

Antiquity

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Editorial

We begin on a sad obituary note. Archaeology has lost in the last few months too many people: Mary Boyle at the beginning of the year and then a long list—Nestor, Grosjean, Corcoran, Derek Allen, Terence Powell, John Bradford, Eric Thompson, and Hugh Shortt. It is a heavy toll of men, many in their prime, who had a very great deal to contribute to the study of the past. Grosjean was just finishing a book for the *Ancient Peoples and Places* series on the prehistory of Corsica, and no one had a better knowledge of the prehistory of that island than he. It seems a very long time, and indeed is a quarter of a century, since John Corcoran, bright-eyed, small and enthusiastic, joined the small team which T. G. E. Powell and ourselves organized to excavate Barclodiad y Gawres in Anglesey. Corcoran's researches in the last few years, and especially his excavations in northern Scotland, showed how he had matured as a scholar and as a person who was contributing and would even contribute more to our understanding of the megalithic monuments of the British Isles.

¶ Derek Allen, though only 65 when he died, had become in the last few years a sort of father figure to all respectable archaeological enterprises in Britain, and the wise man to whom everyone turned for good counsel. He had himself achieved three careers of distinction (not two as *The Times* obituary of 16 June said). First he was from 1935 an Assistant Keeper in the Department of Coins and Medals in the British Museum, and all his life contributed writings of distinguished scholarship to numismatics: his *Origins of coinage in Britain* was published in 1961 and seven years

later he brought to the attention of the archaeological world the Sark treasure found in 1718 and known only through George Vertue's drawings. On the outbreak of the Second World War he joined the Ministry of Shipping, and after the war went to the Ministry of Transport (later the Ministry of Aviation) where he became Under-Secretary: he was awarded the CB in 1967 for service which one of his colleagues described as 'a major contribution to civil aviation'. On his retirement from the Civil Service he embarked on a third career: he became Secretary of the British Academy, which office he held until 1973 when he moved to the less onerous job of Treasurer of the Academy. He packed into one life-time enormous service to a variety of scholarly and administrative achievement.

¶ Eric Thompson was the doyen of American archaeology; as *The Times* said of him (11 September 1975) he was 'the world's leading authority on ancient Maya civilization and one of the greatest experts on American archaeology of this century'. Though he spent his working life in America, first on the staff of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago and then with the Carnegie Institution of Washington, he retained his English nationality, and retired to live quietly in the Essex countryside. He was always most generous of his time and advice to the Editor of ANTIQUITY on all matters concerning American archaeology. His father was of Argentine descent and after the First World War Eric Thompson worked on the family cattle ranch; but his growing interest in pre-Columbian America sent him in 1924 to

Cambridge where he was one of the many archaeologists and anthropologists brilliantly taught and inspired by A. C. Haddon. In his retirement his interests returned to the Argentine of his youth, and he proposed a volume in the *Ancient Peoples and Places* series on *The Gauchos* but this never got beyond an outline scheme of chapters. In 1973 he was made an honorary Fellow of his old College, Fitzwilliam, and given a Litt.D *honoris causa* by his old University: both honours gave him immense pleasure, almost more so than his KBE, a belated honour bestowed on him only this year. We were happy to publish (*Antiquity*, 1974, Plate IX) the brilliant and most characteristic photograph of him taken by Joya Hairs at Tuluum in 1972. May we urge those who have not already done so to read his autobiography, *Maya archaeologist*, published in 1963. We have just been reading through our file of letters from him: just before we went to Washington last December he wrote 'do not fail to visit the Dumbarton Oaks collection which comprises really outstanding material from archaeological sites in Mexico and South America (alas 95 per cent looted) as well as very fine Byzantine art'.

