

BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP BULLETIN

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BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

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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

In B. A. R. G. , as there should be in all groups, there is a constant undercurrent of change and fresh development. This time we have to announce the resignation of Charles Browne from the post of Hon. Secretary which he has held ever since the Group was formed. This onerous post is like an iceberg: the least part of the job is that which the general public can see; and B. A. R. G. owes its existence today in great part to his hard work. We hope that while losing an administrator, we will gain correspondingly more of Mr. Browne's stimulating ideas as a member.

The 'Lead-mining on Mendip' weekend in October again confronted the local archaeologist with the perennial problem of specialisation, in a new and more urgent form. It formed a superb example of the impossibility of restricting either 'archaeology' or 'industrial archaeology' to tidy pre- and post-1760 compartments. When a subject can range from prehistoric times to 20th century, and where remains of earlier and later activity are physically so intermixed, no part can fairly be treated in isolation from the whole.

At the same time, the proliferation of specialist and local societies is on the one hand a gratifying sign of interest in archaeology of all periods; on the other it contains dangerous seeds of division and even obstruction, which could rebound on the very aims of archaeological research. Is it not time to make a deliberate effort to turn this specialisation to an advantage? Two possibilities suggest themselves: comprehensive mutual publicity between all the different societies in the region; and the development of practical co-operation and joint projects, giving rise to much greater inter-group flexibility. Such developments would give scope for more and better archaeological research all round; would ensure the best use of the facilities and talents available; and would prevent wasted, duplicated effort. The forging of such practical links on a larger scale than heretofore, between old societies and new, between large groups and small, general interests and specialists - this is needed, now, to prove that the profusion of archaeological groups in the Bristol region is not a liability, but an asset to their common aims.

HON. SECRETARY FOR JUNIOR AFFAIRS

The Secretary would be glad to hear from anyone willing to accept nomination at the next Annual General Meeting (see p. 133) as Secretary for Junior Affairs. The duties involve the organisation of a group of children numbering about 30 who meet in the Museum Schools Room. It is hoped that this group will encourage potential junior members of B. A. R. G.

THE PRESENT STATE OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE BARROWS

by John Drinkwater

During the last three years, the majority of barrow sites in Gloucestershire have been examined to ascertain the extent of destruction. The comprehensive catalogue of Gloucestershire barrows published in 1960 by H. O'Neil and L. V. Grinsell ⁽¹⁾ was used as a basis for the survey. Each site listed was numbered and plotted on the relevant 2½" map. On visiting the site, the condition and height of the barrow were noted; the more accessible sites were visited more than once.

From data collected, a comparison between present and pre-1960 conditions is being made. For the purposes of this comparison, the history and condition of the various sites are classified into one of six subdivisions. In the 1960 publication, the round barrows were at that time divided into:

Barrows scientifically excavated	30
Untraceable sites	30
Doubtful sites	50
Over 3 ft. high or reasonably safe	100
Under 3 ft. high but not flat	100
Flat or destroyed	50

From a total of approximately 360 barrows, half were below 3 ft. high or destroyed. The recent survey, although still incomplete, indicates a worsening position. Under modern plough conditions many of the '3 ft. and over' barrows will by the mid-1970s be gone. In general only those barrows which possess a cover of trees or undergrowth are safe, since few Gloucestershire barrows exist unploughed on arable land. This unchecked destruction has resulted in only one major barrow group, that in Hull Plantations, Longborough, being reasonably intact. The groups at Colnpen, Marshfield, Cow Common, Snowhill, Hawling (The Waste), Kingscote (Lasborough Farm), Temple Guiting (Bembro), and Upper Slaughter (Eyford Hill) are all now close to complete destruction. Some of these have important Long Barrow associations.

In the last fifteen years only one round barrow, that at Bevan's Quarry, Temple Guiting, has been excavated. ⁽²⁾ At a cost of roughly £1000 per barrow, excavation of all the threatened sites is financially

impossible. A policy of conservation with selective excavation is immediately necessary if we are not to lose for ever an important part of our archaeological heritage.

With long barrows a more satisfactory situation exists. Approximately a third of the 75 known sites have been wholly or partially excavated. From the pre-1960 data, a further third are reasonably safe. The remaining 25 sites (under 3 ft. or destroyed) include four local examples: Horton, Dyrham, Hawkesbury Knoll, and Tormarton. Recent excavation of a previously unrecorded long barrow, Sale's Lot at Withington, (3) has emphasised the individuality in structure of local long barrows. This, the only site excavated since 1940, must serve as a warning that each barrow destroyed may represent the loss of an important link in our comprehension of Neolithic funerary ritual.

References:

- (1) TBGAS (1960) pt. I.
- (2) Excavations: Annual Report (1964) M. O. P. B. W.
- (3) H. O'Neil, TBGAS (1966)

The above article is based upon the talk given by Mr. Drinkwater at the B. A. R. G. Symposium held on 25th November, 1967. Mr. Drinkwater hopes to publish his survey, when completed, in one of the local journals.

A new feature in connection with the annual Symposium will be the issue with the next convenient Bulletin of a short 'Symposium Supplement', containing abstracts of the papers given. Fuller versions of one or more of the papers may appear in the Bulletin itself, as in this number. The Supplement will provide a brief record of the meeting and of members' research projects, without in any way interfering with their final publication in the appropriate local or national journals.

