



# baro

## BULLETIN

December  
1976

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## Bristol Archaeological Research Group

City Museum,  
Queens Road,  
Bristol, 8.

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## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1976/7

- Chairman: Dr.A.J.Parker, Dept.of Classics, University of Bristol,  
Bristol BS8 1RJ. Tel: Bristol 24161.
- Hon.Secretaries: Georgina Plowright, City Museum, Bristol BS8 1RL.  
Tel: Bristol 299771.  
Angela Sandalls, 41 Marling Road, St.George, Bristol.  
Tel: Bristol 558144.
- Hon.Membership Secretary: Angela Sandalls. Address and telephone as above.
- Hon.Secretary for Associate Members: P.F.Maggs, 5 Lansdown Terrace,  
Kellaway Avenue, Bristol BS6 7YW.
- Hon.Treasurer: A.C.Selway, Flat 1, 25 Combe Park, Bath BA1 3NR.
- Hon.Editor(Bulletin): Joyce Popplewell, Waterley Bottom Cottage, North Nibley,  
Dursley, Glos. GL11 6EF. Tel: Dursley 2514.
- Hon.Editor (Special Publications): N.Thomas, City Museum, Bristol BS8 1RL.  
Tel: Bristol 299771.
- Hon.Fieldwork Adviser: M.W. Ponsford, City Museum, Bristol.Tel: Bristol 299771
- Hon.Auditor: P.Twentyman, 19 Portwall Road, Chepstow, Monmouthshire.

### COMMITTEE

- Elected: J.Bryant, 116 Doncaster Road, Southmead, Bristol BS10 5PZ.  
(1976)  
J.Durnell, 69 Stradbroke Avenue, St.George, Bristol 5. (1976)  
J.E.Hancock, -26-Woodstock Road, Redland, Bristol. (1975)  
Deirdre Parker, -159-Cheltenham Road, Bristol BS6 5RR. (1976)
- Ex Officio: Dr.K.Branigan, Dept.of Classics, The University, Bristol.  
D.P.Dawson, City Museum, Bristol.  
P.J.Fowler, Dept.of Extra-Mural Studies, The University, Bristol.
- Co-opted: Pauline Belsey, Appleacre, Queen Charlton, Keynsham, Bristol.  
Tel: Keynsham 3428 (Co-ordinator, Bulletin Production Team)  
Dr.R.H.Price, 620 Long Cross, Lawrence Weston, Bristol.  
(Representative of Action Group for Bristol Archaeology)  
A.C.A. Wright, 36 High Street, Staple Hill, Bristol.  
Tel: Bristol 569253 (Co-ordinator, Parish Survey Unit)

### MEMBERSHIP

Subscriptions for 1977 are due on 1st January. Current rates are:

- £2.00 for members aged 18 and over
- £3.00 for husband and wife
- £1.40 for Senior Citizens and special cases on application
- £0.40 for Associate Members (under 18 years)

Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to Bristol Archaeological Research Group and sent to the Hon.Membership Secretary, Mrs.A.Sandalls to whom any changes of address should be notified. Will members who pay annually by Bankers Order on 1st March please check that they are paying at the correct rate.

GENERAL

Archaeology continues to attract wide public interest and this autumn has seen something of a bonanza. 'The Past Around Us' shown on B.B.C.2 delighted viewers and brought a small flood of new members into B.A.R.G. as a pleasant side-effect. The centenary celebrations of the University of Bristol in October included an Open Day, at which the varied archaeological displays drew appreciative crowds. The Royal Academy has just launched its much-heralded Winter Exhibition 'Pompeii AD 79', with energetic support from the media, and this too is sure to prove a potent recruiting agent. These are some of the conspicuous highlights; on a quieter but most significant level archaeologists have rejoiced to learn that one of their number has been appointed by the trustees of the British Museum to the crucial position of Director. Dr. David Wilson leaves a distinguished academic career as Professor of Medieval Archaeology in the University of London to take up this new role in January 1977.

New, stimulating ideas are always welcome; and the recent offer made by RESCUE in conjunction with Current Archaeology (C.A. 53, p.163) of an annual award 'for the best and most original contribution to rescue archaeology by an independent group' is a particularly imaginative one. It will provide a much-needed incentive for workers outside the official organisations, whose efforts of late have perhaps lacked definition and purpose. Is there a potential group nucleus within B.A.R.G.? Time is short. Applications have to reach RESCUE or C.A. by the end of January, so that anyone with a good case for consideration must not delay.

Distribution maps have a habit of revealing more information than was expected of them. Our local membership map was designed to show where our B.A.R.G. neighbours are, to encourage 'togetherness' and so improve the value and quality of Group membership. A working unit of near-neighbours is the most practicable way to tackle a group project: a help-one-another transport system will enable outlying members to attend more meetings; and a hand-delivery system will deal a blow to crippling postal expenses. Unsuspected, though, were the marked imbalances of membership: between crowded northern Bristol suburbs and the rest, and the inverted disparity between Gloucestershire (N) and Somerset (S). Interesting too are the small localized surges wherever a local society flourishes already.

To complete our series of aids for fieldworkers Andrew Mathieson of the Schools Department, City Museum, has written a superbly comprehensive review of building stones in the Bristol region as exemplified in churches and gravestones, together with an invaluable identification guide to all indigenous rocks. To recognise 'stone' as such is simple: to decide on its type and place of origin is quite another matter. In return, will all members in and around Bristol please supply Mr. Mathieson with the information for which he asks about their own local church, and so help with the compilation of a Building Stone Archive, to be kept at the City Museum.

THE BOMFORD GLASS

This is a very fine collection of early glassware showing a diversity of techniques and including some moulded examples. It will shortly be on view in the Medieval Gallery; an information leaflet is in preparation. City Museum, Bristol.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The Associates section of B.A.R.G. provides a programme to cater for young people interested in archaeology. Full members of the Group and those thinking of joining it will normally be welcome to attend events, or to assist in setting up summer excursions and other activities.