¶ Hugh Shortt was one of the kindest and most helpful of archaeologists, and we have the keenest memory of the way in which, year after year, even when very unwell, he showed generations of archaeological students round the Salisbury Museum, Salisbury itself, Old Sarum and Stonehenge. A modest and humble man, he was always saying that he knew nothing about anything, and elegantly disproving it in a short and crisp speech; his wide learning was displayed, often with wit and urbanity, in his many appearances on *Animal, Vegetable, Mineral?*, the BBC programme of the 1950s. He had in the last few years been heavily involved in the possible development of the Salisbury Museum into a new and exciting museum, and had also been much concerned with the establishment in Salisbury of the Pitt-Rivers Collection of archaeological and rural material associated with Wessex. Only a few weeks before his death he was

circularizing his friends about the sponsored walk which Lord Congleton is undertaking to produce some of the funds needed for the preservation and showing of the Pitt-Rivers Cranborne Chase Collection and the General's books and manuscripts. The sponsored walk of two hundred miles represents two circuits of an area which includes Cranborne Chase. Those interested should write to *Colonel Angus Walker, Manor Cottage, Enford, Pewsey, Wiltshire*. All those who remember with affection and admiration Hugh Shortt may feel able to make a donation to the Salisbury Museum Working Party (address: *St Ann Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire*). Lord Congleton wrote (*The Times*, 1 October) of his sorrow 'at the irreparable loss of a valiant, trusted and trusting friend and colleague . . . As a noted numismatist, mediaeval historian, authority on the churches of the Salisbury Diocese in Wiltshire and Dorset, his scholarship was never in question, his humanity ever apparent. His unstinting service to the museum, given without thought of self-advancement, and during a long period of woeful neglect, took a severe toll of his physical resources. Even the amputation of a leg some years ago did nothing to diminish his enthusiasm nor his determination to offer to the museum the utmost that he possessed in wisdom and knowledge.'

¶ John Bradford was one of the tragedies of our generation. A brilliant scholar at Westminster and Oxford, he was appointed University Demonstrator and Lecturer at the Pitt Rivers Museum at Oxford just after the second world war and seemed set fair for a career of unusual distinction. He had been a colleague of ours in photographic intelligence during the war, and immediately put to great use the knowledge he had acquired of photographic interpretation and of Italy. O. G. S. Crawford, who, like Sir Mortimer Wheeler, had the highest opinion of him, published his first article in *Antiquity* in 1946. This was 'Siticulosa Apulia' written with P. R. Williams-Hunt (another tragic loss to archaeology and anthropology), and was followed by two articles in the following year, 'Etruria from the Air'

book on the Celts and on Prehistoric Art. *The Celts*, when it appeared in 1958, established him not only as a scholar but a writer of distinction, clarity and charm. It was good that in the last few years his own University of Liverpool was able to create a personal Chair for him, and the National University of Ireland to give him an Honorary Doctorate. He was a remarkable teacher. Frances Lynch writes that his achievement 'was a very personal one. His teaching was rather more in the Abelard tradition than the modern "university team" idea.'

☞ Terence Powell had been ill for many years, and earned the admiration of us all by the way he discharged duties like the Presidency of the Prehistoric Society with efficiency and enthusiasm while a very sick man. He never lost his keen sense of humour: this summer we set in Part II (Archaeology) of the Cambridge Archaeological and Anthropological Tripos a question asking for notes on the contributions made by various scholars to our knowledge of megaliths. One of the names was T. G. E. Powell and we sent him for amusement a copy of the paper. He replied saying that he was too ill to sit the Tripos this year but added an entry about himself:

Powell: 'Ferocious Anglo-Irishman reputed to have marinated the brains of a promising Welsh scholar in the great basin at New Grange, and sold the product as bog-butter to young Ruaidhri de Valera who took to the Burren and devoured it in a mess of boiled potatoes along with his cronies, since when neither idea nor consecutive thought has been begotten by them, as is so neatly expressed in one of the folk tales of the *Tain*.'

