

Editorial

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☞ This issue sees an important and unusual contribution — a Special Section on archaeology in Brazil. Brazil is a mysterious and enormously diverse country, with few accessible publications about its archaeology, so we are especially pleased to include the papers here.

☞ The issue includes a retrospective assessment of the Experimental Earthworks Committee, one of the seminal long-term initiatives of experimental archaeology, by PETER JEWELL & PAUL ASHBEE. We are particularly sad to learn of the recent death of Peter Jewell (died 23 May 1998) before publication of this, his last paper. He was an important and influential figure in scientific archaeology for many decades, and his contribution to the study of animal behaviour was outstanding. There will be a Memorial Service for him at St John's College Chapel, Cambridge at noon on 10 October this year. Friends and colleagues are welcome to attend.

☞ With the Millennium drawing nigh, there is a fever of interest in seeking anniversaries and commemorating them. We are unashamedly continuing to do the same here, and plan to continue to mark some important selected moments in archaeology and in *ANTIQUITY*, with the publication of papers and discussions that remind us of where we have come from. In the early 1970s Glyn Daniel invited a series of papers on the theme of the state of current archaeology. DAVID CLARKE was one of those who responded with his important paper 'Archaeology: the loss of innocence' (for our more detailed introduction see below, pp. 676–7). We have invited a range of scholars to respond to Clarke's words, 25 years on and in a very different world of postprocessual–postmodern archaeology. To ensure that readers can participate fully in the discussion, we have re-published on our web-site several of the original

papers and letters which reveal just how deeply disliked, in some circles, was the New Archaeology and its language (<http://intarch.ac.uk/antiquity/hp/cl-intro.html>).

☞ Our postbag is the target of some highly original and effective publicity. We are urged to attend 'A bloody buffet breakfast' with the skeletons of the Rotunda skeleton store of the Museum of London. The same institution has also presented 'The Big Dig' exhibition, revealing the discoveries of the Jubilee Line Extension Project under London. And, as if this was not enough to raise awareness, the Museum of London Archaeology Service has also run a conference on 'Preserving archaeological remains *in situ*'. We are urged by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund to 'Walk the Wall — Stride out against Cancer' on 6 September, and follow Hadrian's wall to raise money for research. Archaeological publicity hails the attempt by American Earthwatch volunteers to try and locate the grave of King Alfred in Winchester. Thus, our postbag seems to be giving the impression of a discipline increasingly conscious of satisfying what are judged to be the appetites and interests of the British public. It seems well able to provide creative publicity to justify the expense and inconvenience of excavations and monuments.

☞ On the broader, international scene, the funding of archaeological work continues to be a matter of concern. The question of who pays for preservation, conservation or excavation and storage is one that occupies politicians, local and national governments, charities, trusts, academic institutions and archaeologists. There has been little coherence across Europe on the funding of archaeology and the heritage, and each nation has done its own thing in its own way, emphasizing regional biases and passions. Figures are very difficult to quantify on a balanced comparative basis, even in the extensive

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1996 report of Council of Europe (<http://culture.coe.fr/pat/eng/epat10rev.htm>). The numbers of protected monuments (from the varied dates and varied definitions reported in 1996) differ immensely: France (13,110); Italy (31,328); Bavaria (115,000); Germany (250,000), England (427,000). The state expenditure on the protection (broadly speaking) of these monuments also varied greatly: France (233 million ecus in 1995); 11 *Länder* of Germany (230 million ecus in 1992 and 1993); Italy (42 million ecus in 1988); Netherlands (60 million ecus in 1987). A detailed comparison relative to the size of the actual and recorded resource is difficult, but these examples give an anecdotal illustration, not only of the difficulty of collating the data, but of the great contrasts between different states of different sizes.

Are things now likely to be different, with the imminent introduction of the Euro (the new European currency) and the expected implementation of Framework V (the new Science, Research and Development funding) by the European Commission later this year? The role of a collective Europe is enlarging, but this is balanced by the concept of subsidiarity (devolution to the state level), a concept that governs many aspects of culture, including archaeology. As national budgets for archaeology come under increasing pressure from other priorities, European funding for research in archaeology will become increasingly important. However, will the money reflect the full importance culture (including archaeology) now has in the collective economy, as a proportion of GDP, as a proportion of collective research investment?

