (Boivin *et al.* 2002, 2006; Fuller *et al.* 2007). Bellary can be understood as a manufacturing centre for the production of Neolithic and Iron Age axes and major questions remain concerning the development of trade and exchange networks in the region. Long-standing questions about raw material sources and transport distances could be addressed through petrographic analysis of the dolerite axes in the PRM; this is a study two of the present authors (Petraglia and Boivin) have been interested in conducting for several years. Long-distance trade of axes has been demonstrated for various Neolithic cultures globally, but India has not so far been investigated in this regard. Additionally, we are currently investigating questions about prehistoric subsistence activities through macrobotanical analysis of the Bellary sites. Complementary use-wear and functional studies of axes and grindstones in the PRM could be conducted,

shedding further light on the use of these artefacts. With respect to public education and outreach, museum links could be established with the new Bellary District Archaeology Museum, a regional museum that our team helped to establish, and that is under-resourced and currently trying to develop exhibits. The identification of a range of early 1930s photographs in the PRM is important and would be of significance with respect to the development of the Bellary Museum. Some of the photographs are the only record of sites that no longer exist due to modern granite quarrying and agricultural development (which has been halted by the local government in recognition of the significance of the archaeological sites). For surviving sites, it would be interesting to compare the current situation against the site conditions as illustrated in the 1930s photographs, thus assessing impacts and the long-term significance of these cultural resources.

As well as the stone tool collections, the research potential of the excavated collections from the Nilgiri Hills, Odugathur and Adichanallur in Tamil Nadu, the Buddhist material collected by Charles Sim from Sri Lanka, and the ceramic assemblages from Bellary District and elsewhere is considerable. With both this material and the stone tool collections, the very early date of some of the 'archaeological' collecting activity reflected in the assemblages is significant in itself, and requires further assessment and research.

Such research, however, requires basic, hands-on collections management work: quantifying, describing, interpreting and enhancing the documentation of the South Asian collections is a major priority in future archaeological research in the Museum.

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