News

Celebrating Stanley’s success

CHRC Graduate member Stanley Onyemechalu has been awarded a Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant and a Public Engagement Starter Fund in recognition of his ongoing doctoral research.

(Read more on page 2)

CHRC Michaelmas Term Card announced

The CHRC is pleased to confirm the first five sessions of the Heritage Research Group Seminar & Conversation Series of the 2023/24 academic year.

(Read more on page 3)

Cover Story

Welcome to our new MPhil Heritage Studies Students

As we begin the 2023/24 academic year, the CHRC would like to extend a warm welcome to the latest cohort of MPhil Heritage Studies students. We look forward to their valuable contributions to the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre, both within this bulletin and in the CHRC Research Group Seminars, which will be taking place during termtime throughout the year. The CHRC would also like to extend well wishes to the outgoing cohort of 2022/23 MPhil students as they move into the workplace or embark on further studies.
Celebrating Stanley’s success

The CHRC would like to congratulate graduate member Stanley Onyemecholu for being awarded the Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant to support his PhD fieldwork research in southeastern Nigeria. The Grant funds “vibrant and significant” doctoral research that “advances anthropological knowledge” and “furthers our understanding of what it means to be human”. Stanley’s ongoing PhD explores the complex intersection of cultural heritage and the legacies of 20th-century violent conflicts in the context of the Nigeria-Biafra war (1967-1970) and the Igbo people in southeastern Nigeria. Combining ethnographic methods and geospatial survey, his research advances the anthropological literature on conflict-heritage and provides evidence for the potentials of heritage in (post-)conflict interventions in affected communities, including identity (re)formation, memorialisation, resilience/survival and peacebuilding.

In addition, Stanley has also been awarded the Public Engagement Starter Fund (PESF) by the University of Cambridge for his ‘Legacies of Biafra Heritage Project’. The PESF supports University of Cambridge researchers to “undertake innovative public engagement with research activities... based on contemporary research at the University”.

The Legacies of Biafra Heritage Project (LBHP), an offshoot from Stanley’s ongoing PhD, will organise a two-day public engagement activity in Enugu, southeastern Nigeria. In collaboration with Centre for Memories – a youth-led cultural centre – the project will engage young people in an artistic representation of their knowledge of the Biafra war and its legacies and showcase same in a free public exhibition. The public exhibition segment will feature an interactive session between war veterans, survivors (and their descendants) with the young people and their works. Through its activities, LBHP aims to foster intergenerational dialogue and empower participants to exchange and express their knowledge/memory of the Biafra war and its legacies – a sensitive part of their collective history that has been suppressed by successive Nigerian governments.
Michaelmas 2023 Term Card

Heritage Research Group
Seminar & Conversation Series

**Thursdays 1-2pm**

*Seminar Room, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Downing Site and Online*

12 October

**Dr. Vanessa Paloma Elbaz | Research Associate, Faculty of Music, University of Cambridge**

'Is my Voice Future Heritage? - the Politics and Processes of Jewish Sound Archiving in the Mediterranean'

26 October

**Dr. Miriam Saqqa Carazo | Postdoctoral Fellow, CHRC, University of Cambridge**

'(Re)thinking about the Recent Past through Forensic Archives'

9 November

**Dr. Domenico Sergi | Senior Curator (Curating London), Museum of London**

'Reclaiming the Centrality of Class in Contemporary Museum Theory and Practice'

23 November

**Prof. Sybille Frank | Professor of Urban Sociology and Sociology of Space, Institute for Sociology, Technical University Darmstadt**

'Entrepreneurial Heritage-Making in Post-Wall Berlin: The Case of New Potsdamer Platz'

30 November

**Prof. Caitlin DeSilvey | Professor of Cultural Geography, Environment and Sustainability Institute, University of Exeter**

'Heritage Lost and Found: Cruel Optimism and Climate Futures'

You can find the link to register to attend any of the seminars on the CHRC website: www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/events/hrg-seminars
The Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH) has launched a new network of events entitled “Military Surplus: Industry, Toxicity and War”, which will run throughout the 2023 Michaelmas term. The network will explore the legacies of military manufacturing and infrastructure on the communities and environments around them and explore the intersection between industrial heritage and conflict heritage.

