

BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP BULLETIN

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It is hoped to publish this Bulletin
about April, September, and December
each year until further notice.

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BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

Officers and Committee for 1962/3

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Membership:

Membership of B.A.R.G. is for the present by invitation only. The annual subscription (due 1st April) is ten shillings for those aged 18 or over, and five shillings for those under 18. There is no entrance fee. Those wishing to be invited may apply to the Secretary.

EDITORIAL FOREWORD

In this first issue of the Bulletin of the Bristol Archaeological Research Group it would seem appropriate to review some of the aims which were adopted at our inaugural meeting on 7th March, 1962. The purpose of B.A.R.G. is to carry out archaeological research - and this means fieldwork and research on existing collections, as well as excavations - in the Bristol area. Above all we accept the cardinal principle that no archaeological discovery is a discovery until it has been published in the best possible way. All our work must be consistent with the best standards that have been evolved in British archaeological research during the last generation and must take into account the application of modern scientific techniques which are being developed.

Such research as we envisage above must clearly have a purpose and be pursued with method. To this end your Committee proposes to produce as soon as possible a Survey and Policy for archaeological research in the Bristol area. Period by period, from the Palaeolithic to post-Medieval times the Survey and Policy will indicate the state of archaeological knowledge about that period in the area and the directions which future research should take. It is likely to be produced in Sections but these will be uniform in their format. It may be that emergency action, particularly in excavation, will from time to time take precedence in our activities but we expect the Survey and Policy will be the basis of our members' work.

In addition, we hope to give special encouragement to our junior members so that they might obtain reliable guidance in their approach to archaeology.

The Bristol Archaeological Research Group has been formed to give leadership in these matters to the ever increasing numbers of people who, as a result of greater education and leisure, are anxious to take part seriously in archaeological research. Never was their interest and active help more sorely needed when earth-moving operations, such as building, quarrying, road making and agriculture are disturbing the ground on a larger scale than ever before.

It is our intention to give this leadership without in any way conflicting with the existing archaeological institutions in the area. Co-operation with the City Museum at Bristol is a keystone of our policy and both the Museum and Research Group stand to gain from this association. In the same way it is felt that our relationship with the established archaeological societies with long and distinguished traditions will be equally beneficial to both parties. Every member of B.A.R.G. will be encouraged to join his appropriate County Archaeological Society. Experience elsewhere has shown that the formation of an archaeological research group has resulted in an increased membership of the County Society. As an instance of this we may quote the relations between the Berkshire Archaeological Society and the Berkshire Field Research Group, concerning which it is hoped to publish an article in the next issue of the B.A.R.G. Bulletin.

Already several local societies have welcomed our formation and we look forward to a happy association with all those working for the good of archaeology in the West Country.

ALAN WARHURST
L. V. GRINSELL

FUTURE NUMBERS OF THIS BULLETIN

As this is the first issue of this Bulletin, produced at very short notice, editorial policy is still flexible, and I hope that it will remain so.

At this early stage, B.A.R.G. can learn much from the work and experience of other archaeological research groups formed since the War, and it is intended to include in each issue, until further notice, a short account of one of these Groups, by its Chairman or Secretary.

It is also hoped to include in each issue a statement of a particular problem in local archaeology in need of a solution. This is intended to stimulate our members - especially our younger members - to undertake research on specific problems. Our first problem is in this issue: that of ascertaining whether the Cweorn Cleofu of the Saxon charter of Pucklechurch was a quern quarry.

The Editor will welcome any suggestions from members on any methods of adding to the value of this Bulletin. It should however be stressed that in principle a cyclostyled periodical is an unsuitable medium in which to publish anything in the nature of excavation reports or discoveries unless they are definitely to be published subsequently in a permanent form.

ENQUIRY INTO THE PETROLOGY OF QUERNS

A Quern Enquiry covering Gloucestershire, Somerset, and Wiltshire has recently been started through the initiative of Mr. Grant King (Little Cheverell, Devizes, Wiltshire), and our member Dr. J.W. Cowie (Dept. of Geology, The University, Bristol). It has received the blessing of the Implement Petrology Committee for the South-West, and has been integrated into their programme. It has been decided to include querns and allied material from the Neolithic to the Medieval period inclusive. Further information is obtainable from either Mr. Grant King (hon. secretary to the Enquiry) or Dr. Cowie.

"There must be plenty of quern-quarries to be found by field-work, and there are certainly plenty of querns to be examined petrologically and traced to their source in exactly the same way as have the stone axes..... A new field of research is waiting to be explored".