Two lectures are planned for early 1977. On Thursday 10th February Dr. A.J. Parker will give a talk on Underwater Mediterranean Shipwrecks. The second will be on Thursday 10th March when Oliver Kent will speak about Some Past Processes of Pottery Manufacture. Both lectures will take place in the City Museum, Bristol and will begin at 7.30 p.m.

It is hoped that rearrangement of part of the stores in the City Museum basement will facilitate a greater variety of activities for Associates and others attending the informal meetings of the Finds Processing Group - commonly known as 'Pot Washing Sessions' which are held each Thursday evening between 7.00 and 9.00 p.m. except when there are B.A.R.G. or Museum archaeological events.

Besides opportunities to help with the work of the City Museum, to carry out individual research, or to discuss issues with other archaeologists and find out about any urgent fieldwork required in the area, it is hoped to make good use not only of the expertise but also of the wide range of archaeological and documentary material which is available.

The last Thursday session in each month will have a special theme. In January those who have been on the Associates' outings will be able to show their slides and photographs. In February the theme will be Domestic Architecture, and in March, Pottery Identification. These last two sessions will provide basic information for those who need to date site and artifacts for their researches.

Peter Maggs  
Hon.Sec.Associate Members

PARISH SURVEY UNIT ARCHIVES

The following have been deposited in the Department of Archaeology in the City Museum, Bristol and are available for study on application to the Enquiry Office, 10.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. Mondays to Fridays and in addition 7.00 - 9.00 p.m. on Thursdays: Access on Saturdays is possible by prior application to the Curator, David Dawson or his Assistant, Georgina Plowright.

1. Record slips of Mangotsfield, Compton Dando, Loxton (including annotated O.S. maps) and Brockley parishes.
2. Transcript of Tithe Map and Register of Field Names for Nempnett Thrubwell parish.

David Dawson

## CHURCH BUILDING STONES IN THE BRISTOL AREA

by Andrew Mathieson

Several types of building stones have been quarried in the Bristol area, and this reflects the local geology. One of the best places to examine these stones is in church buildings and in graveyards. The most important local building stones are described below.

### 1. JURASSIC OOLITIC LIMESTONE ("Cotswold Stone", "Bath Stone", "Dundry Stone" or "Doulting Stone").

This famous building stone has been widely used throughout the Bristol area because it can be freely cut or carved into shape (a freestone), and it resists attack by the weather. Bath and most Cotswold villages are made of this stone, and it was quarried along the top of the Cotswolds, as well as at Dundry, near Bristol. Today it is quarried only at Combe Down near Bath, at Doulting near Shepton Mallet, and mined near Corsham and Bradford-on-Avon, in Wiltshire.

Many churches are built of this stone, but perhaps the best example of how the stone can be carved and shaped is St. Mary Redcliffe in Bristol. In other parts of the Bristol area the stone is often used only for the surrounds of windows and doors, carvings, and the corners of buildings, while other types of stone are used for the walls.

This oolitic limestone was formed about 170,000,000 years ago, in the Jurassic period of geological time. It often contains fossil shells which show that it was originally soft sediment on the sea floor.

### 2. PENNANT SANDSTONE

This building stone is found in Bristol and around the coalfield area between Radstock, Pensford, Kingswood and Frampton Cotterell, as well as at Nailsea and Clevedon. It was mostly used as a wall stone, and many churches are built of a combination of this stone and Jurassic oolitic limestone. Since it can be cut to shape and tends to split into flat slabs, the stone was very popular for gravestones, and was also used for paving, kerbs and copings, as well as for roofing.

There are many disused quarries of Pennant Sandstone; the nearest working quarries today are close to Coleford, in the Forest of Dean.

Pennant Sandstone sometimes contains fossil wood fragments and pieces of coal which show that it was formed as sand beneath rivers which ran by forested swamps about 300,000,000 years ago, in the Carboniferous period of geological time.

### 3. CARBONIFEROUS LIMESTONE ("Mendip Stone")

The Mendips and most of the hills to the west of Bristol are mainly made of this stone, and it was worked for many of the buildings in these areas. As it is hard and brittle, it was mostly used as rough blocks for walls. However it has been trimmed into rectangular blocks for some buildings, such as

St. Alban's Church on Coldharbour Road, Bristol. It has also been used for kerbs and road setts, particularly in Weston-super-Mare.

The stone is being quarried at many places around Bristol, mainly for use as aggregate in concrete and road foundations, but also for quicklime and agricultural lime. Rough blocks of stone from these quarries are often used as "natural local stone" in modern buildings.

The limestone often contains fossil corals and shellfish and it was formed from sediment deposited on the sea floor c. 340,000,000 years ago, in the Carboniferous period of geological time.

#### 4. LIAS LIMESTONE ("White Lias" or "Blue Lias")

This stone can be found at various places which fit in a belt running northwards from Radstock to Bristol. It has been most commonly used for building stone around Radstock and to the south of Bristol, mainly as a wall stone although it has been used for paving and kerbing. Whitchurch and Bishopsworth churches were built of this stone.

Lias limestone was formed from lime-rich muds deposited on the sea floor c. 195,000,000 years ago, in the Triassic and Jurassic periods of geological time. It contains fossil shellfish and sometimes the shells of large ammonites.

#### 5. TRIASSIC SANDSTONES

These sandstones were quarried in Bristol and central Avon for wall stone since they can easily be cut to shape. They are fairly soft and weather quickly. Red and pink sandstones can be seen in central and north Bristol, and in villages in the Chew valley, while a yellow sandstone was quarried at Clevedon.

This stone has been used in a number of churches, notably at Henbury and Westbury, as well as the Lord Mayor's Chapel, Bristol.

The sandstones were formed over 200,000,000 years ago, in the Triassic period of geological time. They were originally sands deposited in desert conditions, and they often contain small broken pieces of rock.

#### 6. BRANDON HILL QUARTZITE ("Fire-Stone" or "Cherry-Stone")

Quartzite is a very hard type of sandstone and this was used as a building stone in west and central Bristol. It was quarried at Long Ashton and in Hotwells, and on Brandon Hill itself, and was mostly used as a wall stone. The Red Lodge, Park Row and Bristol Grammar School are largely built of this stone, as is St. Michael's Church. It was also used for road setts.

