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BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

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

BULLETIN

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This bulletin is issued in Spring, Autumn and December

BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP
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MEMBERSHIP

The Annual Subscription for the current year is:

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EDITORIAL

Autumn is the Season of Symposia; and very cheerful, encouraging occasions they can be, on which to meet together and hear what everyone has been doing during the year. The meeting of S. A. N. H. S. 's Branch and Affiliated Societies (including B. A. R. G.) at Bristol on 9th October was one such occasion, with Leslie Grinsell as combined President, host and B. A. R. G. chief representative. It was followed in November by our own Symposium, where the excellent attendance only highlights the questions put by our Chairman about our evening lectures (p. 65). We are delighted to include one of the Symposium papers, read by Vic Hallett of the Thornbury Archaeological Group, as the main article in this issue. Short reports of the Symposium papers will appear as usual in the Spring number.

End of season accounts of work and finds in Bristol (pp. 64, 71) and out of it (p. 70) show just how many and how varied the opportunities this season have been for urban or rural, training, research and rescue excavation. Mike Ponsford provides a suitable conclusion on the writing that follows, echoing Vic Hallett, and on the urgent need for scientific specialists to help.

December brings the retirement of the Bristol City Archivist, Miss Ralph, after 36 years in which she has accumulated a knowledge of Bristol and its documentary history that, probably, no one else will equal - a knowledge that has always been generously available to anyone studying Bristol's past, physical or written. An archivist in a city, as opposed to the larger expanse of a county, has the opportunity to know every street, block and corner, and the documents that go with them. In Bristol, with one of the best series of municipal records outside London, the potential of this for archaeological-documentary topography is only now really being explored. One aid to such exploration, is the forthcoming publication of her Guide to the Bristol Archives Office - an aid to record-users which only a lifetime's experience and knowledge of the city and its archives could have produced as a parting present to future archaeologists and historians.

Next February will see another retirement closer still to B. A. R. G. concerns - though to judge from the Calendar and other plans, Leslie Grinsell looks like being even more busy and no less available. March 1972 in turn will bring B. A. R. G. 's tenth birthday - members will be hearing more about this in due course!

LOCAL FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY:
THE FIRST YEAR OF THE THORNBURY GROUP
by V. G. Hallett

One of the side effects of the University of Bristol Department of Extra-Mural Studies courses held during the winter evenings is the friendly relationships established within a group of people having a common interest, but previously unknown to each other. Such was the amalgam that resulted in a small group living in the Thornbury area of South Gloucestershire forming into a team of fieldworkers to walk the proposed course of the M5 motorway from the Little Avon southwards to the disused Yate-Thornbury railway line. Three previously unknown sites were revealed as a result of this fieldwalking and subsequent surveillance.

As the motorway neared completion time became available to apply the lessons learnt to the Thornbury area in general, which was, and still is, subject to extensive development. If the concentration of sites along the length of the M5 was typical, it seemed a reasonable assumption that, with all types of development taking place and further development proposed for the future, there could be unknown archaeological sites destroyed without being recorded. Informal discussion on this problem arose whenever the ex-M5 fieldworkers met to examine some new site, and it was during this period that they were approached by the Thornbury and District Community Association with a view to forming an archaeological group to meet the needs of members who had expressed an interest in the subject. Advice was sought concerning the desirability of forming a separate local group. With the blessing of all concerned and within a strict framework of rules, the Thornbury Archaeological Group was inaugurated at a meeting attended by over twenty people whose notions of archaeology were effectively brought up to date with an address by Mr. M. Ponsford, Bristol City Museum's Field Archaeologist.

Once formed, the group turned its attention to the second phase of the Town Centre development. Each evening and at weekends the site clearance and excavations for drainage and building foundations were carefully watched. It soon became apparent that the shallow layer of topsoil lying on the bedrock forming the ridge on which Thornbury is built, had been completely disturbed by nineteenth century development, followed by back-garden cultivation. A further exploratory excavation on a four metre square of a back garden, down to bedrock, has produced quantities of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds, but all, alas, unstratified.

The appearance of a deep trench across fields adjacent to the A38 north of Stone announced the commencement of the Bristol Waterworks Purton-to-Pucklechurch water main. The section already excavated was immediately walked, and on returning to 'go' it was a pleasant surprise to find a B. A. R. G. member trudging up the other side of the trench. The B. A. R. G. Secretary was informed and in due course a map of the pipeline route was obtained. With close co-operation between B. A. R. G. and T. A. G. the route was sectioned off into lengths suitable for surveillance.

Unfortunately, the construction of the pumping station at Purton was well advanced when visited by T. A. G. members, having started before the pipeline; so no watch was kept on this site during the initial earth-moving operations. This shows a loophole in the mode of operation of both organisations. T. A. G. are looking at the possibility of one person being co-opted to the Committee to act as liaison with the local government offices for preliminary information on such public works, together with the names of contractors involved, etc. To date this pipeline has produced little in the way of stray finds and has completely missed any archaeological sites. Although passing close to Heneage Court Romano-British and post-medieval sites, and the Cromhall Roman Villa, not a sherd of pottery of either period was observed on the trench soil heap. However, this pipe-laying operation is not yet complete, and sections remain to be stripped of top soil, so that surveillance must continue into the winter. Already the mud created by the excavating machinery has made the location of objects on the stripped area almost impossible, and it is therefore necessary to pay even greater attention to the soil heaps which are segregated on the west side of the trench away from the rock and clay which is retained for infill.

During examination of the section of pipeline in the area close to Cromhall Roman Villa, it was noticed that a number of plastic pipes for secondary water mains were stacked behind a hedge in a field adjacent to the main trenching operations. This field could be said to answer to the description 'gruffy', as sometimes applied to old mining areas, and the presence of a heap of coal slag the size of a Bronze Age round barrow suggested that this site might be of some interest to the industrial archaeologist. The stacks of plastic water pipes indicated that some type of work was impending, and the opportunity was taken to photograph the field as it then existed, plus close-up photographs of the slag heap. Two Romano-British pottery sherds from the numerous mole-hills in the field were not considered very important at the time, due to the close proximity of the Villa site.

