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Archival Archaeology of Buvuma and Bugaia Islands, Uganda

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Abstract

In 1968, members of the Department of Prehistory and Archaeology of the Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA) in Belgium conducted three months of archaeological field work on Buvuma and Bugaia Islands, Uganda. Excavations at one of the discovered sites, Munyama Cave, yielded the oldest dated Pleistocene Later Stone Age occupation of the Lake Victoria Basin. In this report, we review the historical and scientific context of the 1968 Belgian expedition to Uganda and report initial results of our reinvestigation of the mostly unpublished material of Munyama Cave, currently stored at the RMCA. While previously published short reports on the site emphasized its chronology and the microlithic quartz industry, we highlight the broader potential of the collection for a better understanding of people's lives at the end of the Pleistocene in the Lake Victoria Basin.

Keywords: Lake Victoria Basin, Later Stone Age, Pleistocene archaeology, archives

Introduction

Research on the Pleistocene 'Stone Age' archaeology and environment of Uganda has a long history.[2] Despite this, other than a few sites in southern Uganda such as Nsongezi and those at Sango Bay, Magosi in the northwest, and Nyabusosi 18 in the west, few have been carefully excavated and none are well-dated.[3] The single site

1 The author can be reached for correspondence at: alice.leplongeon@mnhn.fr

2 Charles Kinyera Okeny, Elizabeth Kyazike, and Gilbert Gumoshabe, 'Critical Analysis of Archaeological Research Trends in Uganda: 1920-2018,' *African Journal of History and Culture* 12, no. 1 (2020): 14-27.

3 Glen H. Cole, 'The Later Acheulian and Sangoan of Southern Uganda,' in *Background to Evolution in Africa*, ed. W. W. Bishop and J. D. Clark (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1967), 481–528; Robert Ssemulende, Elizabeth Kyazike, and Julius Bunny Lejju, 'Recasting the Sangoan Stone Age Techno-Complex in the Stone Age Nomenclature at Sango Bay, Southern Uganda,' *Studies in the African Past* 15 (February 2022): 1-34; Edward James Wayland and Miles Crawford Burkitt, 'The Magosian Culture of Uganda,' *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland* 62 (1932): 369-90; Glen H. Cole, 'A Reinvestigation of

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with multiple radiometric dates, Munyama Cave, is minimally published.[4] We outline here our research project to study and publish the material from the 1968 excavations at Munyama Cave and other sites found during survey of Lake Victoria's Buvuma and Bugaia Islands, near the outlet of the Nile River. This paper is an initial report on our findings, which highlights the potential of the existing collection for further studies. It focuses on the history of the collection and provides an initial inventory of the material currently stored at the Department for Heritage Studies of the Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA), in Tervuren, Belgium.

1968 Belgian Expedition to Buvuma and Bugaia

After the independence of Congo in 1960, the former Museum of Belgian Congo in Tervuren (Belgium) became the Royal Museum for Central Africa, with the redefinition of its research scope to encompass the whole sub-Saharan Africa.[5] From 1963 to 1972, Jacques Nenquin was affiliated with the RMCA's Department of Prehistory and Archaeology. Nenquin had done intensive research in the 1960s in what at the time were called the Belgian Mandate Territories of Rwanda and Burundi. His research there was key in developing his interests in the Stone Age in the region.[6] This includes work on the Lupemban and Sangoan, entities of the Earlier/Middle Stone Age of Central and Eastern Africa at the time 'in process of definition[7].' His interest in the Lupemban and Sangoan led him to organise a conference in 1968 on the site of Gombe (ex-Kalina) Point (the Democratic Republic of the Congo), which had yielded an important archaeological sequence, including Lupemban-related artifacts.[8] It is probably because of his research on the Lupemban in Burundi and Rwanda that he got in contact with Margaret Joan McFarlane. She was part of the Uganda Geological Survey, and routinely worked with Walter W. ('Bill') Bishop, who worked for the Ugandan Geological Survey and Mines Department, was Curator of the Uganda Museum, and Lecturer in Geology at what was then Makerere College in the 1950s-1960s. Bishop was a geologist who regularly integrated archaeological sites into his reconstructions of the Pleistocene. In early 1967, McFarlane surveyed the Ugandan islands of Buvuma and Bugaia as part of her study on lateritic soils, and noticed high densities of prehistoric artifacts which she recognised as Sangoan, leaving

Magosi and the Magosian,' *Quaternaria* 9 (1967): 153-68; Isis Mesfin and Pierre-Jean Texier, 'Prepared Core Technology from the Early Pleistocene Site of Nyabusosi 18, Uganda,' *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 46 (December 1, 2022): 103695.

