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T. HARRISON

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## EDITORIAL PREFACE

We have never had a wider range of contributors than in this issue, which is also —willy nilly— the longest we have ever produced. Material is overflowing, indeed, so that a special issue (financed by the Asia Foundation) will go to press directly this one is distributed, to take up the excess before the present editor hands on the jobs to his successor later in 1966.

The contributions ably speak for themselves. They include papers by old hands Lord Medway and Dr. Solheim, by staff members Benedict Sandin (Iban), Tuton Kaboy (now in U.S.A. on an Asian Foundation scholarship), M. Fogden, Eine Moore, Barbara Harrison (unpaid), the late George Jamuh (*S.M.J.*, XI, 1963, 22: xix-xxi) and our associate Bob Pringle, doing his monograph on Iban history here. Dr. Pringle has assisted Assistant Curator Sandin in completing a comparison study of Iban proto-history. This significant exercise in the use of folklore and song in the reconstruction of dateable events is too long for this journal, and will be published separately. Other papers by B.S., T.K. and archaeological assistant R. Nyandoh (Land Dayak) will be in the afore-mentioned special issue.

Dennis Galvin began his *Journal* life as a local schoolmaster eleven years ago (*S.M.J.*, VI 1955, 5: 287-289). He is now the Roman Catholic Bishop of northern Sarawak. We have been able to incite and assist him in deploying his natural interest in and genius for native languages, folk-song and music, with tape recorder and secretarial help. The short papers by him here are only fore-runners of what should be to come.

He is our first bishop, though we have had an eminent Canon of the Anglican Church (one of the most thoughtful papers published here *S.M.J.*, IX, 1960, 16: 488-495) as well as Methodist and Borneo Evangelical Missionaries—Mrs. Lees continuing from the latter in this issue. It is also good to have "firsts" from the Australian National University, and from Kansas, U.S.A., as well as two research institutions in Malaya proper and two contributors from Harvard University too. On the whole, the balance of outside and in, put forward as desirable in this editorial years ago, has been maintained. It seems to meet with readership approval. To quote two only of many comments from *outside* on the last 1964 issue.

- (1) "As usual, I find *S.M.J.* a treasure of a journal in the sea of dullness and even mediocrity that flows into this library, I'm afraid specially from your part of the world. You do a great job. Whatever the difficulties, keep it up."
- (2) "The latest issue is right up to your mark. Your journal has a life in it which is hard to beat from anywhere, without deducting from the academic achievement. Many a body ten times your size does not do a half as well. It's all so readable. I even find I read the articles on animals and birds which do not interest me ordinarily. . . ."

Thank you! We try to do the same with the Museum itself,—make it as lively as the *FACTS*, accuracy, authenticity permit. In this editor's view, after 18 years in the same chair (too long for any one man), even a small Museum must be double-pronged, if not actually two faced. It must cater for the public down to the humblest illiterate old-generation rice-farmer—or up to him rather—on the one hand; to the research scientist and expert at the highest level, as represented by Medway, Solheim and the others here, on the other. Perhaps on our more public, "popular" face, a couple of similar-to-the-above beams of light may be momentarily thrown to keep the balance straight.

One is a report from the *Vanguard*, one of Sarawak's two English-reading dailies, describing the Royal Visit of His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong, rulers of Malaysia, to the Sarawak Museum (see Frontispiece). The other, is from the Royal Air Force magazine; "*Tale Spin*," published by R.A.F. base for S.E. Asia in Singapore:

From here Their Majesties and retinue moved on towards Temple Street, McDougall Road and into Rock Road to the Sarawak Museum, the last place on the scheduled tour around Kuching's Municipal Area for Their Majesties this morning. At the Sarawak Museum, Their Majesties were welcomed by Mr. Tom Harrisson, the Curator, Mrs. Harrisson and senior Museum staff.

Their Majesties spent about an hour at the Museum, noticeably impressed with the various exhibits, native arts and crafts, cultural and historical exhibits which depict the Sarawak way of life in the Sarawak Museum.