☞ But enough of necrology. The last thing that Terence Powell did was to assist the Editor in the detailed planning of the first conference ever held on the teaching of archaeology in British Universities. This happened in St John's College, Cambridge between 25 and 29 September and was financed by the imaginative generosity of that College. The Heads of the Departments of Archaeology in Britain were all

invited, and in addition Professor de Valera from Dublin, Professor O'Kelly from Cork, Professor Gordon Willey from Harvard, Dr P.-R. Giot from Rennes and Professor Carl-Axel Moberg from Gothenburg. Two others had been invited: Professor O.-H. Frey from Hamburg, and Professor Brian Fagan from Santa Barbara, but the former was taken ill, and the latter had his academic lecture-schedule put forward so that he could not attend. Though we say it, who organized it, it was a success and on the last morning, which was planned by Professor Powell, we had the great benefit of speakers from extra-mural departments, the Department of the Environment, the Chairman of *Rescue* (and the former Chairman), the Director of the Council for British Archaeology, the Editor of *Current Archaeology*, and Dr Peter Salway from the Open University. It was agreed that some such gathering should happen again: it was even said that there ought to be an Association of University Teachers in Archaeology comparable with the bodies for Geographers and Social Anthropologists. Professor Barry Cunliffe, who had got his dates wrong, and was drinking vodka in a sauna bath in Helsinki at the time of the conference, has agreed that he and Professor Frere will organize the next meeting in Oxford, and Professor Colin Renfrew has agreed to co-operate with his Oxford colleagues in the setting up of an organization of a semi-permanent kind. It is really necessary.

☞ In February of this year, the earliest hoard of Christian silver ever found came to light in a ploughed field at Water Newton in the Roman town of Durobrivae which the press and even the British Museum persist in describing as in Huntingdonshire. On 10 September, the jury at a Coroner's inquest declared the find to be Treasure Trove, and thus the property of the crown. The find is of enormous importance for the history of the early Christian Church, because, until its discovery, the earliest known groups of Christian church plate dated to the sixth century AD. The Water Newton silver was buried about two hundred years earlier, in the fourth century.

The treasure contains nearly thirty objects, some of them badly damaged. Nine items are vessels—bowls, jugs, a two-handled cup, a large dish and a strainer—while the rest are small triangular plaques of thin metal, representing stylized leaves. Except for one small gold plaque, everything is made of silver. Many of the objects bear the Early Christian Chi-Rho monogram, standing for Christ's names, while two bowls and one plaque are engraved with longer inscriptions in Latin. One of these, a bowl, says, 'I, Publianus, honour your sacred shrine, trusting in you, O Lord.'

The hoard is now in the hands of the British Museum Research Laboratory and Conservation Department, which will carry out the long and exacting task of scientific examination, conservation, and eventually cleaning and reconstruction. The Museum hopes that the Water Newton Treasure will be ready for exhibition to the public in April 1977 and we hope to publish an article about it. The BBC Chronicle unit filmed and has transmitted a very good account of the finding of the treasure, and used the occasion for a salutary warning of the dangers to scholarship of undisciplined and indiscriminate treasure hunting by amateurs using metal detectors. (It should perhaps be added in fairness to Mr Holmes, who found the treasure while walking in a ploughed field, that he was *not* using this reprehensible method.)

Mr Ron Bishop, who can only be described as a world wide wandering archaeologist, sends us this entry from the *Instituto Costarricense de Turismo* at *San José, Costa Rica*. It makes salutary reading in countries whose antiquity regulations leave much to be desired.

ATTENTION
TO ALL COSTA RICAN AND FOREIGN
CITIZENS ENTERING OR LEAVING THE
COUNTRY

According to the provisions of the:
"LAW TO CONTROL THE EXPLOITATION AND
TRADE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS"

(October 6, 1938)

All archaeological pieces that existed in Costa Rican soil prior to the Spanish conquest, as well as any monuments of the same type that could be found, are the property of the State. Archaeological specimens of the pre-Columbian era, as well as those of the colonial period, shall not be exported without a Special License granted by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and the National Museum of Costa Rica.

Private parties or business concerns in possession of any type of archaeological items are required to register them in the Record Book, at the National Museum.

All findings, as well as any acquisition or transfer of archaeological pieces must be reported to the National Museum.

The State hereby reserves for itself the preferential right for the acquisition of any archaeological piece, when it is the only one of its kind, that is to say, that there is no other like it, or that no other piece of the same kind is known.

