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BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

C/o City Museum, Queens Road, Bristol, 8.

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

with Report by the Chairman on the C. B. A. Conference,
November, 1968.

The last editorial of the year has usually been an occasion for reviewing the archaeological ups and downs of the preceding months. This time, however, the Conference on The Place and Work of County and Local Archaeological Societies held by the C. B. A. in London on 9th November provides such a timely opportunity to look forward rather than back, to ask questions rather than report results, that the Editorial has been recast somewhat, to incorporate the following report of the Conference which our Chairman has kindly written for the Group:

The Conference opened with an address by the President, Prof. Stuart Piggott, on "The Origins of the County Archaeological Societies". In this he showed the extent to which they arose in the intellectual climate which followed the Oxford Movement and other religious movements in the first half of last century. He then posed the question of whether these Societies have in fact been adapting themselves adequately to meet changing needs. Mr. Arthur Percival, Librarian of the Civic Trust, who has had archaeological experience in other contexts turned our attention to the present and future. His wryly humorous account of the "84th Annual Meeting of the Loamshire Archaeological Society" provided an illustration of a Society that has not been moving with the times:

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. Pediment, reported the usual series of evening meetings (one on "The Forgotten Cities of Iraq" being particularly memorable) and afternoon visits, which had included excursions to St. Albans, Silchester and a Saxon cemetery at Church Appleby which some members failed to reach on account of the mud - but this was compensated by a good tea afterwards. Requests for an occasional meeting away from the County Town, and for a broadening of interests to include (inter alia) industrial archaeology, were both rejected after careful deliberation. No excavations had been carried out. Altogether a quiet year, with neither climaxes nor difficulties. The Chairman and all other retiring officers and members of Council were re-elected en bloc for a further term nem con. Members then heard a fascinating illustrated lecture on "My Trip to the Holy Land" by Canon Architrave

Mr. Percival contrasted this with a hypothetical advertisement in 1984 for a County Antiquities Officer. He would have been more within the theme of the Conference if he had followed it with an account of the activities of the Loamtown Archaeological Research Group, but this was in fact largely provided by several of the speakers in the series of short talks and discussions that occupied the afternoon. Mr. B. J. Philp broke off in the middle of an emergency excavation and arrived in muddy boots and tin helmet to give a brilliant and vigorous talk on "The Archaeological Emergency System in Kent", wherein he showed that archaeological groups in that county have for years been doing what we in Bristol area have not yet done: archaeological emergencies are dealt with by an organised network of subordinate groups coupled with a really active Flying Squad. Dr. Graham Webster gave an account of a Society containing a Junior Group with its own Committee, thereby including within its structure the machinery for its own periodical rejuvenation; while the Cornwall Archaeological Society had established useful liaison with local schools in its survey projects. Mr. R. C. Jarvis of the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society spoke on their highly efficient scheme for dealing with threats to Listed Buildings by an ad-hoc panel with full powers to take immediate appropriate action. The relationship between archaeological societies and local authorities was discussed by other speakers, including Peter Fowler, on County conservation powers and policies; the archaeological work of the County Planning Departments (in which an uncomfortably marked contrast was drawn between Staffordshire and Somerset); and that of the University Extra-Mural Departments.

L. V. G.

Both the Chairman and the editor of this Bulletin, who also attended the Conference, felt that such an important and many sided subject could have justified a weekend conference rather than just one day. Too often, in the afternoon symposium, this listener at least felt that discussion was on the verge of a 'breakthrough', only to shy away onto a new subject. Such quick, comfortable surveys of other societies' problems can perhaps make it too easy to be complacent about one's own: while not always leaving time enough to explore their often stimulating, occasionally startling solutions to these problems.

Many points were made, however, which might merit further thought before our A. G. M. next February. Do archaeological societies look after, sufficiently well, the majority of generally interested members who, after all, finance the active archaeological undertakings of the remaining minority? Could we do more by way of publicity and public relations, on a variety of different levels, whether towards our own members, the general public (often interested in "archaeology on the box" while unaware of that on their own doorstep) or schools? Where the older societies represent more general interests, and younger groups the 'action-archaeologists', where one tends to have the funds and the other the physique: could these two forms of energy not be harnessed to pull together more effectively than they do at present? Perhaps the most potentially explosive suggestion of the day came from Mr. Percival, with his picture of the County Societies acting as lynchpins to all the smaller groups. Perhaps his hopeful description of centralised yet shared teamwork by a happy, co-ordinated partnership of big and small societies was idealistic; but it prompts hard thought - at what point does de-centralisation become dissipation of effort? And at what point does this become bad for archaeological workmanship? And if we are in danger of reaching this point, what should we do about it? The one feature which stood out above all others at this Conference, it seemed, was that up and down the country the successful archaeological Societies are those which are flexible enough to change with the changing needs of their subject; a young Society has this attribute by its nature; but as years go by (and B. A. R. G. is now rising seven) we must work to keep it and not make a Canute-like stand, however dignified.

Very much a 'current event' of the past year has been "Dark Age" Somerset; and we are both proud and fortunate to be given the opportunity to feature in this Bulletin what is probably the most penetrating and wide-ranging survey yet written of "dark age" archaeology in our area.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND URBAN HISTORY

The report of this year's most interesting weekend course, held by B. A. R. G. in conjunction with the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of Bristol University on 11th-13th October, has on this occasion been produced by the Department, as a separate circular, which is circulated to members with this Bulletin.

