BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

	C/o City Museum, Queens Road, Bristol, 8.
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This bulletin is issued in Spring, Autumn and December

BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

Officers and Committee for 1968/9

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MEMBERSHIP

The Annual Subscription (due 1st March) is ten shillings for those aged 18 and over, and five shillings for those under 18. There is no entrance fee. Application forms may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary or Hon. Assistant Secretary. EDITORIAL

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With this issue, the <u>Bulletin</u> begins a new volume - and a new look, designed to give it a bolder appearance, and to make a more deliberate and integrated feature of its duplicated format. Inside the new cover, the <u>Bulletin</u> will continue to provide an aid to, and record of, members' activities; and foster, it is hoped, the interchange of information between groups and individuals within the B. A. R. G. area.

This issue appears just after National Museums Week (1-6 April) and several items emphasise the role of museums for the individual archaeologist - and vice versa. Our museums are essential to the individual archaeologist; without their full-time facilities for advice, storage and subsequent study of evidence, most sites would be safer left unexcavated. Yet do we make enough use of them, for general study or specific research? For practice in recognition of local pottery-fabrics, flints or coins; or for relating the evidence from a newly-found site, to earlier finds? If some facilities and catalogues are not all they might be, surely greater demand would only help to improve them? The series of Museum Check-Lists which continues in this issue, prompts such questions and may, perhaps, contribute to their solution. The new Gallery of South-western British Archaeology, and the forthcoming Catalogue of the Prehistoric & Roman Collections, in our own City Museum, Bristol mark a double achievement of which the Group can best show its appreciation simply by using them as much as 1 1 possible.

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This, of course, is the other side of the coin. The museums need the individual archaeologist; to report new sites, bring in finds and watch for destruction on a scale which Museum staff alone could hardly manage; but also as the interested, knowledgeable customers without which the museum as a service would cease to exist. Bristol City Museum has reinforced this link by deciding to send its <u>Quarterly</u> <u>Bulletin</u> and '<u>Mosaic'</u> news-sheet to all B. A. R. G. members. This need, then, is mutual; perhaps if this was more clearly accepted, many of the pointless minor tensions between 'amateur' and 'professional' would disappear.

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At the A. G. M. in February, the Group expressed its thanks to Mrs. J. L. Edwards for all her work as Hon. Secretary for Junior Affairs: a post of which she has made such a success that the Group will be conscious of the difficulty of living up to her achievement. Yet promotion of interest among new, young recruits to local archaeology is vital to the future of the Group.

THE NEW GALLERY OF SOUTH-WESTERN BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

IN THE MUSEUM

(PART I)

By Leslie Grinsell and Max Hebditch.

Readers of the <u>Bulletin</u> will have seen references to progress on this gallery for some time past, but at last a section is open to the public. Now that Museums Week is out of the way the Museum's production resources will be concentrated on finishing the rest of the gallery by the time of the visit of the Prehistoric Society in September.

The section that is open illustrates the progress of human settlement in the immediate environs of Bristol. For the later periods the objects are laid out against a time-scale in which 2 feet of display represents 150 years. For the earlier period the amount of time that each 2 feet represents has been telescoped, as otherwise the palaeolithic material from the Avon terraces would have been arranged in the Extra-Mural Department's rooms in Berkeley Square. Parallel with this display of local material are a series of photographs illustrating some of the more important events of each period in other parts of the world Although all the important local prehistoric material is in this section, from the Roman period onwards only a selection is shown. More of the Sea Mills material will be in the regional section of the gallery and Medieval Bristol, which in the time scale is illustrated with about half a dozen objects, will have a large section to itself. As a further foretaste of things to come, it can now be revealed that a splendid model of the hillfort at Old Sodbury has been delivered. This will be shown in the first part of the regional display to be opened, which will deal with the prehistoric period.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that subscriptions (10s. for full members; 5s. for Juniors under 18) fell due on 1st March, 1968. A Banker's Order form can always be obtained from the Hon. Treasurer for the convenience of members who wish to pay in this way. A Banker's Order saves trouble for both the member and the Hon. Treasurer, and helps to keep down administrative expenses.

B. A. R. G. : FURTHER OUTLOOK

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A full programme of autumn and winter activities is in course of arrangement, including monthly lectures or other meetings from October to April. Subjects under consideration for weekend courses in the autumn of 1968 and spring of 1969, include Medieval Towns, and Romano-British coarse pottery.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL IN LOCAL MUSEUMS: A CHECK-LIST

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(PART II)

edited by P.J. Fowler

The aims and limitations of this survey were stated in Part I (Bulletin 2, 9 (1967), 123-8) when the collections at Axbridge, Bath Roman Baths, Frome and Yeovil Museums were briefly catalogued. In Part II, we cover two more museums in Somerset: Fry's Museum at Somerdale, Keynsham and the Museum of the Wells Archaeological and Natural History Society. A list of the collection at Shepton Mallet Museum has also been completed, and will appear in the next issue.

The abbreviations used here are explained in Part I.

KEYNSHAM.

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Fry's Museum, Somerdale

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Roman Period

Keynsham cemetery villa (ST 6469): pottery including samian (2 bases stamped Bellatulus), colour-coated ware, red and grey wares: dishes, jars etc., decorated sherds, burial urn; bronze: ring, armlet (8 frags.);

iron: spearhead, twist drill (?), nail, fish-hook; crucible, mould base, copper and lead frags. from furnace; 3 spindle whorls; flue and floor tiles; wall plaster; animal bones (prehistoric) including antler.