The fieldworkers allocated this stretch of the pipeline were briefed to keep watch on this field, whilst enquiries to the Engineer's Department of the Thornbury R. D. C. revealed that it had been acquired for a sewage disposal works and had already been handed over to the main contractors, but no firm date had been negotiated for the commencement of work.

Whilst enquiries were being made to establish the identity of the sub-contractors who would be responsible for the initial earth-scraping and trench excavation, they were already scraping small areas of the site to provide level spaces for the erection of site huts - all these areas proved to be negative. The next visit to the site two days later found a large area of top soil removed, one end of which was under several inches of water due to a rainstorm the previous night. No soil discolouration was visible other than a circular area of coal shale, but a careful search in the soil heaps produced a large number of Romano-British pottery sherds. It was felt that this was more than surface scatter from the Villa site, and Bristol City Museum was informed next day.

Arrangements were made with the group for a visit by the Museum's Field Archaeologist, who confirmed the site, obtained the contractor's permission to excavate, and organised a programme of excavation. Initially all the Group put in an attendance at this site. After several evenings spent trowelling the same area and finding nothing more exciting than sherds of cooking pot the attendance began to wane, but stabilised after a fortnight to an average of five people each weekday evening and weekends, over a period of some sixteen weeks, with assistance from B. A. R. G. members who answered the request for help.

Progress on a survey of the parishes of Thornbury, Alveston and Olveston which the Group had undertaken as part of the B. A. R. G. Parish Survey was inevitably curtailed by this rescue excavation, as those people who seemed to be the activators of the former were also those actively engaged in the latter, but a considerable amount of source work did continue.

The Group is now left with a large amount of pottery to wash, sort and draw, followed by the writing of a Report and the necessity to publish during the coming winter months. Many members will be attending this winter's University of Bristol Extra-Mural Studies course in Thornbury, which is appropriately entitled 'Practical Archaeology.'

RECENT ACCESSIONS IN THE CITY MUSEUM, BRISTOL

by L. V. Grinsell and D. P. Dawson

During the year from late October 1970 to the end of October 1971, the Museum has been particularly lucky in its acquisition of local archaeological material.

The Prehistoric periods are represented by a Bronze Age perforated stone implement from Winscombe (Som.) given by Mrs. Orme, and a flint flake found by Miss Elizabeth Adams near Blaise Castle Folly (Bristol).

Our Roman collections have again been greatly enhanced by the acquisition of more material, notably the moulds for pewter working, from Nettleton Shrub, excavated by W. J. Wedlake for Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society. Mr. R. G. Wickett very kindly gave us his collection of unstratified Roman bronzework, mainly brooches, from the Charterhouse area of Mendip. Other accessions include a spindle whorl from Green Ore (Som) given by Mr. H. S. Green and a female skull from Keynsham.

The first instalment of metalwork and pottery from Cadbury Camp, Congresbury, excavated by P. J. Fowler, K. S. Gardner and P. A. Rahtz gave a foretaste of perhaps the finest assemblage of Dark Age material in Britain.

The City Museum excavations under the direction of M. W. Ponsford have again yielded a very fine collection of Medieval and later material, this time from sites at Peter Street car-park, and Water Lane by Temple Church (Bristol). The former produced an interesting stone mould for a single-looped buckle. Both have increased the known range of local and imported ceramics from Bristol. Yet more medieval kiln-wasters have been excavated from Peter Street and from a stratified sequence of pits by Redcliffe Hill, strongly implying pottery manufacture actually within or very near to the city. All these sites also strengthened our Post-Medieval ceramic sequence, notably Redcliffe Hill with an exceptionally fine early 18th century pit group. Material collected from several sites in central areas of Bristol included sugar moulds from Temple Way, and a fine group of mid-18th century pipe wasters from Broadweir excavated by R. G. Jackson and R. Price.

Probably the most outstanding accessions this year have been made in the Numismatics section. Ten coins of Canute and Edward the Confessor, some of exceptional rarity and all minted in Bristol, were

purchased at the F. Elmore Jones sale; while other acquisitions include two pennies of Henry II and five silver coins of William III. A further numismatic acquisition of archaeological interest was purchased at the H. St. George Grey sale: an example of the medal designed for Pitt Rivers by Sir John Evans in 1880.

B. A. R. G. EVENING LECTURES

Our winter programme of evening lectures got off to a good start on October 13th. We had an excellent lecture and by usual standards a large audience - there were sixteen of us. Many B. A. R. G. evening lectures during the last two or three years have been attended by no more than a dozen members, so perhaps we should regard our first meeting this year as an unqualified success. For myself, I am ashamed that a society of over three hundred members can muster only a dozen or so to listen to a speaker who has made a round trip of more than 300 miles just to speak to B. A. R. G.. The shame is all the greater when one lectures to audiences of thirty or forty gathered by one of the smaller local societies on the outskirts of Bristol.

The paltry audiences which greet our visiting lecturers at present can do B. A. R. G. nothing but harm. The impression they create - of an apathetic and impotent society - damages both our reputation in the country at large and our morale within the society itself. The economics of the situation are ridiculous. Our winter lecture programme costs us, in expenses and publicity, about £70 per annum, whilst the total attendance at five meetings will rarely exceed 70. In other words, each lecture is costing £1 per member of the audience. For the handful of 'regulars' it means, of course, that for their £1 annual subscription they are getting a real bargain - three Bulletins and £5 worth of lectures - but what a waste of resources! If it continues, future committees might well have to consider whether the winter lecture programme is really justified - after all, a great deal of useful archaeological work could be done with £70 even in these inflationary days.

There are no doubt many good reasons why so many B. A. R. G. members do not attend the winter lectures. Distance to a central meeting-place may be discouraging, transport may be difficult, times may be inconvenient. But the committee cannot try to overcome these difficulties unless it is aware of them.