About: Contemporary military conflict tends to be defined by the ‘event’ of war — the outbreak, the clash, the rupture, the declaration. It is cataclysmic, excessively visual, and volatile. The physical world is reduced to the combat zone, composed of seemingly ahistorical objects, materials, and actors. Beyond the immediate theatre of war, however, there are intricate (and often hidden) supply-chains, industries, and arrangements sustaining and bolstering military might. The ‘Military Surplus’ research network will examine these ‘peripheral’ zones, as well as the by-products of war which seem to lie beyond traditional understandings of the military-industrial-complex. By honing in on communities and environments around the world directly and indirectly impacted by the manufacture of weapons and materiel, the hosting of military installations, and the flow of toxic materials and substances that these industries entail, participants will explore interdisciplinary methods and approaches capable of tracking the military’s extension into hidden and unexpected spheres of life.

The network will connect sites where toxic materials are extracted, the industrial centres producing weapons and equipment, and the theatres of war where these are deployed. From the production of asbestos for military submarines, Franco’s deployment of Civil War prisoners in mercury mining, the processing of kelp-derived alginates in camouflage material, to the ongoing use of PFAS ‘forever chemicals’ on military bases across the United Kingdom, researchers involved in the network will make visible the material, political, and cultural connections between war, military manufacturing, and extractive industry. A series of interdisciplinary research talks, discussions, and workshops will highlight the materials, residues, and molecules of conflict — forging connections between ‘hot wars’ and the ‘slow’ (structural) violence of toxic materials and working conditions, and their physical and environmental harms. Through incorporating different scales of impact, the network will rework notions of justice, repair, and representation, thereby extending analysis to the nonhuman and more-than-human.

Programme (Michaelmas 2023):

- **Forced labour, toxicity and war** - 19 Oct 2023 17:00 - 19:00, Seminar room SG2, Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, CB3 9DT Peter Hinterndorfer (Vienna), Layla Renshaw (Kingston)

- **Latent legacies: the afterlives of asbestos** - 2 Nov 2023 17:00 - 19:00, Seminar room SG2, Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, CB3 9DT Ilona Sagar (Sommerset House Studios), Josephine Sweeney (Leighton House)
EVENTS

New CRASHH network announced

- **Toxicity and technology in the Soviet and Post-Soviet Anthropocene** - 16 Nov 2023 17:00 - 19:00, Seminar room SG2, Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, CB3 9DT Egle Rindzeviciute (Kingston), Svitlana Matviyenko (Simon Fraser)

- **Factory towns, working lives, and communal memory**
  23 Nov 2023 17:00 - 19:00, Seminar room SG2, Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road Saida Hodžić (Cornell), Lesley MacFadyen (Birkbeck, London)

- **The militarised pastoral** - 30 Nov 2023 17:00 - 19:00, Seminar room SG2, Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, CB3 9DT Andrew Black (Film London ) Zsuzsanna Ihar (Cambridge)

Further information about the network can be found here: [Military Surplus: Toxicity, Industry and War - CRASSH](#)
This year, Dr Leah Lui-Chivizhe, Senior Lecturer at the University of Technology, Sydney, will deliver the annual Von Hügel lecture.

The lecture will explore the narrativisation and silences of collections from the Torres Strait assembled in 1875 by WJ Macleay (Sydney) and by AC Haddon (Cambridge) in 1888 and 1898. It is driven in part by questions that continue to be asked of Dr Lui-Chivizhe. Questions such as “Why did they want our Old People?” and “Will there ever be a time when they will no longer want our things?” The questions guide her engagement with these collections as she works across disciplines and institutions to recover and write histories that shed light on the things Islanders want to know, today. This standpoint connects to a 1904 letter to Haddon from Ned Waria of Mabuiag, who wrote saying how pleased Islanders were to read “our old time stories”, casting the stories then as “some of the things we like best to know”.

Pre-booking is essential. Please email friends@maa.cam.ac.uk to reserve your place.
EVENTS

Steam Day: Cambridge Museum of Technology

Sunday 22 October
See, feel, smell the pumping station in full steam!