Somerdale villa (ST 6569): pottery including samian, black ware, part of colour-coated beaker;

coins. A. D. 37-378;

bronze: brooches (4 complete, 3 frags.), tweezers, 10 rings, 14 pins, 4 needles, 1 key;

crucible; portion of mould;

necklace: blue bead, bone rings, diamond-shaped flat green bead, 2 S-shaped links; glass frags.; bone handle and bone measure; inlaid seal box; 1 bronze and amber seal; spindle whorls: 2 stone, 1 bronze (?);

mosaics: 5 portions, 3 from same floor (?), design including pairs of birds, 'rope' pattern, human figures, geometrical; stone: portions of 2 columns; inscribed pedestal of statue; unidentified stone object; 2 stone coffins, one lead-lined, each with 1 skeleton (1 M, 1 F)

KEYNSHAM cont'd.

Unloc:, probably from one or other of the above villas: much pottery; crucible; handle of large stone pitcher; large frags. carved Bath stone;

Rome: 1 carved stone lamp

Medieval

Keynsham Abbey site: base greën lead-glazed jar, Cl3; pitcher, Cl5; Cl3 inlaid floor tiles;

Stone: roof and ridge tiles; 3 Bath stone carved ceiling bosses; capitals; late Norman frets; column bases, including tripedal base; base of stone cross; frags. tomb slabs.

Somerdale: 2 bronze buckles; armour stud and 4 armour buttons; 2 lead crosses; Cl3 seals; part of bone flute; 4 frags. of boar tusks

Bristol, site of Fry's nos. 4 & 7 Factories, Union St.: bronze: rings, Cl4; balance; 2 ornamental studs; 2 keys, padlock Cl4-15; iron: 3 daggers, spearhead, 2 pairs shears or scissors, 3 knives, 9 keys Cl4-15;

Cl4 spur rowel, Cl7 spur; Cl3 chain mail; Cl4 buckle; Cl5 lead lattice-work book panel; pewter spoon, steel (?) striker and fork; silver groat; animal bones: wild goat, bos longifrons;

Bristol, R. Frome by Nelson St. /Duck Row; glazed pitcher

Miscellaneous and Unlocated

Iron fork, bit, skewer, harness fitting Georgian cavalry sword Brass token (Somerdale); Bristol square farthing (Union St., Bristol) 4 clay pipes, one stamped J. Jenkins

Geological specimens

WELLS

The Museum, Cathedral Green Wells Natural History and AS

The size of the collections prevents little more than a list being presented here, though, with the exception of a large 'folk'/bygones collection and sundry modern items, it is hoped that this list is comprehensive.

WELLS, cont'd

Prehistoric

Pal: Milton Hill; flints

many other flints, and a stone lamp (unloc.)

Pleistocene fauna:

Banwell: bones and elephant tusk

Dulcote Hill: bison and bone frags.

Ebbor, The Outlook: bones

Milton Hill Pitfall: bison, deer, horse, hyaena, hippopotamus, elephant

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Milton Hill Quarry: bones with teeth marks, horn cores, bison Wolf's Den: bones, land shells

Wookey, Badger Hole: bear, mammoth, giant deer, hyaena, horse, vole

Wookey, Hyaena Den: deer, rhinoceros, bear, boar, fox, bison, horse (and 7 flints)

Meso:

Burrington Combe: harpoon, antler pick; female skull 10 microliths (unloc.)

Neo: Ebbor, Bridged Pot Shelter: (10-6 ft.) human and animal bones (3 ft.) knife, axe, 9 worked flints

(tufa) bone frags. ?

Ebbor, Little Cave: perforated axe, 16 flints; goat and ox bones

Wookey, Badger Hole: ? potsherds; skull frags. of 2 children; animal bones

1 Windmill Hill type bowl; 25 flints (unloc.)

Neo/BA:

Cheddar, Slitter Cave: flat bronze (copper?) axe

Chelms Combe: Beaker sherds, 3 flint cores; 7 human skulls

Ebbor, Bridged Pot Shelter: 2 Beaker sherds, 2 scrapers, 7 flakes

Ebbor, The Outlook: Beaker? sherd, flint arrowhead

Nettlebridge: 15 Beaker sherds

Numerous flint artefacts from Mendip (otherwise unloc. but including 5 hammer stones and 9 stone axes), Cheddar Hill, Kingdown, Priddy and Rookham; also in the Lambert and Parry Colls.

Wiltshire: flints from numerous named sites Yorkshire, Brandingham: 1 human skull

WELLS, cont'd

BA: Chewton Plain barrow: 5 skulls and potsherds Chewton Quarry: potsherds Maesbury: bronze dagger (Middle BA) Mendip: 48 flint arrowheads (otherwise unloc.) Nettlebridge Shelter: human bones Priddy barrows: flint and burnt bones Yorkshire, East: 2 jet beads flint arrowheads; bronze axes, sword, rapier, spearhead and razor (Middle/Late BA, unloc.)

BA/IA:

Wookey Hole Cave: urn potsherds with tally markings?

