

# ANTIQUITY



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A REVIEW OF  
WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY

EDITED BY ROBERT WITCHER



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Antiquity, Department of Archaeology,  
Durham University, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, UK  
Tel: +44 (0) 191 3341125; Email: editor@antiquity.ac.uk

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*Cover.* A coral stone block carved on one side in the form of a head with a fanged smile. On the reverse is an inscription in Sanskrit that incorporates texts from Vajrayana Buddhist mantras. It was discovered on the island of Gan in Laamu Atoll, in an area near the ruins of a Buddhist ritual site at Kurubinna, and probably dates to the late first millennium AD. The object has been damaged with scrapes to the forehead and the bridge of the nose by a local construction crew who accidentally unearthed the object in July 2018. The Maldives Heritage Survey (MHS) field team was working on a nearby island at the time and was able to document the object on site before facilitating its transfer to the Maldives National Museum in Malé. Complete records for the object and the site of its discovery are available at <https://maritimeasiaheritage.ceas.kyoto-u.ac.jp>. The MHS (R. Michael Feener, PI) works to document archaeological and historic sites across this Indian Ocean archipelago and to create an open-access and durable digital archive. Image © Maldives Heritage Survey. For further details, see Feener et al.'s article on 'The Maldives Heritage Survey' in the June Project Gallery.

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