According to Mr. Harrisson, he discovered that both Their Majesties were no laymen when it comes to Museum exhibits. Unlike many other dignitaries who had visited our Museum, Mr. Harrisson said His Majesty revealed His knowledge of animal life when His Majesty questioned him about the 'manok hutan' or Bulwer's Pheasant, a rare wild fowl of Borneo. Their Majesties also showed special interest in the various long-house exhibits, Dayak, Kelabit, Kayan and Melanau burial houses and historical exhibits such as the Malay execution keris of the old days, the Brooke sword and archaeological exhibits of the Niah caves excavations.

Notably impressed and pleased, short as was Their visit to the Museum, Their Majesties left the Museum, for the Astana and a short rest well past noon today.

(*Vanguard*, 25.XI.64)

A visit to the museum with its coverage of all aspects of Borneo is a must and shouldn't be missed by the transient if the opportunity arises. Natural, Geographical, Political and Military history is laid out simply and superbly labelled, imparting information in everyday language, a pleasant change from a visit I was forced to make as a schoolboy to the Victoria and Albert Museum but perhaps they have moved with the times too. For those so inclined there is a department for stamps, coins, armoury, shipping, mining and even the island's only ex railway. Even the electrical junctions box on the wall is in glorious technicolour with a legend to edify the technically ignorant. The whole collection forms a most unique accumulation of Borneo lore and culture that could rival the most sophisticated of presentations.

(*Tale-Spin*, Sept. 1965)

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Co-operation between staffer Benedict Sandin and researcher R. Pringle produced an excellent result. This, like the *continuing* interest in Sarawak studies from Bishop Galvin, Dr. Solheim, Lord Medway and others, has been indicated above. It requires further stress, nevertheless. This is a fundamental problem—and headache, only too often—in the life and work of a small museum like ours, in a relatively under-developed state on a huge island without a single active university. As both Sarawak and its Museum have grown better known (and respected) in recent years,

there has been an equivalent, growing, stream of visitors of all sorts: journalists and writers, globe-trotters and the advance tip of the tourist phalanx, V.I.P.s and what we call P.I.V.s ("professionally introduced visitors": about one a week arrives with an intro. from someone seemingly important somewhere in the world who has been here before or read the book we wrote about this or heard about us from Admiral X at that). In mesh with these, albeit in deeper mood, are those who want to study the country, the people, caves, lost tribes, tarsiers, tree shrews, butterflies, intestinal worms, intelligence, dreams, Brooke papers, old *lawi* manuscripts, stamps, coins, counterfeits. Some are counterfeits themselves, others first class. But it is getting more and more difficult to sort out which is which, and to devote time, space, staff, patience enough to cope first with sorting out the wheat from the padi and then helping the latter garner their intellectual harvests.

And we have had a number of shattering experiences, primarily with a few visitors from Australia who seem to think a White Australia policy goes in the long-house as well as at Cloncurry. Such thoughtlessness is now finally outstated with independence through Malaysia. Even the remoter "natives" are no longer ready to be treated as semi-specimens by inexperienced though eager collectors or sociologists or even welfare workers (so often working off their own welfare do-goodism rather than doing any real, thought out, long-term "good" to the gentle people made to become their pawns). In varying degrees, the same applies throughout South-east Asia, and this was a prime theme for a Seminar at Princeton University, U.S.A., which T.H. attended at their invitation in May 1965. The outsider coming in to study in places like Sarawak must soon change his tune—or get "nowhere", in the meaningful sense of that term.

In terms of the Sarawak Museum, we just cannot cope with all comers, except of course on the display and public exhibit side. Nor are we to be regarded as the ideal ground for keen young people wishing to take a higher degree based on one or other aspect of the very considerable collections, contacts and facilities build up since World War II. We can only, from now, accept as associates or persons officially sponsored by us those whom:

- Either: *we ask* and want for ourselves, to help in or expand from our own programmes (as with Lord Medway, or Dr. Solheim, for instance); these people are usually, though not always, already graduates with advanced degrees, experience and sophisticated experts in their fields.
- Or: persons who, well in advance—at least a year—put up a project, properly sponsored by a recognised research body and adequately financed, which is acceptable here, and while advancing the interests of the person concerned also advance those of Sarawak in some tangible way (e.g. as with the Sandin-Pringle project; or Miss Carla Maness, University of Kansas, now working with us on ceramics, oriental art and doing popular hand-books; or the series of Chicago Natural History Museum joint field enterprises here, continuing in another form with the pending visit of Dr. Wayne King (cf. *S.M.J.*, X, 1962, 20: 450-452) to work on flying lizards, helped in the field, and he organising our reptile collections as his contribution in the capital).