IA: Ebbor, The Outlook: potsherds

Glastonbury: 4 sling stones

Priddy, Swildon's Hole: half a saddle quern

Wookey, Badger Hole: potsherds, nails, bones

Wookey Hole Cave: much pottery including 14 almost complete pots and decorated sherds; bone pins, needles, weaving combs, pierced and polished bones, cheel pieces, potters' tools; human and animal bones, shellfish and vegetable remains 2

IA/RB:

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Brean Down: skull and humerus of child Cannington Park: bone toggle Dinder Shelter: potsherds; iron slag

Wookey Hole Cave: bronze: 2 bracelets, chain, 4 long pins,

15 short pins, fish-hook, 4 rings, 3 domed rivets, 3 binding strips, pointed wire, frags.

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iron: dagger, lance, rings, nails, 3 needles, tools and handles; ore pig and crude iron

silver: ear-ring

stone, pottery and bone spindle whorls and weights; clay and stone slingstones; 2 rotary querns

Wookey Hole Ground: sherds, glass frags. and 2 glass beads,

5 pieces worked bone; iron and lead slag; whetstones, stone beads and spindle whorls

Roman Period (see also IA/RB above)

Barrow Hams: potsherds; stone mortar

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Charlton Villa: 14 samian sherds; frag. perforated pottery Cheddar, Lion Rock: bronze bow brooch;

WELLS, cont'd

Cheddar, Vicarage Garden: 2 samian sherds, bronze bow brooch; ditto? : small pottery vessel

Chewton Mendip, Green Ore, Rookery Farm: potsherds; ? clay tally or gaming board, gaming pebbles; 4 lead pigs

Congresbury: pottery lamp

Coxley Trench: samian sherd, coarse potsherds; bone

Ebbor, Little Cave: 4 potsherds

Latcham Moor: potsherds

Maschalls Wood: 5 bronze bow brooches

Priddy: potsherds, brooch, stylus, hypocaust and roof tiles, 2 leather shoe soles, nails, flints, slag, 3 potters' bone tools

Priddy Marsh: perannular brooch, 1 bronze bow brooch, pins, ring; 2 skulls and plait of hair

Priddy, Swildon's Hole: sherd

Shepton Mallet, Fosse Road: lead weight

Wedmore: samian sherds, one stamped ABBO F..; 2 pairs bronze compasses, 4 bronze rings; iron spearhead

Wells: ? lead figure; glass bottle.

Wookey, Badger Hole: brooch, 4 coins, whetstone

Wookey Hole Cave: much pottery, including samian; 83 coins to A. D. 392:

> bronze: 3 penannular and 4 disc brooches, ear-ring, tweezers, ear scoop, scribing tool, spoon handle, binding and hinges, leaves, small mirror, 2 buttons, frags; frags glass vessels; 16 whetstones; parts of shale bracelets and bowls; ? oolite lamp, wooden spade and bowls (? Med.)

Wookey Hole Ground: pottery including samian; C4 coins; 4 bronze bow brooches and bronze rings, pins, spoon;

iron ring, buckle, nails; painted wall plaster

Wookey Hole Mill: mortar

Dorset, Kimmeridge: set of flint lathe tools

c. 260 Roman coins (also c. 50 Greek coins) unloc.

Medieval

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Evercreech, Cutlers Mill: Cl4 rowel spur Priddy: bronze plaque; painted window glass and frags of vessels Priddy, St. Cuthbert's Leadworks: mortar or bucking stone Wedmore, Mudgley: Dean's House: iron keys; 2 pieces slate with scratched musical notation Wedmore, Old Vicarage: stone lamps

Wedmore: Stoughton: iron rowlock

Wells, Bishop's Park: small lead cup

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Wells:	Lady Chapel: column fragment
	North Road: iron axe

St. John's Priory: Cl5 piscina

St. Thomas St. ,: Cl4 piscina

2 tiles

Wookey, Badger Hole: iron pin

Wookey Hole Cave: 12 frags leather shoes; wooden dipstick ? 8 broad horseshoes, 2 for oxen, from the Moors (otherwise unloc.)

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the co-operation of Mrs. B. Lowe and Mrs. K. M. White (Somerdale), and Mrs. A. Cornwell and the Hon. Curator, Dr. F.S. Wallis (Wells).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Bristol Archaeological Research Group was held on Saturday, 24th February 1968 at 2.15 p.m. in the Museum Lecture Theatre, Bristol. At the business meeting Mr. L. V. Grinsell, F. S. A. was elected as the new chairman of the Group, and other officers and committee members were elected as listed on p. 1 of this <u>Bulletin</u>. After tea Mr. Brian Davison of the Ancient Monuments Inspectorate of the M. P. B. W. delivered a most thought-provoking address on the development of castles at the time of the Norman Conquest. His stimulating ideas and questions must certainly have dispelled any last feelings among archaeologists specialising in earlier periods, that medieval archaeology is a comparatively straightforward pursuit, serving merely to complement and 'tidy up' the evidence available in documentary form.

MORE INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

All B. A. R. G. Members, as they have by now probably discovered, are now on the mailing list of The City Museum, Bristol and will in future be receiving the 'Mosaic' news-sheet and Quarterly Bulletin.

C. B. A. CONFERENCE

Looking a long way ahead, the Council for British Archaeology will be holding a Conference in London on Saturday November 9th, 1968 on <u>The Place and Work of County and Local Archaeological Societies</u>. Programme organisers please note! We hope local arrangements will not clash with this highly relevant conference, and that it will be possible for this area to be well represented - for its own benefit. Details will be available from the C. B. A., 8 St. Andrew's Place, London N. W. 1. in due course.

