



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

x marks the spot

Chris Gey van Pittius
Study Leader: Nicholas John Clarke



Fig. 1



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In Appreciation

Ma & Pa vir hul ondersteuning
Carina and world domination
Sariena, Le Roux & Michelle
Absolute lifesaver - Clayton

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3 million +

3 million - 300 000

300 000 - 30 000

30 000 - 100

from the open planes to the warm shelter
of caves

from nomadic construction to basic
establishment

Edifice was born



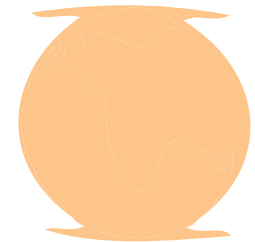
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“Understanding place is understanding 90% of what you’ve got to achieve. And then you’ve got the 10% of understanding the culture, and how that culture works in that place...”

Glenn Murcutt, 1992





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As an avid traveller I have been fortunate enough to have seen many different people, places and cultures. This triggered an interest in world history and geography and has taught me to appreciate the significance of archaeology and antiquities. I have visited archaeological sites in countries like China, Italy, Greece, Egypt, Turkey, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe, Portugal and Thailand. These visits will always enrich my understanding of life as we know it today. The human race is an evolving species which is constantly learning through politics, architecture, economics and social issues – to name only a few. I believe strongly that every individual should be exposed to history to broaden their understanding of life.



Prologue

It is therefore very important that the facility remains a world-class institution and also aims to broaden its activities and functions to facilitate their accreditations in the international academic community.

The title of this dissertation has a figurative meaning: it refers to fictional tales about the pursuit of hopefuls to find treasure – to find something of precious and mythical value. In tales the X (cross) that marks the spot on a treasure map to riches is always a definitive spot or location (If only this definitive location was a reality in the search for archaeological artefacts and ancient structures; the search for Atlantis and the lost Kruger Millions would be much more effortless.) The X becomes a symbolic reference to the project on campus which incorporates the artefact stores, exhibitions and archaeological department of the University. This arrangement of functions together becomes a specific location that everyone can visit to see antique treasures and understand historical knowledge. Knowledge is even more valuable than the artefacts displayed behind glass panes. The information is something a visitor or student absorbs and becomes the knowledge they take with them when they leave. Therefore the acquisition of knowledge becomes the real treasure. The department on campus will become a monument to the source of knowledge and a basis to all the academic fields at the University of Pretoria

South African history has been extremely biased concept due to the neglect and refusal of identity to the majority of our population. Due to political change and rightful acknowledgment of African culture, academics and the public has rejuvenated its interest and exploration of the diverse indigenous culture. Although it is difficult to track African history, because of the natural way of constructing dwellings and towns together with the lack of written history, a broad study of spoken narrative has prevailed. History and traditions is now largely recorded from oral sources.¹

Some world famous Archaeological sites, like Mapungubwe were excavated by the University of Pretoria, but this specific site has not become popular among the South African public. Like many countries, South Africa has protected and now embraced these artefacts to highlight differences in local cultures, creating a rich spectrum of identity for its people. To facilitate cultural progress it is necessary for Southern Africans to be exposed to their ancestry and attain historical and cultural knowledge. The result could have far reaching possibilities that would help resolve social unrest between various cultures through a sense of **belonging**.

The Archaeology and Anthropology Department at the University of Pretoria is one of the front-runners in the study field of African history and culture in the country, especially in research relating to key archaeological sites like Mapungubwe and many others spanning from recent history to the 3 million year African Stone Age.