WESTBURY COLLEGE, BRISTOL

by Max Hebditch

The Georgian wing of the College (National Trust property) was destroyed by fire in August, 1967. This fire was disastrous in that it finally put paid to any chances of preserving this building, and also destroyed an extremely interesting 17th century staircase. However, one good result was that the structural sequence of this wing of the College could be sorted out. The College of Canons, tracing its origins back to the 8th century and a centre of the 10th century monastic revival, was largely rebuilt by John Carpenter, Bishop of Worcester c. 1455; it is probably to this period that the collegiate buildings, consisting of three wings enclosing a court, belong. Of this, the main visible remains are the gatehouse and part of the south wing which stand in College Street, Westbury-on-Trym. Traces of the east wing have vanished entirely except for the foundations of the north-east turret on the banks of the Trym. The west wing was extensively remodelled, and before the fire appeared to be an early 18th century house with a medieval turret incorporated in the north-west corner.

The fire revealed a much more complicated story. The north wall, facing the Trym, was almost entirely medieval and incorporated at least two original windows. Other extensive areas of medieval masonry survived. In the 17th century this wing was separated from the south wing of the College, and the staircase mentioned above was inserted. The back wall of the stair-well was of timber and brick. As a mid-17th century date for the staircase is likely, this constitutes the earliest example of the use of brick in Bristol; another example, only slightly later, is the house below the shot tower on Redcliffe Hill. Early in the 18th century the house was remodelled, with a new main staircase, new windows, and a stuccoed exterior, to give the appearance it had until recently. The post-medieval portions of the building have now been demolished in the interests of safety. Before any redevelopment takes place, the site is to be excavated by Bristol Museum. It is hoped that a report on the architectural history of the building by John Totterdill and the writer will appear in a future volume of TBGAS.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL IN LOCAL MUSEUMS: A CHECK-LIST

(PART I)

edited by P. J. Fowler

Museums generally are notorious for their failure to make known what their collections contain, and those in the Bristol region are no exception. A virtual absence of published catalogues about our museum collections is one of the great obstacles to serious archaeological research in this area. In the long run, the remedy must come from the museums themselves in the form of definitive catalogues like the recent Devizes Museum's Neolithic and Bronze Age Antiquities (1964), but in the meantime a series of brief, uncritical lists of museum contents might be useful.

This idea has been taken up by some of the students currently attending my extra-mural class in Bristol, and this first check-list covering four museums in Somerset is the result. It is hoped to cover a further twelve or more museums in the next two years, and the editor has agreed to the initial publication of the resulting lists in the Bulletin. This will allow time for corrections and additions before final, printed publication as a separate monograph.

We would not presume to tackle the large collections in major museums with professional staff; we hope, rather, to cover the smaller museums which have little or no professional curatorial assistance and whose collections may be hardly known except to those who made them. We are limiting our lists to archaeological material, excluding therefore important collections or items in other fields. For practical reasons, we are not including much bibliographical information. Standard material from Roman villa sites is not noted in detail. Obviously at this early stage our lists are uneven in their descriptions, but this is a flaw which subsequent checking and editing can smooth out before final publication.

Abbreviations used:

Pal : Palaeolithic RB : Romano-British
Meso : Mesolithic SR : sub-Roman, i. e. 5th-6th centuries
Neo : Neolithic EM : early medieval, i. e. 7-11th centuries
BA : Bronze Age Med: medieval, i. e. 12th-15th centuries
IA : pre-Roman Iron Age Mod: after c. 1500

C: century, as in C4, C13: 4th century, 13th century

? before an entry: suggested date is uncertain

? after an entry: the entry itself is uncertain

AS: Archaeological Society Coll: collection
Frag: fragments Excav: excavation; Excavd: excavated
Mus: museum Unloc: unlocated, i. e. findspot unknown.

AXBRIDGE

The Museum, The Square

Axbridge Caving Gp. and AS

A detailed typed catalogue (1967) is available at the Museum. See also Journal of ACGAS (1951 onwards).

Prehistoric

Pal: bones, Banwell Bone Cave and Axbridge Triple-H Cave, Acheulian/Magdalenian flint implements (Palmer Coll.)
Meso: 5 microliths, S. Africa (Palmer Coll.); 6 microliths, Fry's Hill, Axbridge; 1 scraper, Yorks.
? Haywood, Hutton: rock-shelter burial: 6 human skulls etc., animal bones inc. vole, ochre frags., microliths, records of excav. still in progress
? Flints from Star Villa, Shipham
Neo: 5 polished axes (2 flint, 3 stone) unloc.; chisel, Yorks. (Palmer Coll.)
Neo/BA: 26 flint arrowheads, all but one Mendip (otherwise unloc.); 5 flint saws, 3 lance-heads, 14 scrapers, 8 borers, 5 knives, 5 'shaft-cleaners', mostly Mendip (otherwise unloc.)
Chalk bowl, Grimes Ground?
Potsherds, Windmill Hill, Wilts.
IA: few sherds, Axbridge (otherwise unloc.)

AXBRIDGE cont'd.

Roman Period

Rookery Farm, Green Ore, Chewton Mendip: the material from this metallurgical site which includes slag, clinker, litharge splashes, baked clay pit-linings, a child burial, and various stone implements including flints (? BA), will probably be transferred to Wells Mus. shortly.
PSANHS 101-2 (1957), 52-88.

Scragg's Hole, Compton Bishop: pottery, glass, slate, bones (mostly sheep), RB-C18, from entrance to rock-shelter excavd.
c. 1963.