THE "CWEORN CLEOFU" OF THE PUCKLECHURCH SAXON CHARTER:

an unsolved problem

The inauguration of the Quern Enquiry, just described, calls to mind a reference in a Saxon charter of Pucklechurch, reputed date about A.D. 950, to Cweorn Cleofu, which Dr.G.B.Grundy translated as either "Quern Cliff" or "Steep Slope", adding that another charter used the term cweorn for a hill where there was stone suitable for the making of querns or handmills (G. B. Grundy, Saxon Charters of Gloucestershire, 1936, 213). Part of the Pucklechurch area is on pennant sandstone which would have been suitable for a quern quarry. Grundy suggested that the site may have been in the vicinity of the ridge east of the River Frome and S.E. of Watley's End, - roughly N.G.R. 663 804. The interpretation of the Pucklechurch charter does, however, involve many difficulties, and there is also perhaps an element of uncertainty as to the correct translation of the Saxon cweorn. On the other hand, Wharncliffe, north of Sheffield, is known to be derived from quern cliff, and there is an extensive quern quarry on the site, which has been studied by Mr. L. H. Butcher of the Hunter Archaeological Society, and it is hoped that this will soon be published.

NOTICES OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Clifford, E.M., and others. Bagendon: a Belgic Oppidum. Heffer, Cambridge, 1961. 63/-

This handsome volume describes Mrs.Clifford's excavations at the tribal capital of the Dobunni at Bagendon about three miles north of Cirencester. It includes chapters on the more general topics of "the Pre-Belgic Iron Age cultures of Gloucestershire" by Mrs. M. A. Cotton; "the Western Third C Culture and the Belgic Dobunni" by Prof. C. F. C. Hawkes; and "a Study of the Dobunnic Coinage" by Mr. Derek F. Allen. This is the first fundamental study of the Iron Age on the Cotswolds to be published.

Toynbee, J. M. C. Art in Roman Britain. Phaidon Press (for Society for Promotiin of Roman Studies), 1962. 70/-

A lavishly produced volume on the objects shown at the Exhibition of Roman Art in Britain at the Goldsmiths' Hall, London, 1961. It includes well-known objects from Bath, the glass bowl from Wint Hill (Banwell), altars from Custom Scrubs (Bisley), and the bronze votive statuettes recently found at the temple site above Bruton.

E. M. Jope (Editor). Studies in Building History. Odhams Press Ltd. 1962
3 guineas.

This volume is a tribute to the work of the late Bryan H. St. John O'Neil, in the form of a series of chapters by eminent authorities on various aspects of

his work. Most of the chapters are concerned with architecture, but the volume includes chapters by Prof. I. A. Richmond on "Roman Timber Building" and by Mrs. H. O'Neil on "Some Features of Building Construction in a Rural Area of Roman Britain", - the latter dealing with the Cotswolds.

Bowen H. C. Ancient Fields. British Association for Advancement of Science, 1961. 7/6d.

An excellent study of the techniques involved in the proper study of "Celtic" fields, strip-lynchets, and other ancient field systems. It is to be hoped that members of B.A.R.G. may be induced to study and publish the ancient field systems on Mendip and the Cotswolds by applying the methods here outlined.

Transactions of Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, vol. 79, 1961

This is the first volume of Transactions of this Society to be issued in a quarto format, and both the Society and its Editor are to be congratulated on the change. The volume is in two Parts. Part I consists entirely of a paper by Mrs. H. E. O'Neil and another, on "Gloucestershire Barrows", which includes the few possible examples in the county of Bristol. The paper has its own index. This is believed to be the first occasion on which the Society has embarked on a field-archaeological publication of this size as part of its Transactions, and it has done it with the aid of a C. B. A. publication grant. It is uncertain whether the beehive-structures near Bibury are Neolithic or comparatively recent.

Part II includes various papers on field archaeology, for example "Excavations by the Town Hall, Baldwin Street, Bristol", by Mr. P. A. Rahtz; "Excavations at Back Hall, Bristol, by Mr. K. J. Barton; and "Strip Lynchets in the Gloucestershire Cotswolds", by Dr. Graeme Whittington. The reviewer was frankly disappointed with the last paper, especially with the maps, the more so because it is believed that the author, who knows more about strip lynchets than anyone else, can and will do very much better.

Proceedings of Somersetshire Archaeological Society, vol. 105, 1961

This volume includes papers on the Wraxall Roman Villa, by Mr. C. M. Sykes and others, and on Barrow Mead, Bath (a series of Medieval earthworks near Englishcombe), by Mr. P. A. Rahtz.

Proceedings of the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society, Vol. 9, no. 2. 1961

The bulk of this issue comprises (pages 67-136) a paper on "The Stratigraphy and Archaeology of the Late-Glacial and Post-Glacial Deposits at Brean Down, Somerset", by Mr. A. M. ApSimon, Dr. D. T. Donovan, and Dr. H. Taylor. The archaeological implications for the Bristol region in general are indicated in the admirably concise summary on pp. 122-7.

