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Errata

Due to technical problems, two papers in the September issue suffered the removal of vital lines of text. We reprint the material here, and have also mounted the entire papers on our web site: <http://intarch.ac.uk/antiquity/74-285.html>

Memory tools in early Mesopotamia

SARAH KIELT COSTELLO

(*Antiquity* 74 (2000): 475–6)

The first paragraph, top of p. 476, should read as follows:

‘An artefact found at several Halaf period sites in Turkey appears to have functioned as a type of “external symbolic storage”. This term is taken from Merlin Donald’s recent work, and refers to the most recent transition in the development of human cognition — the use of symbols to store information outside the brain.’

Palaeoindian artefact distributions: evidence and implications

DAVID G. ANDERSON & MICHAEL K. FAUGHT

(*Antiquity* 74 (2000): 507–13)

The last sentence at the foot of p. 510 should read as follows:

‘We predict that Clovis points may be most prevalent in the Southeast, reflecting our opinion (currently unsupported by any real hard evidence) that the technology may have originated there.’

 We wish to thank our outgoing Advisory Editors who have given energetic and valued advice and ideas to the journal over the last three years and more. Many thanks to Mike Blake, Robin Coningham, Alessandro Guidi, Norman Hammond, Heinrich Härke, Fekri Hassan, David Mattingly, Roger Mercer, Sebastian Payne, Jessica Rawson and Ezra Zubrow for their support and effort in helping to shape the present form of ANTIQUITY.

 The recent deaths of Geoffrey Dimbleby & Robert Cook, both pioneers in their fields, are marked here by appreciations.

Geoffrey William Dimbleby

1917–2000

Professor G.W. Dimbleby was a pioneer in the study of environmental archaeology. Like many other archaeologists of his and earlier generations, he was trained as a scientist — in his case in botany — and brought an interdisciplinary approach to bear on his archaeological research. He moved from the Oxford Forestry Department in 1964 to the Chair of Human Environment at the London Institute of Archaeology, where he remained until his retirement in 1979.

No environmental archaeologist will dispute Geoff Dimbleby’s scholarly significance, nor doubt that the influence of his work reached well beyond Britain. Nor was it limited to archaeology, being significant too in soil science and forestry. With his death on 8 April 2000 at the age of 82, the scientific community lost a pioneer in the ecological study of human environments, past and present.

Geoffrey Dimbleby’s scientific career, and his lifelong concern with environmental questions, stemmed from his love of the countryside. Born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, educated at Cheltenham Grammar School, he read Botany at Magdalen College, Oxford, before serving in the RAF in the Second World War, there contributing his botanical skills to aerial photographic interpretation. In 1945 he returned to Oxford as Demonstrator, then from 1947 as Lecturer in Forest Ecology. His research on forest soils, first reported in his D.Phil. on ‘The ecology of some British podzol formations’ (1950), showed that pollen could survive sufficiently well, especially in acid soils, to allow inferences to be drawn about soil development and vegetation history; and he went on to resolve the question of whether British lowland heaths and upland moors had been forested in the past.

In a recent retrospective article (Dimbleby 1998/99), he recalled how this research introduced him to environmental archaeology ‘in a dramatic way’. Investigating the soils of the North Yorks Moors, he faced the much debated question of whether the soil there had always been too poor for tree growth. It occurred to him that the prehistoric burial mounds on the moors might have ancient soils preserved beneath them, so ‘I cut a section in one from its present surface down to the old land surface beneath’. This revealed a fertile brown soil



Geoffrey Dimbleby with colleagues and students on a field excursion in 1965. From left to right: Ian Cornwall, Geoffrey Dimbleby, Judy Phillips, Bassey Wai Ogosu (later Andah), Joan Sheldon (in foreground). (Photo Philip Porter © UCL Institute of Archaeology.)

containing pollen of deciduous trees, very different from the infertile moorland soil of today with its cover of heather and grasses — a discovery that proved to be a turning point in Geoff's career. It opened his eyes to the importance of prehistoric human activity in shaping the present landscape and spurred him to examine soils buried beneath other earthworks. A series of papers followed, culminating in the appearance in 1962 of his benchmark monograph on *The development of British heathlands and their soils* (1962).