These considerations apply particularly to *indoor* work, notably on archive and archaeological material. Apparently there is about one student or graduate in every major university in U.S.A., Japan and Australia who wants to come and take this Sarawak Museum to pieces on these sorts of subject. If we had here a university, and our own endowment was multiplied by ten, it would be wonderful to help advance all such research urges. We are fully conscious of the academic need so to do. But it is, alas, at present an unrewarding headache in the context of a museum with small funds in a large country with many other calls upon its limited resources. We can only do the best we can. And it is best, in this, to help a few people who will also help us, thoroughly and well in both directions: not to take on all-comers in bits and pieces—and sometimes, in consequence, not satisfying the expectations (absurd though these can be!) of a minority living beyond their status-time in emergent Asia now.

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This point is not only important now but likely to become more so—and more "difficult"—in future, if not *cleared up now*. May we put it, therefore, in a slightly different way by quoting

part of a letter we recently wrote to the head of a very important institution outside Malaysia:

"Our feeling here is that people who want to come and use Sarawak facilities for the advancement of their own careers and of academic knowledge generally, should *also* now do *something* to help the actual country and institution in a specific way which can be understood and appreciated locally, on the spot. The day is passing when the outside observer can take his status for granted. And by entering into some reciprocal arrangement, he has every chance of greatly increasing his understanding through the confidence of the people, and accelerating the speed or widening the scope of his own studies in consequence.

"It is along these lines that I would venture to answer the particular enquiry in the last sentence of your good letter.

"If you wish, at a later date I should be delighted to extend these ideas in more detailed form. I am retiring from this post next year and going to an American university, partly so that I can try and contribute a two-way intellectual relationship there with Sarawak in particular and Malaysia more generally. We have already tried out phase one of a Cornell-Sarawak Museum exchange of help, which should produce two monographs of a high order next year—one of them by a local Dayak who could not possibly have achieved so much without this scheme. This confirms my belief that this thinking is along a sound line. But of course there are many other ways in which exchanges of co-operation could be developed to the advantage of ALL concerned.

"Meanwhile, now I have heard from you, I will find out exactly what Mr. G. is doing and see if I can help him personally. At the same time, I must stress that he turned up without making any prior arrangements, and indeed against our advice. This is not the normal way in which such operations are carried out, and we do not normally accept any obligations to people who arrive unless they are properly sponsored on an agreed scheme worked out in advance. This may sound rather arrogant from a tiny little mouse like this addressing your monster. But perhaps it is partly because we are such a tiny little mouse that we have to adopt some such attitude to keep our integrity as well as to avoid being crushed. (Crushed, of course, by good intention).

Yours sincerely, . . . ."

This is the place to say, and mean, our thanks to the Sarawak Government for its continuing support. For 1965 the funds granted us were raised from 1964, and there is a further 2% rise in 1966, although our actual field costs have not much increased. We now get \$250,000.00 (Straits) from the government, and *all* the basic money costs are financed in this way. If all other outside revenue ceased tomorrow, the visible museum would not be affected, though this journal—and good research—would be.

The government increased our *S.M.J.* allocation by \$2,000 for 1965, despite the State's financial stringencies. But with mounting paper and printing costs world-wide we are dependent for other help in addition to keep up reasonably high standards. This year we are once again warmly grateful in this respect to the Asia Foundation, who have helped us in so many special and significant ways over the past decade. Their continuing interest is a great encouragement.

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation of Lisbon, through Mr. J. Thornton, Secretary of the Commonwealth Section, similarly continued to support certain aspects of our Niah excavations with special reference to bringing forward research material into publication readiness.

A welcome friend in need is the Otago Museum of New Zealand. Through television and sound radio, our work seems to have become particularly well known in New Zealand lately, and we are developing extensive museum contacts there. The friends of the Otago Museum have thought well enough of our work to contribute nearly \$1,000.00 towards archaeological costs.