Star villa, Shipham: all finds inc. coins, metalwork, lead steelyard weight; much stonework inc. gutters, drains, weights, querns, Pennant tiling; pottery; painted plaster; excav. records. PSANHS 108 (1964), 45-93.

Winthill site, Banwell: C4 pottery, metalwork, bone objects, 34 coins, glass beaker and frags.; facsimile glass bowl; human skeletal material, ? SR; iron-smelting debris; baked clay (furnace or oven lining?); wall plaster; excav. records 1954-6 (excav. since continued by Banwell Soc. of Arch.). Bibliography of site by F. Neale 1967.

Potsherds and coins, mostly C4, Axbridge area (otherwise unloc.)

Medieval (all Axbridge)

Meadow Street; metalwork inc. buckles, brooches, pins etc. etc., coins Ed. I-Eliz. I, and other material which had drained into probable med. Portlake, filled up C17-18. Excavd. 1957, ACGAS.

Moorland Street car park: pottery and small finds, med. -mod. Excavd. 1963, ACGAS.

West Street: mid-C15 wall painting of St. Christopher, on plaster, removed from house.

Post-Medieval (all Axbridge)

West Street: male skeleton assoc. with C17 coin and clay pipe.
C17-19 coll. local items inc. pottery, domestic and farming items
Borough of Axbridge coll. inc. Town Nail, stocks, bull-anchor, truncheons, towncriers' bell, etc.

BATH

Roman Baths Museum

Bath Corporation

No attempt is made here to catalogue the Roman material from Bath itself since its existence and nature is well-known, and the museum's The Roman Baths of Bath (rev. edn. c. 1955, now being further revised) lists some objects found in the baths and associated with the temple of Sul Minerva. The following list covers all prehistoric material together with RB material from outside the city. The collections of medieval and post-medieval finds will be summarised later. A descriptive list of recent finds from the city will appear in a forthcoming PSANHS and a monograph on Roman Bath is in preparation for the Society of Antiquaries.

Prehistoric

- Neo: 2 stone axe-heads (Gp. IV, Lansdown and Gp. VI, Bath)
2 rim potsherds; polished flint axehead; 2 greenstone
axeheads, flint flakes, cores and scrapers;
2 flint arrowheads, hafted (reconstruction); antler
pick (all unloc.)
- Neo/BA: material from Charmy Down barrows, excavd. c. 1940.
Ant. J. XXX (1950), 34-46 and Grimes,
Excavations on Defence Sites, 1939-45 (1960), 199-244.
- BA: 3 sherds incense cup, Lansdown, 1908
Monkswood hoard
Socketed axe, R. Avon at Bristol; 4 socketed axes, Bath
- IA: 3 sherds, All Cannings Cross, Wilts.
Pottery, Bathampton Camp, Bath, excavd. 1964.
TBGAS forthcoming.
Grain from storage pit, Little Solsbury
2 Dobunnic coins, N. Breach, Corston and Bldg. 2,
Lansdown, 1906.
Pair of 'ritual' spoons, Weston Bath.

Roman Period

- Combe Down villa, Monkton Combe: material inc. iron binding for
wooden pipe, ironwork, brooches of Aucissa type, bone
pins, painted plaster, pottery inc. Castor and New
Forest wares.
- Lansdown: pottery, coins, stone moulds for pewter vessels, etc.,
excavd. 1904-12.
- Twinhoe, Wellow: one sherd each of samian, tile and coarse base.
Coarse pottery attributed to Claverton Combe, Winsley and Hampton
Downs.

BATH cont'd.

Miscellaneous

- Lansdown: flints, pottery from barrows and unloc., all periods
up to and inc. RB.
Hayes Wood enclosure, Freshford: pottery, Neo-RB.

FROME

The Museum, St. John's Church Steps
Frome Local History Society

Prehistoric

- Pal: Pleistocene bones, human and animal (unloc.)
Neo: polished stone axe-head (Cornish), Witham Priory
(ST 758418)
IA: complete beehive-shaped rotary quern, Tedbury hill-fort,
Great Elm (ST 744488)

Roman Period

- Roman road (Badbury Rings to Bath), Friggle St., Selwood: notes
and drawings of excavd. section (ST 800461)
Whatley villa, Nunney: model (unpublished excav. 1958) (ST 744470)

Medieval

- Capitals etc. of oolitic limestone, Spring Gardens but originally
from Peeks Well ('lost church' of Pikewell?)
Deserted medieval village, Egford (ST 756482): plan

Modern

- Local industrial relics esp. of woollen industry

Miscellaneous

- Dinies, Downhead (ST 677459): notes, model etc. of unpublished excav.
of small univallate enclosure
-

YEOVIL

The Museum, Hendford

Yeovil Borough Council

Prehistoric

- Pal: Palaeolithic collection (no details)
Neo: Neolithic material (no details)
BA: palstaves, Ireland (otherwise unloc.)
IA: pottery from S. Cadbury hill-fort; Ham Hill hill-fort;
Poyntington Farm
Hallstatt-type bronze brooch, crescented tinned bronze
brooch, 3 harness rings, decorated bit-ring, bronze
mount: West Coker pottery and arrowhead?, Westland