The original sand was deposited beneath the sea in the Carboniferous period of geological time, c. 320,000,000 years ago.

#### 7. OLD RED SANDSTONE

Some of the older buildings around Thornbury and Portishead are made of this sandstone, which was used mainly for walls. Failand and Abbot's Leigh churches

are built of it, and it has been used here and there in the walls of Bristol Cathedral.

The stone was formed from sand deposited by rivers c. 380,000,000 years ago, in the Devonian period of geological time.

#### 8. MARLSTONE ROCK BED

This is a brown iron-rich sandstone or limestone that was quarried near Dursley in Gloucestershire, as well as further north in the Midlands. It is used as a wall stone and is often combined with Jurassic oolitic limestone to give a pleasant honey-and-cream effect. Fretherne church is built of these two rocks.

Marlstone Rock Bed sometimes contains fossil shellfish, and it was formed as iron-rich sediment on the sea floor about 180,000,000 years ago, in the Jurassic period of geological time.

#### 9. DOLOMITIC CONGLOMERATE ("Draycott Stone")

This rock usually consists of angular or rounded pieces of grey rock set in a hard red matrix. Varieties of it are found with the Triassic sandstones in the Bristol area, and it has been quarried at several places for building stone. Its best-known source was Draycott, near Cheddar. Besides its use as a wall stone it was cut and polished to make gravestones, and pillars in Wells Cathedral, as well as in other local churches. Cut blocks of this stone can be seen in the footings of Temple Meads station in Bristol.

A range of building stones has been brought into the Bristol area from other parts of the country, and from other parts of the world. Roofing slate has come mainly from North Wales, and Portland stone has been brought from Dorset for a number of buildings in Bristol since it resists attack by an industrial atmosphere. Several types of granite and marble have been used for gravestones, as well as for shop fronts. Granite has also been used for road setts and in the iron man-hole covers in Bristol.

Local clays, formed in the Carboniferous, Triassic, Jurassic and Quaternary periods have been used to make bricks and tiles. Mortar, cement and concrete are made from local limestones. Also black slag from the brass foundries in Bristol can be seen topping many local walls.

Churches are "museums" of the use of building stone through history. They provide a long record which can show several changes in the choice of stone in different areas. Very little information has been collected about this subject, and there is much research to be done before we can assess what changes have taken place. These could be the result of improvements in transport or quarrying methods, or perhaps stem from the influence of architects or even of landownership.

B.A.R.G. members could help to collect this basic information by looking at their local church and writing a brief account of its building stone and gravestones. It is important to record any repairs or additions to the fabric

and any dates known, especially for gravestones. The rock identification guide provided will help to determine the stones used, but in addition a description of colour, shape and texture would be very useful. Some building stones not included in the guide may be found, since some churches may be made of surprising materials. One church at Shirehampton, for example, is made of flint. However, all information received will be useful; and it is to be stored in the Archaeology Department of the City Museum for future reference. Please send all information to me at the City Museum, Queens Road, Bristol.

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ROCK IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

1. Jurassic oolitic limestone - yellow-cream colour, made of small round grains (ooliths); usually cut or carved to shape.
2. Pennant sandstone - grey green or purple colour, rough sandy texture, often flakes off in flat sheets; usually wall stone.
3. Carboniferous limestone - white, grey, black or yellow colour, hard and smooth texture, resists weathering; usually rough blocks.
4. Lias limestone - grey or white colour, fine-grained and powdery texture; usually oblong blocks.
5. Triassic sandstones - red, pink or yellow colour, sandy texture and fairly soft, often contain small broken rock fragments; usually in cut blocks.
6. Brandon Hill quartzite - red or pink colour, often looks sugary but is extremely hard and usually smooth to touch; used as blocks or roughly shaped.
7. Old Red Sandstone - red, purple or grey sandstone, sandy texture and fairly hard, sometimes containing round pebbles; usually in roughly shaped blocks.
8. Marlstone Rock Bed - rusty brown colour, usually sandy texture and fairly soft; used in roughly shaped blocks.
9. Dolomitic Conglomerate - red and yellow colour containing angular or rounded pieces of rock which are grey or red in colour; may be rough blocks or cut and polished.
10. Slate - blue, green or purple colour; split into hard thin sheets.
11. Portland Stone - white colour; usually sawn into blocks.
12. Marble - white, pink or green colours; usually cut and polished slabs.
13. Granite - grey, pink, black or blue colours; often cut and polished but also used with a rough finish.



THE BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A hundredth anniversary is no small event and the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society was determined that it should not pass unrecorded. In April a special volume Essays in Bristol and Gloucestershire History was issued, which included a history of the Society. Its social activities began with a dinner in the Council House, Bristol and ended with a supper party at Berkeley Castle. During the summer months a number of sites and buildings were visited.

The Society was founded in 1876, a quarter of a century after similar societies had been established in many other counties, and at a time when there had been a change in emphasis in archaeological interests. This was reflected in the form that the Society took and influenced its subsequent activities. By the 1870's there was a new awareness of the contribution archaeological research could make to our knowledge of the surroundings in which we live. Sir John Evans, whose daughter was later to be a distinguished editor of the Society's Transactions, was involved in constructing the framework of pre-history. During the same period General Pitt Rivers, who became President of the Society in 1892, was establishing the techniques of scientific excavation. In the field of conservation new ideas about the restoration of buildings were being promulgated.

At the first meeting of the Society its objectives were set down and they are still the same today, that is, to promote the study of the history and archaeology of Bristol and Gloucestershire, to encourage the conservation of sites and buildings and to publish reports of excavations, historical papers and original records. Over the past one hundred years, the Society has published 93 volumes of Transactions as well as a number of other volumes. Although the Society can no longer finance excavations, as it did in the past, it continues to publish a comprehensive series of archaeological reports. In co-operation with public authorities it has worked for the preservation of many historic sites and buildings. Due to its influence Chedworth Roman villa was saved. It financed the acquisition of Arlington Row, Bibury which was later transferred to the National Trust. In the 1940's it was deeply involved in the purchase of the Theatre Royal, Bristol, thereby preventing the building from being used as a warehouse. Today, one of the Society's greatest assets is its fine library housed in Gloucester.