4 Francis Van Noten, 'Excavations at Munyama Cave,' *Antiquity* 45, no. 177 (March 1971): 56-58; Jacques Nenquin, 'Archaeological Prospections on the Islands of Buvuma and Bugaia, Lake Victoria Nyanza (Uganda),' *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 37, no. 2 (December 1971): 381–418.

5 Congo, currently known as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was Belgium's colony until its independence in 1960, while Ruanda-Urundi was under the protectorate of Belgium until 1962, when they split into the two independent states of Rwanda and Burundi. Els Cornelissen and Alexandre Livingstone-Smith, 'De Archeologie van Congo in Kaart Gebracht. De Geschiedenis van 130 Jaar Veldwerk,' *Monumenten, Landschappen en Archeologie* 34 (2015): 4-27; Els Cornelissen, 'Archaeology in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Old and Current Strategies for Ancient Issues,' in *European Archaeology Abroad: Global Settings, Comparative Perspectives*, ed. S. J. van der Linde et al. (Leiden: Sidestone Press, 2012), 205-22.

6 Jacques Nenquin, *Contributions to the Study of the Prehistoric Cultures of Rwanda and Burundi* (Tervuren: Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, 1967).

7 Ibid., 4.

8 Daniel Cahen, 'New Excavations at Gombe (Ex-Kalina) Point, Kinshasa, Zaïre,' *Antiquity* 52, no. 204 (March 1978): 51-56; Jacques Nenquin, 'Symposium on the Nomenclature of the Stone Age Industries of the Lower Congo, with Special Reference to the Colette Excavations at Kalina Point, Tervuren, Belgium, 20-23 September 1968,' *Commission on Nomenclature and Terminology* 2 (1969): 3-35.

some material at the Uganda Museum for Nenquin to study.[9] On April 11, 1967, McFarlane sent hand-drawn annotated topographic maps of Bugaia to Nenquin showing various artefact localities.[10] In addition, the RMCA archives include correspondence between Robert Macdonald, who was principal geologist at the Geological Survey of Uganda in 1965), and Francis Van Noten, another team member from the Belgian expedition.[11] Macdonald sent a draft geological map to Van Noten–now preserved in the RMCA Cartography Department (ID 7204)–which forms the basis of Figure 1. It is significant because no geological map of the islands existed at the time, and Macdonald's work was never published.

The RMCA expedition to Buvuma and Bugaia Islands took place from February to April 1968 and led to the survey and excavation of thirty-eight localities on the southern part of Buvuma Island and eleven localities on Bugaia Island, which were given a name composed of two letters designating the islands (BV for Buvuma and BG for Bugaia) followed by a number.[12] Materials from these localities range from a few artifacts to large artifact collections. It was financed by the RMCA and the *Comité des Fouilles Belges en Afrique*. The team was composed of Professor Jacques Nenquin, Dr. Francis Van Noten, Mr. Ernestus Vertriest, Ms. J. Renard, with the administrative assistance of Mr. P. Bulenzi of the Uganda Ministry of Culture and Community Development.[13]

9 Margaret Joan McFarlane, *Some Observations on the Prehistory of the Buvuma Island Group of Lake Victoria* (Jinja, Uganda: East African Freshwater Fisheries Research Organization, 1967).

10 Annotated maps dated April 14th 1967, sent by M.J. McFarlane to J. Nenquin, Nenquin files, Archives of the Royal Museum for Central Africa (all further notations of the archive labelled RMCA).