Roman Period

- Brympton d'Evercy: water pipe
Ilchester Mead: child's skull, from burial in lead coffin
Larkhill: skull associated with coin of Constantine I
Lufton villa: pottery
Mead villa: samian pottery, coins, iron stud, bronze and
shale bracelets, nail cleaner, bone pin, spindle
whorls, whetstone
Pen Mill: coarse pottery
West Coker: chain brooches, bronze statuette and votive
plaque to Mars, bronze goat amulet.
Westland: pottery, inc. mortaria, painted and colour-
coated wares, samian; iron inc. knives, tools;
bronze vessels, fastener and escutcheon buckles;
bone pins; whetstone; glass frags.; mosaic floor,
flue tile, 4 stone pillars;
Representative collection of coins

Sub-Roman

South Cadbury hill-fort: amphora sherd

Modern

First Petter oil engine (1895), fitted in automobile
Hardy (John, of Yeovil): "perpetual motion" engine

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the co-operation of Mrs. A. Everton, Mrs. F. Neale and the Curator (Axbridge), Mrs. J. Popplewell and the Curator (Roman Baths Museum), and Mrs. P. M. Legg, E. A. Silcox and the Curator (Yeovil Museum).

THE ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT AT ROW OF ASHES FARM,

BUTCOMBE, SOMERSET.

EXCAVATIONS 1967

by Peter J. Fowler

The site (ST/508631) and the reasons for its excavation have already been described (Bulletin vol. 2 no. 5, (1966), 62-3). The Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Bristol, now rents and has fenced off part of the settlement while the intention to plough the field in which it lies has been, temporarily at least, postponed. The kindness and co-operation of the Bendall family, the landowners, must again be acknowledged. The 1967 excavation also benefited by the return of numerous helpers from the first season, many of them B. A. R. G. members. Over 50 people attended and more than 200 visitors were shown round during the work.

Without a plan, a detailed description here of the structures on what has now become a fairly complex excavation would mean little. Furthermore, examination of the finds is proceeding; so this note will confine itself to some general points. The site and its immediate surroundings have now been surveyed, and the field archaeology of several square miles adjacent has been mapped from air photographs and ground-work. On the site the successful use of Mark Howell's soil anomaly detector (the 'banjo') helped establish the credentials of this new instrument, while the operation of a standardised recording system under Frances Neale's control resulted in our leaving the excavation with every find cleaned, marked, sorted, classified and cross-referenced to its context and associations. Though much more has still to be done, we already have the basis for a simple computer programme to answer questions about the incidence, chronology and forms of the pottery fabric types. A provisional series of 43 types of pottery fabric, macroscopically identified, has already been thin-sectioned and spectrographically analysed by the University's Geology Dept. through the good offices of Mr. Bradshaw.

Archaeologically, three main phases are evidenced on the site:

- (i) Pre-Roman Iron Age (I. A. 'A'): post-holes, at least one pit, and associated coarse pottery, some with finger-tipped decoration.
- (ii) 1st century A. D. (and possibly earlier): shallow stone quarrying, iron-working, at least one stone wall, and plentiful pottery, much of it in high quality 'Belgicised' wares.

- (iii) Mid-3rd to mid-4th century A. D. : an aisled building 14m. by 8m. , almost certainly a byre, with the 2m. wide walled enclosure around it, and numerous other walls, kerbs and a probable small threshing floor.

By implication, the form and visible surviving remains of the unexcavated major portion of the settlement belong to this third phase, together with the associated fields. Preliminary examination of the animal bones by Dr. R. F. Everton indicates a 2:1 dominance of sheep over oxen, with other animals barely represented.

The third season of excavation will take place 1-15 June, 1968 beginning over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. Meanwhile an interim report on 1966-7 is being prepared for Proc. U. B. S. S. (1968).

MORE NEW SOCIETIES

The Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society has recently been formed to co-ordinate and promote research into the industrial archaeology of the Bristol region, in cooperation with the City Museum and the Centre for the Study of the History of Technology in Bath University of Technology. BIAS will issue a Journal and a thrice-yearly Bulletin. Annual subscription, 1 gn. Hon. Treasurer, Roy Day, Parsons Brown & Partners, 9-12 St. James' Parade, Haymarket, Bristol 1.

The Post-medieval Ceramic Research Group has been incorporated into the new foundation of the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology, to promote the study of archaeology of the post-medieval period before industrialisation. The Society publishes an annual journal, holds an annual conference, and has specialised group meetings. Annual subscription 2 gns. (students 1 gn.). Hon. Treasurer, 14 Princes St., Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

LEAD-MINING ON MENDIP:

A weekend course held 14-15th October 1967 by the University of Bristol
Extra-Mural Department in conjunction with B. A. R. G.

The weekend course plunged straight to the basis of the subject on Saturday morning with a stimulating lecture by Mr. Ford on Mendip geology, in which he managed most skilfully to combine general geological background, modern theories, and practical samples of the various mineral-bearing rocks. The afternoon was divided between a very thorough and lucid paper by Mr. Elkington on Roman lead-mining, and a comprehensive survey of later Mendip mining from the middle ages to the 20th century by Mr. Buchanan. Mr. Elkington's paper raised some interesting questions about the pigs of Mendip lead and their method of casting. He also produced for the occasion a complete bibliography of known Roman pigs of Mendip lead, copies of which were distributed to the class. Mr. H. W. W. Ashworth displayed finds from the metallurgical site he has excavated at Rookery Farm, Green Ore, and commented on the pigs of lead found there, two of which were to be seen in the Museum laboratory. The two principal lectures were neatly divided by a short display of air photographs of Mendip lead-mining sites by Mr. Hancock. This set the scene for some of the Sunday visits and also showed several features, especially in the Charterhouse and Shipham areas, which are not particularly visible from the ground.