The contribution which the Society has made during the past century to historical knowledge, the development of archaeology and the preservation of buildings in Bristol and the County is an important one and has been due to the energy and enthusiasm of its members. As the centenary year draws to a close, the Society looks forward with confidence to its bi-centenary. Difficult times lie ahead with rising costs and many other problems, but one can hardly doubt that in 2076 the need for the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society will be as great as ever.

Elizabeth Ralph

Hon. Secretary, Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

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It was with much pleasure that Bulletin heard of the birth of a son, Alexander Neil, to Dr. and Mrs. A.J. Parker in October. On behalf of B.A.R.G. we offer congratulations and best wishes on this auspicious event.

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THE FAWCETT COLLECTION

by Nicholas Thomas

For security reasons I am unable to identify Dr. Fawcett, except to mention that he spent his working life in the medical profession, serving in Macedonia during the First World War and practising in Hong Kong for some of the years that followed. He has also had close personal ties with East Anglia. This background is of relevance to the formation of his collection, since his travels brought him into close contact with the arts and crafts of widely separated parts of the world; and his lengthy sojourn in East Anglia between the Wars allowed him to join the ranks of the antiquarian flint-hunters whose work had an important place in the development of modern archaeological practice.

Dr. Fawcett began his collection more than fifty years ago. He was intrigued by the realisation that in different parts of the world, and at various times, men have developed tools and other objects in response to common needs. Sometimes the result has been the evolution of the same type of tool in widely differing periods and places. Sometimes identical conditions have produced diverse solutions. Selection of raw materials has been equally unpredictable and has interested him to a great degree; flint and stone are his preferred materials, their technology arousing the sort of response that was to be found in so many antiquarians of his generation - he is now in his eighties. Colour and patina, important aspects of stone and flint tools, have also caused him to love things of bronze, especially oriental bronzes, whose colour and surface texture are usually so distinctive and immediately attractive.

In his collection, his life's work, Dr. Fawcett has set out to demonstrate typological development in certain categories of artifact, by assembling the best specimens available to him, often in large numbers, whose geographical distribution was world-wide, whose time-span was from the earliest times until the end of the Roman Empire and whose scope was restricted to tools, weapons and personal ornaments. Objects had to be functional and everyday: fibulae of gold or silver, for example, being closer to art objects than practical safety-pins, were not given room in his cabinets. His superb collection of these fasteners is mainly in bronze. The nearest he has come to gold is in the gilding of a small group of Anglo-Saxon brooches which lie, chronologically, on the periphery of his collection in any case. He has made no attempt to assemble containers, figurines or other ritual objects. Dr. Fawcett has probably finished collecting: in a Victorian annexe to his Regency house a series of cabinets and display cases house more than six thousand objects, harvest of an idea which he and General Pitt-Rivers seem to have had, alone, among the great antiquarian collectors of recent times.

The collection contains some masterpieces among the classes of objects whose typology he has set out to illustrate. I realise, however, that to single out special items is to miss the point of his work, since he is interested in types and groups of types, not important cabinet items. Instead, let me recall the very fine bronze swords from many parts of the Old World (currently on show in the Gallery of South West Archaeology in Bristol City Museum), the incomparable array of flint daggers principally from British Beaker contexts and from Scandinavia, the splendid bronze fibulae, long pins and arm ornaments, including some classical brooches which he excavated from tombs in Macedonia during war service. In a more mundane category, he has a comprehensive series of flint scrapers, from the tiniest round variety to a group

of polished discoidal pieces of excellence. Back in the top category lie his mirrors, almost all of bronze, which include a superb series spanning many periods from China. As for his arrowheads, ...

I first heard of the Fawcett Collection when I was at Birmingham City Museum. I think David Clark, of Colchester, put me on the trail. During my first visit I learned that Dr. Fawcett was anxious to place his collections in a museum where his concept of typology would be respected and a gallery dedicated to the permanent display of the whole collection, to which there should be neither additions or subtractions. These were stringent conditions indeed. But the quality of the material is supreme and its documentation good, considering that precise location of find-spot is not, in his eyes, relevant to the collection. Moreover, the collection would be sold to a suitable museum at a nominal price.

I set out to obtain the collection for Birmingham and when I moved to Bristol in 1970 it seemed that Fawcett's cabinets were destined for a resting place in the Midlands. Soon after my move, Dr. Fawcett visited Birmingham, took against the City and resolved not to let his collection go there. He told Joan Taylor, recently moved to Birmingham City Museum, of his resolution to find another home, and this message she passed on to me when she became Leslie Grinsell's successor and my new colleague. With the approval of the Director of Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery, I re-opened negotiations on behalf of Bristol and now letters of intent to purchase have been exchanged.

The Fawcett swords are with us, on show in the City Museum. I collected the knives recently - flint, copper and bronze - and David Dawson hopes to set these out in his archaeology gallery in the near future. Probably the mirrors will follow next Spring, all on loan, a mouth-watering sample of what is to come in due course.

The Fawcett collection I see as the hub from which our less specialised, more comprehensive collections can spring. It should form a point of reference, a demonstration of supremacy in certain technological fields, of variety of approach to common problems, which will be of the greatest value to our visitors, students and the general public alike: and a memorial to a remarkable man.

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NORTHAVON SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND ASSOCIATED FIELD STUDIES

Fixtures for this new society, embodying the Thornbury Group, appear in Calendar. Vic Hallett is Chairman, and Tom Crowe who will be pleased to answer queries about membership or meetings, is Hon. Sec. Address: 130 Watley's End Road, Winterbourne, Bristol or phone Winterbourne 778830.