I am therefore asking all B. A. R. G. members to fill in and return the questionnaire enclosed in this Bulletin so that we may have the information needed to improve our programme in accordance with members' wishes. About 3% of our members attend our evening lectures - might we pray for a miracle and expect 20% to return the questionnaire?

May I close by asking one question which we have not included in the questionnaire - when did you last attend a B. A. R. G. evening lecture?

Keith Branigan, Chairman

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

To form the basis of a programme for the winter-spring season we thought it would be a good idea to show a series of archaeological films making an interesting addition to the lectures provided by the older members of B. A. R. G. Three dates have been arranged: January 7th, January 28th and February 18th; however, the last evening will only take place if the other two have reasonable success. The films will be in the Schools Room at the Museum, at 7.30 p. m. and will include films dealing with many aspects of archaeology and history, both in Britain and in other countries, whose ancient civilisations are of great interest and still hold infinite mysteries.

January 7th	Exploring the Unwritten Past Lost Cities of the Sahara The Ancient New World The Moa was Radioactive
January 28	Prehistoric Europe The Roman World Hadrian's Wall Cave Dwellers of the Old Stone Age Vasa

Preview - by Andrew Holt:

Lost Cities of the Sahara - The Sahara desert has not always been a void in the past as it is frequently believed to be today. This film shows that this place has in fact been at the heart of flourishing civilisations and many of the monuments and records which have lately been discovered are illustrated.

The Prehistoric Hunters of the Fezzan, who were the builders of the water-tunnels, and the Garamantes are discussed. But exploration still remains to be done deeper in the desert - places like the oasis of Zuila, and the mysterious medieval castles.

The Ancient New World - Another part of the world laced with intrigue is Central America, and this film serves as an introduction to the study of Central America and its ancient civilisations from the Ice Age to Mexican civilisation. The film employs animation and authentic pre-Columbian art subjects to present the theme, tracing man's first arrival there from Asia, and the progress of his skills from hunting to agriculture, followed by the strange rise and fall of the Mayans and finally the splendour of the Aztecs before the intervention of Cortez.

Cave Dwellers of the Old Stone Age - This film was photographed in south-west France and shows a dramatised reconstruction of the life of Neanderthal Man and Cro-Magnon Man in the light of skeletons, weapons, tools and paintings which have been discovered.

The Roman World - This is an illustration of the Roman way of life using the remains of their civilisations left to us today. It shows how their armies were organised, and how they achieved their prosperity and grandeur.

Vasa - The Swedish warship Vasa sank in Stockholm harbour during her maiden voyage in 1628, and there she remained for over 300 years, apparently forgotten. But in 1956 she was located, and it was decided to refloat her. After five years this was finally achieved and amazingly she was still in one piece. This film, made in 1965, tells the story of this feat in marine archaeology, particularly important since the Vasa is the oldest ship which has been fully identified, and the largest wooden object to be recovered from the sea.

Although the films are being shown primarily for Associate Members full members of B. A. R. G. are very welcome to come along and see them with us.

On Sunday 26th March it is hoped an Associates' Trip will take place, visiting as many of the important monuments in the Avebury district as it is possible to connect together in the space of one day: Silbury Hill, West Kennet Long Barrow, The Sanctuary, Fyfield Down. We hope to travel by Bristol Greyhound coach (cost 55p return) leaving the Marlborough Street end of the Bus Station at approximately 8.30 a. m. , returning at 7.15 p. m.* If possible, Mr. Grinsell, Curator of Archaeology at the Museum, will act as Guide, and if we are prepared for typical March weather, we should have a very enjoyable time.

Please bring packed lunches - and something for tea, although we may have something in Marlborough. For prospects of cancellation ring my telephone number 673848.

*These times are subject to change when the full-length M4 motorway opens, and it would be advisable to ring me or the Bus Station nearer the time, for the new times of the Sunday morning Bristol - Marlborough-London coaches.

Christopher Brain

PARISH SURVEY UNIT: 9th OCTOBER 1971

by Elizabeth Adams

On 9th October the Parish Survey Unit was extremely fortunate in having Professor Charles Thomas to lead a discussion on the aims and methods of work of Parish Surveys, and to give helpful advice based on his own practical experience in the similar pioneer undertaking by the Cornwall Society. Our own method of group working is not dissimilar to that of the Cornwall Society, though we were reminded of the many years of work done by one person, Miss Vivien Russell, that led to the recent publication of the West Penwith Survey.

Professor Thomas divided the sites which we should include into four types: (i) visible and fully recorded; (ii) visible and detectable by the trained eye, but not recorded; (iii) not visible, or at best detectable by air photography, (iv) suspected but unconfirmed, from documentary sources or place-names. We were warned that interesting fieldnames, while important and to be noted, can be misleading and should be treated with caution.

It was stressed that though ideally every field should be viewed on several occasions, lists could always be amended and extended and our aim should be to record and publish as soon as possible. We should decide at an early stage on the categories of sites which we should use, e. g. barrows, field systems, crosses, etc., preferably keeping these categories as 'omnibus' and uncomplicated as possible. This should be an aid in deciding how to describe sites when met in the field. We were reminded that the siting of 'portable' monuments such as crosses should be treated with reserve, remembering that some may have been removed from their original sites - even burial chambers can be moved, as at Avening, Glos. Documentary and place-name evidence is often helpful on this.

The Cornwall Society had been able to pay a qualified archaeologist's expenses for weekends spent assisting and guiding groups of workers in the field. They also obtained a grant for the heavy printing costs, amounting to £1,000. When sufficient progress has been made, P. S. U. will need to seek similar aid.

The Group later joined the Affiliated Societies of the Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society in the Museum Lecture Theatre, where Professor Thomas read a paper on "The Role of the Field Survey in Archaeology". He began by paying tribute to the great example set by Mr. L. V. Grinsell, who has devoted so much of his life to field archaeology and has done so much to provide a field record of prehistoric monuments in Wessex and the southwest.