The transfer of any archaeological piece made without a duly recorded authorization in the National Museum Record, is not valid.

The unauthorized export of archaeological pieces will be stopped by fiscal or police officers; the items will be confiscated and the offender will then be arrested and confined to the order of the corresponding legal authorities.

Police officers and the rural guard authorities are responsible for faithful compliance with the present law, and they will carefully watch all archaeological deposits in order to avoid or repress unauthorized exploration and excavations, as well as the illegal traffic of archaeological pieces over which the State has a right.

ANTIQUITY

Archaeological explorations and excavations can only be undertaken by scientists or scientific institutions duly accredited and authorized by the National Museum. Such exploration and excavations can only be made for scientific purposes and, in no case, for commercial purposes.

PURSUANT TO A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM ON JULY 5, 1973, THE EXPORTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBJECTS IS PROHIBITED.

¶ We warmly recommend a visit to the Cotswold Farm Park near Guiting Power between Cheltenham and Stow-on-the-Wold, and Broadway and Northleach. It is open every day from 10.30 to 18.00 hrs from 18 May to 30 September and has plenty of room for parking and picnics and a café for light refreshments. The directors are J. L. Henson and J. E. Neave and they have built up the most comprehensive collection of rare breeds of British Farm Animals in the country, and display them in a beautiful farm setting. This is not a zoo, and there are no wild animals; nor is it the garden of a stately home. It is a farm, part of an estate owned by Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where Henson and Neave, whose business is the commercial production of barley and wheat, have set apart a small wild part for the enjoyment of visitors, where breeds of British farm animals, rarely known in these days of commercial hybrids, can be seen rearing their young in a farm environment. Here there are Longhorn Cattle, the small brown Soay sheep—the last survivor of the prehistoric domestic sheep of Neolithic Europe, Orkney sheep, Moorit (or Moor Red) Shetland sheep, the small black multi-horned sheep of St Kilda, White Park cattle, Old Gloucester cattle, Manx Loghtan sheep, and many kinds of pigs and poultry. All this stems back to 1968 when the Royal Agricultural Society of England and the Zoological Society of London set up a working party to advise on the preservation of rare breeds of British farm animals.

A 'Gene Bank', 9 breeds of sheep and 3 breeds of cattle, previously established at Whipsnade Zoo was transferred to the National Agricultural Centre at Stoneleigh and Reading University. The following year, Joe Henson, co-director of the Cotswold Farm Park, was invited to join the working party and then some of the breeds from the gene bank were moved to the Park to join the collection of breeding groups already established there. In 1973 a national organization called the Rare Breeds Survival Trust was launched with the Earl of Cranbrooke as President and Henson as Chairman. Those interested in the Trust should write to *the Secretary, RBST, 127 Abbots Road, Abbots Langley, Herts*. All of us, whether we are interested in the trust or not, can enjoy a fascinating few hours at the Farm Park in the presence of many remarkable characters alive from the prehistoric past.

¶ Our attention has been drawn by Mr K. S. Coles of Aylesbury to an error on the map in Dr David Wilson's article on 'Causewayed camps' and 'interrupted ditch systems' (*Antiquity*, 1975, 183). He points out that the stippling was said to refer to land over 250 m. whereas in fact it refers to 120 m. (400 ft). The author was using as his base map the Ordnance Survey map of Southern Britain in the Iron Age which he says 'uses layer tinting but has no key to it'.

¶ The Viceregent of Pembroke College, Oxford writes that his College 'is establishing a fund to endow an annual essay prize in memory of R. G. Collingwood. An appeal is being made to members of the College and especially his former pupils. But it has occurred to us that some admirers of his work in Britain and abroad might like to show their appreciation of him by making a donation to the fund.' We commend this idea to readers of *ANTIQUITY* which published many of his articles. The address: *Z. A. Pelczynski Esq., Viceregent, Pembroke College, Oxford*. Robin Collingwood (1889-1943) was a Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy at Pembroke College from 1912 to 1935.