The all-day outing on Sunday, conducted at short notice by Mr. Buchanan, covered on the ground examples of all the types of site and mining techniques discussed the previous day. Smitham Hill, East Harptree, provided a useful starting point as the site of a fairly straightforward 19th century resmelting works, albeit much obscured by forestry plantation. The name Smitham itself refers to the slag refuse: the ancient tips of the medieval Harptree Minery which were resmelted during the 1860-70s. The last remaining chimney stack of the Mendip mineworkings survives here, built in the Cornish style, half stone and half brick.

Within site of Smitham Hill, the Lamb Leer valley offered one of the best examples of intensively mined 'gruffy ground' on Mendip. This was one of the sources of the raw ore originally taken to the Harptree Minery. Surface mining techniques ranged from lines of pits, to deep 'grooves' following veins for some distance. It is to be hoped that investigation may one day relate different styles of surface mining to different periods.

The remains of the Waldegrave Smelting Works, based on the ancient Chewton Minery, and the neighbouring St. Cuthbert's Works at Priddy Minery, formed a much more complex 19th century site. Pools, dams and cisterns, originally supplying wooden conduits, reflected the importance of water conservation for washing and refining processes. The elaborate condenser-flue systems of the Waldegrave Works, cut into the hillside, and St. Cuthbert's deep underground, are outstanding features; they were associated with several series of building pits, constructed along the hillside in rows of ten or twelve at a time. St. Cuthbert's, the last of the resmelting works to close in 1908, is in many ways the most difficult to understand without more detailed knowledge of processes now represented only by foundations.

At Charterhouse, besides the 19th century flues, there was a particularly fine series of buddling pits, one of which had been partially cleared to show a stone revetment and a fine floor of large cobbles. Above the pits were the remains of Pattinson's Silver Extraction Plant, working c. 1850-70s, recently exposed by Charterhouse Field Studies Centre. The distinctive feature of Charterhouse, however, is its association with lead-mining in the Roman period. Two particularly spectacular slides seen on Saturday had shown an extensive, well laid-out settlement near Town Field, and a convincing view of the small rectangular enclosure on the promontory overlooking the later resmelting works, which has been debated over as 'Charterhouse Camp' (notes and plans, see Proc. U. B. S. S. vol. 6 no. 1 (1946-8), pp. 71, 77, 81-3). This earthwork (ST 504557), plausibly a Roman fortlet and typically sited to command a good field of view, appears to have a substantial double bank and ditch. Ground examination produced only two surface finds, but both were sherds of samian ware confirmed by G. Webster, M. A., F. S. A., A. M. A. as being from forms 24/25 and 15/17: types of vessel characteristic of the Conquest period and which had ceased to be imported by A. D. 75.

Whereas the last B. A. R. G. weekend course centred around an object that was in itself a puzzle, with this course on Mendip mining the sites themselves were more or less familiar, but the interpretation of their use provoked discussion. Both the lectures and the field meeting emphasised the need for detailed work on the function of these local classics of industrial archaeology; the need to relate any surviving plans and specifications to the remains on the ground; and perhaps most urgent of all, the need to secure a permanent record of the knowledge of the last few Priddy miners familiar with the resmelting works when they were in action.

Lecturers and Guides:

Mr. C. A. Buchanan, M. A. , Head of Dept. of Commerce & General Education, Strode Technical College, Street; Mr. H. D. H. Elkington, M. A. , member of B. A. R. G. ; Mr. P. J. Fowler, M. A. , F. S. A. , Staff Tutor in Prehistory and Archaeology, University of Bristol Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies; Mr. I. Ford, Dept. of Geology, University of Bristol; Mr. J. E. Hancock, chairman of B. A. R. G.

In connection with 'Lead Mining on Mendip' members are reminded that the reappearance of the classic work on the subject, The Mines of Mendip by J. W. Gough, in a revised edition and with a new preface (David & Charles, 1967) at 42s. , could hardly be more timely for B. A. R. G. needs.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Bristol Archaeological Research Group will be held at 2.15 p. m. on Saturday, 24th February, 1968, in the Museum Lecture Theatre (entrance in University Road), Bristol 8. Members are reminded that in accordance with rule 10 nominations for officers and members of committee should be received by the Hon. Secretary not less than 14 days before the date of the meeting accompanied by the names of the proposer and seconder. This year the Chairman retires and may not be re-elected; the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Secretary for Junior Affairs, Treasurer and Editor (Bulletin) retire and may be re-elected; the retiring member of Committee is Mr. T. W. J. Solley.

After the Annual General Meeting the Group will be addressed by Mr. Brian Davison of the Ancient Monuments Inspectorate of the Ministry of Public Building and Works.

December 1967.

M. G. Hebditch
Acting Hon. Secretary

REVIEWS

P. J. Fowler, Wessex. (Heinemann, 1967) 16s.

C. Houlder and W. H. Manning, South Wales (Heinemann, 1966) 16s.

Both these books are among the Regional Archaeologies series, designed mainly for schools, students, adult education groups, amateur field workers and 'average' members of archaeological research groups; but they contain much that should be fresh and useful to all archaeologists, irrespective of status. Each finishes at the end of the Roman period.