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The Museum has been active in projecting Sarawak cultural interests outside the the country as well as in. Inwards, it can now safely be said that the state has turned the corner, away from an immediate post-war trend to discard *all* the old, regardless, and to despise old arts, crafts, stories, songs, ideas. This is one way in which the very *existence* of a Museum contributes as a focus, reminder and (in the outcome) *challenge* to the surrounding society. The young, especially, there see how good the old ways could —and can—be. But we have also, by local publications, radio, a major involvement in the Arts Council and

its craft shop (c/o Aurora Hotel, Kuching) been able to extend this impact appreciably in the past five years. It is a great stage forward, too, that during 1965 a Minister was appointed as solely responsible for Welfare, Youth and *Culture*. Hitherto, we never really had a "boss" in government, either colonial or Malaysia. Dato Abang Othman, brother of the late great Dato Bandar (*S.M.J.*, VII, 1956, 7: 109-110) is admirably qualified for this post and has already given the whole cultural side of Sarawak thinking a meaty (not pork) fillip.

The establishment in 1965 of new museums in our neighbour states of Sabah and Brunei (the latter not part of Malaysia) is exceedingly welcome, as part of this same picture. For far too long we have been a voice crying in the rich jungles, all on our own. Now we have at Brunei the nucleus of a splendid collection and setting, under Curator Pengeran Shariffudin, whom we selected for training as a schoolboy, had in Kuching for years before he went to London for higher qualifications. We retain close ties with Brunei, normally have between one and three of their trainees on the staff at Kuching or in the field at Niah Caves and elsewhere.

For Sabah museums are not a novelty. They have had four before! All fizzled out. This one won't. And we don't say this because we helped to plan it, mount the first displays and train personnel (e.g. Michael Chong; in this issue). We say it because it is, like Brunei's, the first firmly based on sufficient, regular government financial support. There is no other successful base for museums in Borneo at the present phase of development.

The Curator of the Sarawak Museum was privileged to follow the Minister for Social Welfare in Sabah in the ceremony at Jesselton on 15 July, 1965 before H.E. the Governor of Sabah declared the Museum officially open. Our old friend Mr. E. J. H. Berwick, C.B.E., acted as first Curator into 1966.

Attending conferences, lecturing on museum work and helping publicists is also a part of this projection pattern. The Curator spent a month on this routine in U.S.A. in May, first at Princeton, then Harvard (courtesy Professor W. W. Howells), Cornell (c. Prof. George Kahin), Philadelphia (c. Dr. Froelich Rainey), Columbia (c. Prof. H. Fraser), Berkeley (c. Prof. S. Washburn), Nevada (c. Dr. R. Shutler, who has helped us in

many ways and visited us here, like Prof. Howells and Prof. Kahin too), and New York University (c. Prof. J. Landgraf, a twice-fieldworker in Borneo and very good friend of this Museum).

Benedict Sandin attended the Society of Orientalists cultural congress at the University of Malaya and showed some of our films. Mrs. Harrisson and M. Fogden attended the important conference on Conservation problems at Bangkok in November, where B.H. also represented T.H. at the meeting of Survival Service Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, as he was unable to leave the Niah excavations (these lasted from Aug. 6 to Dec. 24, 1965, a record season).

Mrs. Harrisson's work to save the Orang-Utan continued among many difficulties but mounting international support. Orang-Utan Recovery Service (OURS) which she runs now, has support from leading world zoos and with the help of the Malaysia and Singapore governments, the Malayan Zoo and its chairman Vic Hudson and others has been able considerably to canalise and control the illegal trade in a way that seemed hopelessly impossible two years ago. By careful research in the legal field she also came up with an unexpected indoor discovery: that, contrary to all American conservation and Zoo thinking, there already *existed* a law in U.S.A. (the top customer for zoo and medical research oranges) adequate to give the sort of import control needed. To quote the *Primate Newsletter*:

Several years ago the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums blacklisted orangutans and as a result orangutan traffic to zoos in the United States was almost completely halted. However, orangutan traffic began to flow to a new outlet, that of expanding medical research and universities. Unfortunately, most of the medical research facilities and universities were not aware of the conservation aspects for this species until recently.