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ASSOCIATES' EXCURSION TO DORSET

by Tim Smith

Our first stop after leaving Bristol for Dorset on a fine May morning was at Hod Hill. A steep ascent brought us to the hill-fort whose considerable size (about 50 acres) attests its importance; with its neighbouring camp on Hambledon Hill it commands the surrounding countryside. Construction probably began in the Early Iron Age, continuing to Iron Age C period when more ditches were dug; a counterscarp made and a NE entrance formed by breaching the earlier

rampart and filling in the ditch, so making a causeway. A Roman garrison camp was built within the ramparts after the fort's subjugation in AD 43, following an initial bombardment with ballista-bolts. Built in the NW corner, it utilised the original defences for two of its sides, and two newly built ones completed the rectangle. It contained quarters for cavalry and infantry officers, troops' quarters and granaries. Although only occupied for a relatively short time the Roman garrison on Hod Hill kept the local tribe of the Durotriges under ruthless subjugation.

At Milton Abbas, our next stopping-place, the medieval village suffered an unusual fate in the mid-18th century. Squire Tregonwell ordered that it be flattened so that his house could overlook a landscaped park. This was not so bad as it sounds, because the Squire built another village to rehouse the occupants consisting of a single street of neatly thatched and white-washed semi-detached cottages. Milton Abbey, next to Squire Tregonwell's house, was built in the 14th and 15th centuries, and is unusual in that the nave was absent later in its history. This, together with the partial use of flint in its construction, gives it a strange appearance.

We next drove to Maiden Castle, one of the most impressive hill-forts ever constructed. Meticulously excavated by Sir Mortimer Wheeler between 1934-37; its ramparts are finely preserved though the ditches have silted up considerably. The hill was first occupied in the Neolithic period when a causewayed enclosure was built. Later, Iron Age A people, starting in the 3rd century BC, constructed a univallate hill-fort enclosing about 15 acres, later increased to 45 acres when the site apparently became something of a commercial centre. In about 56 BC another tribe, possibly of Gallic origin, took over the fort, adapting its fortifications for counter-sling warfare and revetting the E entrance in stone. About AD 25 Maiden Castle was again overrun, though briefly. Soon after the Conquest the Second Augusta Legion under Vespasian sacked the fort; the ferocity of this battle is shown by the gruesome human remains found in a hastily dug war cemetery - one skeleton had a ballista-bolt lodged in the vertebrae. Maiden Castle is one of several disused hill-forts having a Romano-British temple within its confines. Its foundations are clearly visible; a square cella is surrounded by a verandah. Coins of Valens and Gratian date it to the latter part of the 4th century.

Maumbury Rings on the outskirts of Dorchester began as a Neolithic henge monument but was later completely swallowed up by the Roman amphitheatre which appears to have been used virtually throughout the Roman period. It conforms to the normal plan, having two entrances and a raised circular bank, which today varies in height from 20-30ft. The later history of Maumbury Rings is of interest also: it was saved from destruction in the railway era by Thomas Hardy and a group of his antiquarian friends.

Homeward bound, we stopped to look at Sherborne Abbey, founded in AD 705 by St. Aldhelm. Much rebuilding took place in Norman times and again in the 15th century (after a fire) but the external walls at the W end exhibit architectural features from the Saxon period onwards, notably a Saxon doorway at the N side, possibly part of the original building. Abbot Ramsam's 15th century restoration is in the Perpendicular style, and includes the fine tower and flying buttresses. Unfortunately we were unable to see the interior of the Abbey.

From Sherborne we returned to Bristol, with a brief halt at Castle Cary. Many thanks again to our leaders Georgina Plowright and David Dawson, and to Peter Maggs for his excellent organisation.

ROMAN DISCOVERIES AT KINGSCOTE

by Lionel F.J. Walrond, A.M.A.

Of all the Roman sites in Gloucestershire - and there is no shortage of them - there can be few more bleak and exposed than that at Kingscote. Situated above the 700 foot contour and covering an area of about 100 acres the site has been known since the late 17th century. Since then chance finds have included a mosaic floor, a stone coffin, a carved head of Minerva, and many coins and small finds. These became scattered among private collectors, though fortunately a good proportion has gravitated into the museums of Cirencester, Gloucester and Stroud, and a fair amount of this early material has been published.

Since then agricultural practices have changed. Today, heavy machinery disturbs the arable land to a greater depth, in a manner far more conducive to soil creep than when the work was done by horse power. The net result is that archaeological layers are being progressively eroded. Careful observation has shown that every year Roman deposits, hitherto undisturbed, are being brought to the surface, and so, from an interpretative standpoint lost for all time. As a result field walkers have in recent years looked upon the site as a veritable El Dorado yielding an unending supply of coins, brooches, pins, beads and fancy objects. Some of these finished up in the London salerooms. Only a very small proportion found their way into the museums of the area.

In 1974 a group of field walkers, led by Mr. E.J. Swain sought permission to excavate. The Department of the Environment and the Royal Commission were approached, and in a comparatively short time two rectangular buildings had been uncovered. In one of these the end of the structure had been totally ploughed away. In the other the cobbled floor and the oven complex subsequently built upon it had survived intact by a matter of inches. The base of the disturbed top soil came so close there was no decipherable stratification from which to reconstruct the history of the building's demise.

As to its earlier story, two small stone pits or quarries were found. These had been used as refuse pits in the 2nd century, and the land completely levelled, probably as gardens before the buildings were put up. By this time the presence of quarries had been forgotten and a wall crossing one of the pits had its footings extended to the pit bottom to give an adequate foundation. Finds in this area included a considerable amount of pottery, one large pot having an inscription scratched on the shoulder. A spread of coins is thought to have come from the scattering of a large coin hoard. Brooches were numerous, including some of iron. A good assortment of pins was present, and an abnormal number of nail cleavers, many being from the same workshop. Glassware included jug handles and a small mask, probably also from a jug.