Culture is becoming politically more important after the declarations of Article 128 of the Maastricht treaty (<http://www.cam.ac.uk/CS/ITSyndicate/authen.html>) and the Malta declaration of the Council of Europe (<http://www.coe.fr/eng/legaltxt/143e.htm>). One important consequence is that culture is now explicitly mentioned as one of the key actions in Framework V. What, therefore, is the current level of support for archaeology from European bodies and what can be expected in the future? We make a first reaction below, but will be grateful to receive other additions and other perspectives. As one step in this direction, we welcome the support of Prof. Ezra Zubrow in a joint editorial on funding in the United States. We predict — perhaps provocatively — a struc-

turally similar nature of funding within the United States and Europe. These two communities have broadly similar levels of GNP (6558 billion ecus/\$7100 billion/£4214 billion for USA in 1995; 7370 billion ecus/\$7980 billion/£4736 billion for the EU 15 in 1995).¹ Research money for archaeology in both communities will increasingly be sought from federal sources (but still remain a very small proportion of the total federal budget unless archaeology can strengthen its visibility). Funds for preservation and Cultural Resource Management will continue to be found at the state level, as dictated by rules of subsidiarity in the European Community, or by private enterprise in the United States.

European support for archaeology has been witnessed by most (at least in the University sector) from what is now DGXXII, the Directorate General of Education and Training. This started as the *Erasmus* exchanges which introduced students to the teaching practices of archaeology and related subjects in other European universities. The emphasis has now been changed. It has been potentially extended to vocational training (*Leonardo*) including collaborations with private enterprise, and a *thematic network* (*Archeonet*) which seeks to extend the good practice of teaching of archaeology throughout Europe (<http://archweb.LeidenUniv.nl/archeonet/>). The amounts of money available from these sources are, however, relatively small — in the case of Archeonet only 90,000 ecus over two years.

The largest resources are to be found in DGXII. Archaeology has already had some considerable impact in this directorate, even though the field of archaeology is not generally classified within the Sciences. The first areas of application were in the discrete field of archeometry and in the protection of the cultural heritage (http://apollo.cordis.lu/cordis/cgi/srchidadb?CALLER=ENV_2.2.4) (RTD Info 1998: 8–9).

More recently, the importance of archaeology for the understanding of fundamental current issues, such as environmental change, has been realized. The *Archaeomedes project* (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/research/profiles/mcglade/gld9.htm>) was set up by Sander Van der Leeuw with the aim of understanding the

1 We use the 30 March 1998 conversion rate of 1 ecu = \$1.08 = £0.68, as an indication of the meaning of these figures in some other currencies.

'Natural and anthropogenic causes of land degradation and desertification in the Mediterranean Basin', and it has provided an important temporal dimension to the work of geographers in the *Medalus project* (Commission Européenne 1997: 38). The first two phases of the project between July 1992 and March 1997 received 3.5 million ecus (Commission Européenne 1997: 39) to support a comparative study of the Epirus region of Greece, the Vera basin of Spain and the Rhône valley of France. The *POPULUS project*, set up by Graeme Barker to investigate the reconstruction of prehistoric demography, drew on the Human Capital and Mobility Programme (now renamed the Training and Mobility of Researchers programme). This project established a research network linking six European universities and was awarded 350,000 ecus. The results of this work will be published as six volumes in a series entitled 'The archaeology of the Mediterranean landscape' (Bintliff & Sbonias in press; Leveau *et al.* in press; Gillings *et al.* in press; Pasquinucci & Trément in press; Francovich & Patterson in press). Another example is the more recent support from the new TMR programme which has been given to *GEOPRO* — a research network which will provide a new approach to the integration of geochemical and mineralogical techniques in the study of the raw materials and provenance of pottery (<http://www.shef.ac.uk/uni/academic/A-C/ap/research/geopro.html#sum>).