PREHISTORIC SOCIETY: CONFERENCE IN BRISTOL

The Prehistoric Society will be holding their Annual Summer Conference in Bristol, 1-7 September this year, and visiting sites in neighbouring counties. The Bristol Archaeological Research Group has been invited to join with the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society, to meet and entertain them in the new Gallery of South-western British Archaeology at the City Museum, on the evening of Wednesday 4th September. Members who wish to attend and join in this opportunity to play host to a national archaeological body should apply to the Secretary of B. A. R. G. for a ticket by 30th April 1968. The exact financial details have yet to be worked out, and it may be necessary to make a charge on members attending.

TWO EXHIBITIONS

The permanent but changing Planning Exhibition which recently reopened at Quakers Friars, Bristol 1, includes a new display on '<u>The</u> <u>Growth of Bristol'</u> from the middle ages to the 19th century, with an historical introduction and exhibits from the City Museum. Well worth a visit.

Also closely bound up with the growth of Bristol is the exhibition in the City Museum, 1-22 June, on '<u>The Mapping of Bristol</u>'. This celebrates the fourth centenary of William Smith's first proper map of Bristol, drawn in July 1568, and will include other maps which are such valuable sources of information for the Bristol archaeologist. This and other exhibitions of archaeological interest are noted in the Calendar.

NEW MEMBER OF THE MUSEUM STAFF

Michael Ponsford, B. A., has joined the staff of the Department of Archaeology as Field Archaeologist. He will take over direction of the major rescue excavations undertaken by the Museum. His first task this year will be at the College of Canons at Westbury-on-Trym where work starts on the 8th April.

In 1964-5, Michael Ponsford worked for the Welland Valley Research Committee under Gavin Simpson. For the last two years he has been directing excavations for the Ministry and doing extra-mural classes for the University of Nottingham. In that time, he has dug a Belgic and Réman site at Rampton, Notts., a Roman site at Ancaster and a monster trench across the medieval defences of Nottingham.

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B. A. R. G. SYMPOSIUM SUPPLEMENT Nos. 1 - 3, 1965-1967

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These brief Supplements will form a record of papers given at the <u>B.A.R.G. Symposium</u> held each year: for the Symposium itself is a record of the research activities of Group members. Fuller versions of one or more of the papers may appear in the <u>Bulletin</u>, as indicated; but these will not affect or supplant in any way their final publication in the appropriate local or national journals. In order to make the <u>Symposium Supplement</u> complete, the speakers and subjects of the first two Symposiums in 1965 and 1966 are included here, in list form. The <u>Symposium Supplement</u> will indicate where a member's research has finally been published, including back-references to past years' papers where appropriate.

B. A. R. G. SYMPOSIUM NO. 1: 1965

27th November

1.	P.A. Rahtz	Excavations at the site of the Roman villa,	
		Cheddar	
		Published: Proc. S. A. N. H. S. vol. 110 (1966)	
2.	P.A. Rahtz	Excavations at Glastonbury Tor	
3.	W.J. Wedlake	Bronze Age Barrows at Wallmead, Somerset	
4.	M. Hebditch	Excavations at Sea Mills, 1965	
5.	T. W. J. Solley	A Roman site at Aust, Gloucestershire	
		Published: Trans. B. G. A. S. vol. 85 (1966)	
6.	A. J. H. Gunstone	Romano-British pewter-moulds in the Bath area	
7.	C. Browne	Resistivity survey at Lower Field Farm, Hinton	
8.	C. Browne	Celtic fields in North Somerset	
9.	Mrs. F. Neale	The Saxon Charter for Wrington	
		Published: Wrington Village Records	
		(University of Bristol Extra-Mural Dept. 1966)	
10.	M. Hebditch	Excavations at the Port Wall, Bristol	
		To be published: Trans. B. G. A. S. vol. 87 (1968)	
11.	J.H. Barrett	Restoration & Conservation of a Bone Flute from	
		Keynsham Abbey site	
12.	C. Browne	Magnetometer survey at Keynsham Abbey	

B. A. R. G. SYMPOSIUM NO.	2: 1966 . 26th November
1. P.J. Fowler	Excavations at Westmead, Butcombe, Some rset
 C. Browne & P. Lees M. Hebditch 	Roman finds at The Hams, Keynsham
3. M. Hebditch	Excavations at Sea Mills, 1966
4. C. Browne	Proposals for the implementation of the
	B. A. R. G. Survey and Policy
5. J.E. Hancock	Exhibition of Neolithic potsherd from the
	Kerlescan Tertre Tumulaire, Carnac, Brittany

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B . A	.R.G. SYMPOSIUM NO	D. 3: 1967	25th November
1.	Mrs. A. Everton	A flint site at	Ebbor (ST 52775057)

Fieldwork on a site above Ebbor Gorge, Wookey, Some rset has produced evidence of prehistoric and medieval occupation. Mesolithic. Neolithic and Bronze Age flints were found, including microliths, arrowheads, knives and serrated blades some of which showed a narrow band of lustre pattern considered to be associated with woodworking, gravers and borers, a polished stone axe of Group VII (Graig Lwyd) and a fragment of jadeite stone axe, with about 250 assorted scrapers. Burnt flints were mainly localised in one patch. The two stone axes, both now in Bristol Museum, are of types not found before in the south-west. The flints suggest a hilltop, hunting and woodworking community; while numerous waste flakes and cores reflect the manufacture of implements on a considerable scale. Much evidence was also found of a 12th-13th C. settlement, with pottery, building platforms, associated field-system and trackway. Plans are in hand to survey and publish the site. The collection of flints are to be deposited in Axbridge Museum.