In 1976 this area having been fully explored, the excavating team moved to an adjoining field where a small exploratory trench came down upon a hard concrete floor. One of the many roof tiles when lifted revealed a small hole leading directly into a complete hypocaust under a double room. This could rank as one of the most perfect examples in southern England. One of the heated rooms above it was floored in loose gravel, apparently a temporary feature replacing a mosaic. In the other room was a good pavement in the centre of which was a bust of Venus with her mirror. The features comprised

some of the smallest tesserae I have ever seen in any British mosaic, and the necklace and diadem contained tesserae of glass. The various borders and frets were not without interest; in fact three details therein may be of unique form. Although a little early to be dogmatic it is not improbable that the mosaic may be of the second or post-Woodchester period of the Corinium school.

Resting on the pavement and forming part of the collapse-debris was - as has appeared in so many villas - a mass of shattered wall and ceiling plaster. On the advice of Dr.N.Davey, the renowned authority on plaster conservation, this was lifted gradually. The plaster has since been restored and depicts a group of seven figures, their identify being as yet uncertain. The Judgement of Paris is a possibility.

One of the rooms alongside had contained a mosaic which was wrecked and dropped into the hypocaust below. There were subsequent attempts to make good in a most strange way. One theory still being pursued is that the room may have been converted into a temporary sweat room complex. No plunge bath has as yet been located though there are evidences alongside of wet ditches and drains. One stone-floored room had an open drain along two sides and produced evidence of molten lead. The idea here of cold showers is not beyond possibility.

Already several periods of work are becoming apparent. A row of column bases was left in situ when an open courtyard was subdivided into small rooms. Elsewhere large walls had been lowered, the footings being incorporated in a good stone yard. Much of the 1977 season will be devoted to sorting out the chronology in this small part of the site.

Small finds from the second area described have been of particularly good quality. Iron work is well preserved and has included a skillet handle, a form of carpenter's plane and what may be a window grille. The most important bronze was a cube bearing six intaglio engravings, one on each face. Though clearly a seal, its significance is still problematic. Pottery has not been as frequent this year, but this is usually the case where stone floors predominate. Complete or almost complete vessels have included a vase or beaker, a flanged straight-sided bowl and a number of handled, shallow oval platters. The use of a decorated thickwalled octagonal tube, of which several examples were found, remains a mystery. My own view is that it could have been used to contain burning charcoal.

Excavations will recommence early in 1977. Persons wishing to volunteer for weekend work should contact Mr.E.J.Swain, 8 Lodgemore Close, Stroud. No dates for public visiting have yet been decided, but a guide book is already under consideration for sale on the site.

Mr.Walrond is Curator of the Stroud and District Museum.

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#### ULEY BURY AND WEST HILL, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Bulletin is most grateful to Mr.Warwick Rodwell, Director of C.R.A.A.G.S. for permission to include verbatim the preliminary statement of results of the watching brief maintained at these two sites during late July and early August 1976.

"Introduction In connection with their Nympsfield Water Supply Scheme, the Severn-Trent Water Authority proposed to lay a 4" main between the existing Nympsfield and Crawley Hill reservoirs. Owing to the complex topography of the immediate area it was impossible to avoid routing the pipe through part of the Uley Bury hill-fort which is a scheduled monument. The Directorate of Ancient Monuments (Department of the Environment) therefore requested C.R.A.A.G.S. to execute a programme of selective excavation along the route inside the hill-fort defences and a watching brief during the pipe-laying operation, and this work was carried out under the direction of Mr. Alan Saville and Dr. Ann Ellison (both C.R.A.A.G.S. Field Officers).

Uley Bury Iron Age Hillfort Trial excavations demonstrated that the proposed line for the pipe did not lie along the length of an Iron Age ditch as was first suspected, but along a levelled terrace. At the main N entrance the pipe trench cut straight into bedrock and no Iron Age layers were disturbed. Trial excavations at the smaller E entrance showed that no early layers were left in the lower entrance passage, but immediately above this one side of an apparently turf and timber-lined entrance passage and the surviving Iron Age road metalling were totally excavated. Finds included small pieces of Iron Age pottery, a bronze ring-headed pin, a penannular brooch, a blue glass bead and fragments from two shale armlets. These dated this entrance to the earlier part of the pre-Roman Iron Age. During the laying of the pipe between the two entrances a crouched burial beneath two layers of limestone slabs, a rubbish pit and two iron currency bars were recorded. All these were of Iron Age date.

West Hill The presence of an extensive complex of Romano-British buildings either side of the road on West Hill has long been known from the scatters of objects and building debris noted after ploughing. The watching brief on the pipeline resulted in the recording of two areas of 3rd-4th century refuse deposits, two late Roman buildings with mortared wall foundations, one less well-constructed building with a stone conduit, one late Roman coffin burial, an early Roman ditch and a series of rubbish pits. The main building was polygonal in shape and roofed with Pennant sandstone tiles. It had a rammed mortar floor, and plain painted wall plaster was also recovered. The building was enclosed by a narrow rock-cut ditch which contained votive objects in the form of miniature clay pots and a series of rolled lead sheets some of which bear incised cursive Latin inscriptions. These finds and the form of the major building suggest that a temple site is involved."

This statement ended with a comprehensive list of acknowledgements, omitted for lack of space. Editor (Bulletin) will supply details on request.

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CITY MUSEUM EXCAVATION UNIT

Roger Price and Bruce Williams of the City Museum excavation team have been conducting a survey of the standing structures at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Christmas Steps. It is hoped to begin excavations on the site in the New Year, prior to redevelopment of the site.

Other members of the excavation unit are carrying out post-excavation work on several sites, taking advantage of an enforced lull after the sustained pressure due to widespread and rapid development in the early 1970's.

M.W. Ponsford

TWO NEW APPOINTMENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS, UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

The new Professor of Classics is Dr. Peter Warren, who comes to Bristol from the Department of Ancient History, University of Birmingham. Dr. Warren is the author of Myrtos, and Minoan Stone Vases, and has recently worked at Knossos.