SOMERSET DARK AGE PROBLEMS

by Philip Rahtz and Peter Fowler

When are we going to be able to drop this "Dark Age" label? How much light do we have to throw? Cadbury, Congresbury (to be known as Cadcong, a good dark age name evocative of Cat-Coit Celidon, one of the twelve battles of Arthur) has just struck another match: in fact quite a Bengal flare to cheer up the darkening end-of-season blues. Do we want to drop the label? It is romantic and stimulating. It was the lack of documentary evidence that made historians talk about the dark ages originally, and the period is so interesting in our area precisely because every scrap of evidence is still so relevant. Are these centuries going to seem any lighter when we straddle them with archaeological periodisation and nomenclature? Will Cadcong B ii Group III, or cemetery statistics, be any substitute for Arthur? In spite of all the disclaimers that P. K. P. Fowlgarahzt made about Cadcong, and any connection with Arthur, the name (oddly misquoted as Alfred!) still crept into the Sunday Times article on Cadcong. In fact many visitors thought we were Camelot!

What other name can we use for the Dark Ages in Somerset? Recently we have been bandying about the adjective "sub-Roman", but this implies a sort of run-down, beat-up version of fourth century Somerset. This may be far from the truth; we could be dealing with a new and vigorous society with such mixed roots that "sub-Roman" might make them turn in their (now numerous) graves. "Early Christian" is still a term used by the establishment, but this is too subjective and limited to be applicable to the diverse aspects of settlement history. "Post-Roman" is too vague and amorphous. Peter Fowler suggests "pre-Saxon". This may be the answer - this is really the point, that we are interested in a span of nearly three centuries before Saxon administration finally penetrated to Somerset.

We have assumed that there were enough people living in Somerset to ensure its economic survival and political independence for so long a period. The former was presumably based on the rich agricultural resources witnessed by the prosperity of the area in the fourth century. Politically we can hardly guess at the truth: communal organisation, local chiefs at Cadcong, Glastonhury Tor, South Cadbury and elsewhere, or one important ruler dominating and organising the whole area.

Who were these people, where and how did they live? These are the questions to which partial answers are now arriving regularly. Somerset has been lucky, both in the continuous attention and in the money poured into so many sites since the war. When we began digging in Somerset in 1946, there were no dark age sites. At Pagans Hill in the early 1950s we daringly postulated that the occupation continued into the early fifth century, because some of the late fourth century coins were worn! Should we have been thinking of the 6th or 7th centuries? In 1951 we found a glass jar in the well there which Dr. Harden dated to mid-7th century. At the time we thought this was some casual Saxon re-occupation, while admitting the exoticism of the find. Now we begin to wonder.

The main clue to the late 5th centuries is the imported pottery. We did not find this at Pagans Hill - or did we? We would not have recognised it if we had. This was true for most Roman archaeologists - the rather rare and small imported sherd would easily be overlooked among the mass of finds on the average Roman excavation, especially as pottery in the "topsoil" (ie., dark age levels) was often ignored. Furthermore a great fallacy was being perpetrated (and is still unhappily all too prevalent): that the coin range is also the dating range of the finds, even though coin imports virtually ceased after c. 400. I think we may now take it for granted that occupation of many of our Roman sites continued with very little change till c. 450 A. D.

It is the imports that have given us evidence of pre-Saxon occupation at South Cadbury, Glastonbury Tor, Cannington, Ilchester and most recently Cadcong. They are classified at present on the basis of work done mainly in the S. W. peninsula, Wales, Ireland and the north-west of Britain. Some at least of the types thus defined are dated, on east Mediterranean sites such as Athens, to the late fifth century or later; others are less securely dated. These amphorae and table-wares, however, are the end of a long series, and it will be a long time before we can be sure which are really post-Roman rather than late Roman.

The evidence for dark age Somerset is now of several kinds. Continuing occupation of Roman sites into the fifth century is demonstrated by the evidence of worn Theodosian coins at such places as Gatcombe, Brean Down and Pagans Hill. Villas such as Low Ham show evidence of structural modifications in this period; while their estates may have outlived their structures. There is

hand-made ("sub-Roman"?) pottery, perhaps of mid-fifth century date, at the Star villa and the Butcombe farmstead; and import sherds at Ilchester. Continuing use of religious sites for pagan or Christian purposes is clear from Pagans Hill, Henley Wood, Blaise Castle and Brean Down. Re-occupation of hillforts is demonstrated at Cannington, Cadcong and South Cadbury. We do not know yet what this implies; there is not much point in a group of people living in a hillfort unless they are sufficiently numerous and organised to defend it in some way; should we look on these places as refuges against hostile enemies or as strongholds from which offensive action could be mounted? The re-furbishing of Iron Age defences is not yet demonstrable at Cadcong, but it is probable at Cannington and certain at South Cadbury, where a substantial rampart of stone, earth and timber was erected to enclose 18 acres. Did this movement into the old strongholds take place during the turbulent decades of the second half of the fifth century, or in the period of consolidation after the victory of Badon c. 500?

We know little of the social organisation or way of life of these groups. South Cadbury is seen as occupied by a community dominated by a military elite. Glastonbury Tor seems to have been the eyrie-like stronghold of a local chieftain and his retainers, who included craftsmen. Cannington was thought of as the last refuge of a group who had moved inland from the Parrett-mouth settlement of Combwich, which rising sea-level and pirates had made untenable. The same may be true of Cadcong; or are we in either or both cases dealing with immigrant groups?

