

Antiquity

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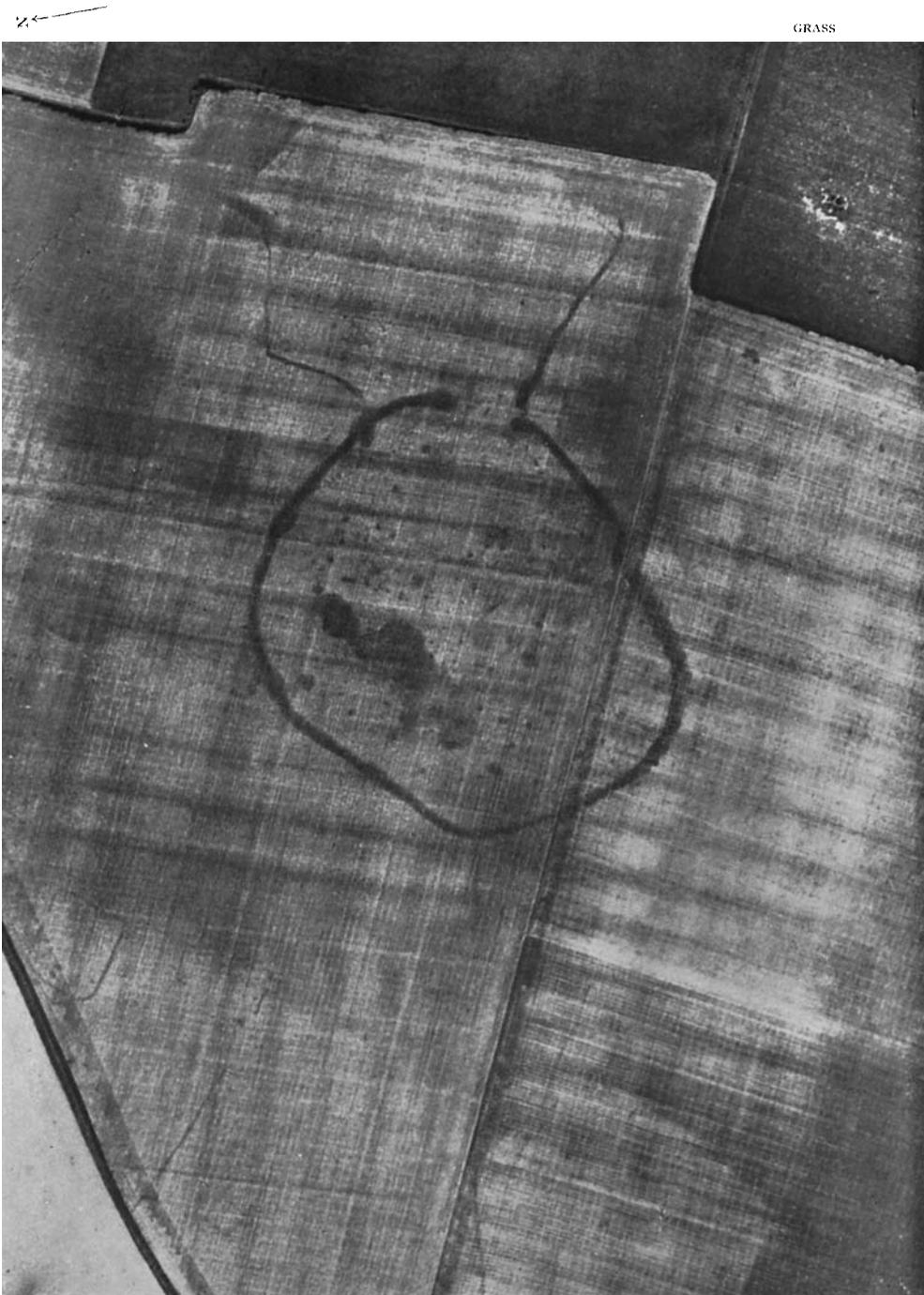
Editorial Notes

WE have now completed our third year of publication and once more thank our subscribers, especially those who have given us their support from the first number. With this issue is enclosed a renewal form for 1930. We have tried to avoid placing it in the copies sent to those who pay through banks, or who have already paid in advance. The subscription for 1930 is not actually due until next March but the form is enclosed now for mutual convenience ; it is a great help for us to know exactly how we stand at the beginning of the year. In the past we have, in the absence of instructions to the contrary, assumed that all subscribers wish to continue receiving ANTIQUITY, and in a few cases this has led to misunderstanding which we wish to avoid in the future.



We would here draw attention to a feature of ANTIQUITY of which some of our readers, particularly those who have only recently become such, may not be aware. ANTIQUITY has no publisher, in the generally accepted sense of the word. All the arrangements for its distribution are directly controlled by the Editors, who are thus brought into personal touch with every individual subscriber. We value this personal element very highly, and we have no intention of relinquishing it ; though it necessarily involves a large amount of additional work. We know that many of our subscribers also appreciate this relationship, and feel that not only are they getting—to put it crudely—good value for their money, but also that they are supporting a unique venture. We know this from the letters we receive after each issue appears.