Wessex is thoroughly reliable and up-to-date. Our main regret is that the author's Wessex (unlike the reviewer's) extends no further west than Bath, and rarely goes west of the Chalk. The chapters mostly cover millenia and half-millenia, thereby going some way towards diminishing the use of the terms Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age. The author appears to be playing his strongest suits in the chapters on "Celtic Farmers" and "Romanized Britains" (pp. 41-70). The maps in figs. 25 and 34 are disappointingly small. Very few errors have been detected; but finds from the Lambourn Seven Barrows are more likely to be found in the British than the Ashmolean Museum (p. 74).

South Wales has a strong bearing on the archaeology of the Bristol region, because it tells us just what we have all been wanting to know about what was happening on the opposite side of the Severn estuary in the prehistoric and Roman periods. By contrast to Wessex, more space is devoted to the earlier prehistoric periods down to the end of the Bronze Age (pp. 9-52), and less to the Iron Age and Roman period (pp. 53-77). The map (fig. 4) of the probable coastline of the Bristol Channel during the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods is of particular importance to readers of this Bulletin. The two-page map of South Wales and the Bristol area (fig. 14) in the Neolithic period, showing the chief trade routes as indicated by blue-stone transport and axes of flint and stone, is extremely useful. On several occasions (i. e. p. 38) it is emphasised that the Bristol Channel served to unite rather than to divide the areas on both sides of it; and trade between South Wales and Wessex is also stressed (p. 43). The illustrations are consistently adequate, and over-reduced maps have here been avoided. An important omission from the Gazetteer of Sites (pp. 78-85) is the chambered tomb at Gaer Llwyd in Monmouthshire, right beside the road from Chepstow to Usk (ST 447967).

L. V. Grinsell

H. M. Porter, The Saxon Conquest of Somerset and Devon (J. Brodie, Bath, 1967) 15s.

Mr. Porter's modest volume tries to illustrate the cliché with which it ends: "... the study of History is in the nature of a debate". The debate here is over the interpretation of the inadequate documentary evidence from which numerous scholars and others have tried to concoct an historical narrative about the Saxon conquest of the West Country. Particularly well-read in his secondary sources, Mr. Porter summarises the debate, occasionally offering his own views but without claiming to have produced work of original scholarship. Within its limited aims, therefore, the book could be a useful short cut, and, if we must have 'scissors-and-paste' history, it is a good example of its kind.

Three major criticisms should, nevertheless, be made. Firstly, it is a little difficult to understand for whom the book is written since the first few pages alone make it quite clear that a familiarity with the sources and problems of the period is assumed; yet students with that knowledge will hardly need this summary. Secondly, there are no illustrations except for a naive and careless map inside the front cover, which is hardly fair to the subject or the reader. And thirdly, although much of the relevant archaeological evidence is mentioned in an appendix, the author completely fails to appreciate both its significance and the potential of archaeological research. That this potential should be realised is implicitly emphasised by Mr. Porter's 46 pages of text which, turning over the familiar, much-worn and ambiguous scraps of documentary evidence yet again, underline the barrenness of the conventional historical approach, on its own, in the post-Roman period.

P. J. Fowler

Dr. R. A. Buchanan, The Industrial Archaeology of Bristol (Bristol Branch of the Historical Association, 1967) 3s.

N. Cossons, Industrial Monuments in the Mendip, South Cotswold and Bristol Region (B. A. R. G. Field Guide No. 4, 1967) 3s. 6d.

The rate at which relics of the Industrial Revolution are disappearing, as a result of road building and urban renewal in addition to the deterioration brought about by the simple passage of time, has made

Industrial Archaeology a study of considerable urgency. Attempts have been made to deal with this subject at regional and even national levels, but the essence of the work lies in detailed local study.

These two valuable publications have broken new ground by outlining the range of industrial remains and sites in a more limited geographical area. The authors have, to a large extent, covered the same territory and inevitably there is some duplication of information. The approach of the two authors, however, differs considerably.

Dr. Buchanan is justifying the discipline of Industrial Archaeology by drawing on the wide range of remains in the Bristol area. He paints an integrated picture of the industrial development of the area since 1700. His account is enlivened by the inclusion of four useful photographs which help to illustrate his theme.

Mr. Cossons has been more straightforward in his approach, and has produced a catalogue of industrial sites with brief explanatory notes and grid references. For the student wishing to visit a number of the local sites this is the more practical pamphlet, while useful additional information is frequently available in the Historical Association's publication.

Both Dr. Buchanan and Mr. Cossons have clearly demonstrated their familiarity with Bristol and its immediate hinterland, and they have made a valuable contribution to local historical research. These studies, however, are preliminary surveys - progress reports on the state of industrial archaeology in their area. We can look forward to the more detailed exposition of the "extraordinarily rich texture" of the urban and industrial landscape of the Bristol region, on which these two authors are at present collaborating.

C. A. Buchanan

FOOT AND MOUTH PRECAUTIONS

Members are reminded of the seriousness of the present epidemic. To prevent the spread of the disease:-

KEEP OFF FARMLAND AND COMMON LAND.

DO NOT USE FOOTPATHS THROUGH THESE AREAS.

NOTICES OF RECENT AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

B. A. R. G. FIELD GUIDE NO. 2: ROMAN SITES in the Mendip, Cotswold, Wye Valley and Bristol Region (3s. 6d. , 4s. post free).

