

BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP BULLETIN

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The official address of the Bristol Archaeological Research Group is:

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BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE, MARCH 1967.

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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

The opening of the Severn Bridge last September is leading many of us to take more interest in the archaeology of the Forest of Dean, the Wye Valley, and east Monmouthshire: areas all too often blotted out from our Bristol region distribution-maps by the use of appendages such as titles, north points, and scales. Workers in the palaeolithic and mesolithic fields of study this side of the Bristol Channel can only benefit from the new facilities for studying material of the same periods from the other side of the Channel. The long barrow enthusiast can now visit with comparative ease the south-east Welsh examples of the Severn-Cotswold Group. There is an increased possibility of "somebody" in the Bristol region doing a survey of Monmouthshire Barrows. The Gloucestershire Bronze Age implements are shrieking to be studied in the thorough manner that Colin Burgess has done for those in south-east Wales; and there will be better liaison between workers on both sides of the Bristol Channel concerned with the study of the later periods. The Monmouthshire Antiquary will no longer be a stranger on our bookshelves; and Trans. B. & G. A. S. will become more familiar among libraries and archaeologists in south-east Wales.

Already, the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society have opportunely arranged lectures on and excursions to the Forest of Dean; and others on the Wye Valley and east Monmouthshire may in due course be anticipated. We look forward to a joint meeting, in the not-too-distant future, of Groups II (Wales) and XIII (South-Western England) of the Council for British Archaeology.

A lavishly illustrated book on Archaeology in Dean, by Dr. Cyril E. Hart, M. A., F. R. Hist. S., has just appeared from John Bellows Ltd., and this will be reviewed in our September number. It should form a foundation on which all future workers can build. It is based largely on the work of Dr. J. Scott Garrett, to whom it is a tribute.

For personal reasons, the present Hon. Editor will be relinquishing his task with this number of the Bulletin. He has enjoyed the editorial experience and is grateful to all those who have helped him by writing contributions, by their constructive criticism, or in other ways. He is being succeeded by Mrs. Frances Neale, B. A., A. K. C., who is already well-known to most of our Members; she will bring to the task not only the feminine touch, but also many fresh ideas.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND ACCESSIONS
IN BRISTOL CITY MUSEUM

Most B. A. R. G. Members will be aware that a new Gallery of S. W. British Archaeology is being developed in the City Museum. It will be in the old Ethnographical Gallery which is now closed to the public, and the work on the new Archaeological Gallery is already in full swing. We are aiming at completion by the beginning of 1968.

In connection with this reorganisation, much time has recently been devoted to filling in important gaps in the local archaeological collection. Upper Palaeolithic flint implements from Gough's Caves, Cheddar, have been presented by the Management of Gough's Caves, and reproductions of others in their Museum have been made in the Museum laboratory. Electrotypes have been made of the six bronze figurines (Hercules, Mars, Mercury (2), Minerva, and a priest) from the Romano-Celtic temple-site on Lamyatt Beacon, Bruton, through the kindness of Mrs. C. M. Bennett and Mr. J. Jones. By courtesy of the Viscount & Viscountess Bledisloe, an electrotype has been obtained of the bronze statuette of a hunting dog found at Lydney and now in the Lydney Park Museum : a masterpiece of craftsmanship.

Other accessions since the beginning of this year include Roman pottery from Middle Hope, Kewstoke (Mr. J. E. Hancock), Roman pottery and other finds from Blacklands, Hall End, Yate (Mr. B. Isaacs), and a quern fragment from Cadbury Camp, Tickenham (Mr. D. C. Devenish).

In January the Museum had the good fortune to acquire a series of scarce 17th century trade tokens of Gloucestershire towns and villages, including Dursley, Marshfield, Minchinhampton, Newnham, Woodchester, and Wotton-under-Edge. These throw much light on the social history of their period.

ASSISTANCE TO THOSE PREPARING ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTS

L. V. Grinsell will be pleased to assist any member of B. A. R. G. who is doing his best to produce any report on any archaeological work, whether excavational or otherwise. He is prepared to devote one evening per month to this work by arrangement. Will any members who wish to avail themselves of this offer please write to the Editor, B. A. R. G., The City Museum, Bristol, 8.

THE BRISTOL MEETING OF GROUP XIII (S. W.) OF THE COUNCIL FOR
BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY, 18th March, 1967.

