

the MoA Quarterly

A NEWSLETTER OF THE
MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY, MIZZOU

NEW THIS QUARTER:

Note From The Interim Director

Collection Spotlight PAGE 2

NAGPRA Updates PAGE 3

Education & Outreach PAGE 4



Dr. Candace Sall at the Museum Support Center.

NOTE FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR

We welcome you to visit the Museum of Anthropology!

We reopened to the public on August 18th, 2020, after being closed since March 18th because of the coronavirus. We are open regular hours with safety measures to keep visitors and staff safe. Social distancing, limited capacity in the museum, and a city-wide mask mandate, are some of the precautions. We look forward to hosting guided tours when it is safer to be in larger groups.

While we miss our face-to-face interactions, we are planning more virtual events, such as e-exhibits and children's classes. Our new posts about Arctic archery equipment, including a bow made of antler, horn, and sinew, can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/MizzouMuseumofAnthropology/posts/10158739011664373>.

Information about our virtual offerings coming this spring mentioned in this newsletter, including children's classes, will be posted on our website.

Did you know that the museum's collections databases are online? From the Grayson Archery Collection, to the General Museum Collection, you can see photos and learn more about each object. Find them listed here: <https://anthromuseum.missouri.edu/online-databases>, choose the collection you want to know more about, then click to Sign In as a Guest.

As things return to lower virus times, I hope you'll stop by the museum to say hello! We are looking forward to a bright 2021. ❖

- CANDACE SALL

COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT

BY JESSICA BOLDT

Pellet Bow

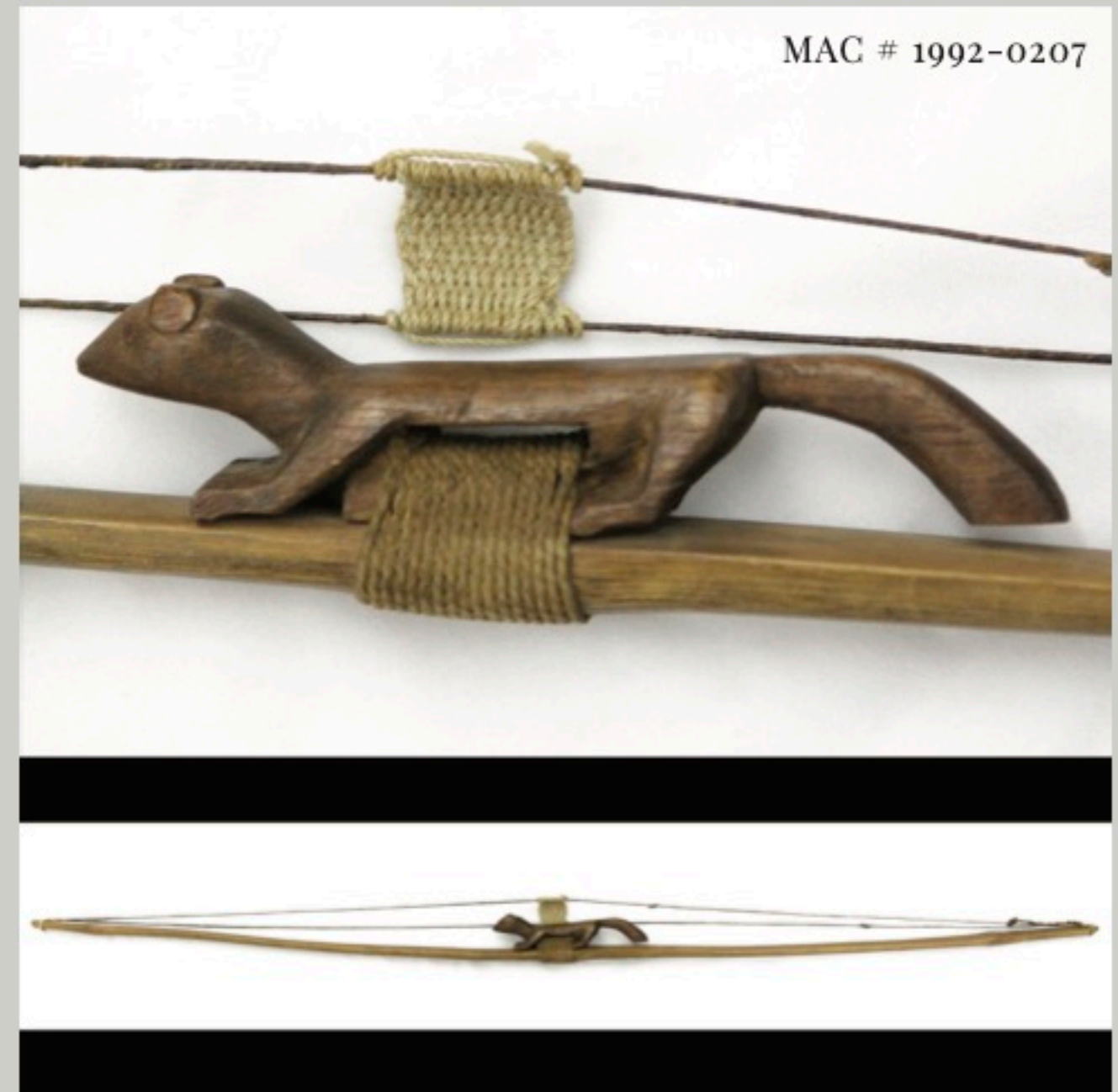
Southeast Asia, Myanmar (Burma), Shan State
ca. late 19th-early 20th century

