

OBITUARY: Claudio Frigerio

Claudio Frigerio, who died suddenly last spring, was among the early members of the Italian Archaeological Mission's teams in Libya under Professor Sandro Stucchi. Since he would sometimes stay on after his colleagues had returned home in order to complete technical undertakings, he became very much part of the Cyrenaican scene; and has, for some years, been closely connected with Stucchi's project for the restoration of the Temple of Zeus at Cyrene. He was a talented draftsman and an archaeological technician of skill, who also had a great ability to communicate. That was true in the most obvious sense, for his command of Arabic was a wonderful help in a crisis; but also in subtler ways, since to those who took coffee with him in his 'apartment' at Shahat his conversation would bring lively insights, derived from his perceptive knowledge of Cyrene, its modern inhabitants and its surrounding country, all of which he knew well. In another mood he was a keen fisherman and could make splendid barbecues with his catch. In my recollection he seems always to have been able to find something in any situation in which to take a faun-like delight, and was always kind. He will be sadly missed in Cyrene and in the study of Cyrenaean archaeology.

Joyce Reynolds

OBITUARY: Charles Daniels

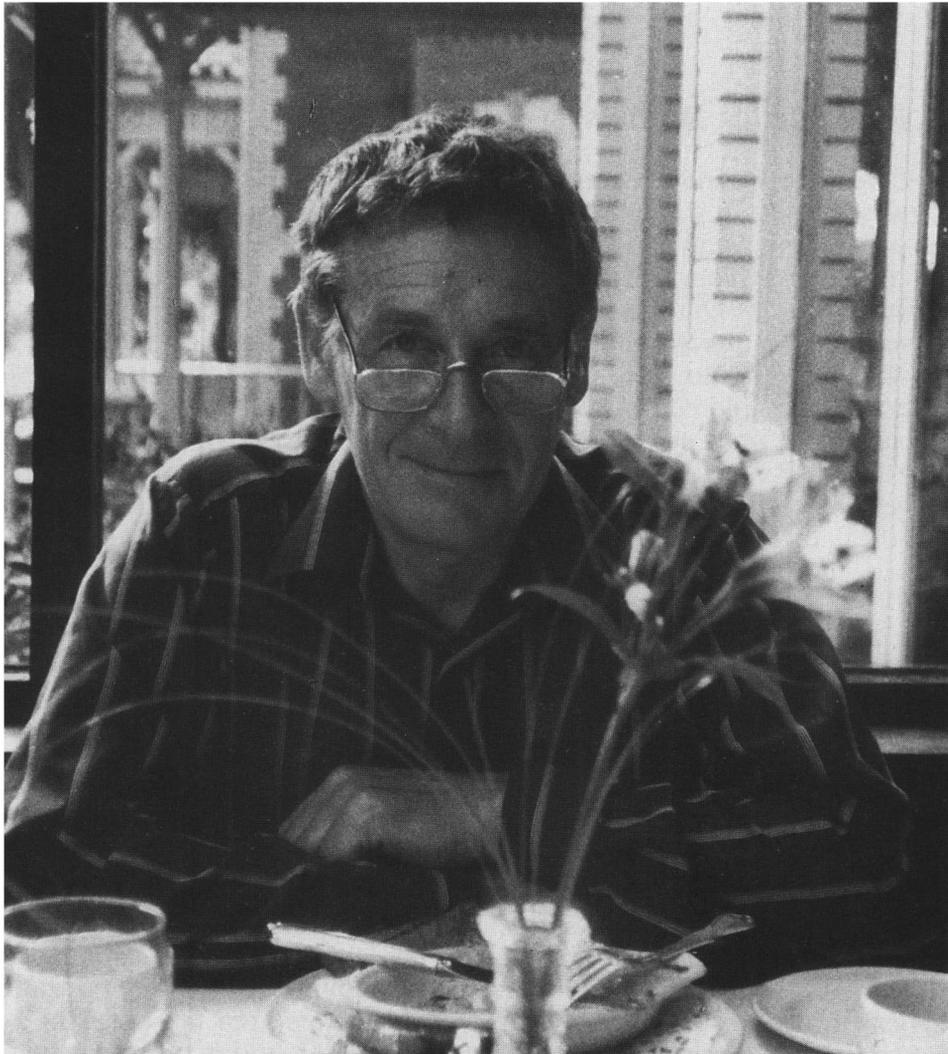
When the Corbridge Training Excavation was running near Hadrian's Wall in the late 1950s a figure dressed in a thick North-African overcoat and matching clothes could often be seen walking to an evening meal at one of Corbridge's hostels. These two influences, the archaeology of Africa and Hadrian's Wall, were to dominate the academic life of Charles Daniels.