PLATE I



ENCLOSURE NEAR WOODBURY, WILTS: TAKEN BETWEEN 11 AND 12 O'CLOCK, 16 MAY 1929
(R.A.F., OLD SARUM)

SCALE 0 1 2 3 4 500 FT

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These are in themselves a sufficient reward and encouragement, and they help us because they tell us what our readers like best. They also enable us to correct those slips which must occur when a quarterly review is managed by two people in their spare time. For these reasons we adhere to the method of direct publication, which we regard as more human and less mechanical than the usual one. ANTIQUITY could not be run without the friendly cooperation of readers and contributors, and of printers and editors. May we add that our labours would be immeasurably lightened if the former would remember the old saying, *Bis dat qui cito dat*—whether it be manuscripts, illustrations, proofs or SUBSCRIPTIONS !



We make no apology for giving these facts publicity. We think they should be known by our readers as well as by ourselves. Of course we value very much the publicity of reviews, such as the leading article which *The Times* devoted to our last number ; but there is a danger even in the success which, as such reviews prove, ANTIQUITY has achieved. It has already come to be regarded as an established concern, in little or no need of fresh subscribers. While we agree with the former opinion, we dissent from the latter. To conduct it as it should be conducted—with plenty of illustrations and plans—is an expensive business ; and we need the support of every single person who is interested in archaeology. The more subscribers, the more illustrations ! That this is no empty promise may be seen by comparing the number of plates in volumes 1, 2 and 3. The first had 62, the second had 88 and the one now completed has 131 plates. As our circulation has increased, so has the number of our illustrations ; and, as every archaeologist knows, these and plans are absolutely essential to a properly conducted review of this kind.



We could achieve the maximum of efficiency in this respect if only one half of our readers would each obtain for us one new subscriber for 1930 ; or would even give a year's subscription to one of their friends as a Christmas present. We should also be glad to have the names and addresses of interested persons to whom we could send leaflets. We shall shortly be sending out a large number of circulars, but it is difficult to get hold of the right people. In passing we would point out that, in circularizing by post on a large scale from published lists and so forth, it is inevitable that some of our present subscribers may

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receive this leaflet, and we ask those to ignore it or (better) to send it to a friend. Many we know have already most generously helped us in this way; we thank them for their help, and assure them that the returns from such methods have always proved more fruitful than those from any other.



Finally, we feel confident that the present number will prove as popular as the last, which to judge from the letters we have received, and the reviews, seems to have pleased everyone. Wiltshire (whose supremacy seemed for a moment to be challenged by Norfolk) is again to the fore, with two of the most remarkable air-photographs ever taken. Africa is represented by several articles. Miss Caton-Thompson's (based on her lecture before the British Association at Johannesburg) is the first illustrated account of her excavations at Zimbabwe. Mr Guy Brunton gives a general summary of his work in Upper Egypt, to which we wish to draw attention. Mr and Mrs Brunton have devoted their time and resources to these most important excavations for several years past. The full extent of this is known only to a few; and we feel that it deserves wider recognition and support on the part of the public. The appeal inserted in the present number will provide sympathizers with an easy means of expressing their sympathy in a practical form. Dr Oscar Reuther is opening up a new world in Iraq, and we deeply appreciate his courtesy in giving our readers the first account of the results. He hopes to resume work at Ctesiphon in 1930-31. Group-Captain Rees (who knows the Syrian desert intimately from two points of view) provides abundant materials for the study of these mysterious walls and enclosures which still baffle us.



'Out of evil cometh good'—two years ago a Royal Commission was appointed to report on National Museums and Galleries, with a view to economy and administrative procedure. The shadow of the axe fell upon our National Collections. That shadow has been replaced by a gleam of hope in the two Reports which have so far been issued. The first report, dealing with structural requirements, has already been reviewed in our columns. The second report concerns itself with congestion of specimens, and a closer touch with modern life. Once more the question of economy fades away into the distance before the pressing needs of the public and students for whom these museums and galleries were intended.

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On the subject of congestion it can be truly said that the past policy of the nation in its Museums and Galleries has been that of the dog in the manger. Not once but many times has this country benefited by loan collections of pictures and specimens from European capitals, without any reciprocity on our side. This must be altered—our pictures must be free to go to Holland, as the Dutch pictures were free to come to us. There must be no splendid isolation in this matter. The principle might well apply to the Provincial Galleries and Museums which can guarantee to provide a suitable temporary home for objects from the national storehouses. The masses of inert matter in the cellars of our National Collections must be called into life and usefulness elsewhere on loan. The talent must no longer be hidden in a napkin.



The crucial demand, however, is to come into touch with modern life. This assumes two distinct functions ; the provision of students' sections, and the wide comprehensive appeal to the layman in art and archaeology—whose path to knowledge must be made easy by lectures, evening opening, isolation of fine specimens and abolition of fees. The general aim must be that of ' Archaeology without Tears ', and the most complete liaison between the specimen and the visitor. Descriptive labels are good, the spoken word is better ; both are needed. This will cost money—and that money must be forthcoming.



Finally, and very rightly, the Report advocates a Museum of Ethnography, and Folk Museums. It is amazing that the British Empire has no central museum in which to display the ethnological specimens which belong to the many and varied races it embraces. The lack of such a museum is a defect in the Empire which calls for immediate remedy. In the sphere of Folk Museums, Great Britain has so far done nothing, while other countries have been steadily engaged on the preservation of their folk-life. What little has been done in this direction in England has been undertaken through the zeal of curators of struggling provincial museums.

To sum up, the difficulty is not so much one of collections, it is the cost of administration and maintenance. Given security for these two items the good work can go forward, and the public will be catered for, both student and layman. And if the Nation leads, perhaps Local Authorities will follow.