The presence of imported pottery has for long been taken to imply the use of wine and olive oil, either to satisfy the secular needs of an aristocracy accustomed to Roman luxuries, or the liturgical needs of a monastic settlement. Can this still be maintained? There is no archaeological evidence that any of these places, or anywhere else in Somerset, was a monastic site in the fifth or sixth centuries. Meat bones at Glastonbury Tor and Cadcong suggest the contrary. No-one has ever suggested that the presence of amphorae or good quality tablewares on late Roman sites carried any such implications. Even if the amphorae were being imported full of wine or olive oil rather than other commodities, they may have been used as containers for water in a humbler social group. Some sherds may even have had a secondary use as souvenirs, charms or colouring matter for cosmetics or medicines. At Hen Domen in Montgomery this year, in a level otherwise devoid of pottery, an ordinary red Roman sherd was found which had been shaped into a figurine and used as an amulet.

This imported pottery has come a long way, and we can be sure that it did not come alone. It is evidence for long-distance trade, whatever circumstances led to its final resting place as sherds; and trade implies not only other imports along with the pottery (silks, spices?) but also exports from Somerset. These might be local minerals such as lead, silver or tin; craft products such as enamel work or other jewellery; specialised livestock such as hunting-dogs, slaves or women; or the surplus of agricultural production - cheese, leather, grain or wool. Here we are beginning to consider the real basis of pre-Saxon Somerset society, its basic economy.

So much we know about continuing Roman sites, hill-top settlements, and religious sites. Of other settlements, probably far more numerous, especially perhaps in the valleys, we know nothing. The people themselves have been found in several cemeteries, at Cannington, Henley Wood, Brean Down, Blaise Castle and possibly Camerton (see B. A. R. G. Bulletin 2. 8 (1967) p. 103). The first two are associated with the hillfort re-occupations. The graves, almost devoid of finds, are of extended skeletons with heads to the west. This is a nominally Christian mode of burial, though not exclusively so. However much we may believe from the evidence of documentary sources such as saints' lives that Somerset people were Christians by c. 500, we should remember that apart from these graves archaeological record includes no finds, structures or sites that can be certainly equated with Christian conversion before the late seventh century. The number of graves so far known is about 600, and there must be many more cemeteries to be discovered.

Of types or construction of buildings we know little. Cadcong has provided us with the first house-plans apart from the rather ambiguous slots and postholes on Glastonbury Tor. It has made us wonder whether the search for large rectangular structures at South Cadbury was rather off the mark.

Should we study Somerset as one region? Or as two, one around the Ilchester/South Cadbury area, and the other beyond the Mendip barrier in north Somerset? Or as part of a wider Severn Estuary culture complex? Dating will remain a difficult problem. Should we split the period up into, say, "ultimate Roman" (up to c. 450), "pre-Badon" (c. 450-500), "Gildas' Golden Age" (c. 500-550), and "pre-to-post Dyrham" (c. 550-650)? We should certainly drop the adjective

"Arthurian" which, if used at all, should only be for the period c. 480-520. And what of Wansdyke? There is as yet no archaeological dating for any part of West Wansdyke, and only "late Roman or later" for East Wansdyke. It may belong to any of these phases as a northern defence for our area, or even be associated with inter-tribal Saxon warfare.

Such are the ideas at present being discussed. Future work is clear: we must classify all the types of pottery, metal and glass that will define pre-Saxon occupation in our area, and keep an open mind on how long "late Roman" pottery and other artefacts continued to be made or used. We must have a close look at all Roman collections past and present, and define exactly what is Roman by the kind of close analysis done at Chew and Butcombe. We must be prepared to excavate all cemeteries, however tedious find-less graves may be; and by degrees pre-Saxon Somerset will become much less dark.

Putting spots on the distribution map is a worthwhile aim; defining the kind of occupation at each spot is more difficult. Sites need to be dug on a large scale. South Cadbury is the only dig being done on an adequate scale, but here the pre-Saxon evidence is difficult to recover among extensive Neolithic, Iron Age and late Saxon remains. Cadcong has the advantages of shallow soil, a high concentration of dark age finds, no ploughing and no later occupation. The two Cadburys should not be thought of as rivals, but as complementary: each helping in the interpretation of the other. Between them they should do much to tell us more about at least one facet of pre-Saxon settlement: the re-occupation of hillforts in Somerset.

THE ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT AT ROW OF ASHES FARM,
BUTCOMBE, SOMERSET: EXCAVATIONS 1968

by Peter J. Fowler

The third fortnight of excavation at the Romano-British settlement in Westmead (ST 50846297) was carried out by members of B. A. R. G. and the University Extra-Mural Dept. in June, 1968. The site, its setting and earlier results have already been described (Bulletin 2.5 (1966) p. 62-3, and 2.9 (1967) p. 129-30) and a full interim report of the work in 1966-7 has also been published (Procs. U. B. S. S. II no. 3 (1967-8) p. 209-236). A duplicated account of the 1968 season, in more detail than it is possible to give here, is available from the Extra-Mural Dept. on request.