2. J. Drinkwater

The present state of barrow archaeology in south Gloucestershire

A shortened version of this paper which surveyed the alarming destruction, deliberate or accidental, of Gloucestershire barrows and emphasised the urgent need for further research, excavation and intelligent conservation, appeared in B. A. R. G. <u>Bulletin</u> vol. 2, no. 9 (December 1967) p. 120-121.

3. A. Vince.

Roman sites near Keynsham

Apart from the well-known two villa sites excavated by Bulleid, and the third Roman building cut by the bypass, recent finds of 2nd-4th C. pottery have now been made in the area where Roman coffins and other material have been recorded during the 19th and 20th - 13 -

centuries. This occupation area centred on Ashton Hill, between R. Avon and the Chew valley. A second focus of recent Romanfinds has been the Burnett area, where a villa site, with pottery, was re-identified near Myna Wood, and other finds made at Manor Wood and Tagbury. Fieldwork suggests an extensive Roman settlement of this sizeable area, which needs continued investigation.

4. Dr. K. Branigan

Gatcombe excavations

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The 1967 excavations of this Roman settlement investigated a baulk left from the 1965 season, which exposed rubble from the destroyed buildings and suggested a date of late 3rd-4th C. for the latest layers of the site. The main area of excavation, however, was at the N.E. corner of the wall, which proved to have a rounded exterior corner of fine masonry blocks - characteristic of military architecture - but no ditch or bastion. Two layers of debris associated with the wall have provided new dating evidence, to suggest that it was built in the mid-late 3rd C. There were indications, as yet undated, of subsequent re-use of the wall stones. Burning, slag, iron debris and copper have suggested industrial activity; and there is a possibility that the site might be associated with the pottery industry of the Somerset levels.

5.

Mrs. F. Neale

New documentary evidence for the mining community at Shipham :

The impoverished hill-village of Shipham became suddenly prosperous as the centre of the Mendip calamine mining 'rush' in the 16-18th century. Manorial records newly available in the Somerset Records Office throw fresh light on the development of the village, with its extraordinary cellular street-pattern, extensive gruffies, and calamine ovens. Court records show frequent, fruitless presentments of squatters building on the common, beside their mining claims. A map of 1791 (when Collinson wrote of "upwards of 100 of these mines ... in the street, in the yards, in the very houses") shows the common ground of Shipham Hill in the process of in-filling with miners' illicit building, to leave the present tortuous lanes between plots. "Two volumes of Calamine Accounts, 1813-1815, provide a rare example of the business records of this Mendip mining industry.

6.

A collection of magnificent air-photographs provided a bird's-eye résumé of the B. A. R. G. weekend school, <u>Wansdyke</u>: <u>A Re-examination</u>, held in April 1967, covering Wansdyke itself and nearby earthworks and cropmarks.

B. A. R. G. PUBLICATIONS

As the Hon. Editor (Special Publications) reported at the Annual General Meeting, B. A. R. G. Field Guide No. 2, <u>Roman Sites</u>, is proving the best-seller of the series so far, with nearly 600 copies sold in the first two months. Field Guide No. 1, <u>Prehistoric Sites</u>, has now more than covered its costs, and continues to sell, making a profit for the Group's funds. Field Guide No. 3, <u>Medieval Sites</u>, the last of the series, is in active preparation, with a view to publication early in 1969.

REVIEWS

Max Hebditch and L. V. Grinsell, <u>Roman Sites in the Mendip</u>, <u>Cotswold</u>, <u>Wye Valley and Bristol Region</u>. B. A. R. G. Field Guide No. 2 (Norman Bros., 1968). 32 pp. 3/6.

This booklet is a guide in the true sense. It is aimed at those who wish to begin the study of their own neighbourhood under Roman occupation. The historical introduction condenses the social and political history into two pages but does not seem to omit anything of real importance. There follow chapters on the Military Sites, Towns, Villas and the Countryside, Temples and Tombs, Industries and finally, Roads.

Each chapter follows the same principle. The introductory paragraphs mention some of the more important sites now destroyed or covered over and say where the finds may be seen. This is followed by longer descriptions of others where a visit would be rewarding. Their positions are given as National Grid References (unfortunately not always exact) but with few other directions as to the best approach. Even beginners, however, should learn to read a map. For all the sites that can be visited and some of the others a reference is given to the most useful published report. At the end there is a welcome list of museums where Roman collections can be seen.

Little of importance has been missed, but it is rather surprising that the very obvious Roman road (Margary 543) from the ferry at Newnham to the Fosse Way at Easton Grey is omitted. The disused section zig-zagging up the Cotswold escarpment is quite impressive. There is nothing to be seen of the illicit mint at Whitchurch, but surely it deserved a mention for its contribution to the social history of the time. A distribution map would be too much to ask for in a pamphlet of this size. It is to be hoped that the Group will produce one in due course.

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The format is over-large for the ordinary jacket pocket and hardly stout enough to stand up to extensive use in the field. The authors might well consider having the second edition, which is inevitable, printed in a smaller size and with more robust covers.

H.S. Gracie

H. C. Darby & R. Welldon Finn (Editors), The Domesday Geography of South-west England. (C. U. P., 1967). xiv, 469 pp., 95 maps. 6 gns.