After developing an interest in history in his native Newcastle he moved to his home University where he was to stay for the rest of his life as a teacher and museologist. On graduation he completed an MA in Mithraic Studies, another 'leitmotif' along his academic path. His presence at Newcastle then led to a position as Director of excavations at the Red House Baths near Corbridge, an interest in Roman *thermae* that was intended to broaden into a doctorate that fell away with the transfer of his supervisor, the late Sir Ian Richmond, to Oxford. By this time he had already been introduced to the rigours of North African, and specifically Libyan, archaeology through his colleague Dr David Smith with whom he made initial trips to southern Tripolitania and the Fezzan. In 1960 a period of research at the British School in Rome also acted as a springboard for further work in Libya. At the time the then Director stated that he 'had best get the desert out of his system while still a young man' but Charles persisted in developing a major programme of work on the archaeology of the Fezzan, the potential of which had first been revealed (with the aid of a military escort) by the Italian archaeologist, Giacomo Caputo, before the onset of the Second World War. From 1964 into the early 1970s Charles conducted survey and excavation in the Wadi el Agial, the heartland of the Garamantian kingdom, aided by a team of volunteers drawn from the archaeologists of the northern frontier and the indefatigable support of his wife Miriam. The programme saw the establishment of a firm chronology of the early Garamantian capital of Zinchechra, capping the rocky promontory that looked down on the later capital of *Germa* (Garama). The archaeological evidence that Daniels gathered from this area appeared in articles in *The Antiquaries Journal* and a book on the Garamantes under the Oleander imprint.

To say that the early expeditions were difficult and hazardous would be an understatement. There was no paved road from the Fezzanese capital of Sebha and the wadi tracks were so rutted that the first refrigerator ever to be taken into the area with the expedition had to be gently coaxed across the sand sea to the north! But difficulties of this kind were not solely at the Libyan end. On one occasion when vehicle breakdown prevented a timely return for University term a telegram that he sent from the one-room post office at Ubari was found six months later lodged behind a disused letterbox in his home University!

It was entirely appropriate that Charles was elected as Chairman of The Libyan Society across the early 1980s and his appointment marked a welcome recognition that the pool from which officers were drawn should be broadened; yet unfortunately, as political relations between the Jamahariyah and the UK declined the role of the Society inevitably became increasingly circumscribed.

Accordingly Charles concentrated increasingly on work in northern Britain. From Newcastle upon Tyne he became an academic fulcrum. His pivotal role first saw the



organisation of a highly successful Wall Conference and a series of Northern Frontier Seminars which reproduced, jokes and all, accounts of work in progress and emerging interpretations, notably the development of the Antonine Wall. Although his interests spread beyond the Gask Ridge as far as Moray, it was on Hadian's Wall that his own work was practically focused. A long-term analysis of barrack blocks at Housesteads which is soon due to be published marked a new phase for interpretation of late Roman military practices. Another long-term programme associated with the clearance of industrial housing at Wallsend revealed effectively for the first time three centuries of occupation on a site of a Wall fort. In many ways his greatest mural achievement, however, was the preparation of the still current revision of Collingwood Bruce's famous *Handbook of the Wall*, partially updated in his *Handbook of the Pilgrimage* of 1989. At the University he moved from an initial post as Deputy Keeper of Antiquities to a full time teaching post, serving as Chairman of the Department and acting as Head of Department from 1991–1994. A growing disenchantment with the universities as student factories at the expense of student and postgraduate involvement in quality research led to his recent retirement and the resumption with Miriam of the travels that made him the most knowledgeable Roman Africanist of his generation. Despite the growing involvement in his Department and northern frontier studies, Charles never lost interest in his African connections, helping to establish and run the pioneer excavations at Soba in Sudan with Derek Welsby and producing *two* magisterial articles on the forts and town defences of the Mahgreb. There remained the unfinished task of the major *opus* on the Fezzan and now his 'Sebha Rowing Club' has lost its cox.

Barri Jones