11 Letters from R. MacDonald to F. Van Noten, January 9 and 26, 1968. Inventory number: PA 1255 paper #0-3, RMCA.

12 Nenquin, 'Archaeological Prospections on the Islands of Buvuma and Bugaia, Lake Victoria Nyanza (Uganda).'

13 Nenquin Files, RMCA.

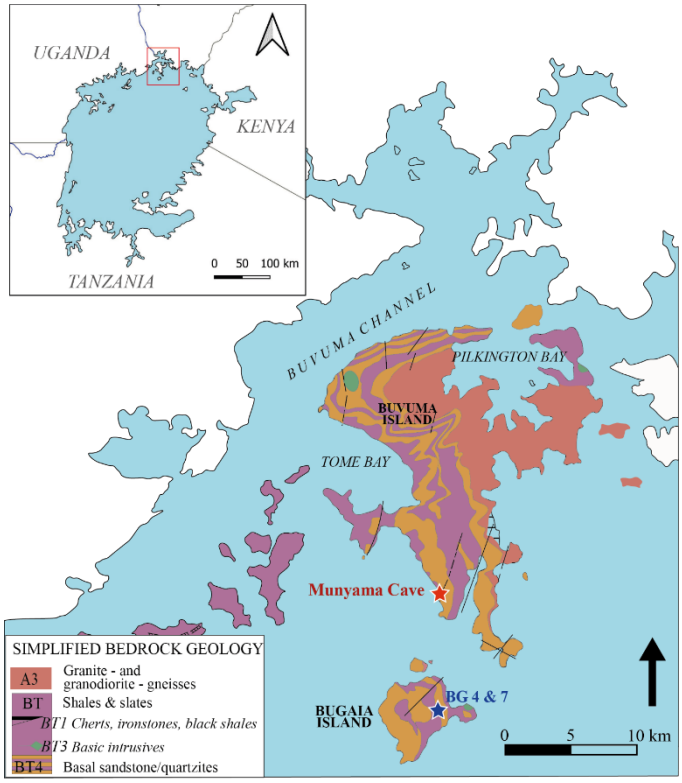

Figure 1. Map of Buvuma and Bugaia Islands showing location of Munyama Cave and Bugaia Island (BG) sites 4 and 7.
Geological information after hand-drawn map by R. Macdonald, 1967(Royal Museum for Central Africa – ID BE-RMCA-EARTHS-007204).
Top left inset: Made with Natural Earth.
CAD: A. Leplongeon

The Collection at the Royal Museum for Central Africa

All material from the 1968 expedition was shipped to Belgium. Due to some delays in transport, it reached the RMCA in Tervuren in winter 1970-1971, twenty months after the end of the expedition.[14] Since then, the material is part of the collection housed at, yet not formally part of, the RMCA.

The collections from the 1968 expedition consist mostly of Acheulean, Sangoan, and Lupemban localities that initiated Nenquin's interest in the archaeology of the area, and which were briefly published and illustrated by Nenquin.[15] Most of these artifacts are large objects that were individually marked (see Fig. 2). Photographic (prints and slides) and drawing archives associated with these collections are also stored at the museum, and study of these is also underway. Our current efforts have focused on the material of Munyama Cave (BV8).

14 Nenquin, 'Archaeological Prospections on the Islands of Buvuma and Bugaia, Lake Victoria Nyanza (Uganda),'; Van Noten, 'Excavations at Munyama Cave,'; Francis Van Noten, 'Wanneer Begon de Afrikaanse Late Steentijd?' Archeologie 6, no. 3 (1970): 2-11.