This research led to Dimbleby's involvement in what was, and remains, a unique field experiment: the Experimental Earthworks project. It drew together a group of archaeologists, ecologists and other specialists to build two artificial earthworks, one on chalk at Overton Down in Wiltshire and one on sandy podzolic soil at Wareham in Dorset. By burying in them a variety of organic and inorganic materials, and sectioning them at intervals over the next 100 years, it was hoped to obtain data on the movement and degradation of materials within the mounds that would aid interpretation of past human impacts on the landscape. Dimbleby chaired the Experimental Earthworks Committee from its creation in 1959 until 1972, helped design the project, co-edited the first report and, towards the end of his life, was delighted to receive the monograph that reports and synthesizes the re-

sults of the first 32 years of the project (see Bell *et al.* 1996 for references).

While at Oxford, Dimbleby investigated the role of deciduous trees in soil regeneration and gradually refined the technique of soil-pollen analysis. Soil pollen had been avoided by most palynologists, who preferred to work on the better-preserved and more stratigraphically stable pollen found in peat deposits, and it is largely through his perseverance that soil-pollen analysis has come to be more widely accepted by palaeoecologists (Dimbleby 1985). With hindsight, it is easy to regard Dimbleby's move to the Institute of Archaeology in 1964 as a natural progression, but in the context of British archaeology at that time it was a novel step. Pioneering work in environmental archaeology had already been carried out at the Institute by Professor F.E. Zeuner, and it was his death in 1964 that led to the creation of the newly named Chair of Human Environment to which Dimbleby was appointed. Zeuner had approached the subject from a geological and zoological perspective, and with Dimbleby's arrival the role of plants and plant ecology in the human past took centre stage. His textbooks *Plants and archaeology* (1967) and *Ecology and archaeology* (1977a) had a wide influence on generations of students. He introduced both theoretical and practical courses into the syllabus of the newly established BSc in Archaeology, ran a summer field

course and added two zooarchaeologists (Don Brothwell and Ken Thomas) to the academic staff of the Institute's Department of Human Environment. He also helped to build the future of environmental archaeology by supervising, or less directly assisting, the postgraduate research of such future leaders of the subject as Martin Bell, John G. Evans, Susan Limbrey, Terry O'Connor and Ian Simmons. Dimbleby's base at the Institute brought him into close contact with colleagues in London, especially at University College. In 1968 he teamed up with Peter Ucko (who was then on the staff of the UCL Anthropology Department) to organize a highly successful international conference at the Institute on 'The domestication and exploitation of plants and animals' (Ucko & Dimbleby 1969). There soon followed another, even more ambitious one on 'Man, settlement and urbanism' (Ucko *et al.* 1972). These volumes are a lasting testament to the value of a broad, multidisciplinary approach to study of the human past, of which Dimbleby's own work in ecology and archaeology is an outstanding example.

While at the Institute, Dimbleby served on several important national committees, notably the Science-based Archaeology Committee of the Science Research Council and the Committee for Rescue Archaeology of the Ancient Monuments Board of England. He was a founding editor in 1974 of the *Journal of Archaeological Science* and, four years later, strongly supported the initiative taken by his colleague Don Brothwell to form the Association for Environmental Archaeology. Indeed, it would be hard to overestimate Geoff's contribution to the establishment of environmental archaeology in Britain as a sub-discipline in its own right — as exemplified by both his inaugural lecture at the Institute (Dimbleby 1966) and his presidential address to the Anthropology and Archaeology Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science (Dimbleby 1977b). In 1977 his scientific work was fittingly recognized when the University of St Andrews awarded him an Honorary DSc.

Geoff Dimbleby was the very antithesis of the narrowly specialized scientist. Not only did he set his scientific research in a broad interdisciplinary context, he also became actively involved in wider public issues of conservation, world poverty and the handicapped. In-

spired by his Christian belief and membership of the Congregational/United Reformed Church, he gave much of his time and energy to helping others. In 1997 he published *Testing the foundations*, a thoughtful and courageous attempt to 'think through some of the inconsistencies which arise between Christian faith as traditionally presented and the knowledge which I have acquired as an environmental scientist'. It reflects the breadth of vision, open-mindedness and integrity that informed Geoff's academic career and his personal life.