There are also considerable funds provided by the European Union as parts of other policy areas. The first is culture itself, which now has a major role in a Directorate General (DGX). The *Raphael* programme has already funded projects which range through virtual museums, replicas of archaeological sites, protection, restoration, the study of submerged Neolithic sites and palaeoanthropology. The most recent call for applications offers funds for conservation, mobility and training and raising of public awareness, and will cover up to 50% of the costs of projects ranging from 50,000 to 150,000 ecus, depending on the size of the project. Another sector of support is through external relations, particularly with the Mediterranean. Collaborative projects with a cultural dimension have been developed with Mediterranean universities (*MED-CAMPUS*), and cultural projects look set to have renewed energy in the delayed aftermath of the meeting of Culture Ministers in

Bologna in April 1996. Directorate Generals of the Commission devoted to development also have a cultural dimension. Good examples are work in Africa (Valley of the Niger), French Polynesia (Papenoo), Vanuatu and the Dominican Republic, where, in some cases, over half-a-million ecus have been invested in individual archaeological projects. In other sectors of the European Commission, there has been some activity in the field of multi-media, providing inventories, touristic tours and CD-ROM presentations.

The impact of European funding on archaeological research is likely to increase in the post-Maastricht era. Under the new Framework V proposals (figures as of 12 February 1998), a series of thematic programmes will be developed. 2048 million ecus will be devoted to 'Preserving the Ecosystem' and it is proposed to spend 8.6% of this on the 'The City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage'. Archaeologists will need to use their imagination and flair to develop schemes which link past and present. More specifically, the 'Protection, conservation and enhancement of European cultural heritage' forms a focus of activity linked to research, technological development and demonstration. 3363 million ecus will be devoted to developing a user-friendly information society, including work on improving access to the cultural heritage, and recognizing the cultural economy as a key economic sector. The modern populations of Europe have a strong wish to understand their past and are willing to spend money to develop that understanding. Many non-Europeans visit Europe to deepen their understanding of the contribution of the continent to world development. Culture in all its forms — especially tourism — has now been accepted as part of the European economy. It is regarded as a resource which must be sustained, as well as offering a means for the integration and the development of valuable transferable skills. Nevertheless, the sums involved remain relatively small. We urge the formative committees of Framework V to realize the potential of the involvement of archaeological research. The potential can be realized not only as research in its own right, such as in support of sustainable tourism and the protection of the cultural heritage, but also as an aid to understanding prominent modern issues, such as urbanism, water-extraction and coastal exploitation which are deeply seated in the past.

It is too easy to concentrate on the European Commission as the major source of archaeological funding at the European level. Other funds, primarily to support networks and conferences, have been provided by the European Science Foundation, the Council of Europe and even NATO (<http://hq.nato.int/science/>). The European Science Foundation (http://www.esf.org/hp/hp_003a.htm) is this year completing a programme of exhibitions, conferences and publications on the theme of ‘The Transformation of the Roman World’ which link archaeologists and historians. The Council of Europe (<http://www.coe.fr/index.asp>) recently supported a celebration of ‘The Bronze Age: the first golden age of Europe’ as part of a European Plan for Archaeology. The Bronze Age was chosen as (one of) the formative phases of European development through a series of conferences and exhibitions. This sponsorship will continue with a circulating exhibition entitled ‘Gods and Heroes of the Bronze Age: Europe at the Time of Ulysses’ and will open in December 1998. While disputing the primacy of the Bronze Age (the Editors work on the Neolithic and Iron Age!), we consider the increased visibility of archaeology in EU consciousness to be excellent! As Daniel Therond, Chief Administrator responsible for the European Plan for Archaeology put it, ‘It is easy to see how much archaeology can contribute to heritage classes, and even more to “European” classes. It can help to make young people aware of heritage as something to explore, understand and respect. It can give them a taste for research, and can even provide an indirect and stimulating introduction to scientific method. Finally, it can make them aware of the things that Europeans share and of their links with other continents’ (<http://culture.coe.fr/infocentre/pub/eng/eexch2.1.html>).

Let us compare this with a view of North American archaeology. It is intended to be provocative in a constructive manner, based upon our shared experience funding field work. When this editorial was originally suggested, we thought it would be valuable to add a North American perspective. [The editors would be happy to extend this practice to other countries as part of the editorial presentation in the future.] What could be more central to the field than asking how archaeological research is funded in two well-researched areas, North America and Europe?