Saturday 21 October
See the team prepare the boiler and warm up the engines

10.30am to 4.00pm (last entry 3.00pm)
(suitable for all age groups)
Ticket (book on-line at the museum website or on entry)

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www.museumoftechnology.com
Registered Charity: 1156685
Asia’s Heritage Trend: Examining Asia’s Present Through Its Past


Abstract:

Kim and Zoh bring together a team of contributors to analyse the role of heritage studies across Asia, and its impact on Asia and its constituent countries. Is there such a thing as ‘Asian heritage’? Is it more helpful to understand Asia as a single unit, or as a set of sub-regions? What can we learn about Asia’s present through its archaeology and heritage? Covering a wide range of countries, including Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, Korea, Laos, Myanmar, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam, the contributors to this book address these key questions. In doing so they look at a number of critical issues, such as UNESCO World Heritage status, cultural propaganda, cultural erasure and difficult heritage. While addressing Asia’s past they also observe key issues within present-day Asia, further providing conceptual and practical insights into the methods that are being applied to the study of Asia’s heritage today.

Alongside being co-edited by CHRC graduate Minjae Zoh, this volume also features several articles by other former CHRC PhDs. This includes:

Chapter 2 – Asia’s heritage trend: Underpinning the existing components and perspectives. By Minjae Zoh.

‘Asia’s heritage’ has primarily and predominantly been shaped and narrated by Western literature, scholars and institutions. The terms ‘Asia’ and ‘Orient’ were coined in the West, dating back to the ancient Greek world. Continuing on from ancient times, the term and concept of ‘Asia’ has been defined and refined in the West, and thus, the common global understanding of Asia has been greatly influenced according to Western accounts.
Moreover, Asia’s heritage has been researched and published extensively in the West with Asia’s sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List arguably being the most influential platform in terms of how the rest of the world consumes knowledge and understanding about Asia’s past. This chapter argues that tracing 1) the Western defining and redefining of the ‘Orient’ and ‘Asia’ through the different periods, 2) the sub-regional referencing of Asia and its heritage according to the UN’s geoscheme for Asia, and 3) the thematically presented literature on Asia’s heritage, according to the Western framework of heritage, can aid in the understanding of how and why the world understands Asia’s heritage the way it does in the present day. The core argument of this chapter is that the above framework can be used to underpin some of the existing components and perspectives that form and operate Asia’s heritage trend. The motivations of this chapter are to review the existing scope of key components and perspectives and furthermore address some of the limitations.

*Dr Minjae Zoh* is a Research Professor at Seoul National University Asia Centre, South Korea.

Chapter 6 – *Archaeology, politics and diplomacy in Afghanistan: The international years (1946–1978)*. By J. Eva Meharry

This chapter examines the case studies of the National Museum of Afghanistan, and the prominent archaeological sites and collections from Bactria, Bamiyan, Ghazni and Hadda, where applicable, within the evolving geopolitical landscape. When DAFA director, Daniel Schlumberger, arrived in Afghanistan, DAFA's past work had so heavily focused on the Buddhist past; it prompted him to conclude that "the ancient archaeology of Afghanistan is essentially Buddhist". In 1951, Kenneth de Burgh Codrington, the SOAS Professor of Indian Archaeology who had accompanied Evert Barger to Afghanistan in the 1930s, his assistant, F. Raymond Allchin, and Raymond's wife, Bridget, both South Asia archaeologists, proposed a visit to Afghanistan. Diplomacy helped promote the archaeological discipline in Afghanistan, and in turn, archaeology helped foster cultural exchange between Afghanistan and India. Assessing the developments of the archaeological discipline within this time frame helps reveal the relationship between Afghanistan's archaeology and nationalism in political agendas at home and diplomatic agendas abroad.

*Dr J. Eva Meharry* is the Afghanistan Project Manager and Senior Editor at the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training in Washington, D.C., and Senior Analyst for the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative.