In the meantime, groups such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources were studying the problem on a world basis and several vigorous programs were inaugurated by such persons as Mrs. Barbara Harrisson of the Orangutan Recovery Service (OURS) program. Mrs. Harrisson learned of Section 43, Title 19 of the United States Code and immediately recognized the value of this law for orangutan conservation.

She pursued the obvious course of action and secured ordinances prohibiting the exportation of orangutans from each of the nations in which the orangutan occurs in nature. Photostatic reproductions of these laws have been deposited at the San Diego Zoo. They are the Wild Animal Protection Ordinance, 1931, with a cover letter from I. Made Taman, Head of the Division of Nature Conservation and Wildlife Management, Bogor, dated October 20, 1964; Chapter 128, Wildlife Protection, State of Sarawak, January 1958, and the Conservation Ordinance of North Borneo, June 1963. All of these documents are still in effect, and each prohibits the exportation of orangutans.

Among other public activities during the year Assistant Curator Sandin served on the Arts Council and was appointed chairman of an Advisory Committee on Dayak Linguistics with special reference to the projected new Iban dictionary; the Curator served as Vice President of the Malayan Zoo Society, and of Malaysian Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, on the Council of the Malaysian Society of Orientalists, etc.

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Bird-ringing for migration studies, began in Sarawak in 1964, continued very actively in 1965. A large scale scheme to net and ring all possible birds in a single jungle area was carried out,—with help from the Migratory Animal Pathological Survey and Dr. E. McClure, — at the Semango Forest Reserve, near Kuching by M. Fogden and Museum staff Gaun Sureng (cf. *S.M.J.*, X, 1961, 18: 262 & XI, 1964, 24: 605), Lian Labang (*S.M.J.*, X, 1962, 20: 393-385), Ina Kalom, Mohidin bin Budin and others. In all over 1,000 birds of 75 species were ringed, and by the end of the year the recovery rate was 70 percent, a remarkable figure.

A similar, smaller study by nets and rings was initiated round the Niah Caves early in September, conducted by T.H. with, at times, Mohidin T.K. Bundin, Sadi bin T.K. Kawi and Joharee bin Derek ("hero" of the Gibb-Harrisson prize-winning film "Birds Nest Soup"). By year's end 68 species had been netted at Niah, including a large series of cave swiftlets in continuation of earlier studies on the genus *Collocalia*.

A special study of Tarsiers was also continued. Mammal research in general will now be greatly facilitated by the publication of Medway's "*Mammals of Borneo*", issued at the end of the year by the Malaysian Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, (\$25.00; see advance notice in *S.M.J.* XI, 1964, 23:602). This at

last gives us a scholarly working base from which to carry forward more intensive, and also more "popular" study and writing on the wonderful mammal fauna of the island. Medway also describes several new forms, including a shrew we collected at Bario in 1962 *Crocidura monticola kelabit*. Meanwhile, in Germany another mammalogist Dr. Groves, has somewhat ironically described a new form of the Sumatra-Borneo Rhinoceros in our "honour" as *Didermocerus sumatrensis harrissoni*. As Medway shows (p. 155 of his book; cf. p. 77 of this *Journal*), *D. s.h.* is on the verge of total extinction in Borneo now, thanks in part to the astonishing negligence of previous Curators and others in doing nothing to stop the Dayak slaughter of the thirties — for Chinese aphrodisiacs.

A sad loss to Borneo naturalists generally and zoologists particularly was the death, in Chicago, on February 6, 1965, age, 56, of Dr. Dwight Davis, who has worked on mammals in Sarawak and Sabah in conjunction with two large Chicago Expeditions,

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Published early in the year was "Tropical Asia," by Dr. Dillon Ripley, now Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. This is a handsome volume in the *Life Nature Series*. It deals extensively with Borneo for rich examples of the area's wild life. T.H. assisted in finalising this, the only popular, general natural history work covering the whole animal and plant life of the region. He also wrote the preface, at Dr. Ripley's request.