15 Ibid.

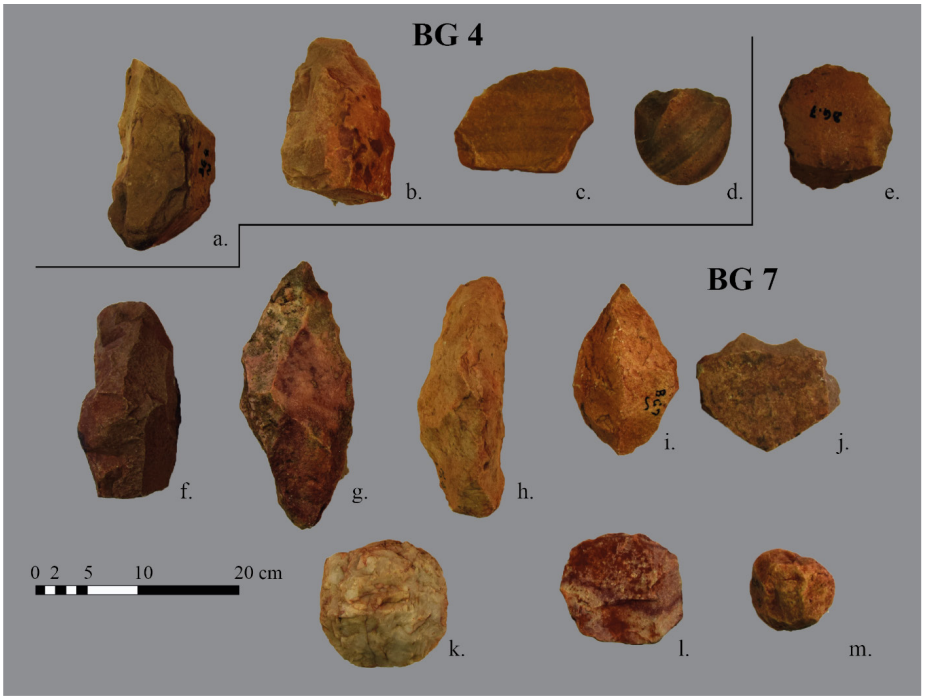

Figure 2. Examples of quartzite (all but k) and quartz (k) artifacts from Bugaia (BG) excavated sites no 4 and 7 (see Figure 1) collected by the 1968 Belgian survey led by Nenquin. (a,b,g,i): trifacial pieces; (c,e): retouched flakes; (d): hammerstone and core-tool; (f,h): core-tools; (j); retouched plaquette; (k): bifacially worked core-tool, (l): preferential Levallois core; (m): polyhedron © A. Leplongeon

Munyama Cave, Uganda

Munyama Cave (BV8) is a large (11-meter-wide, 20-meter-deep and 3-metre-high) cave located on the shore of Gaya Bay, on Buvuma Island, near the northern shore of Lake Victoria and the outlet of the Nile River in Uganda (see Figure 1, 3, 4A). The cave is located 28.5 metres above the 1968 lake level. The Belgian expedition conducted excavations there in March 1968, under the direction of expedition member Van Noten, with 18 square meters excavated to bedrock up to a depth of up to 1.40 metres (see Figures 3, 4B).[16] The excavations revealed the presence of a Later Stone Age (LSA) occupation layer ca. 50-90 centimetres below the surface characterized by a very high concentration of microlithic quartz artefacts (see Figure 3, 4B), unconformably overlain by much more recent deposits. A series of five radiocarbon dates were published that suggest a LSA human occupation of the cave between 10,609-18,602 years cal BP.[17]

16 Nenquin, '*Archaeological Prospections on the Islands of Buvuma and Bugaia, Lake Victoria Nyanza (Uganda)*,'; Van Noten, 'Excavations at Munyama Cave,'; Francis Van Noten, 'Wanneer Begon de Afrikaanse Late Steentijd?' *Archeologie* 6, no. 3 (1970): 2-11.

17 Van Noten, 'Excavations at Munyama Cave'; M. Dauchot-Dehon and J. Heylen, 'Institut Royal Du Patrimoine Artistique Radiocarbon Dates IV,' *Radiocarbon* 15, no. 2 (January 1973): 303–6. Published dates recalibrated using Calib 8.20 software and the IntCal20 calibration curve P.J. Reimer et al., 'The IntCal20 Northern Hemisphere Radiocarbon Age Calibration Curve (0–55 Cal kBP),' *Radiocarbon* 62, no. 4 (2020): 725–57, with a 50% northern and southern hemisphere mixed model to account for the Equatorial location of the site.