Chapter 8 – *Political uses of sacred heritage at the Shwedagon Pagoda in British Burma: (1824–1948)*. By Alicia Stevens

Colonial uses of sacred heritage in British Burma occurred primarily in and around Burma's sacred pagodas, above all at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Rangoon (Yangon). The Shwedagon Pagoda is the oldest and most sacred Buddhist site in Burma/Myanmar and is on UNESCO's tentative list of endangered world heritage sites.

*Chapter 8 – Political uses of sacred heritage at the Shwedagon Pagoda in British Burma: (1824–1948)*. By Alicia Stevens

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Wrought by political intent, these events altered the symbolism and uses of the Shwedagon Pagoda for long stretches of time. With primary focus on the colonial period in Burma, this chapter first contextualises the sacred heritage of the Shwedagon in Burma/Myanmar with historical data and precolonial political uses of the sacred site. That different political groups interacted with the Shwedagon Pagoda in multifarious ways is not a novel inquiry. Among tens of thousands of Buddhist temples in Burma/Myanmar, Shwedagon Pagoda is the country’s most sacred.

*Dr Alicia Stevens* recently completed her doctorate at the University of Cambridge as a Gates Cambridge Scholar and is co-coordinator of the heritage pillar at MIT’s new Center for Comparative Global Humanities.

Contributing to the volume’s overall theme of Asian heritage trends, this chapter contextualises Thailand’s treatment of Indigenous heritage within the broader Asian region. The case study of the Karen Indigenous community in the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (KKFC) is explored throughout the chapter, starting with the land’s designation as a national park in 1981, progressing to the ongoing forcible evictions of the Karen from the land, and ending with the saga of UNESCO World Heritage listing that began with a nomination in 2014 and culminated in the successful listing of the site in 2021. The contest over the KKFC is, however, still unresolved as protests continue to take place over the Thai state’s position on the Karen’s land rights.

*Dr Alisa Santikarn* is an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow in the Archaeology Department and CHRC. She completed her PhD and MPhil through the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre.

This chapter explores Thailand’s approaches to Indigenous heritage using the case study of conflicts between the State and the Karen community over the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex and Natural World Heritage Site, which sits on the border with Myanmar.
Research Associate in Heritage Science

University Library, University of Cambridge

Salary: £36,024 to £44,263 per annum

Contract: Fixed-Term, Part Time (3 years in first instance)

Closing Date: 22nd October 2023

Cambridge University Library invites applications for a fixed-term Research Associate in Heritage Science. The post holder will undertake research, dissemination and impact activities as part of the AHRC-funded project: Hidden in Plain Sight: Historical and Scientific Analysis of Premodern Sacred Books, led by Dr Eyal Poleg (Queen Mary University of London) jointly with Co-Investigators Dr Suzanne Paul (Cambridge University Library) and Dr Paola Ricciardi (Natural History Museum).

This is a unique opportunity to join a cutting-edge interdisciplinary project combining a range of non-invasive scientific and technical methods of analysis with in-depth historical study.

This project (to commence January 2024) is a major collaborative investigation into the transformation of premodern sacred books and objects. It combines in-depth historical study with scientific and technical analyses. The successful candidate will be responsible for leading on the non-invasive scientific analysis of books and objects using a variety of advanced analytical techniques, including microscopy, various types of spectroscopy, multi-spectral imaging, RTI, and CT-scanning.

They will work closely with historians, librarians, museum curators, conservators, scientists and technicians, under the supervision of the PI and Co-Is, to investigate how sacred books were appropriated, modified, mutilated, or used talismanically. The project comprises three themes: books transformed and mutilated in the course of religious reform; books transitioning between Jews and Christians in medieval Europe; talismanic use of Scripture in non-European contexts.

The project is a collaboration between QMUL, Cambridge University Library, the National Library of Wales and the University of Cambridge's Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology. An ambitious dissemination and engagement programme will share the project's findings with a range of academic and non-academic audiences. The postholder is expected to work closely with the Digital Content Unit and Conservation Department at the University Library in Cambridge using analytical equipment held in-house and shared facilities associated with the Cambridge Heritage Science Hub (CHERISH). They will work in close collaboration with another project-funded Research Associate who will focus on historical and textual analysis.

Fixed-term: The funds for this post are available for 3 years in the first instance.