Readers around the world would have an introduction to funding on both continents. Money talks and lots of money should talk loudly. It levers the type, the quantity and often the quality of research, and all of us in the business of archaeology need up-to-date facts about how to get it! We naïvely thought it would be relatively easy to assess archaeological funding. We could quickly check some well-organized data-sets maintained by the federal governments of Canada (www.yahoo.com/Regional/Countries/Canada/Government/Federal), Mexico (http://world.presidencia.gob.mx/fr_pub.htm) and the United States (<http://www.law.vill.edu/Fed-Agency/fedwebloc.html>) or as presented by the Society of American Archaeology (<http://www.saa.org/>) and its Canadian (<http://www.canadianarchaeology.com>) and Mexican equivalents. We would do some careful comparisons, examine time trends and draw some reasonable conclusions. Our first point is simply that we could not. Good overall surveys do not exist. Nor do there appear to be good substantive data on how archaeology is funded in North America. Parts of the picture are well documented but there are very large gaps.

Trade is being centralized in both Europe and North America. In the former, the EU has seen the development of the cultural programmes described above (both from DGX of the European Commission and the Council of Europe), albeit on a relatively small scale, which fund both archaeological research, as well as preservation. Also characteristic of Europe is a well-established bureaucracy for research funding, as well as archaeological student and faculty exchanges. By contrast, in North America one does not hear colleagues talking in the hallways about applying for archaeological research funds from NAFTA <http://www.nafta.net/naftagre.htm> (North American Free Trade Area — comprising Canada, Mexico and the United States). There is no functional equivalent in NAFTA to the EU programmes. Yet NAFTA has made some difference. One does hear about US and Canadian CRM consulting companies (http://www.yahoo.com/Business_and_Economy/Companies/Scientific/Anthropology_and_Archaeology/Consulting) expanding their commercial markets by taking archaeological contracts in each other’s countries. Thus, our second point is that North

America has no organized international cultural programme incorporating North American archaeology as a whole, comparable to the EU.

Funding in the United States for archaeological research has greatly increased, especially if one includes CRM. However, it is very small and very marginal in relation to other fields, and to the large-scale research objectives of the nation. The overall federal research budget of the United States in 1998 is estimated by the OMB (Office of Management and Budget) (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/EOP/OMB/html/ombhome.html> and <http://www.access.gpo.gov/omb/omb004.html>) at approximately \$29 billion dollars from a variety of sources. Approximately \$13.6 billion dollars is allocated to health, \$3.3 billion dollars to NSF (National Science Foundation) and \$2.5 billion dollars to energy. NASA receives \$3.4 billion which is divided 2:1 space science:earth science; agriculture receives about \$1.4 billion; oceanic and atmospheric research \$0.3 billion; standards \$0.6 billion; environmental protection \$0.5 billion; geological survey and research \$0.7 billion; climate change \$0.8 billion; the other \$1.9 billion being distributed to a variety of programmes. Within NSF (<http://www.nsf.gov>) the big research items are physical sciences \$0.7 billion, geological sciences \$0.4 billion, biological sciences, engineering and computer sciences each \$0.3 billion, with all the social sciences trailing far behind at \$0.1 billion. Of this the anthropology programme of NSF is allocated \$8 million, from which archaeology receives \$5.3 million! Our third point is that the federal expenditure on archaeology is very small. It is somewhat less than two-hundredths of 1% of the federal research budget. It is marginal and impoverished, but as one of our colleagues, an eternal optimist, happily pointed out, 'remember, archaeology has not been squeezed out entirely'. Its funding is almost symbolic.

The funding of archaeological research in the United States is a combination of the public and private sectors. The results are a wide variety of academic and CRM work, of survey and excavation, of preservation and education, museum exhibition and storage, as well as ancillary work, including such diverse studies as palynology, geochronology and material sciences. FIGURE 1 shows the primary monetary flows.