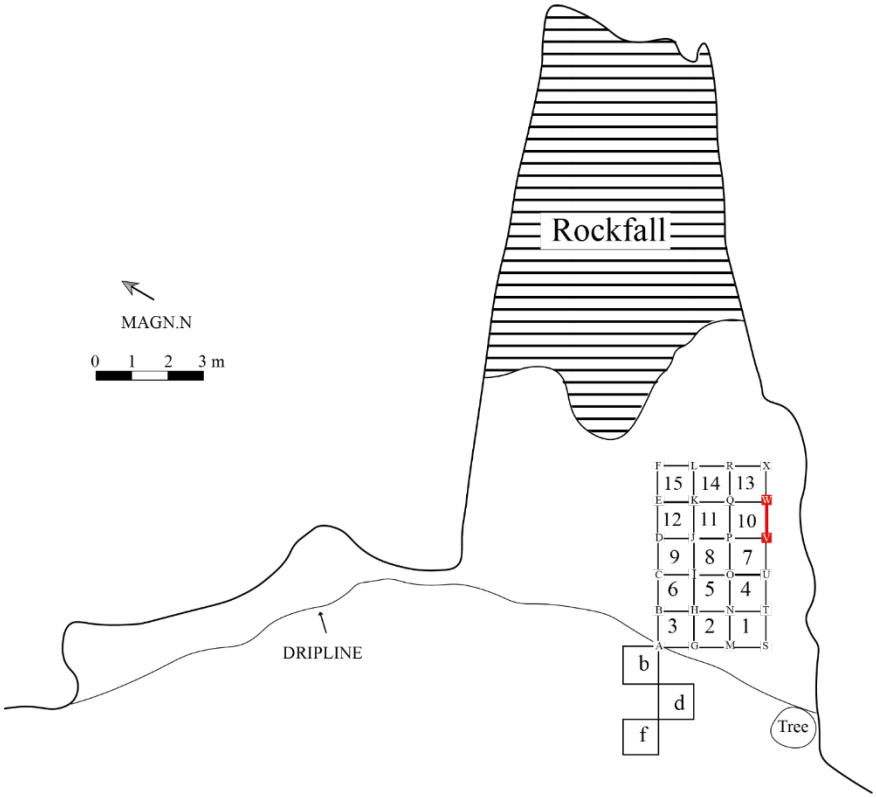

Figure 3: Munyama Cave, Uganda. Ground plan redrawn after Valcke (1974) and archives of the RMCA. In red, north-facing section of square 10 (line V-W) shown in photograph in figure 4. ©RMCA, Tervuren, Belgium CC-BY-04. CAD: A. Leplongeon

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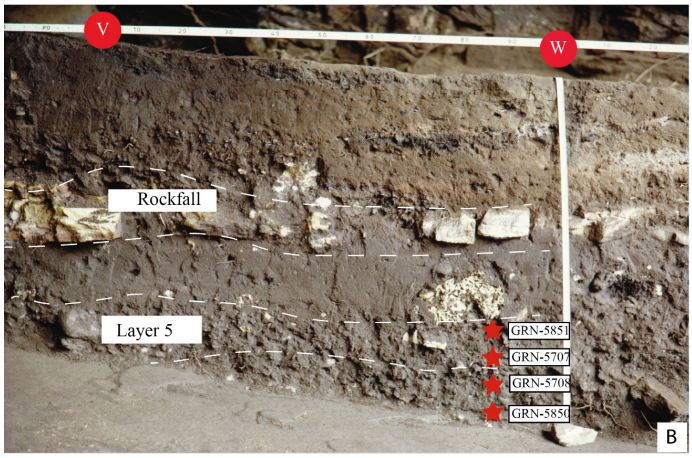

PP.01.05.009 ©RMCA, Tervuren, Belgium

Figure 4: Munyama Cave, Uganda. A. Overview of the entrance of Munyama Cave during excavations; B. Stratigraphic section of square 10 with red stars showing the approximate depth of 4 published radiocarbon dates. Photographs: Excavations Buvuma Island, Uganda, Van Noten 1968. Author: Francis Van Noten. © RMCA, Tervuren, Belgium CC-BY-04

There are few published data on the excavations of Munyama beyond two brief (two-page) notes that focused on the chronology, stratigraphy, and artifacts of the LSA occupations drawn largely from one m^2 (square 10).[18] At the time of the excavation, the age of the site was of particular interest because the dates placed the LSA occupations at Munyama firmly at the end of the Pleistocene at a time when the view of a deep antiquity for the African past, including the LSA, was only just emerging.[19] As was the custom at the time, the excavated material was shipped for analysis to the RMCA, but in this case, never published.[20] An unpublished MA thesis by Johan Valcke focused mostly on portions of the quartz assemblage and some larger