MAC # 1992-0207

The Grayson Archery Collection is one of the largest and most extensive in the world. It allows the unique opportunity to explore the many different variations in technology and innovation that exist within the field of archery. One such innovation that arose independently in many different areas and time periods is the pellet bow, or stone bow. As the name implies, a pellet bow shoots small clay pellets or round stones instead of the typical arrow. The pellets are loaded into a pouch attached between a double bow string and fired much like a sling-shot.

These types of bows generally lack the power of conventional bows and were often used for killing or stunning small game. Shooting a pellet bow isn't as straightforward as you may think, however. With a bow and arrow, the arrow is naturally guided past the bow itself. A pellet bow, on the other hand, needs to be rotated outwards to prevent the pellet from striking the bow or the hand. This example, from Myanmar (Burma), has a carved squirrel attached to the grip to help protect the hand from any pellet firing mishaps.

Additional pellet bows from our collection can be seen in the eExhibit on our website. ❖



MAC # 1992-0207

The Museum of Anthropology collections and archives have been online and accessible to the public for almost two decades. Click the quick link to the databases on our website's home page to learn more: anthromuseum.missouri.edu.

NEW NAGPRA GRANT

BY CANDACE SALL

The National Park Service awarded a NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) Consultation and Documentation grant to the Museum of Anthropology in 2020. This two-year grant funds consultations with tribal partners, and documentation of the Missouri Archaeological Society collection, some of which contained human remains and funerary objects, in preparation for repatriation and/or disposition.

The Missouri Archaeology Society (MAS) Collection comprises artifacts collected by members of the society, mostly from the 1950s to 1980s. The MAS transferred control of the collection to the Museum in 2019, and we thank them for ensuring the collections continue to be cared for and assuring that NAGPRA compliance and tribal consultations can move forward. Inventories of the human remains and funerary objects from the collection were submitted in the past, but the grant allows a thorough examination of the artifacts, gathering and digitizing the documentation of the sites' information, and reporting on human remains, including the age and sex of the individuals (if possible to identify). All of the information will be shared with tribal partners to aid in consultation and help identify cultural affiliations.

The Museum developed Care and Handling Guidelines for NAGPRA to ensure human remains of any ancestry are treated with respect and cultural sensitivity. The Museum cares for human remains and funerary objects while they are under consultation, until the affiliated tribe(s) take custody, or until dispositions are concluded. ❖

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

BY AMANDA STALEY HARRISON

The past year has been quite a wild ride. We have missed seeing smiling faces, and I have especially missed seeing your wonderful kids in our workshops or during tours. The good news is this time has given us the opportunity to explore and test new forms of outreach to build upon in the future to support families, scholars, and community groups who, even when the pandemic is past, are not able for one reason or another to join activities in-person. We have found over the past year that virtual outreach, such as our Anthropology Day celebration (held virtually via social media in February), results in even more people engaging with our collections and our museum in meaningful ways. The Anthropology Day event was extremely successful and highlighted our staff, students, and Department of Anthropology faculty. The event resulted in a total reach of almost 3000 individuals on Facebook alone.

We have a couple of virtual workshops approaching this spring. More information on registration and which platform they will be presented on (e.g. Zoom, Facebook Live, etc) will be up on our website in mid-March. We most likely will not be able to have our annual archaeology summer camp in-person, but we are planning various virtual workshops for summer that highlight archaeology and the different fields of anthropology.

The primary medium for outreach at this time will remain social media for its accessibility to large quantities of individuals. Up to date news, articles, and activities continue to be posted regularly to our Facebook page and Instagram. The staff is working diligently to prepare a variety of new e-exhibits for our website. As they are created and posted, links will be shared via social media. We also already have a host of fantastic resources on our website, including archives of a collaboration with Columbia Public Schools called *Source by Sunday*, which highlights topics to use in tandem with our online databases.

So if you haven't already, head over to our Facebook and Instagram and follow along as we continue to navigate this time of social distancing together. I very much look forward to when I can see all of your smiling faces again in person at the museum. Until then, safe wishes and well thoughts.

FUN FACT:

Rattlesnake master (image on right) was used by early Native American peoples in Missouri in the production of many material items, including the shoes on display in the Museum. It still grows in many parts of Missouri and is available in many native plant nurseries. It is lovely in a native garden landscaping!

M_oA | The MUSEUM of ANTHROPOLOGY

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Open regular hours:
Tuesday - Friday 9am - 4pm
Saturday - Sunday 12pm - 4pm

ANTHROMUSEUM.MISSOURI.EDU