On the afternoon of Saturday 18th March, the South-Western Group (XIII) of the C. B. A. held a Meeting in the City Museum lecture-theatre. The programme began with a Symposium on Recent Archaeological Work in the Region, arranged by Mr. Michael Owen of the Roman Baths Museum, Bath. The opening speakers were Dr. E. K. Tratman on "Pleistocene Remains from Picken's Hole, Mendip"; Dr. Isobel F. Smith on "Late Neolithic Pits at Cam, Gloucestershire" (the material from which is in the City Museum); and Mr. J. Warner Haldane on "Excavations at Stokeleigh Camp, 1966". (Mr. Haldane will be leading the City Museum's walk to the Clifton and Stokeleigh hill-forts on Wednesday 3rd May). Later speakers were Mr. Max Hebditch on "Excavations at the Roman Site at Sea Mills, 1966-7"; Mr. J. Laidlaw on "Excavation of a Roman Site at South Cadbury, 1966" (leavened with delightful humour); Leslie Grinsell on "The Bath Saxon and Norman Coin-Mint"; (essentially non-excavational archaeology); and Mr. Neil Cossons on the Colliery winding-engine recently removed from Old Mills near Radstock to the Department of Technology in the City Museum. This Symposium concluded with an account by Leslie Grinsell and Max Hebditch of the New Gallery of South-Western British Archaeology, now being constructed in the City Museum. Those present (about 80) were entertained to tea in the Museum Cafe by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Alderman Cyril Hebblethwaite, J. P., who welcomed the participants and listened to the main lecture after tea: a brilliant and well illustrated account by Mr. Leslie Alcock, F. S. A., on his Excavations at South Cadbury during 1966. The Chairman for the Meeting was Mr. Alan Warhurst. A remarkable feature of this Symposium was that none of the speakers exceeded his time.

It may not be generally known that individual membership of Group XIII of the C. B. A. costs only 2/6d per annum and those who join are automatically put on the mailing list for notices of the meetings. Application should be made to the Hon. Secretary, C. B. A. Group XIII, c/o the Roman Baths Museum, The Pump Room, Bath.

UNIVERSITY STAFF TUTORSHIPS IN ARCHAEOLOGY.

PART II: BRISTOL

by P. J. Fowler

The terms of reference of the staff tutorship in prehistory and archaeology in the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Bristol, were succinctly summarised under item 2 of the Particulars of Appointment sent to all applicants for the post created as from September, 1965: "The tutor will be required to conduct such extra-mural courses as may be deemed desirable, to stimulate an interest in his subject and to exercise general supervision over its teaching within the University's extra-mural region. In addition to conducting courses himself, he will be required to organise classes to be taken by other teachers, to advise part-time tutors and to maintain close relations with other departments of the University and with appropriate societies". Item 4 further stated that ~~the~~ tutor will be encouraged to undertake appropriate research, and, while this is a normal stipulation which can mean everything or nothing, its inclusion is important in view of the experience of some other archaeological staff tutors who, as has already been shown, are not officially encouraged to engage in research.

The Bristol Extra-Mural Department had of course been initiating archaeology courses as part of its normal provision since the late '40s. In Wiltshire especially, Harry Ross, the senior resident tutor, had been assiduous in promoting, often in association with the county archaeological society, some excellent courses ranging from fieldwork and excavation to high-level courses of lectures by distinguished scholars; and in Dorset, the late F. A. Ollett had successfully integrated archaeology into his teaching of local studies. Regular courses had also been established in such places as Gloucester, Cheltenham and Bristol itself, while the Department, through part-time tutors, helped pioneer the successful promotion of industrial archaeology when that arrived in the early '60s. Meanwhile, new types of course were being established, notably in collaboration with Birmingham University in the excavation of the Roman villa at Barnsley Park near Cirencester and in study tours abroad to various parts of the Roman empire. A survey of the way in which archaeology had developed, and might well develop further, in the Bristol extra-mural area was given in the Department's Annual Report for 1959-60 where, under the title 'The Place of Archaeology in the University's Extra-Mural Programme', the strong case for the appointment of a staff tutor in archaeology was elaborated.

Appendix I indicates how archaeology has developed at Bristol as an extra-mural subject in the last decade, though the last two columns show that its steady quantitative increase has barely kept pace with the expansion of extra-mural provision generally. It must be stressed that these figures relate only to quantity and carry no overtones with regard to quality. They suggest, nevertheless, that since the balmy AVM days of the 1950s, when archaeology is supposed to have reached its peak of popularity, a growing and more serious interest in the subject has been developing quietly beyond its more dramatic and photogenic manifestations.