The excavation continued by stripping an arbitrary area immediately north of Building A1 to examine parts of enclosures B and C, and by further work on the wall around enclosure A (references to features follow the published plan in Procs. U. B. S. S. op. cit., fig. 52). The earliest feature found (Phase 1b, op. cit., p. 214) was a circular rock-cut trench, probably the foundation for a timber building. It underlay various Romano-British features and represents, with little doubt, a pre-Roman Iron Age house. It has not yet been fully excavated or indeed uncovered, but it is very likely that post-holes 1-4, and PH5 in Pit 1, belong to a porch covering a south eastern entrance into the building. Some associated features, e. g. remnants of walls and floor-paving, probably belong to Phase 1c (Belgic/early Romano-British); but the reorganisation and new building involved in the Main Phase 2 seem largely to have destroyed upstanding features. Phase 1c is, however, clearly represented by rock-cut pits, probably quarries (Pits 1 & 2). A third pit (Pit 3) immediately outside the NE corner of Building A1 was partly excavated in 1968 and contained at least two levels of horizontally laid flat stones. Its purpose remains to be ascertained, but the association of Pits 1 and 2 with iron-smelting in this phase may well prove to be relevant.

The main feature of Phase 2 (late 3rd-mid 4th centuries AD) examined in 1968 was the wall between Enclosures B and C. All that remained of it was the basal, drystone course; against its southern face was a child (possibly foetal) inhumation, and against its northern face, a shallow pit containing the complete burial of a 2½ year old pony. Further work on the wall of Enclosure A east of Building A1 showed that

it was probably overlying earlier features; and that the drain running through it from Building A1 replaced an earlier one, integral with the wall construction, which had become blocked by a midden that accumulated in the angle of this SE corner of Enclosure A.

Phase 3 (after c. 350 A. D.) was further evidenced by the discovery of a stone kerb with associated occupation level built into and on the collapse from enclosure wall B/C on its north side. The full structure here remains to be uncovered.

Two points can be made about the finds. Firstly, the fairly detailed analytical work on the pottery was justified on the site where all but a few of this year's sherds were sorted into the previously established series of 32 type fabrics. Secondly, the recovery of several more brooches from Phase 1c contexts confirmed the good state of preservation of bronze-work in particular on this site, and underlined the unexpected potential interest of the excavation in relation to problems of the mid-1st century A. D. Undoubtedly, the addition of prehistoric and early Romano-British settlement evidence beneath the visible remains of a late-Roman settlement increase the archaeological value of the site, while high-lighting continuity - within the pre-Roman Iron Age, from pre-Roman to early Romano-British, between 2nd and late 3rd century, from mid-4th to 5th century (and perhaps on to the Cadcong re-occupation, c. 500 A. D. , only 4 miles away?) - as the major challenge in the next few seasons' work.

Once again, I would like to express my indebtedness to the Bendall family, Frances Neale, Charles Browne, and the many extra-mural students and others who together make the work possible and enjoyable. The excavation will continue 24th May - 8th June 1969.

BACK NUMBERS OF THE BULLETIN

From time to time the Group is asked to supply back numbers of the Bulletin. If any members have copies in good condition which they would be prepared to donate to the Group, the Secretary would be very pleased to receive them. The following numbers are particularly needed: Volume I, all numbers; and Volume II, part 4.

Max Hebditch

CITY MUSEUM, BRISTOL: RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACCESSIONS

During the past year, additions have been made to the local collections in every period from the Mesolithic onwards. Two microliths were found, quite unexpectedly, during the archaeological excavations at Westbury College (Westbury-on-Trym). The Neolithic period has been enriched by the gift of a section, about 8 feet by 4 feet, of the timber trackway known as the Abbot's Way at Westhay in the Somerset Levels, presented by Godwin Peat Industries Ltd., through Mr. Colin Clements. Models have been made and are now on display, of a yew bow from Meare, the megalithic tomb at Druid Stoke, Bristol and a Middle Neolithic bowl from Rowberrow Cave, Mendip; the latter was made and presented by our member Dr. H. Taylor. A polished flint axe-head, found in a garden at Falfield, was presented by Mr. K. Hudson; a stone axe made at the Graig Lwyd axe-factory, and part of a jadeite axe, both from Ebbor, were presented by the Axbridge Caving Group and Archaeological Society.

The Bronze Age collection has been augmented by the gift of a remarkable group comprising the skeletal remains of two young men, each showing wounds made by later Middle Bronze Age spearheads, from West Littleton Down, Tormarton, Glos. Credit for this discovery is due initially to our member Mr. R. Knight and his family; rescue work was carried out by Charles Browne, and the material found was given by the Duke of Beaufort and Mr. B. B. Blake, the landowners. A tanged flint arrowhead from Charterhouse-on-Mendip was presented by our member Mr. L. R. Cook, the finder. Bronze Age grave groups from a barrow and from flat graves at Wallmead, Timsbury, have been given by our member Mr. W. J. Wedlake on behalf of the Bath & Camerton Archaeological Society.

The Iron Age collection has been strengthened by the gift, also from Mr. Wedlake, of a large storage jar excavated by him at Wallmead; and by a model of the hill-fort at Sodbury on a scale of 1:200 (purchased). Roman material accessioned includes finds from Charterhouse-on-Mendip (exposed by the July floods) and from Sea Mills. Roman coins include three Constantinian (A. D. 308-340) bronze coins, evidently part of a hoard, found at Tidenham (Forest of Dean) in 1862. A bronze coin of Antoninus Pius (A. D. 138-161) found at 39 Avon Way, was given by Mrs. B. M. Coombs.

The Medieval and Later collections are being enlarged by the accession of pottery and other finds from archaeological excavations at Westbury College and the Bristol Castle (Cock-and-Bottle Lane) area.