In October Dr. Richard Harrison took up his appointment as Lecturer in Prehistoric Archaeology. His research subjects are the Bronze Age and Iberian archaeology. B.A.R.G. is very glad to welcome Dr. Harrison as a new member and hopes that he will soon feel at home in Bristol.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Bristol Archaeological Research Group will be held at 2.15 p.m. on Saturday 26th February 1977 in the City Museum, Bristol. Members are reminded that in accordance with Rule 10 nominations for Officers and members of the Committee should be received by the Hon. Secretary, c/o City Museum, Bristol not less than 14 days before the date of the meeting (i.e. by 12th 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. Membership Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Editors (Bulletin and Special Publications), Hon. Fieldwork Adviser and Hon. Secretary for Associate Members. The retiring holders of these offices are eligible and available for re-election with the exception of the Hon. Editor Bulletin. Nominations are also required for one elected member of the Committee, to serve for two years. Retiring Committee member J.E. Hancock is not eligible for re-election.

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CURRENT WORK IN ARCHAEOLOGY

This popular series will continue during the Spring term when lectures will be given in Lecture Room 1, Extra-Mural Dept., 32 Tyndalls Park Road, Bristol.

Chairman will be Peter Fowler, and speakers will be as follows:

Monday	31st January	P.E. Holdsworth
Monday	7th February	Dr. S.C. Stanford
Monday	14th February	Prof. B. Cunliffe
Monday	28th February	Dr. M.G. Spratling
Monday	14th March	Dr. S.P.C. Kent

The normal fee of £1.25 for the course, which has been arranged in conjunction with B.A.R.G. will be reduced to £1.00 for members if paid in advance.

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Mr. C.M. Sykes who lives at 6 Oldville Avenue, Clevedon has kindly offered to help any B.A.R.G. members in his vicinity with identification of flint artefacts. Mr. Sykes is particularly interested in mesolithic flints.



BRISTOL UNIVERSITY OPEN DAY

Exhibitions relevant to archaeology were to be seen in several departments. In the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, there was a display showing the study of skeletal remains from Crete dating from the Bronze Age and Byzantine periods. The Spelaeological Society had a display in the Geography department of finds from various local sites, and amongst the Extra-Mural department's displays was one on local history and village studies.

The Classics department put on a varied exhibition of field work and research being carried out by students and lecturers.

Perhaps the most important display among many was that of the Roman R.P.G. tiles from St. Oswald's Priory, Gloucester. Dr. Parker has been studying these and explained that the stamp R.P.G. stood for Res Publica Glevensium, and often in addition to this they have stamped on them the names of two magistrates, elected annually by the citizens. Every five years these two magistrates were called the Duoviri Quinquenales, and they were especially prestigious, because they had to conduct a census of the councillors.

Collections of these stamped tiles come from Gloucester, and until recently only one pair of quinquenales was known, but from the 1975 excavations two more fragmentary pairs of quinquenales came to light, and there are now about 22 completely distinctive magistrate stamps. These tiles have produced a large quantity of epigraphic material, and these from Gloucester constitute the largest collection of this kind of tile stamps existing anywhere in the Western Empire outside Italy. The epigraphy is of a high standard, and Dr. Parker considers these were made by potters employed by the legionary tiler, who retired and settled in the colonia of Gloucester c. AD98. The development would appear to start with the named R.P.G. tiles, degenerating to those with R.P.G. only, and finally in the 2nd century the stamp disappears altogether.

Dr. Parker also put on a display about underwater archaeology and his own work on wrecks off the coast of Sicily. He gave a lecture on this subject entitled 'Hunting Lost Ships'.

A display illustrating the parish survey currently being conducted by the Archaeology Society at Doddington explained the purpose of the survey and what was recorded in the way of buildings, earthworks and other features. The methods of recording were shown by the 6" OS map with some of the record cards completed, relating to particular sites marked on the map. There was also on show a copy of the tithe map, with an explanation of when and why these were made and what their use is in relation to a parish survey.

Another exhibit was concerned with the University's recent training excavation at Upper Maudlin Street, directed by Dr. A. J. Parker and Mr. G. L. Good. A generalized site plan showed the relationship between an 18th century Moravian church, a garden area of a 12th century friary and the Roman deposits, including traces of a substantial building. A display of photographs illustrated the main phases of the site, and showed students at work.

The main exhibit showed a series of finds from each level. A group of clay pipe bowls of the 17th century illustrated the development of bowl shape, and the various positions and types of makers' marks. A selection of 17th and 18th century pottery was also shown, together with a wide range of Roman wares including mortaria, colour coated and coarse wares.

The final display contained some of the small finds from the site including bone combs, bronze pins and a large bronze pendant from the post-medieval levels, together with a fibula, a coin of Constantius II and a portion of a quern stone from the Roman phase.

The people who visited the exhibition seemed very interested, and we feel the response of the public to our work was most favourable.

Cynthia Poole and Steve Smith

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#### MEMBERSHIP MAP

It was not possible, unfortunately, to devise a means of showing total B.A.R.G. membership in Bulletin's restricted format, and apologies are extended to all those who are not represented here. Individual members only are shown; Exchanging Bodies and Subscribers are omitted. A distinction is made, by symbols, between Full and Associate members. Husband and wife appear as two Full members.

With two exceptions postal districts have been used for plotting membership within the Bristol District boundary. For Bishopsworth and Lawrence Weston and elsewhere in Avon members are shown in their civil parishes.

The Editor wishes to thank Barbara Cumby for her skilful help with the map in its final stages, and the City Museum for much kind assistance with its production.

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#### B.A.R.G. VISIT TO OXFORD

It is some time now since B.A.R.G. had an opportunity for a full-scale excursion. A visit to Oxford is being planned for 2nd April 1977, to which full members and Associates alike may bring guests. We shall study the evolution of the City's street plan, visit one or two colleges (to include Corpus Christi), make a tour of the medieval City walls and spend some time in the recently opened Oxford Museum. Those who enjoyed Tom Hassall's lecture in the Bristol City Museum last October will know in advance that this is an occasion not to be missed. Final details will be announced at the Annual General Meeting on 26th February next.

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REVIEWS

K.Branigan and P.J.Fowler (eds.) The Roman West Country David and Charles, 1976, 254 pp., £7.95.