18 Van Noten, 'Wanneer Begon de Afrikaanse Late Steentijd?'; Van Noten, 'Excavations at Munyama Cave.'
19 Van Noten, 'Excavations at Munyama Cave'; J. Desmond Clark, 'Africa in Prehistory: Peripheral or Paramount?' Man 10, no. 2 (1975): 175-98.
20 Cornelissen, 'Archaeology in the Democratic Republic of Congo.'

pieces modified by grinding or use as percussors.[21] Drawing on the data presented in this unpublished thesis, Tryon and colleagues showed that peaks in quartz artefact density were broadly coincident with ~17,000-16,000 years ago, a time when Lake Victoria was desiccated and the region transformed into a grassland, and Buvuma Island likely connected to the mainland.[22] This suggested a correlation between past human use of the site with changes in lake level and local environment.

Munyama Cave is still the only site in the Lake Victoria basin with a large sample of archaeological evidence for Pleistocene LSA occupations after the Last Glacial Maximum. Given its potential for us to better understand human-environment interactions during a period with drastic environmental changes where Lake Victoria alternated between period of desiccation and high lake levels, we undertook a detailed investigation of the archaeological collection of Munyama Cave in 2023.

Initial Findings from the Munyama Cave Reinvestigation

The first step we took was to make an inventory of the number of bags of artefacts coming from the excavations of Munyama Cave, as this basic information was never reported. We noted that the provenance information was missing on many bags. 272 bags (with a mean weight of ca. 1.6 kg per bag) contain material coming from Munyama Cave, but the provenance (square and depth) was identified for only 120 bags (see Table 1). In his study of the material from Munyama and in our conversations with him, Valcke noted that some mixing occurred in Uganda and during transport of the material, which led to loss of material.[23] Although he analysed 176,767 artefacts from throughout the stratigraphic sequence at Munyama Cave, Valcke only mentions the depth of these artefacts but not the squares where they are coming from.[24] This hampered the precise identification of what material was studied by Valcke, made it unclear the extent to which it overlapped with what was studied by Van Noten, and removed linkages to stratigraphic information at the site. Because of this, it is difficult to estimate how representative the material with provenience information is compared to the initial total volume of the collection.

21 Johan Valcke, 'De Late Steentijd van de Munyamagrot Op Het Eiland Buvuma in Het Victorianyanza Meer (Uganda).' (MA Thesis, UGent, University of Ghent, 1974).

22 Christian A Tryon et al., 'The Pleistocene Prehistory of the Lake Victoria Basin,' *Quaternary International*, The African Quaternary: environments, ecology and humans Inaugural AFQUA conference, 404, Part B (June 6, 2016): 100–114; J. Curt Stager, Paul A Mayewski, and L. David Meeker, 'Cooling Cycles, Heinrich Event 1, and the Desiccation of Lake Victoria,' *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 183, no. 1 (July 15, 2002): 169-78; Emily J. Beverly et al., 'Rapid Pleistocene Desiccation and the Future of Africa's Lake Victoria,' *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* 530 (January 15, 2020): 115883.

23 Valcke, personal communication to Christian Tryon and Alice Leplongeon, October 2024; Valcke, 'De Late Steentijd van de Munyamagrot Op Het Eiland Buvuma in Het Victorianyanza Meer (Uganda).'

24 Valcke, personal communication to Christian Tryon and Alice Leplongeon, October 2024.

Table 1. Number of bags per square and spit from the 1968 excavations of Munyama Cave. Bags are labelled with I + a number. Based on other excavations conducted by Van Noten (such as at Matupi Cave), the I probably corresponds to 'Sector I.' Depth is listed in cm below surface.