In such an amorphous field as adult education, it is extremely difficult to assess results, particularly in the long-term; but it is legitimate to ask for whom are these archaeology courses intended and what are they meant to achieve. They represent, after all, the expenditure of public money and the professional involvement of many individuals and institutions. Inasmuch as one can generalise about people, many who come to archaeological courses fall into one of three readily identifiable categories, each with different expectations and needs. Firstly, there are those, often in well-established adult education groups, who have little knowledge of and only a passing interest in archaeology, sandwiching it for a winter between Comparative Religion and the Wind of Change in Africa in their quest for cultural ambience. Secondly, there are the archaeologically-minded, those with a real and permanent interest but with neither the time nor inclination to take what is perhaps basically a hobby further into the fields of practical work or intellectual endeavour. And thirdly, there is the small number of dedicated amateur archaeologists, often frighteningly knowledgeable on local matters, frequently spending much of their spare time in archaeological work, either over-confident or unaware of their real worth, and occasionally with a healthy if sometimes misplaced disrespect for the professional.

It is less easy to define other categories, though there are usually the curious, those who, one suspects, are conspicuous by their absence from the second meeting once the first has made it clear that archaeology is more than racy anecdotes of the Romantic Past and an extra-mural course more than 2 hours' undemanding sit-me-down entertainment each week. Nevertheless, an archaeological programme, consisting of all the departmental courses in a year, should try to be catholic in appeal even though the appeal be to a minute (0.001?) proportion of the total population in the area. It can be argued that the demand for general introductory and explanatory courses is just as legitimate as is that for specialised 'training' courses from the

active archaeological fraternity, though whether both should be under a university's aegis is a moot point.

The popular interest in archaeology is probably higher today than at any time previously. Despite the obvious dangers of this, on the whole the advantages outweigh the disadvantages of this situation, looking at it from the archaeological point of view. It is archaeologically important, quite apart from any personal benefit that an individual may obtain from an archaeological course, to maintain and stimulate an informed public interest in the subject, partly to counteract the melodramatic and often inaccurate publicity that the lunatic fringe is able to command and, more positively, to awaken a more responsible awareness of the origins and development of our man-made environment. The dissemination of some inkling of the delicate and complex relationships involved in the evolution of the environment we are so rapidly changing seems to me one of the most challenging tasks of education, adult or otherwise, today. More cynically, perhaps, a professional might add that public interest not only provides direct financial support but also, in the last resort, sanctions the climate of opinion in which archaeological work is possible at all.

The provision of high-level academic and practical courses is most important, even though they are designed for a relatively small number of enthusiasts. But it is such people ---- the amateur archaeologists, much abused in part because of the dubious activities of some of their untutored counterparts one never sees at courses, --- on whom progress in local archaeological studies at least very largely depends. In view of the shortage of people able to cope with both the archaeological opportunities presented and the demands made by the current changes in our urban and rural landscapes, the encouragement of competent and experienced amateur archaeologists is a priority, and a pleasurable and rewarding one at that. The need to promote practical courses, where possible in co-operation with local archaeological societies if this helps to meet their needs and stimulates them to useful work, is not only strong but irresistible.

The provisional figures for 1966-7 in the Appendix must represent about the maximum archaeological provision in terms of courses and meetings that can reasonably be provided while there is but one archaeological tutor. Nevertheless, there remains plenty of scope for change and improvement in the quality, variety and balance of the archaeological programme as a whole. It would be interesting to experiment with more adventurous courses, such as study tours to foreign prehistoric sites, and with tutor-training; but, after only 18

months, a great deal of my time seems already to have been pre-empted by many demands other than administration and teaching e. g. writing this on Easter Sunday for an impatient editor! It is difficult not to see that it is much easier to arrange a 24 meeting course with a well-established lecturer than to initiate a more exotic course which, statistically, might appear less worthwhile than the former. Pressure from outside, from individuals and societies, is therefore an essential ingredient in drawing up a programme and so is an ability to say 'no' on occasions. That ability I hope to develop, not least because it is also essential that Item 4 (p.92 above) should be taken seriously and it happens that I want to take it seriously. The Bristol post demands that the staff tutor should both teach and organise, which could easily be a full-time job; but in an area so rich in archaeological material where so much archaeology remains to be done, that would surely not be enough.