The Normans' own term for their great survey of 1086 was the "Descriptio"; but for the modern student one of the major difficulties in using it has been to reconstitute the landscape from which were wrenched the units of land-tenure on which the "description" was based. For many sites and indeed whole areas, Domesday Book is the earliest surviving documentary evidence, and in this volume we now have both a detailed analysis and a stimulating topographical reconstruction of it for the counties of Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall (Gloucestershire was included in the 1954 West Midlands volume).

General, county and regional analyses and summaries of every class of information to be gleaned from both the Domesday and Exon Domesday texts are so arranged that it is possible to study any one aspect (woodland; water-mills)or any one area (Mendip; the Some rset levels) with facility. As with previous volumes, the 95 clearly-drawn maps make an immediate impact. As far as possible, every item of information is pinned to the ground - a tremendous achievement - so at a glance we can appreciate, for example, details of settlement distribution (figs. 81-83), population (figs. 84-85) and pasture (fig. 92) over the whole region or, at a larger scale, for each of the counties. The Somerset maps (figs. 33-50) make visual statements about the absence of settlement on high ground (fig. 36), the inland fisheries around the Levels (fig. 45) and the relative importance of sheep in the north-east of the county (fig. 49).

The relevance of this massive study to further work, by archaeological or other means, on the parly history of our area is obvious. It amplifies and defines a splendid horizon for settlement studies from which we can work backwards through our Charters to - who knows? - pre-Saxon settlement patterns, and forwards to the rural expansion of the following two centuries. Banwell, quoted as a sample Somerset entry, forms with Winscombe, Sandford and Shipham, one geographical unit with complex subdivisions of tenure reflected in later medieval records and present day hamlets; and with territorial boundaries in which parish bounds, Saxon charters and perhaps even the important Roman sites dotting the valley may all play a part. "While the excavator of a medieval site will welcome it for his historical background material, the real value of this volume will surely lie in the questions prompted and the answers sought within the local context of parish or manor by the individual fieldworker familiar with his own area. It is not designed to replace The Revd. E. H. Bates' translation and correlation of the actual text in V. C. H. <u>Somerset</u> vol. i (1906), nor J. H. Round's study in the same volume which was concerned primarily with the people of Domesday Somerset; but the people are now set in the countryside "described" in 1086.

Unfortunately the price of this volume, though very reasonable by modern standards, will prevent many from owning it. May we hope that, in their wisdom, the guardians of our public purse will at least allow a copy in every reference library in the South West?

F. Neale and P.J. Fowler

NOTICES OF RECENT AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Members' attention is drawn to the Local History Bulletin produced by the Gloucestershire Community Council (Hon. Ed., Mrs., M. Mackay, Community House, College Green, Gloucester), which appears twice yearly; the next number is due in April 1968. This publication performs a very similar function to <u>B. A. R. G. Bulletin</u> in publicising and coordinating the activities of local societies; and as our areas overlap in south Gloucestershire, it forms a valuable complement to <u>B. A. R. G. Bulletin</u> for members in that area. The last issue, No.: 16 for Autumn 1967, included general information, future plans, and reports from the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club, Forest of Dean Local History Society, Kingswood & District Local History Society, Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society, Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology, and Gloucester City Museum.

Several general books published recently contain so many references to this area, that they merit a note alongside specifically local publications.

Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society vol. 86, for 1967.

This volume includes papers on "Bevan's Quarry Round Barrow, Temple Guiting, 1964" by H.E. O'Neil (pp. 16-42), "The excavation of an Iron Age Hillfort on Bathampton Down" by G. J. Wainwright (pp. 42-60), an "Experiment in Iron Age Agriculture" by P. J. Reynolds (pp. 60-74) and "Two mosaicists of the Corinian School" by D. E. Johnston (pp. 102-107). Dr. Graham Webster reports on the Barnsley Park Roman villa excavations 1961-1966 (pp. 74-84), with a report on beetle remains from the Roman well there by G. R. Coope and P. J. Osborne (pp. 84-88). The Presidential address on "Glevum" is accompanied by two papers on recent archaeological work in Gloucester by A. G. Hunter and R. Abbott.

A. Ross:, Pagan Celtic Britain (Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1967) 6 gns.

A handsome volume in which Miss Ross has surveyed current knowledge of Iron Age and Romano-British native religions, and assembled a religious framework into which individual sites and finds can be meaningfully fitted. Many of her examples come from the B. A. R. G. area, and range from the primitive ritual skull-burials of Wookey, to the grand scale of Lydney and sophistication of Bath. The price of the book is a result of its outstanding illustrations: excellent photographs, and drawings well worth the attention of trainee archaeological draughtsmen. showing that small size need not prevent clarity, nor technical detail be incompatible with sensitive drawing. . .

M. Beresford, New Towns of the Middle Ages (Lutterworth, 1967) 5 gns.

Another expensive but well-produced reference book, compiled with the author's usual ability to make scholarly history into attractive reading .--- While concerned with the deliberate creation of new towns in-12-13th century, he has much to say about medieval towns in general, which will be of value if B. A. R. G. organises a weekend course on the subject. Some quite unexpected Gloocestershire and Somerset towns (and, now, villages or less) feature in the good gazeteers: such as Northleach and Chipping Sodbury, Rackley and Nether Weare.

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Archaeological Review for 1967: Number 2, ed. P. J. Fowler. C. B. A. Groups XII & XIII. Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, Bristol University. 3/6 (4/- inc. postage)

This excellent survey of all branches of archaeological activity in Wessex and the South-west has changed in its second year to a compact and pleasing printed format. The contents are as before: a gazeteer of the year's work by periods; museum accessions, notes and a very useful list of national and local publications concerning the region. In contrast to the foregoing luxury volumes, a value-for-money basic for everyone's bookshelf.