DAVID HARRIS

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Robert Manuel Cook

(4 July 1909–10 August 2000)

'Deplorable' was one of his favourite words. But among the many things that Robert Cook found deplorable, young people were not included. For three decades after his official retirement as a university teacher, he savoured their company and supported their efforts. So it is that his death, which came not long after his 91st birthday, is resented down several generations. Laurence Professor of Classical Archaeology at Cambridge from 1962 until 1976, specializing in the classification of archaic East Greek pottery ('Wild Goat', 'Clazomenian', 'Fikellura' and so on), Robert Cook was both an unlikely and unwilling candidate for cult status. Yet that is what came about: a sort of veneration, itself rooted in the pleasures of irreverence.

As a scholar, Cook was accurate and incorruptible. His brisk esteem for the Classical past

is evident enough in the book he wrote for Glyn Daniel's 'People and Places' series, *The Greeks till Alexander* (1962); while his commonsensical assessments of Greek art are probably best found in the handbook of *Greek Painted Pottery* which he wrote in 1960, and is deservedly still in print today. Flashes of drollery there however indicate an academic who did not take himself, nor anyone else, too seriously. He scorned all theorizing, and was quick to spot a bluffer; but he also goaded his students to take issue with his own opinions. If, at a conversational level, this entailed making mischievous remarks, then so be it. He would commend a squirrel-shooting neighbour, for example: maintaining that all animals were mankind's natural enemies and warranted extermination. Faced with a non-smoker, he would argue that the lungs needed a good coating of nicotine, to protect them from infection (he was the sort of hardened pipe-puffer that picks up a cigarette as if reaching for a breath of fresh air).

He was devoted to his wife Kathleen, with whom he did much travelling around Greece and the Aegean; together they wrote an archaeological guide to Southern Greece, complete with estimates as to how many gallons of Retsina a tourist needed to consume before gaining a taste for that wine. But after she died, in 1979, he diligently learned some culinary skills, and

made a practice of inviting people round on a Saturday night. Guests were rarely the parochial great and good; more likely their rebellious offspring, or some undergraduate encountered in Athens, or a lonely research student who had helped him negotiate the ever more savage library security system. Cook would cook, and guests washed up: that was the deal. Early arrivals would find their host in his carpet slippers and knitted waistcoat, standing by one of the world's first electric hobs, peering into an enamel saucepan of potatoes, and muttering 'Boil, you bastards, boil!' — then, typically, it would be mussels and a roast, followed by stewed damsons and junket, and a hub of Stilton. Later the tobacco and whisky: and then the stories. Overnighting on Delos. Outwitting Rumanian museum guards with the feigned-diarrhoea trick. Illicitly emptying an Etruscan tomb. His life had been as quiet as is usual for most academics; but Cook's principle of nonconformity had persisted throughout, and ensured a twist on the mundane which was gleefully recalled.

He was a son of the manse: born in Sheffield, raised in Lancashire, but educated at Marlborough, along with his brother John (who also became a distinguished Classical archaeologist). With one interruption — a stint of lecturing at Manchester before the war — Cook's career was Cambridge-based. Yet he took care to remain a misfit in Cambridge by avoiding, and despising, its collegiate comforts. 'Snotty' and 'idle' were the terms he reserved for dons who succumbed to such cosyess. He prided himself on being an efficient teacher and administrator; his crisp vigour was still evident in 1983, when he was called to chair the management committee of the British School at Athens.

Scholarly tributes to Cook's influence within Classical archaeology will extend for many years; his particular brand of sanity is acknowledged in *Homer and the artists*, the latest book by Anthony Snodgrass, Cook's successor at Cambridge. This was one cult figure who, to the end, did not disappoint his devotees. In his 90th year he acquired a small electric vehicle in order to trundle around town. A party had been organized for his birthday. He not only arrived at the gathering on this chariot. He put it into top gear, charged full tilt across the lawn, and performed a superb aerial leap over the rockery. No one is quite sure if Robert Cook intended this stunt: but he came out of it triumphantly.

NIGEL SPIVEY



Robert Cook excavating a Romano-British site in 1958, with (clockwise from left) M.W. Barley, H. Martin, P. Gathercole and B. Wailes (*ANTIQUITY* 32 (1958): 167–78).