Professor Thomas went on to stress the urgent need to extend this record into as complete a list as possible of the antiquities of this country. Such work costs comparatively little and as opposed to excavation, can never do harm. The local archaeological societies are the only bodies who can undertake such work, and the participation of those of their members with a lifetime's experience of their area was invaluable. The provision of these lists, Professor Thomas said, are a positive social and scientific duty. It was high time that local societies stopped discussing what ought to be done, and got on with the work. The lists would of course be only a first step towards widening our knowledge of the past; but no study in depth could be made until they were complete. It had been established from such surveys as had already been carried out that very many more sites exist than are recorded by Ordnance Survey, and that many more must have existed which are now completely destroyed. Recent checking on the ground in advance of motorway construction and gravel extraction has already changed our distribution maps, and further field survey work of this calibre is urgently necessary. These factors in turn are having a direct bearing on our ideas of population density in antiquity, with a trend towards a very considerable upward revision of numbers, with all its consequent implications.

We must accept, said Professor Thomas, that the extreme conservationist attitude is neither viable nor reasonable. More important is the preservation of selected sites - not necessarily as in the past, just the bare bones of a monument, but the site in its environment: the whole field system, as opposed to the field or hut. This will be far more informative on past development and chronology. Where preservation is to be sought, a good case must be presented, forcefully and in detail, in collaboration with other interested groups such as the ecological societies.

Field surveys provide genuine assistance to archaeological bodies and the Inspectorate of the Department of the Environment in their efforts to achieve such preservation. In Cornwall such surveys have brought about fruitful co-operation with the china clay industry. Subject to the provision of this evidence, the industry now takes account of archaeological sites, supplies air cover, details of their future plans, and even some machinery where excavation becomes inevitable. If principles, methods and aims are the same everywhere, a totally new picture of British archaeology can emerge; but, Professor Thomas concluded, time is running against us.

BUTCOMBE, CADCONG AND PURITON

based on interim reports by P. J. Fowler

The sixth season of excavation at the Iron Age/Romano-British settlement at Row of Ashes Farm Butcombe during May/June was, for the first time in its half dozen years, radically affected by prolonged bad weather. Trainees, however, benefited from copious extra lectures from both the regular 'team' and from extra 'guest speakers', including a highly informative session by Dr. R. Everton on the identification of animal teeth. Actual excavation was limited, but the main achievement was the location of an unsuspected stone-based building in the northernmost enclosure. This will be the focus for excavation during the next season, which will be 27th May - 9th June 1972.

Research excavation at Cadbury, Congresbury in August also encountered exasperatingly variable weather, but nonetheless revealed a formidably complicated assortment of structural remains. Traces of Iron Age occupation (phase 1) underlay the Iron Age timber-framed rampart (phase 2) most of which had fallen away down the hill. Evidence of conventional Romano-British occupation was again lacking but post-Roman reoccupation (phase 3: c. A. D. 430-450) was evidenced by two hearths, both using Roman pennant rooftiles, and a rectangular building. These remains were preserved under another stone-based rampart (phase 4: c. A. D. 450-480) incorporating timber uprights, constructed across the first post-Roman reoccupation area, diverging from and cutting through the Iron Age rampart. A remarkable stone-based rectangular building with an apsidal end (phase 5: c. A. D. 480-early C6) was, in turn, inserted through and over the post-Roman rampart, which had by that time collapsed. It presented at this point a remarkable section demonstrating the succession of structures on the site.

The chronological framework suggested for the phases is as yet tentative. The remarkable achievement of this and the last season has been not only to separate the 'Dark Age' period into such distinct phases; but also to correlate phases 3 and 4 with an almost aceramic period, and the later phase 5 with the famous sherds of imported Mediterranean pottery. The 1972 season of research excavation will take place 26th July - 23rd August.

Probably the most massive undertaking of the season has been the M5 Research Committee's rescue excavation near Crandon Bridge, Puriton, Somerset. The extent of this Roman settlement is very considerable, and only a small part of the area affected by roadworks could be examined in detail. The stone bases of ten fairly late Roman structures were at least partly excavated, and their plans recorded. They were all rectangular, and all fairly regularly aligned up and down the hillslope. It appears likely that they had timber superstructures; and some at least seem best interpreted as warehouses. It was unfortunately not possible to examine the earlier levels except at one point on the eastern side of the site, where below the present water table were timber buildings and pottery proving that occupation had spanned the Roman period from the 1st century onwards. Medieval and later use of the site was also extensive, with a metalled road, ditches, buildings and a well or sheep-dip. The copious and important finds of Roman and medieval pottery include imported wares which indicate that the site was very probably a port, and that it is clearly a most important potential source of information about trade during and after the Roman period. Only a small part of the site has been completely destroyed by the motorway, and some has indeed been preserved under the new tarmac and southern grass verge. The excavation aroused enormous public interest, with thousands of visitors; but without the help of members of local archaeological societies, and in particular the Bridgwater and District Archaeological Society, little could have been done.

..... AND WHAT ABOUT THE REPORT?

by Mike Ponsford

Now that the excavation season has finished, at least for the most part, there remains the more difficult task of preparing reports of the results. Without such reports, as everyone knows, the digging will have been in vain.

Interims and summaries of excavations are generally written to bridge the gap between digging and the final report, but are by no means a substitute for the latter. We are inevitably indebted to Archaeological Review (ed. P. J. Fowler) and the Bulletin for annual information on this area. The Journal of Roman Studies (superseded by Britannia in 1970), Medieval and Post-Medieval Archaeology also publish short annual accounts or gazetteers of excavated sites for the relevant periods. We should not forget, either, the Department of the Environment's annual Archaeological Excavations (available from the Stationery Office, Fairfax Street, Bristol) which includes summaries of all the excavations carried out with their grants. The C. B. A. also produces very brief summaries in its Calendar of Excavations January issue. All these summaries are but the tip of the iceberg.