We believe the vast majority of funding is through the private sector, and it is focused in

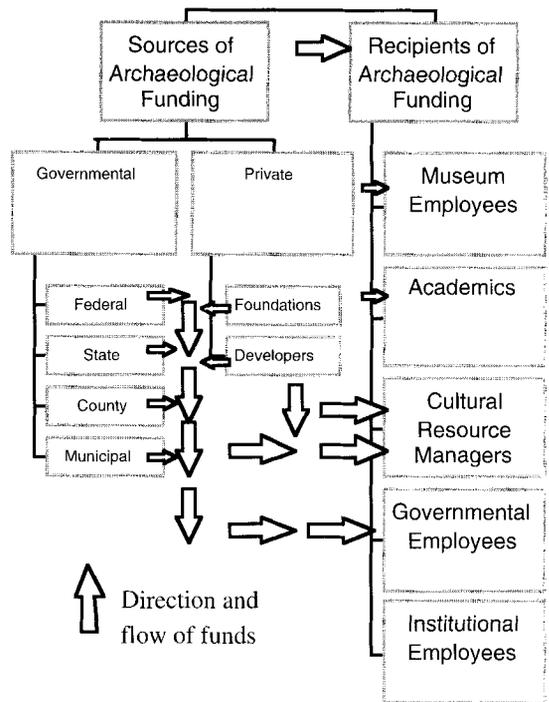


FIGURE 1. Archaeological research funding in the United States.

the large amounts of money that developers spend in CRM. However, it is difficult to estimate how much money is spent by either sector. Confidentiality of private sector records makes appraisal difficult. For the public sector, archaeological expenditures are reported in aggregated figures of general cultural resource management that cannot be disentangled. If one examines the data provided by many State Historical Preservation Officers (National Conference of SHPOs) and State Archaeologists (<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/NASA/nasa.html>), they frequently review between 1500 and 3500 projects a year, of which as many as a third may be archaeological. Given that anything from \$500 to several hundred thousand dollars may be invested in a single project, a conservative estimate of \$125 million dollars for the nation would be in order. In addition, many states provide numerous grants and incentive programmes for archaeological preservation, including funds derived from such diverse sources as district loan acts, park funds, sin taxes, state and municipal bonds, revolving loan funds and others. This does not include the various large-

and small-scale funds derived from both the federal and state governments that may impinge on archaeology. For example, the National Parks Service awarded about \$2.3 million this year to assist museums and tribes to implement NAGPRA (the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act) (<http://www.cast.uark.edu/other/nps/nagpra/>). Our fourth point is that the monetary tail that wags the archaeological dog in the United States is now the private sector. In Europe, it is the government of the member states which has the main impact. In the United States it would appear that the market will dominate. It will be interesting to see how funding develops over the next decade in these two communities on the two sides of the Atlantic. Is the only similarity a broadly comparable GNP? Will culture (and archaeology itself) receive greater funding in Europe where Europeans are studying their own historical antecedents, as well as seeking relevance for archaeology as part of modern scientific issues? Or will anthropology as part of science receive greater funding in the United States, where historical ancestry only exists for a minority? Archaeologists need to continue to demonstrate the importance of archaeology not only in purely cultural terms, but also its relevance for the expanding economy and solving the key issues of modern living. In this way archaeology will be recognized as an integral part of the framework of the modern economy.

❧ One example of archaeological funding of CRM at the state level in Europe is the MARS (The Monuments at Risk Survey of England — pathways to protecting the past) project, which has recently produced its summary and main report (Darvill & Fulton 1998). The work has been undertaken by English Heritage and the University of Bournemouth between 1994–96. The aim of MARS has been to ‘identify key policy developments and outline future initiatives’. The summary report makes horrifying reading, because it spells out with brutal clarity just how much precious archaeology has been destroyed in England. The project has redefined concepts of the archaeological resource, and has then sampled a cross-section, amounting to 5% of the total. The concepts range from the condition, extant resource, form, hazard, land-use, monument status, recorded re-