We welcome applications from individuals who wish to be considered for part-time working or other flexible working arrangements.

We particularly welcome applications from candidates from a BME background for this vacancy as they are currently under-represented at this level in our institution. Please note you will need to upload a covering letter and CV, as well as completing the online application form. Please include details of three referees; references will only be taken up for shortlisted candidates.

The closing date for applications is Sunday 22 October 2023.

Online interviews for shortlisted candidates will be held Friday 3 November 2023.

If you have any questions about this vacancy or the application process, please contact Dr Suzanne Paul, Keeper of Rare Books and Early Manuscripts (sp510@cam.ac.uk). Please quote reference VE38582 on your application and in any correspondence about this vacancy.
OPPORTUNITIES

Research Fellow (Creative Technologies and Immersive Storytelling)

Link: Research Fellow (Creative Technologies and Immersive Storytelling)

Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences, Anglia Ruskin University

Salary: £37,099 to £42,978 per annum
Contract: Fixed-Term, Full Time (2 years)

Closing Date: 16th October 2023

StoryLab is interested in how digital innovation and storytelling can effect meaningful social change, cultural participation and heritage sustainability. We explore how the development and democratisation of existing and emerging creative technologies can enable stories to be told in innovative and immersive ways. We experiment with emerging formats and creative technologies such as XR (VR, AR, MR), 360 film, and 3D data visualisation to create powerful experiences. As a Lab we focus on speculative, participatory and agile design to create highly relevant responses to the real-world environment.

An opportunity has arisen for a Research Fellow specialising in creative technologies and immersive storytelling to join StoryLab in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences at ARU. The Research Fellow will work on a range of digital and/or immersive experience (XR) practice-led projects involving iterative prototyping, dissemination and evaluation, and will develop new research projects that contribute to StoryLab’s research themes; Human Creativity, Design and Technology; Identity, Culture and Heritage; Sustainable and Resilient Communities. The Research Fellow will be involved in writing funding proposals and publications, developing events with the team and external partners, and supporting StoryLab’s PhD community.

With a Degree plus PhD (or near completion) in Creative Technologies, Immersive Storytelling, Digital Humanities, Film Production or similar, you will have experience working with different types of media and digital technologies. You will also have experience with qualitative and or quantitative research projects and be skilled in analysing data. A willingness to work collaboratively on interdisciplinary research is essential for this role.

It is expected that interviews will take place during week commencing 30th Oct 2023.

Informal enquiries can be made to Emily.Campbell@aru.ac.uk, Business Manager, StoryLab Research Institute, Faculty of AHESS

Please visit https://storylabresearch.com for more information.

Closing date: Monday 16th October 2023
OPPORTUNITIES

AHRC Midlands4Cities Collaborative Doctoral Award

Link: [Creolising Caribbean foodways: Breadfruit from the mid-nineteenth century to the present](#)

University of Warwick and Kew Gardens

Closing Date: 10th January 2024 at 12:00noon (GMT)

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) have announced a fully-funded doctoral studentship on the history of breadfruit in the Caribbean.

**Project:** When breadfruit was introduced to the Caribbean in the late 18th century to feed enslaved people, it was not a success. Yet it has become embedded in the region’s cuisines. This project explores how and why breadfruit was adopted and adapted to Caribbean needs – how, in short, it was creolised. The journey of the breadfruit tree (Artocarpus altilis) from Oceania to the Caribbean in the 1790s – featuring Captain Bligh and the mutiny on the Bounty – is a well-known story encompassing global scientific networks, economic botany and an imperial project to feed enslaved populations. After slavery’s abolition in the British Caribbean in the 1830s, breadfruit became increasingly significant in local foodways. It is now an iconic food deeply embedded in regional cuisines. This project explores this little-known Caribbean history.

An [Application Writing Workshop](#) for candidates will normally run in November. Details are not yet available but will be added when published.

By the deadline stated above, applicants must also have [applied for a place to study at Warwick](#) and have ensured that two academic references are submitted using the Midlands4Cities online reference form. [Guidance, eligibility and applications to be made via the M4C website](#).