This latest in the series of B. A. R. G. Field Guides, should be available in January, 1968. Orders to the Hon. Acting Secretary.

C. B. A. Groups XII & XIII: Archaeological Review No. 2 (1967)

Following the success of last year's issue, the second number of AR. , issued in conjunction with University of Bristol Extra-Mural Dept. , will appear in February 1968. Planned this time as a bound, printed publication, it will cost 3s. (3s. 6d. post free). Orders to the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, 20A Berkeley Square, Bristol 8.

W. Dreghorn, Geology Explained in the Severn Vale and Cotswolds (David & Charles, 1967) 30s.

An archaeologist cannot ignore the geology underlying his subject. This popular, profusely illustrated guide includes cogent observations on siting of hillforts and settlements, and use of local building materials.

Proceedings of the University of Bristol Speleological Society, vol. 11 no. 2 (1967).

Circulars concerning the two archaeological papers in this volume: "The Priddy Circles as Henge Monuments" by E. K. Tratman, and "Excavations at Gatcombe, Somerset 1965-6" by B. Cunliffe (also available as offprints): were sent to members with the last Bulletin.

Clevedon & District Archaeological Society: News Sheet No. 26 (Sept. 1967)

This number of the Society's twice-yearly news sheet includes an article on "The Archaeology of the North Somerset Moors" by Gray Usher.

Banwell Society for Archaeology: Search, No. 7 (1967)

This volume includes an interim report on 1966 excavations at the Chapel Close, Winthill Roman site (pp. 26-33) by D. Bromwich.

R. F. Treharne: The Glastonbury Legends (Cresset Press, 1967) 30s.

A somewhat slick, but brisk, survey exposing the 'odour of sanctity' as largely a creation of medieval propaganda, and making some reference to recent work by Messrs. Alcock and Rahtz, though apparently none to that of Dr. Raleigh Radford.

EXCAVATIONS AT CADBURY CAMP, CONGRESBURY, SOMERSET

Though it will doubtless cause further confusion over which Cadbury is which, an excavation is planned in 1968 at Cadbury Camp, Congresbury, under the aegis of the School of History, University of Birmingham and the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Bristol. The background to this site is in many ways similar to that of its famous namesake, South Cadbury Camp in south Somerset: a pre-Roman Iron Age hill-fort with archaeological evidence of late- and sub-Roman activity, notably in the form of a Roman temple and an early Christian cemetery at nearby Henley Wood, and imported late 5th-6th century Mediterranean pottery from the interior. The site is fortunately not encumbered by reliable Arthurian traditions, though the connection between St. Congar and Congresbury is as likely to be resolved on the hill-top as in the village itself.

The 1968 excavation will have very limited aims: firstly, to obtain as large a quantity of imported pottery as possible by stripping the area which has already produced, in small scale cuttings by the Clevedon and District Archaeological Society in 1959, a suggestive amount of this material; and secondly, to ascertain the density, context and associations of this exotic pottery of which, it must be stressed, only a few hundred sherds have been found in the whole of the British Isles. The excavation will take place from Saturday 14th September to Sunday 22nd September, 1968, under the direction of Philip Rahtz, Peter Fowler, and Keith Gardner. The last is acting as Hon. Secretary of the project, and will be glad to hear from anybody interested in helping with the work. (Address: 81 West Town Road, Backwell, Bristol).

P. J. Fowler

CITY MUSEUM, BRISTOL: RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACCESSIONS

Purely archaeological accessions during the past year include a Roman coin of Victorinus (268-270) from Brent Knoll, Somerset (ST 341510); flint artifacts from Gough's Cave, Cheddar, Somerset (ST 466539); a quernstone of Old Red Sandstone from Cadbury Camp, Tickenham, Somerset (ST 454725); a stone mortar and Roman potsherds from Blacklands, Yate, Glos. (ST 705875); and two stone axes from Nore Park, Portishead (ST 447766) and Wells Golf Club (ST 567458), both in Somerset.

A fine series of nine Gloucestershire 17th century trade tokens are among the numismatical accessions, together with a Henry VIII Bristol gold crown; Bristol Civil War silver half-crown (1645) and shilling (1643), and a Bristol shilling of William III (1696) struck on a Charles I hammered shilling of the Tower mint.

Replicas have been acquired of the 1st century Roman stone head from Bon Marche, Gloucester; a bronze figurine of a hunting dog, from the Roman temple site at Lydney, Glos.; and bronze statuettes from a votive cache on the temple site at Lamyatt Beacon/Creech Hill, Lamyatt, Somerset.

L. V. Grinsell, M. G. Hebditch

"GROUND LEVEL"

Members will notice that the Calendar has ventured into a new medium: television. In five programmes on BBC 2, 8th-12th January 1968 at 7.00 p.m., Peter Fowler will be providing an antidote to the overdose of sensation in some recent newspaper reports of excavations, by showing would-be diggers something of the methods, techniques and skills of archaeology. He will show that actual excavation forms only a small part of the whole subject, and that there are many other important things to be done as well as removing soil, stones, bones, pottery and other finds from holes in the ground. Several B. A. R. G. members, besides Mr. Fowler himself, make their appearance; the recording system developed at Butcombe is seen in action on Overton Down; and other sites familiar to members from recent B. A. R. G. activities, will be featured.

B. Y. Bostock

CALENDAR OF
FORTHCOMING COURSES, MEETINGS, AND LECTURES.