source, risk and survival. In 1995, there were already 657,619 retrievable records held by 57 local Sites and Monuments Record Offices. The number represented an increase of 117% over that of a decade earlier. Even with this huge number, there were still some 937,484 other records to be entered, and the survey anticipates that, by the turn of the millennium, there will be over 1 million entries in England’s SMR. Each page of the summary report presents key facts. On the total loss rate of sites, wholesale and piecemeal destruction amounted to 44% of all land known to contain archaeological sites before 1995, and every day, since 1945, one monument (a total of 23,500) and 10 ha of archaeologically sensitive land has been completely destroyed. Only 5% of MARS monuments surveyed in 1995 were found to have no evidence of loss. On the condition of monuments, it was found that 63% of all earthworks were now flat and only 31% remained upstanding, and likewise, buildings and structures had lost 57% of the recorded total. Land-use patterns and changes of use were identified as important in the preservation and destruction of sites. In total, 2% of monuments were identified as being at high risk, and some 4520 will require special attention (recording, excavation) in the next 3–5 years. The highest risk land-use categories were arable, forestry and developed and urban land. Regional patterns show that the northeast, West Midlands, Yorkshire and Humberside are actually the areas of highest risk to monuments. Only about 18% of the total number of monuments were under some form of designated protective status, and predictably, perhaps, it was clear that the status of Scheduling — the statutory protection of Ancient Monuments in Britain, covering only 6% of all monuments — had helped to preserve them from loss.

This report is important, and its results devastating to our perceptions that somehow the mechanisms are in place to protect the past. The facts are very clearly presented, and even for the most philistine planner or politician, the message is clear — the 20th century has wrought destructive havoc on the archaeology of England, and by implication, on Britain. Protective measures and more sensitive planning and landscape management are needed, if there is to be anything left by the end of the next century! The Editors hope that academics

and archaeologists alike, here and elsewhere, will take note of the contents, and pass them on in their teaching and discussions of archaeology to students and the public.

📖 In March, we noted the new web-site for the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of Scotland, who have made available the Sites and Monuments Record. Now the English Royal Commission has followed suit, with 'Archaeology and Architecture on the Internet — services for the heritage community' (<http://www.rchme.gov.uk>). Here is another good example of government agencies responding to the public demand for data and information, and justifying its role and its government funding. (Further information: Robin Taylor, RCHME Publications. Tel. 01793 414619, or e-mail pubs@rchme.gov.uk)

📖 The recent death of Maya archaeologist LINDA SCHELE is a blow to Central American studies. Advisory Editor NORMAN HAMMOND provides an assessment of her contribution.

Linda Schele (1942–1998)

'There never was a place for her in the ranks of the terrible, slow army of the cautious. She ran ahead, where there were no paths'. Dorothy Parker's elegiac assessment of Isadora Duncan could well be applied to Linda Schele, a laments figure in Maya iconography and epigraphy for a quarter of a century, who died on 18 April at the age of 55. Trained as an artist and a teacher of art, she came to Maya studies as the result of a visit to Palenque in Mexico, where the baroque architecture, elaborate stucco art and long inscriptions in beautifully carved hieroglyphs riveted her attention. Her first scholarly contributions were on the dynastic succession at Palenque, elucidated from the patterns of dates in the long texts of the Temple of the Inscriptions and the Cross Group, and were made in collaboration with the Australian epigrapher Peter Mathews and the American linguist Floyd Lounsbury; Schele was encouraged in her work, presented at the first two Mesas Redondas de Palenque in 1973–74, by another pioneering woman, Merle Greene Robertson, also an artist-scholar, and by Eliabeth S. Benson at Dumbarton Oaks. Linda Schele took a position at the University of Texas at Austin in 1981 and spent the rest of her career there, recently

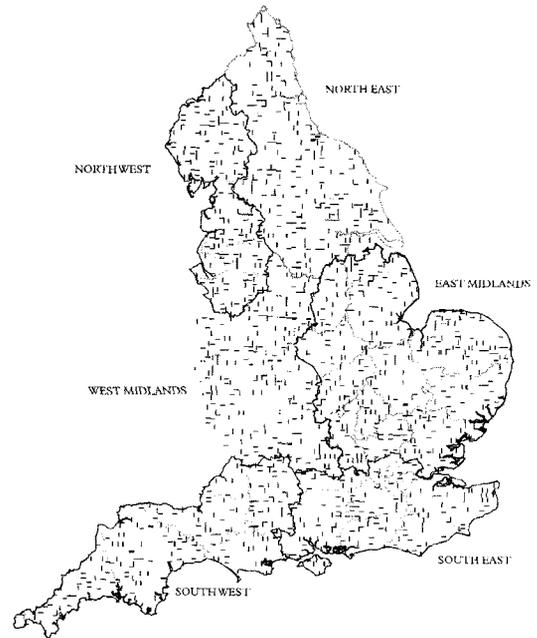


FIGURE 2. Distribution of MARS sample transects in relation to county boundaries (1995) and the six MARS analytical regions. ((From Darvill & Fulton 1998b.)