W. G. Hoskins, Fieldwork in Local History (Faber & Faber, 1967) 25s.

This completes the pioneer trio - with "<u>Making of the English</u> Landscape" (1955) and "Local History in England" (1959) - in which Dr. Hoskins brings archaeologist and historian together, in the field. He explores and demonstrates with all his usual stimulating, practical detail the techniques and potential of fieldwork, of becoming, in his own phrase, "visually literate", using several Somerset examples. A good starting-point for the summer's fieldwork!

Keynsham & District Local History Society: Study Groups' Reports, 1967. (Hon. Secretary, Hunters Hill, Oakfield Road, Keynsham), 1s. 0d.

This first publication of the Society covers a wide variety of historical, archaeological and industrial subjects, including prehistoric and Roman finds and fieldwork, and shows the wide scope of worthwhile study open to an enthusiastic local group. We understand that the next edition is due to appear in April.

T. T. Birbeck, Caldicot Castle (reprinted, 1966)

The prospect of summer trips across the Severn Bridge offers an opportunity to note that the 12-14th C. Caldicot Castle, near Caerwent, is now open to the public and well worth a visit. This booklet provides a clear and useful guide.

A Guide Catalogue to the Prehistoric Collections in Bristol Museum, by L. V. Grinsell, is due to be published in April and will be on sale at the Museum. This important aid to local archaeological research will be reviewed in a future issue of the Bulletin.

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BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

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Oxford. Ashmolean Museum Library.

Weston-Super-Mare. Public Library and Museum. Woodstock. Oxford City and County Museum.

By exchange

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Axbridge. Axbridge Caving and Archaeological Society. Cardiff. Council for British Archaeology. Group II. Keynsham. Keynsham and Saltford Local History Society. Stockholm. Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities. Well:. Wells Natural History and Archaeological Society.

SOCIETIES AND SITES: SUMMER PLANS

'Press dates' for B. A. R. G. <u>Bulletin</u> invariably fall at those three points of the year when local secretaries and excavation directors are in the last stages of planning their programmes; and while they are most co-operative in providing details for the B. A. R. G. <u>Calendar</u> where available, it may also be useful to include general notes of other plans.

The Archaeology of North Somerset: a course of lectures by W. J. Wedlake at Timsbury, arranged for April-May. Details from University of Bristol Extra-Mural Dept., 20A Berkeley Square, Bristol 8.

Banwell, Ten Acres: excavation of Roman villa with bath-house, directed by Mr. D. Tomalin for Weston-super-Mare Museum will continue, probably from Easter. Small number of experienced volunteers required. Enquiries to Mr. Tomalin.

<u>Clevedon & District Archaeological Society:</u> (Hon. Sec., 26 Hallam Road, Clevedon, Som.) outline summer programme available, and News-sheet due out March, 1968. See Calendar, 26 May and 7 September.

Gatcombe Roman site: excavations directed by Dr. K. Branigan for the University of Bristol will continue in June. This is an excavation by the Classics Department, but visitors (within reason) are welcome.

Keynsham & Saltford Local History: (Hon: Sec., Hunters Hill, Oakfield Road, Keynsham, Bristol) second Study Groups' Report due out in April 1968; summer programme in course of arrangement. See Calendar, 18 May.

Sea Mills Roman site: excavations will continue as circumstances permit, and a future Symposium may, it is hoped, provide opportunity to keep B. A. R. G. members up to date with developments.

University of Bristol Spelaeological Society: archaeological activities this summer will include re-excavation of the Hyaena Den, Wookey Hole and a fortnight's excavation at Stoke Leigh Camp, Bristol, in June.

Wells Natural History & Archaeological Society: (Hon. Sec., 8 Chamberlain Street, Wells) summer programme, including Witham Priory excavations, available March.

Westhay area, prehistoric timber trackway: no official excavation this year, but Dr. J. M. Coles may continue investigations in May-June.

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CALENDAR OF

FORTHCOMING EXCAVATIONS, COURSES AND MEETINGS

April - September 1968

April 8 Westbury College, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol: excavation directed by <u>M. Ponsford for Bristol City</u> Museum, for six weeks; volunteers required; apply to City Museum.

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May

- 16 Features of Somerset Churches: lecture by Dr. R. D. Reid. S. A. N. H. S. Weston-super-Mare Branch, at the Art Gallery, Weston-super-Mare, 7.00 p. m.
- Road, Rail and River between Bath and Bristol:
 lecture by N. Cossons, Keynsham and Saltford Local
 History Society, at Ellsbridge House, Keynsham,
 7. 30 p. m.
- 20 <u>Silbury Hill excavations</u>) <u>Industrial Archaeo logy:</u> (provisional plans)) BBC 2) television pro-

gramme

- 27 Annual General Meeting of Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society at Taunton Castle, details from the Secretary.
 - 1 Corn Street, Small Street and Broad Street, Bristol: City Museum conducted walk, led by J. W. Totterdill; meet at 7.00 p.m. in the Flower Market, behind Exchange: entrance from Corn St., High St., or St. Nicholas St.
- 3-5 Western Britain in the Iron Age: residential weekend course at Rodney Lodge, Clifton. Applications to University of Bristol Extra-Mural Dept., 20A Berkeley Square, Bristol 8.
- 10 Annual General Meeting of Banwell Society of Archaeology, at Methodist Church Hall, Banwell, 7.30 p.m.
- 18 <u>Evesham and district</u>: spring meeting of <u>Bristol &</u> <u>Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.</u> Details from Miss D. Bailey, 'Garth', Westhill, Wraxall, Nr. Bristol.