A dagger (probably 17th century) found in the R. Chew at East Harptree was given by Mr. K. C. Gundry. Important additions in Bristol Numismatics include a silver penny of Harthacnut (1st reign, 1035-7), a silver penny of William I (1066-87), type 1; a silver penny of Henry II; copies of all-but-unique gold coins of Henry VI and Edward IV (from originals now in the British Museum), and a groat and half-groat of Edward IV (all purchased). A trade token issued in Bradford-on-Avon in 1650, given by Mr. H. Bedingfield, is a welcome addition to our series of these pieces which throw light on the social history of the period.

L. V. Grinsell

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Bristol Archaeological Research Group will be held at 2.30 p. m. on Saturday, 22nd February 1969, 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 and the written consent of the nominee.

The following officers retiring are eligible for re-election: Hon. Secretary; Hon. Assistant Secretary; Hon. Treasurer; Hon. Editor (Bulletin). There are also vacancies for Hon. Excavations Adviser and Hon. Secretary for Junior Affairs. The retiring members of committee (who are not available for re-election) are Miss E. Adams and Mr. J. Drinkwater.

After the meeting the Group will be addressed by the Chairman, Mr. L. V. Grinsell, F. S. A.

December, 1968.

M. G. Hebditch,
Hon. Secretary

B. A. R. G. PUBLICATIONS

The last of the B. A. R. G. Field Guides, No. 3: Medieval Sites, is now with the printers and publication is expected in January, 1969.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL IN LOCAL MUSEUMS: A CHECK-LIST

(PART IV)

edited by P. J. Fowler

We break new ground in this series of provisional lists of local archaeological collections, by moving into Gloucestershire to examine Stroud Museum: a major task only possible with the full co-operation of the Curator. We have had to divide the list into two parts, dealing first with prehistoric material; Roman and later material will be listed in the next Bulletin.

STROUD

The Museum (Cowle Trust)

Lansdown, Stroud

(i) Prehistoric Material

The collections are notable for the number of stone artefacts, mostly flint, and for a considerable amount of non-Gloucestershire and overseas material. We have not attempted to list all this, much of it in the V. P. Kitchen Collection (see, for example, D. Roe, A Gazeteer of British Lower and Middle Palaeolithic Sites, 1968, 125-6). Many of the locally found flints are provenanced in the museum records; see also H. S. Green, thesis on flint arrowheads (unpub., Dept. of Archaeology, University College, Cardiff, 1967).

Abbreviations are as listed in Bulletin 2.9 (1967) with the addition of:

Allen: D. F. Allen, 'The Origins of Coinage in Britain' in Frere (ed.), Problems of the Iron Age in Southern Britain (1961), 97-308

PCNFC: Proceedings of the Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club

TBGAS: Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

Roman or Arabic numbers in brackets after parish names refer respectively to long or round barrows as listed by O'Neil and Grinsell, TBGAS 79 Pt. 1 (1960), where full references are given.

Palaeolithic, Advanced:

Eastington: 2 flint blades (? Aurignacian) (PCNFC 24, 167 fig.)

Fauna:

Pleistocene: large coll. mainly from the gravels of the R. Frome (Cainscross Terrace)

Post-Pleistocene: animal bones from Nailsworth, R. Severn, Stroud.

STROUD, cont'd.

Mesolithic:

A few microliths (Whitley Coll.) from Atherton, Avening, Brimpsfield (Climperwell), Cherington, Chavenage (Beverstone), Eastington, Kingscote and Nympsfield.

Neolithic:

Long barrows:

Adlestrop (I): M. adult human skull and frags., 4 lower jaws, human and animal bones, pottery, flints, pebbles

Avening: upper jaws and teeth (Pavey Smith coll.)

Bisley (I): burnt, unburnt human remains; animal bones; 3 pebbles

Bisley (VI or I?): trephined frag. human skull (cast, original at B. M.)

Bisley, Common: human skull, bones from 2 persons; animal bones

Bisley, Elcombe: ? human bones from grave (PCNFC 26, 102-3)

Duntisbourne Abbots (II, Jack Barrow): long-headed F skull, 2 lower jaws

Frocester (I, Nympsfield long barrow), 2 (restored) pots, sherds, perforated shell of dog-whelk, bone objects, flint arrowhead, quartzite pebbles, animal bones (Clifford excavs 1937); also 2 anchylosed human vertebrae, animal bones (Paine coll.)

Uley (I): bone (Paine coll.); 2 flint flakes (from field by I)

Isolated finds:

Coaley Peak: stone rubber

Cotswolds: series of leaf and petit tranchet derivative arrowheads together with scrapers, cores and other flint tools. V. P. Kitchin and other collectors.

Stroud area: large collection as above

Uleybury Camp: grooved stone (needle sharpener?)

Stone axes, sectioned but unpublished, from:

Berkeley, Bisley (Bakers Barn), Brimscombe, Chalford (polished, unsectioned), Frampton Mansell, Stinchcombe (polished), ? Gloucestershire (unloc.)

Polished flint axe fragments from:

Avening (Hazelwood), Bisley, Cherington, Coaley, Dursley (Ashen Plain), Edgeworth, Horsley (Nupend), Kingscote, Minchinhampton, Miserden Camp, Stonehouse

Flint axe frags. from:

Cranham (Climperwell), Nailsworth, Stroud (Cashes Green), Stroud area (4 frags.), Uley (I)

STROUD, cont'd.