PUBLICATIONS IN THE PRESS

Culture and Environment: Essays in Honour of Sir Cyril Fox. This volume of essays is to be published by Routledge and Kegan Paul at 4 guineas (3 guineas to subscribers applying not later than 30th April). It includes important essays on field archaeology by Sir Mortimer Wheeler, Glyn Daniel, H.N. Savory, Stuart Piggott, W.F. Grimes, T.G.E. Powell, Lily F. Chitty, C.F.C. Hawkes and R.R. Clarke, Ian A. Richmond, Colin A. Gresham, Leslie Alook, and E.M. Jope, as well as a series of essays on architectural subjects by equally distinguished authorities. Many of these essays have an obvious bearing on the archaeology of the Bristol region and the Severn basin. The publication date is not yet announced.

A Brief Numismatic History of Bristol, by L. V. Grinsell. To be published shortly by the City Museum, Bristol. Publication date and price not yet fixed, but probably not exceeding 3/6d.

This will be a booklet about 30 pages long, describing the coins minted in Bristol from Saxon times to the reign of William III, the tokens made between the 16th and the 19th century for circulation in Bristol, and the historical medals struck to commemorate notable Bristol events.

FORTHCOMING COURSES AND LECTURES

Courses between Easter and Whitsun

Tuesdays 7.0 - 9.0 p.m., in the City Museum, Bristol. For particulars of lectures on the archaeology of south-western England, apply to L. V. Grinsell, The City Museum, Bristol.8.

Thursdays 7.30 - 9.0 p.m., in the City Museum, Bristol, beginning 26th April. The Preparation of Archaeological Reports. Six lectures, to be given by Messrs. P. A. Rahtz, Alan Warhurst, and L. V. Grinsell. Fee: 7/6d. Apply to the City Museum for programmes.

Weekend Courses

Sat./Sun. 5/6 May. New Trends in Archaeology. At Dillington House near Ilminster. Lecturers: Dr. A. E. Werner, Mrs. B. Westley, H. W. M. Hodges, and Mr. S. Rees Jones. Details from City Museum or Dillington House. Fee: £2 - 4 - 0

Fri./Sun. 18/20 May. The Field Archaeology of Exmoor. At South Molton Further Education Centre (non-residential). Lecturers: Lady (Aileen) Fox, C. Whybrow, and L.V. Grinsell. Fee: 15/- Details from the City Museum, Bristol.

Lectures etc.

- Saturday 28 April. Taunton Castle. Annual Meeting of Somerset Archaeological Society. 2.30 p.m. Mr. C. A. Raleigh Radford, The Church in Somerset down to A.D. 1100
- Wednesday, 2 May. City Museum Walk. Kings Weston Hill and Blaise Castle. Leader: L. V. Grinsell. Meet at 7 p.m. at Kings Weston Hill (Park Gates), beneath the bridge.
- Thursday 17 May. 7.15 p.m., in the City Museum, Bristol. Bath & Bristol Numismatic Society: lecture by Mr. R. H. M. Dolley, F.S.A., The Norwegians in the Irish Sea: The Coin evidence. Visitors welcome.
- Wed./Sat. 18/21 July. Summer Meeting of Bristol & Glos. Archaeological Society, at Cardiff. It is understood that their president, Dr. Glyn Daniel, will be present and will speak at megalithic monuments to be visited.
- Thurs./Sun. 6/9 Sept. Summer Conference of the Prehistoric Society at Dorchester.

CURRENT AND FORTHCOMING EXCAVATIONS

Excavations by B.A.R.G.

St. James's Priory Church, Haymarket, Bristol. It is intended to undertake an emergency excavation on this site between Easter and W itsun. Details obtainable from the City Museum.

Lower Knapp Farm, Cam, Glos. It is hoped to undertake further work at this site, which is yielding Secondary Neolithic pottery, in the near future. In the meantime the Committee are examining the site with geophysical appliances. Details will in due course be obtainable from the City Museum.

Other Excavations

Cheddar. Saxon Palace site. Our Excavations Adviser, Mr. P. A. Rehtz, is conducting an important and extensive excavation on this site, on behalf of the Ministry of Works, and is able to accommodate as many volunteers as can be obtained. Apply to Mr. P. A. Rehtz, M.O.W. Excavations, Manor Farm, Cheddar, Somerset.

Frocester Court Roman Villa (A.D. 250-400). Capt. H. S. Gracie will be continuing excavations from 16th April till 19th May, and from 1st August till mid-September. Volunteers will be welcome, but beginners should not try to start at the weekend. Apply to Capt. H. S. Gracie, F.S.A., The Yew, Pin-farthings, Amberley, Glos.

Castle Neroche (Medieval fortified site), Somerset. This excavation will be continued under the joint direction of Mr. Brian K. Davison and Mr. G. Hawtin, from 13th August till 1st September. Apply to The Secretary, Somerset Archaeological Society, Taunton Castle, Taunton, before May 15th, 1962

Nettleton, Wilts. Excavations at the Romano-British Temple-Mausoleum by the Fosse Way N. E. of Bath will be continued under the direction of Mr. W. J. Wedlake from 4th till 11th August. Apply to P.J.Greening, Camerton Excavation Club, 19 Portland Place, Bath, Somerset.