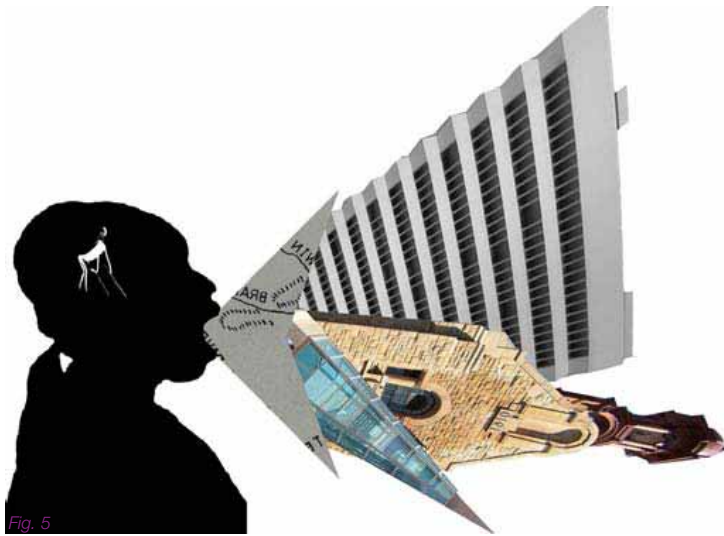


Fig. 5

an-thro-po-lo-gy

The science that deals with the origins, physical and cultural development, biological characteristics, and social customs and beliefs of humankind. The science of humans and their works. The study of the nature and essence of humankind.

ar-cha-e-lo-gy

The scientific study of historic or prehistoric peoples and their cultures by analysis of their artifacts, inscriptions, monuments, and other such remains, esp. those that have been excavated. The study of antiquity.

Dictionary.com unabridged based on the Random house Dictionary, Random House, 2009.

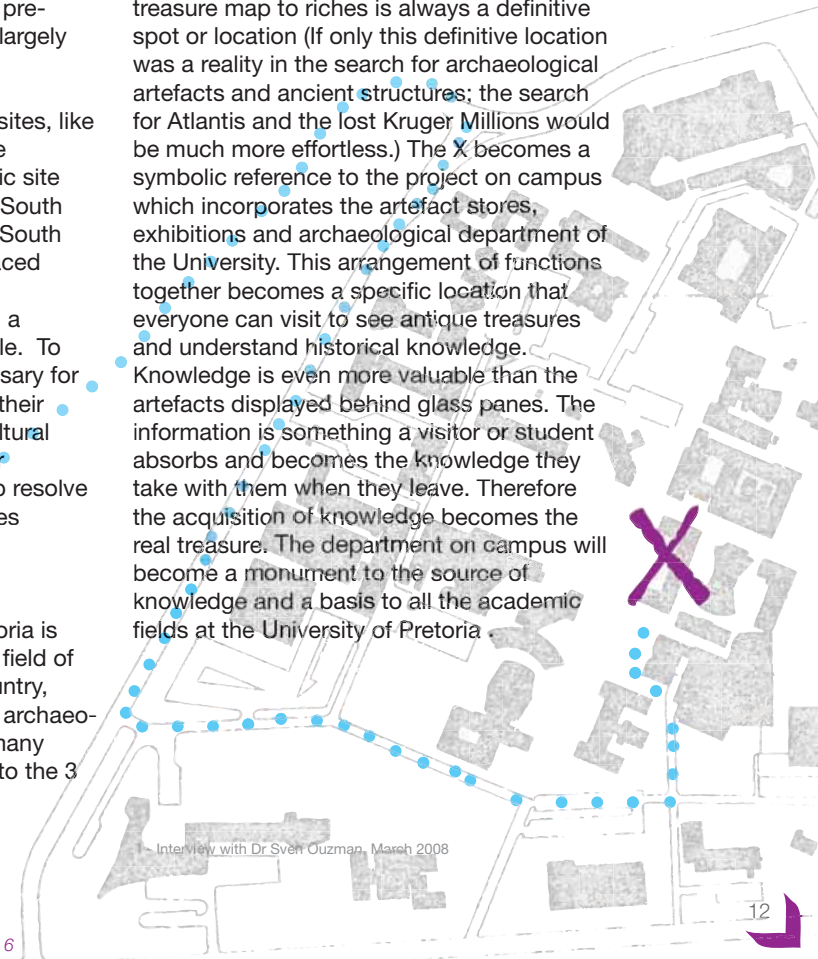


Fig. 6



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