as John D. Murchinson Regents Professor of Art; she developed one of the leading programmes in pre-Columbian art history, with a natural emphasis on the Maya, and also annual workshops on Classic Maya hieroglyphic writing, which attracted large audiences. Recently, she had launched similar workshops in Mexico and Guatemala for the modern Maya themselves. Her publications were numerous and innovative: *Maya glyphs: the verbs* (1982) she designed herself (and won a prize for it), while *The blood of kings* (1986, with Mary Ellen Miller) was an exhibition catalogue that metamorphosed into a book on dynastic art and ritual; *A forest of kings* (1990, with the archaeologist David A. Freidel) and *Maya cosmos* (1993, with Freidel and Joy Parker, the professional writer who had also worked on the previous book) were trade books including substantial academic appendices to document their arguments. *Maya cosmos* presented evidence for the ancient Maya creation myth based on an inspired combination of glyphic decipherment, iconographic interpretation, ethnohistory, linguistics and cosmology, while *A forest of kings* offered a

narrative and interpretation of Late Preclassic and Classic Maya history gleaned from an unparalleled knowledge of the inscriptions of Tikal, Palenque, Chichén Itzá, and other major cities, also the subject of a final book with Peter Mathews. Schele's articles, many produced in collaboration with her students and young colleagues such as David Stuart and Nikolai Grube, were the more effective for being published speedily: after beginning work at Copán, she initiated a series of 'Copán Notes' which reported decipherments almost as soon as they were made; by arrangement with a copy shop in Austin, anybody could obtain the Notes by fax immediately. A parallel series of 'Texas Notes' on non-Copán topics was also launched, many of them being decipherments made by members of the hieroglyphic workshops: Linda Schele was generous in her inspiration of others as well as in sharing her ideas. Her inspiration extended on to the lecture platform, where the infectious enthusiasm of her delivery would often be interrupted by her realization, and prompt announcement, of yet another breakthrough in understanding of a text or image. To her, all information was relevant: she did not fully accept Maya archaeologists' concern with precise stratigraphic context, and was happy to work with unprovenanced material if it advanced her understanding, but in a fissionary profession was notably broad-minded and collegial.

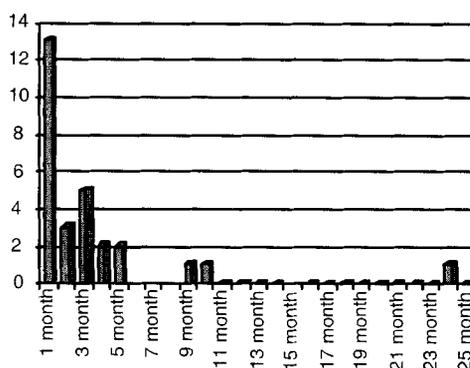
NORMAN HAMMOND

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☞ In our last Editorial, we reported with trepidation our increasingly frequent reference to URLs on the internet as a source of information, when that information could be transitory or out-dated. As an experiment, we promised a preliminary analysis of web-pages of the Departments of Archaeology in the United Kingdom. We hesitated to make a comparative analysis of quality (there is, indeed, considerable variation) but we could comment more readily on their frequency of updating. We are happy to report that the majority of these sites are rela-

Frequency of time elapsed since last addition of information to the web site



tively frequently updated, as shown in our simple graph. Only the web-page of the University of Bristol was found to be substantially of historical interest (its latest up-date is at the time of writing almost two years ago, with the Editor still apparently holding her Senior Lectureship there!). All but two of the others had received some attention within the last six months. We strongly urge university departments to provide the institutional structure for regular updating, and we will report back in the future!

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