More technical during the year was the massive "New Dictionary of Birds", edited by Sir Landsborough Thomson with contributions by B.E. Smythies on Wood-shrike and Tree-swallow, and T.H., — on Feather Ornaments, Hornbill Ivory, Omen Birds, Echolocation and Cave Guano. Mr. Smythies was of course a forester as well as eminent ornithologist (*S.M.J.*, XI, 1964, 23:vii). His fellow foresters in Sarawak, Dr. P. Ashton and Dr. R. Anderson, of the Herbarium (in which this Museum has a modest share) have continued to make significant contributions to the botany of the area. During 1965 two important works by Dr. Ashton have been published on the forest trees of the area.

In the previous editorial we listed (1964 p.ix) twenty scientific papers due or "in press" for publication in other journals. These were all in print before the end of the year, except no. 14. In addition, we have now in press:

- (1) "On the accurate identification of beads" — *Man* (Royal Anthropological Institute); letter.\*
- (2) The Palang, or penis bar: part II — *Journ. Malaysian Branch, Royal Asiatic Society* (continuation of no. 12 on previous list).
- (3) Rennell, the first English navigator of West Borneo — *JMBRAS*. (a long paper, based on the master copy of Rennell's still unpublished m.s. of his journey with Alexander Dalrymple, annotated).
- (4) "A Golden Keris handle from Belingian" — *J.M.B.R.A.S.*
- (5) "Bronze Turtle Toggles from Interior Borneo". *J.M.B.R.A.S.*\*
- (6) "Three Secret Languages of the Nomadic Punan". *J.M.B.R.A.S.*, Gibson-Hill Memorial Special Issue, ed. by Prof. John Bastin; 20 pages).
- (7) Tapadong Cave. *Sabah Society Journal* (revised version of no. 11 on previous list).\*
- (8) "Turtle Ware from Borneo Caves". *Asian Perspectives* (cf. pages 63-68 in this issue on a new type of pre-historic earthenware).
- (9) "Onset of Echolocation in *Collocalia* Swiftlets". *Nature* (London) (new experimental work at Niah 1965).
- (10) "Birds above the Forestry Canopy II". *Ibis* (British Ornithologist's Union); a continuation of helicopter observations, the first series published in *Ibis*, 105, 1963, 3:403-6.
- (11) "The Malays of Sarawak before Malaysia". (Macmillan; the book of which part of an earlier draft was published in *S.M.J.* XI, 1965).
- (12) "Turtle Island". (Weidenfeld and Nicolson; a book which should be finished on leave late in 1966).
- (13) "Minorities and Central Government in Sarawak." (Princeton, U.S.A.; contribution to a seminar on this theme, May 1965, to be published in 1966, edited by Prof. P. Kundstater)
- (14) "Zoological Problems in the Rain Forest". *UNESCO Humid Tropics Symposium Report*.\*
- (15) "William Pengelly, Wallace and the Niah Caves". *Studies in Speleology* (British Museum; a continuation of an earlier paper on Wallace and Niah, see *S.M.J.*, VIII, 1958, 12: 550-551).
- (16) "50,000 years of Borneo". *Smithsonian Institution. Annual Report*; Washington, D.C.; reprint of earlier paper published by Royal Society of Arts which won Prince Philip Medal — see elsewhere in this issue.

\*Those asterisked appeared while this issue was being printed.

As well as these publications, T.H. has continued to edit the *Sarawak Gazette*, the Government monthly which has contained many contributions by B. Sandin, archivist Loh Chee Yin, Chu Chin Onn, R. Nyandoh and other Museum staff.

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Early in 1966 we expect three archaeologists and physical anthropologists to assist us, under outside grants, to complete various aspects of the Niah work. With the Museum's own normal excavation unit, it is expected that the West Mouth (main site) will be finished by mid-1966. The other mouths of the Great Cave — Angus, Tulang, Tai Menibun and Gan Kira — have now been completely excavated, as has Kain Hitam (the Painted Cave) and all but one of the other caves considered worthwhile, on the basis of detailed exploration and examination of the whole Niah complex, completed with helicopter help in 1965.

A very great deal of work remains to be done, however, in putting together all the results and publishing adequate monograph material thereon. This may take 3-5 years more. Currently, Niah material is with specialists in several countries, and particular sectors are being given detailed study by experts in Britain (3), Holland (2), U.S.A. (6), Australia (1) India (1) and Malaya (1), as well of course as at the Sarawak Museum itself.

T.H.

Kuching,  
2.1.66.