	Squares																		
Depth	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	b	c	f	Total
000-010																	1	1	2
010-020			1								1								2
020-030																2	1		3
030-040				1	2											3			6
040-050	4			1	3			1		1						1	4		15
050-060	1			4					1				1			1			8
060-070	1	2	1		1		2			1		1	3			1			13
070-080	1	4	5		4		1	1						4	2	1			23
080-090			2		1	2	1	3		1	4	3		1		2			20
090-100	1		5		2			4	2			3							17
100-110			1			1		1	2						1		1		7
110-120						2						1							3
120-130		1																	1
Total	8	7	15	6	13	5	4	10	5	3	5	8	4	5	3	11	7	1	120

Recognizing the limits of the material, we focused on a few square meters adjacent to the drawn stratigraphic profile of the excavation (see Figure 3, squares 1, 4, 7, 10, 13). Drawings of these sections are available in Valcke's thesis and in the archives of the RMCA. The stratigraphic layers are dipping, and by focusing on units adjacent to a drawn profile, we can better correlate the depth of the different horizontal excavation 'spits' or levels on the artefact labels with the different stratigraphic layers. One of our chosen squares (10) is also the source of four of the five published radiocarbon dates and is the only published stratigraphic profile for the site (see also Figure 4B).[25]

The site's stratigraphy is broadly separated by a layer of rockfall, below which lay artefact-bearing deposits radiocarbon dated to 10,609-18,602 cal. years BP. They include layer 5, which is a 10-20-centimetre-thick layer with a very dense concentration of quartz artefacts, visible in stratigraphic section (see Figure 4B). The rockfall apparently marks a major unconformity, as the layers above it, while undated, are likely quite recent in age based on the preservation of wood, ceramics stylistically matching those made on the island in the 1960s, a recent coin, batteries, and nylon fishing nets. All contain material from below the rockfall and can thus be considered Pleistocene in age. Published and unpublished data from Munyama focused on

25 Francis Van Noten, 'Wanneer Begon de Afrikaanse Late Steentijd?' *Zuidelijk Afrika* 45, no. 2 (1971): 45-51; Francis Van Noten, 'Excavations at Munyama Cave.'

the quartz lithic assemblage.[26] We focused on twenty-two bags with provenience information available from squares 1, 4, 7, 10, and 13 located along the southern profile of the 1968 excavations. In addition, thirty-seven large macro-lithic artefacts, individually labelled, also come from these squares, with all but two from below the rockfall.

Our technological analyses of some of these quartz artifacts employ approaches not in use when Valcke and Van Noten conducted their study, and our reinvestigation allows us to bring more information on other types of material, in particular ochre fragments, macro-lithic artefacts, and lithic artefacts in quartzite (see Figure 5).

The archaeological material from our sample confirms Valcke's observations that the assemblage mostly consists of small quartz flakes.[27] Evidence for the use of both bipolar and freehand percussion is noted. The most characteristic retouched implements are small curved-backed tools (see Figure 5, a-c). A fine quartzite material was also used at the cave but is present in very small numbers (see Figure 5, c). Coarse-grained quartzite was also knapped at the site. It consists of large flakes, with some presenting a denticulated retouch (see Figure 5, h).

The assemblage of macro-lithic artefacts includes imported rocks and cobbles, many of locally available granite or coarse sandstone, with surfaces showing modification for use in a variety of grinding and percussive actives. Some of these pieces were likely used as upper and lower grindstones as well as anvils, based on the presence of well-defined pits (see Figure 5, g). A more detailed study of the function(s) of these pieces is underway.

One of the more remarkable aspects of the Munyama Cave collection is the high density of 'ochre' (hematite and related iron-rich rocks) that was transported to the shelter. Since the original excavation of the site, ochre has achieved prominence in narratives of deep history for its material role in symbolic life for its role in painting or colouring a variety of surfaces such as rock walls and human bodies, in addition to use as a grinding or polishing agent, for working hides, and other functions.[28] While detailed study is still underway, many of the ochre pieces from the Munyama Cave excavations show clear signs of use in the form of wear-facets and parallel striations that continue across the entirety of the surface (see Figure 5, d-f). Red ochre was abundantly used in addition to yellows, browns, grey, and other colours.

26 Valcke, 'De Late Steentijd van de Munyamagrot op het Eiland Buvuma in het Victorianyanza Meer (Uganda)'; Francis Van Noten, 'Wanneer Begon de Afrikaanse Late Steentijd?'.

27 Johan Valcke, 'De Late Steentijd van de Munyamagrot Op Het Eiland Buvuma in Het Victorianyanza Meer (Uganda).'

28 Ernst E. Wreschner et al., 'Red Ochre and Human Evolution: A Case for Discussion [and Comments and Reply],' *Current Anthropology* 21, no. 5 (October 1980): 631-44; Rachel S. Popelka-Filcoff and Andrew M. Zipkin, 'The Archaeometry of Ochre *Sensu Lato*: A Review,' *Journal of Archaeological Science* 137 (January 1, 2022): 105530.