Much of the next year will be devoted to the writing of reports, including those on Bristol sites. The Castle will probably be the first major publication, and it is hoped to produce a Museum monograph, possibly one of a series. It is now clear that we have been tremendously lucky in our choice of excavation on this site, which had been almost given up for lost (B. A. R. G. Survey and Policy II, p. 10) and yielded its last layers but slowly. Of great importance was the survival of part of the Saxon town on the east side. A short account of the 11th century pottery will be appearing in a festschrift in the near future.

Westbury College is a site which ought to have received more attention before its excavation. It was quite clearly an ecclesiastical site of some importance, and fortune has been kind in ensuring that the same site remained in use for about 1200 years. A monograph is extremely likely for Westbury, due to the broad spectrum of finds represented. At the same time it is probable that smaller sites will be published in journals, notably the Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

While it is easy to talk about the location of future publications, the timing of such reports is difficult. In order to produce them it is necessary to cut back drastically on the excavation programme, and in fact to let sites go with but a watching brief. This last year has seen the largest and most productive excavations, in terms of numbers of finds, ever carried out in Bristol: namely, at the Temple site. We cannot continue to work on this scale without cutting down on the backlog, that natural trap for the archaeologist - a bottomless pit with no sides! It seems that the only answer is a complete changeover of personnel every two or three years, the intermediate time being spent in writing.

In other words, it means consciously doubling the work of directors and providing far better facilities for writing-up.

No mention has been made so far of specialists and their reports. Many of these rare people need still to be found. If anyone wishes to offer their services in the fields of metallurgy, botany or any other science, they will be welcomed with more-than-open arms! In the meantime the number of people engaged in "finds-processing" has been increasing. With their help many of the studies of the commoner finds will be completed. It all takes time, but we hope the end-product will be available for general consumption in the not too distant future.

PERSONAL VIEWPOINT:

IN THE PUBLIC EYE.

With the advent of Rescue and the promise it could hold for British archaeology, we need to examine the attitude of archaeologists to that potential source of finance, the general public. Apart from the occasional news item or museum visit, public contact or awareness of archaeology is limited. Interest has to be stimulated towards an appreciation of our heritage and the archaeological effort required for its interpretation and preservation.

Assuming such an interest has been aroused, what happens to the proselyte who follows it up with a visit to an excavation? Consider the would-be visitor who, at great personal inconvenience, relinquishes the comfort of his car and, with his family in his wake, trudges half a mile along a muddy lane or up a precipitous slope. What welcome greets him at his destination? A scatter of notices telling him to "Keep Out", a huddle of taciturn diggers whose only utterances are "Don't stand on the section edge", and a general attitude of "We're too busy to explain and you wouldn't understand it anyway". What does this do to the potential convert's attitude of mind? Is he likely to return to, or support, an activity where only the initiated are acknowledged or appreciated? Unless we radically change this impression, and destroy the "ivory tower" attitude, it will destroy us. What can we do?

Certain excavations in our region point the way towards a new relationship between the public and archaeology. Although it is invidious to particularise, the excavations at Cadcong and South Cadbury are examples of how our image should be presented. Here the essential

elements - a written site history, a plan of the excavations, organised tours and explanatory lectures and, very important, a site museum - ensure the visitors are well catered for, leaving the diggers free to ply their trade unhindered. Even without this organisation and finance, any dig, however small, could provide the basic requirement of a 2-foot square of paper/polythene on which a brief history of the site, its plan and a progress report could be sketched and posted somewhere on its perimeter. With the present niggardly financial allocation from the State, it is the public sector that has to be cultivated. We will quickly learn that a cold welcome evokes a colder response, and those non-archaeologists who bother to come and see a site perhaps hold in their hands (or pockets) the future of archaeology in Britain.

John Drinkwater

'OLD BANWELL' & RESCUE

Congratulations to the Banwell Society for Archaeology, who held an exhibition on 'Old Banwell' on 23rd October, as advertised in the last Bulletin. We are delighted to hear that this was a great success. The Village Hall was filled to capacity with c. 220 people, who came (it is admitted) to see Old Banwell, on display and in slides, and stayed to learn about the Rescue crisis with additional slides - a cunning piece of PR psychology by the Banwell Society! The evening raised £30 for Rescue: altogether a most commendable enterprise.

B. A. R. G. IRON AGE SYMPOSIUM

This Symposium on 11th March 1972 offers the opportunity for archaeologists and others interested in the many different Iron Age sites in our region, to come together, discuss and compare their investigations. It is hoped to gather together in Bristol a representative sample of Iron Age pottery from the region, extending as far north as Crickley Hill, and south, perhaps, to Norton Fitzwarren; and including, from our own more immediate area, material from the sites at Christon, Chew, Little Solsbury and perhaps Colerne. The Symposium will probably be all an all-day affair, and will be held at the City Museum, Bristol under the auspices of Peter Fowler. It has the makings of a most interesting, varied and important day.

PERSIA & CHINA: EXCAVATIONS AT SIRAF

The Asian Art Society have kindly invited B. A. R. G. members to join them at the City Art Gallery, Bristol, at 7.30 p. m. on Friday 7th January 1972 for an illustrated lecture by Dr. David Whitehouse, on the excavation of this site on the Persian Gulf, important both archaeologically in its own right, and for the information it has produced on trade between China and Iran at the beginning of the Islamic period.