Bronze Age;

Round barrows (inc. BA material from long barrows):

Cranham: skull and femur frags. , calcined

Duntisbourne Abbots (II, Jack Barrow): part of brachycephalic human skull (? Beaker)

Frocester (II, Soldiers Grave): ? pottery and animal bones

Kings Stanley (1, Ivy Lodge): necked beaker, ? lead amulet, boy's skull, 2 lower jaws and other bones, cremated material

Nailsworth (The Folly): bi-conical urn, flint (TBGAS 77, Pt. I fig. 4)

Isolated finds:

Bisley (Water Lane): narrow-flanged axe of copper or bronze (TCNFC 26, 206 & fig.)

Dursley, Ashen Plain: 2 cowry shells (TBGAS 64, 89-95)

Nailsworth: bronze knife-dagger with 2 rivets (one missing)

Rodborough Common: 2 MBA socketed bronze spearheads with loops on socket (PCNFC 13, 85-7; TBGAS 5, 61 & 68, 10; Archaeologia, 71, 140)

Woodchester (Four Ways): ? quartzite pebble hammerstone

Unlocated: socketed axe ("South Welsh" type); bronze chisel of square section (South-western type)

Iron Age

Amberley: material from Mrs. E. M. Clifford's excavs. (TBGAS 59, 287-307)

Bourton-on-the-Water, Salmonsbury Camp: iron currency bar (Proc. Prehist. Soc. 33, 328-9 for background, though apparently unlisted.)

Dursley, Sheephouse Farm: tanged iron knife

Eastington: 3 pots, one with countersunk lugs, and sherds inc. Gallo-Belgic ware, human bones (PCNFC 24, 163-180)

Little Solisbury Camp, (Somerset): 7 IA 'A' rims, 1 horiz. perforated lug, daub, slag, grain

Minchinhampton Common, The Bulwarks: material from Mrs. E. M. Clifford's excavs. (TBGAS 59, 287-307)

Rodborough: material from excavs. of Mrs. E. M. Clifford (TBGAS 59, 287-307) and Miss D. M. Rennie (TBGAS 78, 24-43)

Uleybury Camp: numerous slingstones

Coins from:

Chalford, Frampton Mansell: 2 Armorican (Allen, 272)

Kingscote/Horsley area: Dobunnic $\frac{1}{4}$ stater (Allen, 247)

Minchinhampton: gold stater of Bodvoc (Allen, 256); bronze coin

STROUD, cont'd.

Acknowledgements: the Curator, L. F. J. Walrond, provided the information in this list and has been of the greatest help throughout. Mrs. J. Popplewell, Mrs. K. M. White and J. D. Crook worked on the collections, and L. V. Grinsell has contributed materially.

REVIEWS

L. V. Grinsell, Guide Catalogue to the South-Western British Prehistoric Collections (City Museum, Bristol, 1968) Pp. 79, 14 figs., 8 pls., 7s. 6d.

The publication of any sort of museum catalogue of archaeological material has been such a rare event that the mere appearance of this production calls for congratulation. That it comes from the hand of the indefatigable Mr. Grinsell, Curator of Archaeology at Bristol Museum, is a further recommendation of its worth to would-be purchasers.

After a short historical note on the development of the prehistoric collections, the Guide consists of summary chapters on each of the archaeological periods from Lower Palaeolithic up to and including the Iron Age. Then follows the Catalogue, incorporating line drawings of selected objects, and a number of half-tones; the book ends with a topographical index to sites.

This is an attractive and useful publication. The drawings are competent, although they might have looked crisper on untinted paper, and some of the flints on fig. 1 have lost a little detail in reduction. The perfectionist will note a few omissions: numbers 51a(iii), 52a(ii), 52b and 62, pin, blade and rivet sections not drawn; 64c and d, perforations not indicated in section. Pl. VII, 'Ancient British Coins', is ghostly and unattractive, while the detail on the Kingsholm terret (Pl. VIa) could surely have been improved. Still on the subject of plates, was the enlarged illustration of the ANTED stater (Pl. VIII) really necessary? Serious students might have found an extra page of drawings more useful. One last note - or was I just unlucky? - in merely handling the book for purpose of review, the binding broke and the middle section of my copy is now adrift.

After these minor carpings, may this reviewer make one or two observations which are not intended as a criticism of the Guide Catalogue per se, but of its intent. The foreword indicates that the Guide Catalogue is intended to provide for the interest of the general visitor, and the requirements of the specialist and serious student. Does it really do this? With respect I feel that in achievement it falls somewhere between these two requirements, deterring the visitor with an excess of catalogue detail but, as a glance at the Catalogue shows, including too few illustrations for it to be of fundamental value to the specialist.

Have we museum professionals become a little obsessed with the urge to produce popular works in order to satisfy the layman's thirst for knowledge in this age of mass communication? We cannot deny this demand which, when all is said and done, is the rightful claim of a taxpaying public. Think, however, how each year new accessions pour into our museums, and are rapidly stored away with the pious hope of their publication at some distant and unspecified date. Our archaeological collections are the working material for students and their examination frequently provides new and sometimes wholly unanticipated information. The synthesis of specialist and scholarly articles deriving from the study of archaeological material ultimately results in the mass of popular archaeological and historical literature now available at museums and booksellers for general education. But if we fail at the outset to serve the needs of scholarship, then in the long run this flow of up-to-date educational literature will cease.

There is an urgent need for comprehensive, fully illustrated catalogues of archaeological collections in museums to assist the specialist in fulfilling his purpose. For this reason Mr. Grinsell might have waited a little longer and illustrated many more of the objects in his charge. The interested layman would best be served by a guide devoid of catalogue jargon, with more general information on individual finds, and more half-tones for illustration.