Figure 5: Selected artifacts from layer 5, Munyama Cave, Uganda. [a-c] backed pieces from square 13 in quartz (a, b) and fine-grained quartzite (c); [d-f] worked ochre pieces from squares 12 (d), 1 (e) and 15 (f): (d) yellow, (e) red, and (f) grey – e and f with photographs and RTI images showing the striations on the surface; [g] macro-lithic artefact with a pit in its centre from square 11; and [h] denticulated tool in quartzite from square 13. © A. Leplongeon

Conclusion

We presented initial results from the museum reinvestigation of the archaeological material from Munyama Cave (Buvuma Island, Uganda). Despite limitations from the loss of provenience information of a large part of the collection, our ongoing study aims to provide important insights into the daily life at the end of the Pleistocene in the Lake Victoria Basin, not only on how tools were made but also on how they were used and perhaps why. Lake Victoria currently plays a central role in the lives of millions of people in Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya, but curiously, we know very little about this area at the end of the Pleistocene compared to other time periods.[29] While earlier excavations identified this critical site, for a variety of reasons these efforts were never published and, therefore, contribute little to our

29 Christian Tryon et al., 'The Pleistocene Prehistory of the Lake Victoria Basin,'; Christian Tryon et al., 'Late Pleistocene Age and Archaeological Context for the Hominin Calvaria from GvJm-22 (Lukenya Hill, Kenya),' *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 112, no. 9 (March 3, 2015): 2682-87.

understanding. One of our primary goals of this project has simply been to document what remains in Belgium of the Munyama collections for study. Our reassessment of the collection demonstrates its potential for further investigations and for our understanding of the terminal Pleistocene Later Stone Age of the Lake Victoria Basin. When it was excavated, the interest and importance of the Munyama archaeological assemblage lay in its age, demonstrating the antiquity of the Later Stone Age in this region. Our study, along with similar ones on the Eastern African Stone Age, show the potential of reinvestigations of 'old' museum collections to contribute to current archaeological questions.[1]

Munyama Cave remains the only terminal Pleistocene site of the Lake Victoria, and its archaeological assemblage uniquely captures the activities of human groups who repeatedly worked quartz, quartzite, and ochre raw materials at that time. The density of material found at the site also suggests that other, similar sites may exist at the edge of Lake Victoria. Our restudy may also contribute to the restitution of knowledge on collections from Uganda stored abroad and often left unstudied. As the critical review of archaeological research in Uganda by Okeny and colleagues shows, Stone Age archaeological research in the country has been limited (compared to Iron Age research) and dominated by foreign research teams who at the time exported material out of the country for further analysis as was the case for Munyama.[2] Future systematic surveys of the area and fieldwork would likely lead to the identification of other sites from the same period, that might answer to the many standing questions following our re-examination of museum collections. These nevertheless attest to the potential of Buvuma Island and the northern area of the Lake Victoria basin for a better understanding of the key period (the terminal Pleistocene) that precedes the adoption of ceramics and fishing-based subsistence by human populations living around Lake Victoria-Nyanza in the Holocene.

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1 Christian A. Tryon, Jason E. Lewis, and Kathryn Ranhorn, 'Excavating the archives: The 1956 excavation of the Late Pleistocene-Holocene sequence at Kisese II (Tanzania),' in *Modern Human Origins and Dispersal*, ed. Hugo Reyes-Centeno, Christian Bentz, Yonatan Sahle (Tübingen: Kerns-Verlag, 2019), 215-238; Anthony Marks and Nicholas Conard, 'Technology vs. Typology: The Case for and against a Transition from the MSA to the LSA at Mumba Cave, Tanzania,' in *Space and Time: Which Diachronies, Which Synchronies, Which Scales?*, ed. Thierry Aubry et al. (Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2008), 123-31.

2 Charles Kinyera Okeny, Elizabeth Kyazike, and Gilbert Gumoshabe, 'Critical Analysis of Archaeological Research Trends in Uganda: 1920-2018.'