For more information about the project please contact [Prof David Lambert](#) or [Prof Rebecca Earle](#) and visit: [https://www.midlands4cities.ac.uk/find-a-project/](https://www.midlands4cities.ac.uk/find-a-project/)
The National Trust are looking for volunteers to help keep Wimpole Hall open over the Christmas period (25th November 2023 to 1st January 2024).

**Description:**
This is a short-term role, with a specifically festive focus. You do not need to be a historian – just let the yuletide spirit shine through! There may be a chance to get involved in other seasonal fun, like Christmas crafts and carol singing - so a genuine love of Christmas is essential and no “bah-humbugs!” are allowed.

The most important things are to create a warm welcome for everyone who visits and give them reasons to return, and to support the House team with looking after the objects in our care, as well as helping with Health and Safety and evacuation procedures if required. There will be plenty of support from staff and experienced volunteers.

Because this role is about ensuring that the House can stay open over the festive period, a minimum number of hours will be expected, to be agreed on recruitment.

To register your interest, please email wimpolemansion@nationaltrust.org.uk.
Save Ancient Studies Alliance (SASA)

SASA is looking for 2 volunteer (unpaid) Grant Writing interns, who are currently in a PhD program, to learn all aspects of grant seeking and writing, while helping SASA find funding for our major projects and programs related to Ancient Studies public outreach and access over a 6-month period.

**Position Description:**
This is a volunteer (unpaid) position to support the organization’s fundraising priorities by writing grant applications and reports, cultivating relationships with team members, and identifying new grant opportunities. As a young and growing organization, SASA has embarked on a number of projects and programs regarding Ancient Studies in the areas of public outreach, education, public scholarship, academic support, and academic in-reach. This position of Grant Writing PhD Intern will be responsible for contributing to development and administrative duties of the Grant Writing Team, and to act as support for the volunteers and team leader. This can include admin activities including filing, organizing and reviewing existing documentation, and other activities as assigned.

PhD Interns will have opportunities to read and provide feedback for drafted grant proposals and LOIs that are completed by the other volunteers. PhD interns may also participate in writing drafts of sections of grant proposals, but it is not guaranteed and will depend on the intern’s development during the internship. However, interns will report directly to the Grant Writing Team Leader, and there will be adequate opportunities for the intern to learn about the function of the organization, the requirements around grant writing, and develop their formal writing skills in this area.

The duration of this position is 6 months, with expected hours being 10-15 per week. All meetings take place via video call and all work is done remotely.

This position is a great opportunity for someone who is passionate about Ancient Studies and seeks to enhance their experience with grant writing in nonprofit contexts within a growing organization like SASA. Moreover, the intern must have excellent communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills, and be flexible, adaptive, and comfortable with problem solving as new issues emerge while supporting a team of dedicated, enthusiastic volunteers who work in a remote setting.

**Responsibilities:**
- Working closely with the Grant Team Leader to understand the requirements for successful grant writing
- Contributing feedback on and editing letters of intent and grant applications
- Providing new ideas for additional avenues of funding
- Administration of files and folders, with close attention to the main tracker
- Taking notes and responding to requests from volunteers as needed
- Completing any assignments on time based on direction from the Grant Team Leader
- Attending weekly meetings
- Other duties as assigned

**Necessary skills:**
- Excellent communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills
- Ability to effectively complete tasks as assigned and to openly respond to any request in a timely manner
- Ability to work and communicate effectively remotely
- Flexibility in tasks being worked on
- Grant writing experience are big pluses

To apply, please send your resume and cover letter to mchabon@saveancientstudies.org. We aim to have this position filled no later than October 15, 2023.
CONTRIBUTE

We would be especially interested in hearing from you about events and opportunities. Contributions in the form of short reviews of conferences, exhibitions, publications or other events/material that you have attended/read are also welcome. Please note that advertisements for any non-CHRC events, jobs, or programs do not imply endorsement of them.

SUBSCRIBE

If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive our bulletin, or if you have a notice to post, please contact the editors (heritage@arch.cam.ac.uk). For more information about the Heritage Research Group, visit the CHRC website: www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk

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