Looking at museum publications in general, one sometimes senses that they are produced to satisfy the eye, but not aimed specifically at any section of the community. We must be careful lest we end up by satisfying nobody. But this is the grinding of a personal axe. I hope such comments will not deter anyone from enjoying some of the fascinating finds of the prehistoric era, in the Bristol Museum, now drawn and described in this publication.

F. K. Annable
The Museum, Devizes

ed. B R Masters & E Ralph, The Church Book of St. Ewen's Bristol, 1454-1584 (Bristol & Gloucs. Arch. Soc. Records Section, 1968) 30s.

Although it might appear an "historian's" book, the publication of this rare record of the administration of a late medieval city parish (in itself of great social and economic interest) also includes translations of property deeds, so forming one more tool to aid the archaeological jigsaw puzzle of central Bristol.

F. Neale

L. E. W. O. Fullbrook-Leggatt, Roman Gloucester (GLEVVM) Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, 1968) 12s. 6d. (10s. to members)

Twenty years ago Prof. I. A. Richmond described Glevum as an unsuccessful city which suffered by its proximity to prosperous Corinium. If that description is unacceptable today it is so because Mr. Fullbrook-Leggatt, with incredible patience, has searched newspapers, scrapbooks and directories and has so assembled a wealth of forgotten records of old discoveries. From this book, in which every relevant record is transcribed or summarised, the reader will soon form the impression that every square yard of the Roman city was covered with mortar, gravel, mosaic or heavy masonry. A history of the site cannot yet be written in view of the unexpected and still unpublished discoveries made in 1966; it is only possible to present the conflicting evidence (as on pp. 13-14) and to await its interpretation. As a source-book, however, this work will be fundamental to all future studies of Glevum.

J. F. Rhodes

A. Jamieson & B. S. Smith, Gloucestershire: A Local History Handbook (Gloucestershire Community Council, 1968) 5s. 4d. inc. postage.

This booklet covers most competently the field which this writer surveyed all too briefly in B. A. R. G. Survey and Policy II: the facilities and potential for documentary research in this area, for archaeologists as much as for historians. Invaluable as a brief guide for students of Bristol and Gloucestershire, its breadth of scope makes it almost as useful an introduction to general sources elsewhere in our region. Potential subjects are inevitably covered somewhat briefly - "Medieval Life" gets shorter shrift than "Domesday Survey" - but at least the suggestions are there, coupled with strong emphasis on the value of fieldwork, and proper discouragement of amateur excavations. Its descriptions of documents are clear, its booklists up to date (and even looking forward to 1969), its lists of local museums, big and small, are comprehensive: but whatever has B. A. R. G. done to deserve total omission from the otherwise complete lists of regional societies and their publications?

F. Neale

NOTICES OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Proceedings of the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society, vol. 11 no. 3 (1968)

Of special interest to B. A. R. G. members is the first interim report of the "Excavation of a Romano-British Settlement at Row of Ashes Farm, Butcombe" by P. J. Fowler (pp. 209-236). The "Archaeological Notes" include many items relating to Mendip as well as Coombe Hill, Bristol; Little Solsbury, near Bath; Binegar, and Midsomer Norton, in Somerset (pp. 243-256). The complete proceedings are available to non-members at 20s., and offprints of these two items at 6s. and 5s. respectively.

Current Archaeology No. 10 (September 1968) included not only another report by P. J. Fowler on Butcombe, but also an important article on Roman Bath based on Prof. Barry Cunliffe's lecture to the Society of Antiquaries, who plan to publish the Richmond-Cunliffe report on Bath early next year.

Clevedon & District Archaeological Society: Newsheet No. 28 (September 1968) includes a note on fieldwork by Mr. J. Pullan, recording some local boundary stones, both parish and estate. He spotlights a subject that is crying out for fieldwork which local societies could well undertake in their own areas. Individual boundary stones, of all types and ages, are sometimes marked on O. S. maps (but with no details of their date or purpose) and sometimes not; and in both cases are all too liable to 'vanish' unrecorded.

Banwell Society of Archaeology: Journal 'Search' no. 8 (1968)

This number is, as usual, a remarkably handsome production for a small local society and includes, besides an interim report on 1967 excavations at Chapel Close, Winthill, a most useful bibliography of that site 1811-1968; another really useful piece of background work which other societies, with large known sites not necessarily under excavation, might well emulate.

CALENDAR OF
FORTHCOMING COURSES, MEETINGS AND LECTURES

January - March 1969

Abbreviations:

B. G. A. S. Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society
G. A. R. G. Gloucester & District Archaeological Research Group
S. A. N. H. S. Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society
University: University of Bristol Extra-Mural Department, from
 whom details can be obtained.