C. B. A. GROUP XIII

The new Hon. Secretary of C. B. A. Group XIII is Mrs. C. Gaskell-Brown, Elstow, Yealm Road, Newton Ferrers, Devon, replacing John Collis of Exeter University. Mr. M. Owen, Roman Baths Museum, The Pump Room, Bath is Hon. Buildings Secretary, and Mr. J. Stengelhofen, 10 Alverton Court, Mitchell Hill, Truro is Industrial Archaeology Representative. Mr. J. Rhodes, City Museum, Gloucester is Hon. Treasurer - and with individual membership at 20p per annum, now including a group newsletter, C. B. A. Group XIII remains one of the least expensive of archaeological bodies. The central C. B. A. (8 St. Andrew's Place, London N. W. 1.) has had to increase its Consolidated Subscription from £2 to £3; but when you consider what you get for it each year: eight Calendars of Excavations including the annual summary; two issues of Current & Forthcoming Offprints on Archaeology; the annual Archaeological Bibliography, and the invaluable and all-too-little publicised Annual Report - with 30p knocked off the total as a bonus to consolidated subscribers - it still represents some of the best value in the country.

GRID REFERENCE FINDER

The Ramblers' Association produce a fairly useful pocket-size plastic Grid Reference finder, available from them at 1-4 Crawford Mews, York Street, London W1H 1PT, at 9½p including postage. It is, unfortunately, designed for walkers rather than for archaeologists, ie. for 1" and 2½" O. S. maps only, and not for 6" maps: so, no use for P. S. U. workers, who will have to continue to make their own tracer-guides as suggested by Frances Neale. It seems to make rather heavy wather of an essentially simple process, always easier to do than to explain. Nonetheless, for the price, it is compact, weatherproof (very useful) and altogether easier to handle than trying to slide rulers over a flapping map on top of a wet and windy hill; while the transparent - " and 2½" scales along its edges may prove of even more permanent use.

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 19th February 1972 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 the Committee should be received by the Hon. Secretary not less than 14 days before the date of the meeting (i. e. by 5th February), accompanied by the names of the proposer and seconder and the written consent of the nominee.

Nominations are required for the following officers: Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Editor (Bulletin), Hon. Editor (Special Publications), Hon. Fieldwork Adviser and Hon. Secretary for Associate Members. The retiring holders of these offices are eligible for re-election. Nominations are also required for two elected members of Committee to serve for two years. The retiring member Mr. D. Sprague is not eligible for re-election; and a vacancy has arisen by the election of M. W. Ponsford to the post of Hon. Fieldwork Adviser in 1971.

REVIEWS

Man and the Mendips, ed. W. G. Hall (The Mendip Society, 1971), 167 pp., illus, plans, plates, £2.25.

The road to Wells was paved with good intentions in September 1971. Mendip 71, the carefully-prepared exhibition about the past, present and future of the Mendips, was undoubtedly one of the most significant local events of the year. What a pity that archaeology, and for that matter B. A. R. G., were not better represented. The influence of the exhibition can only be assessed in the long run, but meanwhile one of its immediate benefits is a well-intentioned and wide-ranging book, trendily presented in a de luxe format.

The book is basically a series of essays by a dozen or so authors. The archaeo-historical aspects are covered by Frances Neale; quarries are discussed by Dr. W. Stanton and, in collective anonymity, by Amalgamated Roadstone Corporation; other contributions cover Natural History, Local Planning, Agriculture, Forestry, Water and Recreation,

subdivided into tourism, caving, walking, riding and gliding. Bibliography, notes on the authors, and production credits complete the text. The book is embellished with 7 colour illustrations, 4 of them 'views' prominently featuring the foreground but finely reproduced, and the other 3 somewhat fuzzily reproduced maps showing the geology, soils and land-use around Cheddar. These 7 illustrations - just because they are colour? - are listed at the front, but nothing indicates that there are also 9 line sketches in a 'primitive', rather Lanyonesque style which in fact lend the book an idiosyncratic character of some force; 3 maps and a page of section drawings; and 11 whole-page and 5 other monochrome photographs, some without captions, which unlike the hand-drawn artwork have not reproduced with entire success.

Man and the Mendips is ambitious, important and unusual. Its objectives are obviously public-spirited, and its existence represents a considerable achievement for any voluntary local society. Its publication marks a positive contribution towards a responsible and realistic consciousness of heritage and environment; conservation and pollution, in the challenging and potentially disastrous context of Mendip land-use in the later 20th century. The following criticisms must not detract from the Mendip Society's initiative and very real accomplishment.

Nevertheless, the book must stand examination as a book; and presumably, since its price (one supposes a matter of Exhibition Committee policy, despite free paper and printing at cost?) and format remove it from the popular 50p pocket-guide-tourist-book milieu, it should be evaluated alongside McInnes and Whittard, (eds.) Bristol and Its Adjoining Counties Brit. Assoc. Advan. Sc., 1953) and similar authoritative regional and sub-regional surveys. In this company, behind its superficially impressive facade of with-it presentation, Man and the Mendips fails. It fails on the two points which really matter: editing and contents.

The editing is so inconsistent that it would be cruel to list the errors; but, in addition to those already mentioned in passing, why for example does the 'Agriculture' essay duplicate so extensively (and much less authoritatively: it contains some real schoolboy howlers as is the penchant of old-style so-called historical geography) the historical essay; and why does it alone have its own bibliography and in-text references? Who are the 'authors' (p. 130) of the 'Water' essay? Only one is listed on the contents page. And despite the 'Partial' of the Bibliography's title, some omissions (e.g. all B. A. R. G. Publications) and indeed some inclusions should have been editorially questioned. It simply confirms a personal prejudice: that committee editorship is

disastrous, and, whatever the professional expertise available, there is no substitute for responsible dictatorship.

The editorial variability is more seriously present in the actual contents. What instructions were the contributors given? - just to produce so many words? And for what audience? - much of the text is really little more than running notes; too much of it is dull, cliché-ridden, even trite, jargon. Perhaps the basic concept is at fault: an authoritative, balanced and original survey like that by Dr. Stanton is bound to sit uncomfortably between the same covers as the special-pleading PR exercise from A. R. C. on the same subject. And what a startling contrast between the fresh and felicitous 'fourth dimensional' essay and the plodding turgidity of later passages. Mrs. Neale's essay is indeed quite the best historical landscape appraisal ever written of Mendip, and could have been written only by her; some other contributions are rather less distinguished. What the book cries out for, particularly in view of the unevenness in quality and scope of the individual parts, are a few pages to pull the main points together, not just to formulate a consensus view but to highlight the real assets and basic problems of the area. Alas, the flaw is editorial.