APPENDIX

Archaeology in the Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies,
University of Bristol

Year	Courses					Total	Meetings	Enrol- ments	Archaeological %	
	Tu	Se	Te	Sh	R				of all Departmental Meetings	Enrol- ments
1957-8	0	4	7	5	0	16	195	236	4	5
1959-60	0	5	3	7	1	16	210	397	4	8
1962-3	1	7	9	12	3	32	423	821	8	12
1964-5	0	8	6	18	3	35	455	953	6	10
1965-6	0	6	11	16	4	37	485	1080	7	9
1966-7	1	12	12	16	9	50	670	-	-	-

Key: Courses, Tu- tutorial; Se- sessional; Te- terminal; Sh- short; R- residential.

Note: The first three years were taken at random, the last three deliberately to indicate the current provision. Not all the figures are of equal validity since, for example, the earlier records did not readily provide the information required here. Anyone who has tried to keep the register of an extra-mural class will know how much reliance to place on the precise figures in column 9. The % figures in the last two columns are approximate only.

REVIEWS

Archaeological Review for 1966. Number 1. Council for British Archaeology, Groups XII (Wessex) and XIII (South West). 56 pages, quarto, stencilled. Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Bristol, March 1967. Price 2/6d (3/- including postage).

This excellent publication is arranged under Excavations, Finds and Surveys (3-42); Some Museum Accessions (43-5); Miscellaneous Notes (46-8), and relevant archaeological publications during 1966 (49-54). It is suggested that the title should have been Archaeological Review: Number 1 for 1966, so that future issues could be Number 2 for 1967 and so on. Much less paper would be used if it were in future stencilled on both sides of the pages, and set "single-spaced" instead of "double-spaced", and at least one reader would like to see it with a cover which wraps round the spine.

L. V. Grinsell

Current Archaeology. Edited by Andrew and Wendy Selkirk. No. 1 March, 1967. 24 pages, quarto. To be published six times a year; subscription £1 per annum to Current Archaeology, 128 Barnsbury Road, London, N. 1.

We welcome the first number of this publication. It is well written and produced; and maintains a good balance between Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, and Medieval interests (so far no Industrial Archaeology); and also includes an editorial, a book review, and notices of the Conference of Young Archaeologists, 1967 and the C. B. A. Conference on Recording in Excavation. The excavations reviewed are all in England and Wales; and it is to be hoped that Scotland and Ireland will be included in future as occasion arises. The emphasis is almost entirely on British archaeology; but there is also an attractive column on the finding of Etruscan and Punic bi-lingual inscribed bronze tablets from the Etruscan port of Pyrgi. The general standard of the illustrations is satisfactory. This periodical is aimed at the general reader, but will be taken and read by many amateur and professional archaeologists.

L. V. Grinsell

Brill, R. H. and Wampler, J. M. Isotope Studies of Ancient Lead.
American Journ. Arch. 71 (1) (1967), 63-77.

This preliminary account demonstrates that lead ores have differing proportions of four lead isotopes, depending on geographical location. These proportions are reflected in manufactured objects. Ores from Britain, including Mendip, are classed as Group E. Not surprisingly, some local lead artifacts sampled, are shown to have an isotopic composition similar to Group E. Two examples, which are surprising, serve to illustrate the usefulness of this form of analysis. Sample 18; a glazed 1st/2nd century sherd from Caerleon, includes lead of Group E in the glaze demonstrating that this type of pottery may have been made in Britain as well as at the usual centre at St. Remy in Gaul (or was British lead used at the pottery in Gaul?). Sample 162, a lead cistern buried in the destruction of Pompeii in A. D. 79, was made from British lead (presumably Mendip at this early date).

M. G. Hebditch

Sales of Field Guide No. 4, Industrial Monuments, are proceeding very satisfactorily : 614 copies have been sold since it was published just before last Christmas.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CALENDAR, 7 April to 30 September 1967.

(Emphasis is placed on events connected with the Bristol region).