- January 13 REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY 1968: Symposium, B. G. A. S.
 City Museum, BRISTOL, 5.45 p. m.
- 13 MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY, by M. Ponsford. Course of
 10 meetings at the Arts Centre, BRIDGWATER, 7.30 p. m.
 University.
- 14 AN EXPERIMENT IN EARLY IRON AGE AGRICULTURE,
 by H. C. Bowen. Bath & Camerton Archaeol. Soc. Assembly
 Hall, BATH Technical College (Old Building), 7.15 p. m.
 Visitors 2s. 6d.
- 15 THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORT OF BRISTOL, by Dr.
 R. A. Buchanan. Museum Lecture Theatre, BRISTOL,
 7.30 p. m. Admission free.
- 16 THE SOMERSET V. C. H., by Dr. Dunning. Keynsham &
 Saltford Local History Society. Saltford Church Hall, 7.30 p. m.
- 16 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: CLEVEDON & DISTRICT
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, followed by 'Aerial Photography',
 by J. Hancock. The Community Centre, CLEVEDON, 7.30 p. m.
- 18 MEDIEVAL SITES IN THE BRISTOL REGION, by L. V. Grinsell.
 Folk House Archaeological Society, Park Street, Bristol. 3 p. m.
- 20 DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGES: UPTON, GLOS., by
 Miss J. Isaac. G. A. R. G. Queen Street Hall, GLOUCESTER,
 7.30 p. m.
- 22 FROCESTER COURT-ROMAN VILLA, by Captain H. S. Gracie.
 B. A. R. G. Lecture, City Museum, BRISTOL. 7.30 p. m.
- 23 THE BUILDING OF THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH, by J. Bettey
 & A. Holway. Course of 6 meetings and fieldmeetings. Wills
 Memorial Building, University of BRISTOL, 7.30 p. m.

- February 4 LATE & POST-ROMAN METALWORK, by Mrs. E. Fowler. Bath & Camerton Archaeol. Soc. Assembly Hall, BATH Technical College (Old Building) 7.15 p. m. Visitors 2s. 6d.
5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: WELLS NAT. HIST. & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, with talk on Masons' Marks by Dr. R. D. Reid. The Museum, WELLS, 5.30 p. m. Visitors 1s. 6d.
- 14 VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE by F. Jarminy. Banwell Society of Archaeology. Methodist Church Hall, BANWELL, 7.30 p. m.
- 14 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: FROME SOCIETY FOR LOCAL STUDY, at FROME R. D. C. Offices, 7.15 p. m.
- 14-16 ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE LANDSCAPE: weekend school at Urchfont Manor, Nr. Devizes. P. J. Fowler and panel. University.
- 17 EXCAVATION OF A COTSWOLD-SEVERN LONG BARROW AT ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD, by D. Benson. G. A. R. G., Queen Street Hall, GLOUCESTER, 7.30 p. m.
- 22 WANSDYKE FROM THE AIR, by J. Hancock. S. A. N. H. S. Wyndham Hall, TAUNTON Castle, 2.30 p. m.
- 22 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP, and Chairman's address. Museum Lecture Theatre, BRISTOL, 2.30 p. m. See page 65.
- March 3 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SPELAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, with address on Early Mendip Caving by Dr. E. K. Tratman.
- 4 MEDIEVAL RELIGIOUS HOUSES OF SOMERSET. by P. J. Greening. Bath & Camerton Archaeol. Soc. Assembly Hall, BATH Technical College (Old Building), 7.15 p. m. Visitors 2s. 6d.
- 5 GLOUCESTERSHIRE WOOLLEN MILLS, by L. Walrond. Olveston Parish Historical Society. Methodist Hall, OLVESTON, 7.30 p. m.
- 8 EXCAVATIONS AT BREAN DOWN, by A. M. ApSimon. Wells Nat. Hist. & Archaeological Society. The Museum, WELLS, 5.30 p. m.

- March 10 LESSER SOMERSET HOUSES, by Dr. R. D. Reid. B. G. A. S.,
City Museum, BRISTOL, 5.45 p. m.
- 11 EXCAVATIONS AT WITHAM PRIORY, by P. Barlow.
Shepton Mallet Natural History Society. Details: - Hon. Sec.,
6 Charlton Road, SHEPTON MALLET.
- 12 LUDGERSHALL: THE EVOLUTION OF A MEDIEVAL
PALACE CASTLE by P. V. Addyman. B. A. R. G. Lecture.
City Museum, BRISTOL, 7.30 p. m.
- 13 IRON AGE CAMP AT WORLE, by D. Tomalin. Clevedon
& District Archaeological Society. The Community Centre,
CLEVEDON, 7.30 p. m.
- 14 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & Discussion: Local History
Sources. Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society.
Ellsbridge House, KEYNSHAM, 7.30 p. m.
- 17 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: GLOUCESTER & DISTRICT
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP, with exhibition of
Clay Pipes by A. Cooke. Queen Street Hall, GLOUCESTER,
7.30 p. m.
- 21 - 23 BONES AND ARCHAEOLOGY: Weekend school at BRISTOL
with panel inc. Miss B. Noddle, R. Chaplin. University.
- 22 ROMAN BRITAIN & THE ROMAN ARMY: RECENT
DISCOVERIES. Prof. S. S. Frere. S. A. N. H. S. Bishop
Fox's School, TAUNTON, 2.30 p. m. By ticket only, from
The Secretary, Taunton Castle before 1st February.
- 22 THE SYLLOGE OF BRISTOL & GLOUCESTERSHIRE MINT
COINS: half-day Symposium. Bath & Bristol Numismatic
Society. City Museum, BRISTOL, 2.15 p. m.
- 29 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: BRISTOL & GLOUCESTER-
SHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY at Wheatstone Hall,
Brunswick Street, GLOUCESTER, 2.30 p. m.
- 29 - 30 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIR PHOTOGRAPHY: weekend course
with flying, based on WESTON-SUPER-MARE airport.
University.

Advance Notice:

- April 3 -12 BRITAIN: Study-tour. Places limited. University.
- 19 COLLOQUIUM: ROMAN COARSE POTTERY IN THE
BRISTOL REGION B. A. R. G. City Museum, BRISTOL.
Places limited.