January - April 1968

- January 8 Regional Archaeology 1967: symposium by L. V. Grinsell, M. Hebditch, and N. Cossons. Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society (Bristol Section). Schools Lecture Room, City Museum, Bristol at 5.45 p. m.
- 8-12 Ground Level: television series by P. J. Fowler. BBC 2, 7.00 p. m. nightly (see p. 139)
- 11 The Somerset Story: first of series of ten lectures on local history by J. Haddon at the Methodist Hall, Bishop Sutton, Som. at 7.30 p. m. Bristol University Extra-Mural Dept.
- 11 Industrial Archaeology: first of series of ten lectures by N. Cossons at the Technical College, Frome, at 7.30 p. m. University of Bristol Extra-Mural Dept.
- 12 Banwell Society of Archaeology meeting, at Banwell, 7.30 p. m. Details from Hon. Sec., 5 Elmhurst Rd., Weston-super-Mare, Som.
- 18 Annual General Meeting of the Clevedon & District Archaeological Society, at Sunhill Community Centre, Clevedon, 7.30 p. m.
- 23 History and Excavation at Witham Priory: lecture by Dr. R. D. Reid, with A. G. M., Wells Nat. Hist. and Archaeological Society at Wells Museum, 5.30 p. m.
- 31 BUTCOMBE: RECENT EXCAVATIONS. Report by P. J. Fowler BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP, in Schools Lecture Room, City Museum, Bristol at 7.30 p. m.
- February 6 Roman agriculture and villas in Somerset: lecture by C. E. Stevens Bath & Camerton Archaeological Society, at the Assembly Hall, Bath Technical College at 7.15 p. m. Admission 2s. to non-members.
- 9 Banwell Society of Archaeology meeting, at Banwell, 7.30 p. m. Details from Hon. Sec. (see Jan. 12).
- 10 Canals of England: exhibition until March 9th, at the Museum, The Boulevard, Weston-super-Mare.

- February 12 Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society (Bristol Section) meeting, Schools Lecture Room, City Museum, Bristol at 5.45 p. m. Details from Meetings Sec. , 60 Lake Rd. , Henleaze.
- 15 Conservation on the Site: lecture by J. Cross. Clevedon & District Archaeological Society, at Sunhill Community Centre, Clevedon, 7.30 p. m.
- 16 Progress Reports: study groups of the Keynsham & Salford Local History Society, at Ellsbridge House, Keynsham, 7.30 p. m.
- 23 Annual General Meeting of Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society, at the Secondary Modern School, Wotton, 7.00 p. m.
- 23 Domesday Book and Local History: lecture by D. Bonney. Frome Society for Local Study, at Frome Museum. Details from Hon. Sec.
- 24 Industrial Archaeology: lecture by N. Cossons. Wells Nat. Hist. & Archaeological Society, at Wells Museum, 5.30 p-m.
- 24 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP, with Address, Museum Lecture Theatre, Bristol, 2.15 p. m. (See p. 133).
- March 5 Recent Excavations in Bath: lecture by Prof. B. Cunliffe. Bath & Camerton Archaeological Society; at the Assembly Hall, Bath Technical College, 7.15 p. m. Admission 2s. to non-members.
- 8 Banwell Society of Archaeology meeting, at Banwell, 7.30 p. m. Details from Hon. Sec. (see Jan. 12).
- 11 Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society (Bristol Section) meeting, Schools Lecture Room, City Museum, Bristol at 5.45 p. m. Details from Meetings Sec. , 60 Lake Rd. , Henleaze.
- 14 Excavations at Winthill, Banwell: lecture by D. Bromwich, Clevedon & District Archaeological Society, at Sunhill Community Centre, Clevedon, 7.30 p. m.

- March 16 The Excavation of South Cadbury Castle: lecture by L. Alcock. Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, at Bishop Fox's School, Taunton, 2. 30 p. m. Admission by ticket only; apply with s. a. e. to the Secretary, Taunton Castle, before 1st February.
- 16 Annual General Meeting with Presidential Address, Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, at the Council House, Bristol, 2. 15 p. m.
- 16 The Iron Age in N. Somerset: lecture by Prof. E. K. Tratman, Wells Nat. Hist. and Archaeological Society, at Wells Museum, 5. 30 p. m.
- 20 Excavations at South Cadbury, 1966/7: lecture by L. Alcock. Museum Lecture Theatre, Bristol, at 7. 30 p. m. Admission free.
- 21 Annual General Meeting of the Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society, at Ellsbridge House, Keynsham, 7. 30 p. m.
- 27 PERIOD DISTRIBUTION MAPS OF THE BRISTOL REGION: PREPARATION & INTERPRETATION: lecture by L. V. Grinsell. BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP, in Schools Lecture Room, City Museum, Bristol, 7. 30 p. m.
- 28 Trade Tokens of Bath: lecture by A. C. Griffin. Bath & Bristol Numismatic Society, at City Museum, Bristol. 7. 30 p. m.
- April 5 Banwell Society of Archaeology meeting, at Banwell, 7. 30 p. m. Details from Hon. Sec. (see Jan. 12)
- 19 Road, Rail & River between Bath and Bristol: lecture by N. Cossons. Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society, at Ellsbridge House, Keynsham, 7. 30 p. m.

Advance Notice:

- May 3-5 Western Britain in the Iron Age: weekend school at Rodney Lodge, Clifton. Enquiries to University of Bristol Extra-Mural Dept., 20A Berkeley Square, Bristol 8.