In sum, this is a significant book, intentionally and unintentionally. It would have been, indeed was, impossible in concept and practice even five years ago, and in that sense marks a significant step forward. In terms of book-production, it also tries very hard; but because it almost succeeds, yet is defective where it really counts, i. e. in what it says and how, in the last resort it must be labelled pretentious. The book on Man and Mendip has still to be written.

P. J. Fowler

A Second North Somerset Miscellany (Bath & Camerton Archaeological Society, 1971) 60 pp., 3 plates, 45 p

The Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society's Second North Somerset Miscellany is a collection of papers first given at conferences organised by the Society, and includes "The Origins of the Historic Town-Plan of Bath" by Peter Greening: an interim report on work in progress on the urban history of Bath, in which he stresses the Saxon layout of the City, comparing it to excavated portions of Winchester and tracing the same essential plan through eleventh and twelfth century changes and the great Georgian expansion, to that of the present day. There are also two pieces of interesting research on "Circulating Libraries in Eighteenth Century Bath" and "Bath Breweries in the latter half of the Eighteenth Century", by V. J. Kite and Ronald Wilcox

respectively. "Tithe Disputes at Camerton, Somerset, 1800-1839" by W. J. Wedlake, is an entertaining but tragic account of some of the tribulations that the Revd. John Skinner suffered in his dealings with parishioners, illustrated with excerpts from his diary; while the Hon. Editor, R. K. Bluhm, contributes a paper on the situation, technical developments, capital, labour force and transport facilities of "The Somerset Coalfield, 1790-1820".

All in all, this is an attractive little volume, with clear text, good layout, some charming illustrations and containing useful information for all those interested in the history of the area. It is also encouragingly larger than the Society's first Miscellany of 1966. Whether, at the reasonable price of 45 p, this booklet will reach enough readers to reward sufficiently the efforts of editor and authors is a moot point, part of the endless problem of whether the greater efficiency and more realistic economics of present-day mergers justify the destruction of individual responsibility and personal incentive; whether it is preferable to have one large regional or county organisation collecting and publishing the work of the different local societies, or whether these smaller groups should continue to go it alone.

Mrs. P. M. Belsey

NOTICE OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Proceedings of the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society

12. 3 (1971) include a survey of the Overton Down Experimental Earthwork and its results 1960-68, by Dr. K. Crabtree (p. 237-244) and the report on the important U. B. S. S. excavations at the Hyaena Den, Wookey Hole by Dr. E. K. Tratman and others (p. 245-279).

The Gloucestershire Community Council's Local History Bulletin

No. 24 includes several short notices by H. R. Hurst and J. F. Rhodes on recent important finds in Gloucester, and their interpretation in the light of our growing, albeit piecemeal, knowledge of the Roman city.

An S. A. N. H. S. Newsletter has made a most welcome appearance, edited by B. A. R. G. /S. A. N. H. S. member David Elkington. This plans to be a purely archaeological newsheet, covering short reports, smaller excavations, and items which might escape the formal annual Proceedings, or which need quicker and more immediate circulation among members. This is an excellent idea - surely just what active archaeological members need as the complement to an annual Proceedings.

Axbridge Caving Group Archaeological Society's Journal for 1970 includes "Geomorphological Notes on Hay Wood Cave, Hutton" by C. Richards (p. 25-29), surveying the geological background setting of an important prehistoric archaeological site in western Mendip, the report on which is currently being prepared for publication by Anne Everton.

The City Museum, Bristol has recently produced an Information Sheet on The Bronze Age Decorated Cist-Slab from Mendip - in fact, the famous Pool Farm slab with the feet carved on it. A clear drawing, photographs and analytical description of the slab, are followed by a short discussion of its context. One large and one small foot, somewhat separated from the rest, might represent the adult and child whose burnt bones were found in the cist. The only similar foot-carvings in England have been found near Liverpool and in Northumberland; they, and the curious pronged object on the Harptree slab, have strong Scandinavian connections, presumably reaching the northern and western coasts of Britain by sea.

CALENDAR OF
FORTHCOMING COURSES, MEETINGS & LECTURES

December 1971 - March 1972

Abbreviations:

A. S.	Archaeological Society
B. & B. Num. Soc.	Bath & Bristol Numismatic Society
B. G. A. S.	Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society
G. D. A. R. G.	Gloucester & District Archaeological Research Group
S. A. N. H. S.	Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society
University	University of Bristol Department of Extra-Mural Studies, 30/32 Tyndall's Park Road, Bristol BS8 1HR

December
1-20

ARCHAEOLOGY OF CORNWALL: Exhibition of
photographs by Charles Woolf, City Museum, BRISTOL.

15

ANIMAL, VEGETABLE & MINERAL: a new kind of
B. A. R. G. Evening Meeting, City Museum, BRISTOL,
7. 30 p. m.