May

June

- 18 Lansdown: prehistoric & Roman sites: aft ernoon fieldmeeting of Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society. led by C. Browne; meet at North Stoke parish church. Visitors welcome; details from Hon. Sec. (see p. 25).
- 26 Caerphilly Castle and Roman fort, Welsh Folk Museum: field-meeting of Clevedon & District Archaeological Society; tickets £1, details from Hon. Sec.(see p. 26).
- 1-16 Iron Age/Romano-British Settlement, Row of Ashes Farm, Butcombe, Somerset: 3rd season of excavation, including training, directed by P.J. Fowler; details from University of Bristol Extra-Mural Dept., 20A Berkeley • ! Square, Bristol 8.
 - 1 Fishbourne Roman Villa: BBC 2 television programme
 - 1 22The Mapping of Bristol: exhibition at City Museum. Bristol to mark the 400th anniversary of William Smith's map. 1568.
 - 1. Bristol Castle area: excavations directed by M. Ponsford for Bristol City Museum, in Cock & Bottle Lane on presumed site of Norman keep. Volunteers required; · apply to City Museum.

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- Cumberland Basin & the Floating Harbour: City Museum conducted walk, led by Dr. R.A Buchanan. Meet at 7.00 p.m. in Anchor Road, behind the Central Library.
- 6 Dodington and District: meeting of Forest of Dean Local History Society. Hon. Sec., The Revd. Canon R. J. Mansfield, The Vicarage, Newnham, Glos.
- 6 -27 ...! Excavation and Surveying: Barnsley Park Roman villa, Glos. : excavation and tuition, directed by Dr. G. Webster and P. J Fowler; details from Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363, Birmingham 15.
 - Tickets for Caldicot Castle trip on sale: see August 7; limited number only available.
- 10-30 Upton, nr. Blockley, Glos: excavation of deserted medieval village will continue, directed by Prof. R. Hilton and P.A. Rahtz for the School of History University of Birmingham.

July

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July 11 - August 10	150th Anniversary of the Institute of Civil Engineers: exhibition at Bristol City Museum; of special interest to industrial archaeologists.
July 13 - August 24	South Cadbury excavations, directed by L. Alcock (for information; only experienced male volunteers now accepted). Guided tours of site and finds during excavations.
July 17-20	Summer Meeting of Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, in Staffordshire. Details from Miss D. Bailey, 'Garth', Westhill, Wraxall, Nr. Bristol.
July 20 - August 24	Meare I. A. Lake Village: excavations will continue, directed by <u>M Avery, Dept. of</u> <u>Archaeology</u> , 17 University Square, Belfast 3, N. Ireland, to whom applications should be made.
July 27-28	Experimental Earthwork, Overton Down: a few experienced volunteers required for sectioning; enquiries to <u>P. J. Fowler, University of Bristol</u> Extra-Mural Dept., 20A Berkeley Square, Bristol 8.
July 28 - Sept. 4	Megalithic Art: exhibition of rubbings by Peter Rawstorne at the City Museum, Bristol.
August 3	<u>Cffa's Dyke</u> : three-week (or part of) walk organised by W. E. A. (West Midlands) and Y. H. A. along whole of the dyke. Details: Y. H. A. (Home Tours Dept.), 29 John Adam Street, London W. C. 2.
3-29	Excavation and Fieldwork: Fyfield Down: tenth and final season of I. A. excavation, and R. B. training excavation, directed by <u>P. J. Fowler</u> ; details from <u>University of Bristol Extra-Mural Dept.</u> , 20A Berkeley Square, Bristol 8.
7	Caldicot Castle, Chepstow: <u>City Museum conducted</u> walk, led by T. T. Birbeck (see p. 18) leaving by soach at 6.30 p.m. from City Museum, University Road (Lecture Theatre) entrance. Admission by ticket only, from Sales Counter of City Museum, from July 8 (80 only available).
August 10 - September 1	Beckery, Glastonbury: excavations of the Migration/ Early Medieval chapel, directed by P.A. Rahtz for the Chalice Well Trust. will continue.

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- Prehistoric Society Conference in Bristol. Details from L.V. Grinsell, F.S.A., City Museum, Bristol.
- B. A. R. G. and U. B. S. S. : hosts to the Prehistoric Society in the new Gallery of South-western British Archaeology, City Museum, Bristol (see p. 10).
- <u>Chedworth and Witcombe Roman villas: meeting of</u> the Forest of Dean Local History Society. Hon. Sec., see July 6.
- Farleigh Hungerford & Bradford-on-Avon: meeting of <u>Clevedon & District Archaeological Society</u>, details from Hon. Sec., (see p. 25).
- Prehistoric Paintings: exhibition at <u>City Museum</u>, Bristol.
 - Wye Valley: Autumn meeting of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. Details from Miss D. Bailey, 'Garth', Westhill, Wraxall, Nr. Bristol.

Cadbury Camp, Congresbury, Somerset: trial excavation directed by P. J. Fowler, K. Gardner, and P. Rahtz. For details see B. A. R. G. Bulletin vol. 2, no. 9 (1967), 138.

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