- April 7/9 Archaeological Research and Editing: course at Keele University, directed by F. Celoria. (Details from their Department of Adult Education, or from Bristol City Museum).
- 13 Nettleton Shrub Excavations: lecture by W. J. Wedlake at Society of Antiquaries, London. Fellows and their guests only.
- 14/16 Prehistoric Art in the Western Mediterranean to the Second Millennium B. C.: Prehistoric Society Conference in London. Details from L. V. Grinsell, Bristol City Museum.
- 20 The Value of Coins as Dating Evidence: lecture by F. K. Annable to Bath & Bristol Numismatic Society, in Bristol City Museum Schools Lecture Room, 7.15 p. m. Visitors welcome.
- 29 Annual Meeting of Somerset Archaeological & Nat. Hist. Society, Taunton Castle.
- May 1 /
June 18. Sea Mills Excavations, directed for Bristol City Museum by Max Hebditch, from whom details may be obtained.
- May 3 Clifton and Stokeleigh hill-forts: City Museum Conducted Walk, led by Mr. J. W. Haldane. Assemble at 7 p. m. at North Road footpath entrance to Leigh Woods.
- 6/7 Marine Archaeology: Residential Weekend School at Rodney Lodge, Grange Road, Clifton, Bristol. Details from Department of Extra-Mural Studies, Bristol University.
- 12/14 Roman and Native in Western Britain: Residential Weekend School at Rodney Lodge, Grange Road, Clifton, Bristol. Already fully booked.
- 12/14 Cotswold Field Archaeology Weekend, at the Youth Hostel, Duntisbourne Abbots, near Cirencester, Glos. Lecturers: David Brown (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford), Leslie Grinsell and Max Hebditch (Bristol City Museum). Details from

Dept. of Archaeology in Bristol City Museum, or from the Warden, the Youth Hostel, Duntisbourne Abbots, Cirencester, Glos.

- May 18 The Reverses of Roman Coins. Lecture by P. W. Selby to Bath & Bristol Numismatic Society in Bristol City Museum Schools Lecture Room, at 7.15 p. m. Visitors welcome.
- 20 Forest of Dean: Spring Meeting of Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. Details from Miss D. Bailey, Garth, West Hill, Wraxall, Bristol.
- May 27/
June 11 Archaeological Excavation and Surveying: non-residential course at the Romano-British settlement at Row of Ashes Farm, Butcombe (near Lulsgate Airport), directed by Peter J. Fowler, assisted by Mrs. F. Neale and Charles Browne. Details from Department of Adult Education, Bristol University.
- July 5 Ashton Windmill (Chapel Allerton) and Priddy Lead-Smelting Works: City Museum Conducted Walk, led by Rex Wailes and R. A. Buchanan. Admission by 5/- ticket available from Bristol City Museum from 5 June. Meet 6.30 p. m. at City Museum, University Road entrance.
- July 8/29 Archaeological Excavation and Surveying: Residential Course, based on the Roman Villa at Barnsley Park, near Cirencester, directed by Dr. G. Webster and Peter J. Fowler. Details from Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, Bristol University.
- July 15/
August 26 Excavations at South Cadbury hill-fort, directed by Leslie Alcock for the Camelot Research Committee. Apply to Leslie Alcock, Esq., M. A., F. S. A., Dept. of Archaeology, University College, Cardiff.
- July 29/
August 18 Offa's Dyke, Frontier Castle, and Historic Sites: three separate weeks following different sections of Offa's Dyke and its surroundings, led by Frank Noble, B. A. Apply to: Y. H. A. Home Tours, St. Albans, Herts.

July 29/

August 12

Archaeological Excavation and Fieldwork: non-residential course on Fyfield Down, near Marlborough, directed by Peter J. Fowler with others. Details from Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, Bristol University.

September 6

King Street, Bristol: City Museum Conducted Walk, led by J. W. Totterdill. Meet 7 p. m. at junction of King Street with the Welsh Back.

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Autumn Meeting of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society: details obtainable from Miss D. Bailey, Garth, West Hill, Wraxall, Bristol.

July 1 - 14

Wansdyke. Excavation in the Wiltshire portion, directed by H. Stephen Green. Apply to H. Stephen Green, 43 Harrowdene Road, Knowle, Bristol, 4.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE M. 5 MOTORWAY

The line of this motorway from Eastington, Glos, to Brent, Somerset, is now fixed and the road falls squarely in the territory of E. A. R. G. We all look forward to the improvement in communications that will result from its construction but before B. A. R. G. members can drive along it with an easy conscience they must have played their part in the archaeological survey of the route.

The details of this survey are being worked out by your Excavation and Field Work sub-committee. Aerial reconnaissance will play a part but a ground coverage is vital. Volunteers who would like to examine sections of the route looking for features of interest should contact myself at the Museum (Bristol 27256). Members who returned cards indicating their availability for rescue work will be contacted direct. Any archaeological excavation or survey must be done before construction work starts in a year or two's time. Once the contractors are on the site, work stops for no man.

Max Hebditch