- January
- 5 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE:
OLD STYLE by Dr. R. Perry. Olveston Parish Historical Society,
Methodist Hall, OLVESTON, 7. 30 p. m.
- 7 B. A. R. G. ASSOCIATES FILM EVENING I, Schools Room, City
Museum, BRISTOL, 7. 30 p. m. See p. 66-68.
- 7 PERSIA & CHINA; EXCAVATIONS AT SIRAF by Dr. D. Whitehouse.
Joint Meeting by invitation of the Asian Art Society, City Art
Gallery, BRISTOL, 7. 30 p. m.
- 8-9 LABORATORY CONSERVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL
by Miss J. Escritt. Non-res. w/e course at Dept. of Veterinary
Anatomy, Park Row, University of BRISTOL. (P). University.
- 11 WILTSHIRE & SOMERSETSHIRE WATERMILLS by K. Rogers.
Bath & Camerton A. S. Technical College (New Building) Lecture
Theatre, BATH, 7. 15 p. m. Non-members 15p.
- 12 THE LUNT by B. Hobley. B. A. R. G. Lecture, City Museum,
BRISTOL, 7. 30 p. m.
- 13 COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLIONS by F. J. Inker. B. & B.
Num. Soc., Room 144, Technical College (New Building, Avon
St. entrance), BATH, 7. 30 p. m.
- 17 RECENT WORK IN GLOUCESTER by H. Hurst. G. D. A. R. G.
Queen Street Hall, GLOUCESTER, 7. 30 p. m. Non-members 12½p.
- 17 CELTIC ART - ORIGINS & SURVIVALS by Elizabeth Fowler.
B. G. A. S., City Museum, BRISTOL, 5. 45 p. m.
- 18 WOODSPRING by D. J. Tomalin. Weston Branch of S. A. N. H. S.
Art Gallery, Public Library & Museum, The Boulevard, WESTON-
SUPER-MARE, 7. 00 p. m. Visitors, 10p.
- 19 HISTORY OF WELLS by Dr. R. D. Reid. Course of 10 meetings
at the Museum, WELLS, 7. 30 p. m. University.
- 20 RECENT ACTIVITIES OF NORTH SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESEARCH GROUP by Gray Usher & D. Lilly. Clevedon & District
A. S., Community Centre, Sunhill Park, CLEVEDON, 7. 30 p. m.
- 25 SOURCES FOR LOCAL HISTORY by Mrs. J. Simpson. Course of
8 meetings at County Primary School, BANWELL, 7. 30 p. m.
University.
- 27 PORTRAITURE ON COINAGE by K. G. Smith. B. & B. Num. Soc.,
City Museum, BRISTOL, 7. 30 p. m.

January

- 28 B. A. R. G. ASSOCIATES FILM EVENING II, Schools Room, City Museum, BRISTOL, 7. 30 p. m. See p. 66-68.

February

- 2 MEMBERS' EVENING at Olveston Parish Historical Society, Methodist Hall, OLVESTON, 7. 30 p. m.
- 5 This is the last day for nominations of B. A. R. G. Officers and Committee; see p. 76.
- 5-6 POLLEN ANALYSIS by K. Crabtree; second of pair of non-res. w/e courses at Geography Dept., University of BRISTOL University.
- 11 GENERAL ELECTIONS IN THE 18th CENTURY by Dr. M. G. Hutton, Banwell Society for Archaeology, Village Hall, BANWELL, 7. 30 p. m.
- 14 SYMPOSIUM ON RECENT WORK by Members of the Museum Staff. B. G. A. S. City Museum, BRISTOL, 5. 45 p. m.
- 16 ETHNOGRAPHICAL FIELDWORK: BRITISH MUSEUM EXPEDITION TO NEW GUINEA by B. A. L. Cranstone. City Museum Winter Lecture, Museum Lecture Theatre, BRISTOL, 7. 30 p. m. Admission free.
- 17 ROCK-HEWN CHURCHES IN ETHIOPIA by Mrs. R. Plant. Clevedon & District A. S., Community Centre, Sunhill Park, CLEVEDON. 7. 30 p. m.
- 19 B. A. R. G. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, with Address by the Chairman, Dr. K. Branigan, "The Gallic Invasion of Gloucestershire". Museum Lecture Theatre, BRISTOL, 2. 30 p. m. See p. 76.
- 21 RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT THE BREIDDIN, MONTGOMERYSHIRE 1969-71 by C. Musson. G. D. A. R. G., Queen Street Hall, GLOUCESTER, 7. 30 p. m. Non-members 12½p
- 26 CADBURY-CONGRESBURY, SOMERSET A. D. 400-700 by P. J. Fowler. S. A. N. H. S., Wyndham Hall, TAUNTON Castle, 2. 30 p. m.

March

- 1 OLD BRISTOL by W. L. Harris. Olveston Parish Historical Society, Methodist Hall, OLVESTON, 7. 30 p. m.
- 11 B. A. R. G. IRON AGE SYMPOSIUM, City Museum, BRISTOL. See p. 74.

March

- 11 ARCHAEOLOGY & THE SEA by D. J. Blackman. S. A. N. H. S.,
Wyndham Hall, TAUNTON Castle, 2. 30 p. m.
- 17 EARLY CHRISTIANITY IN BRITAIN: THE CONTINENTAL
BACKGROUND by P. J. Greening. Bath & Camerton A. S.,
Technical College (New Building) Lecture Theatre, BATH.
7. 15 p. m. Non-members 15p.
- 17 FLINTS ON MENDIP by Mrs. A. Everton. Clevedon & District
A. S., Community Centre, Sunhill Park, CLEVEDON, 7. 30 p. m.
- 17,19 ART & RELIGION IN BRITAIN 600 B. C. -600 A. D. by Mrs. E.
Fowler. Residential w/e Urchfont Manor, DEVIZES, Wilts.
Apply to the Warden.
- 18 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF B. G. A. S. at BRISTOL,
2. 30 p. m.
- 20 1st CENTURY BRITAIN by W. Choulds. G. D. A. R. G. Queen
Street Hall, GLOUCESTER, 7. 30 p. m. Non-members 12½p
- 23 THE INVENTION OF PAPER-MONEY IN CHINA by P. Hardie.
B. & B. Num. Soc., City Museum, BRISTOL, 7. 30 p. m.
- 26 B. A. R. G. ASSOCIATES: AVEBURY TRIP: West Kennet Long
Barrow, Sanctuary, Fyfield Down etc. See p. 66-68.

Advance Notice:

April

- 12 ASHCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD by D. Benson. B. A. R. G.
Lecture, City Museum, BRISTOL, 7. 30 p. m.
- 28-30 THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF EXMOOR by L. V. Grinsell and others.
W/e school at SOUTH MOLTON Community College. Apply to
Miss H. Miles, Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, University of
Exeter, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3QN. (P).