'Was the West Country "Romanised", and what, if any, was the nature of that "Romanisation"?' So the editors of this expensive, but welcome, collection of papers characterize its subject.

What was the West Country, anyway, in Roman times? The Frontispiece includes the Atrebatas to the east and the Dumnonii in the west, as well as a goodly slice of the western Midlands, occupied by the Dobunni; a large area indeed, even allowing for the omission of Lundy and the Isles of Scilly! Within this ample zone most authors have selected the area best suited to their special interest, and it is a pity that the only paper to deal in detail with the Dumnonii is the excellent historical and archaeological summary by Charles Thomas of 'The End of the Roman South-West'.

The book is evidently intended for Roman enthusiasts who live in the modern West Country as understood by the B.B.C. or C.B.A. Group XIII. Both outlook and language of several papers are marred by parochiality, and the editors have failed to provide adequate maps (there is none, for instance, to illustrate the otherwise well-presented survey of the Mendip Lead Industry by H.D.H.Elkington), or, indeed, to get the contributors to fit them to the text of their papers; for example, Fig.38, showing settlements round Ilchester, provides no indication of 'the calcareous uplands around Langport and Somerton, and in the Yeo valley around Sherborne', mentioned in the accompanying text. Likewise, Fig.40 (plan of remains at Berwick Down, Tollard Royal) shows no details of the excavated pre-Roman farm, despite the text comment 'Here we see the basic furniture of the late Iron Age farmstead'.

However, for all its faults, the book contains much of great interest. To my mind, by far the best paper is not archaeological, but historical: B.H.Warminster's 'Nero, Boudicca and the Frontier in the West'. Armed with an unrivalled understanding of Nero's personality and style of government, Warminster shows that the emperor's reported proposal to withdraw from Britain can best be placed in the context of the Boudiccan rebellion (AD 60-61), and reminds us that rational estimates of strategy and economic benefit played little part in Roman imperial thinking. A comparable sense of perspective is lacking from other papers; for instance, 'Villa Settlement in the West Country' by K.Branigan, while providing a stimulating and useful survey (with short bibliography) of villas in Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire, and Dorset, draws heavily on modern concepts (e.g. 'surplus-producing', 'economic corridor'), and thus sometimes misses the point. It seems reasonable to suppose that there are many villas close to Ilchester, not because of 'the social amenities of a Romanised town' - amenities which are still hypothetical in the case of Ilchester - but because it was, as other studies strongly suggest, a civitas.

Several papers, by H. Hurst (Gloucester), A.D. McWhirr (Cirencester), and W.H. Manning ('The Conquest of the West Country'), are useful and readable summaries of the state of research in 1974. Interesting papers on

particular aspects are on coin-hoards (by P. Isaac), small towns (by M. Todd), villages (by R. Leech), and farming (by P.J. Fowler). As the editors admit, many topics have had to be omitted; particularly regrettable, since it bears so much on the question of 'Romanisation' which the book sets out especially to consider, is the absence of some study of religion and, in particular, the growth of Christianity. The flourishing late Roman Christian community at Dorchester appears to find no parallel in Cirencester, Bath or Ilchester; does this correspond to any other cultural lines one could draw across the Roman West?

This book is an important contribution to the study of Roman Britain, and will, I hope, be read with interest and benefit by B.A.R.G. members.

A.J. Parker

L.V. Grinsell, Prehistoric Sites in the Quantock Country (Somerset Arch. & Nat. Hist. Soc., 1976) 25 pp. 60 p.

References to the Quantocks are part of every guide book on Somerset; the scenery, the historical and literary associations. Rarely is any mention made of the archaeological interest and in this booklet L.V. Grinsell and the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society have endeavoured to redress the balance.

The format is similar to the B.A.R.G. archaeological guides, pocketable, and with an attractive cover. It is written in the clear economic style which marks all Grinsell's work and is aimed at those who wish to add a further dimension to the enjoyment of walking on the Quantocks. There is a plan of the area which usefully incorporates the National Grid, and a short but informative introduction precedes chapters on each period with concise reports on the relevant features; a dozen earthworks, half of which are illustrated by plans, and a similar number of the most important or prominent barrows and cairns. An inventory of finds and a good bibliography conclude the booklet. A very few obvious typographical errors will doubtless be corrected at the next printing.

It may act as a stimulus to further work. Many features do not appear on the currently un-revised O.S. small scale maps but all have been surveyed and published at 1/2500 scale. Nevertheless, much has yet to be found in this area of deep heather bracken and dense scrub oak. It seems almost certain, for example, that hut sites, perhaps represented by shallow scoops, exist on the sheltered slopes. Field systems may be concealed in the heather, perhaps to be associated with the clearance heaps on Beacon Hill, Weacombe Hill and Longstone Hill.

With good local distribution this booklet should persuade more visitors to explore beyond the roadside verges and the car park at Dead Woman's Ditch. However the rather high cost of 60 pence for twenty-five pages can only be an unfortunate deterrent to well deserved sales.

N.V. Quinnell

S.C.Stanford, Croft Ambrey (Hereford), for the Author, 1974), pp.252, 15 plates, 105 Figs.

Few areas are so identified with the work of a single scholar as the Welsh borderlands, where since 1960 Dr.Stanley Stanford has been investigating a series of prehistoric hillforts. The report of the small-scale excavation at Credenhill Camp has already appeared (Archaeological Journal cxxvii (1970)), and in the present volume Dr.Stanford presents, with enviable promptitude, the results of the larger campaign at Croft Ambrey, a hillfort between Ludlow and Leominster.

Croft Ambrey is a small fort, no more than nine acres within the ramparts, but Dr.Stanford has shown that its history is no less complex than that of the more famous great hillforts of Wessex. The first occupation had comparatively slight defences, a dump rampart with a narrow ditch. At a later date - Stanford would say a century-and-a-half later - a new rampart was built, of dump construction outside the old bank. A quarry-ditch behind the new bank, and a considerable defensive ditch outside, indicate the scale of the new rampart, whose life may have extended over three centuries, until, repaired, it formed part of a multi-vallate defence against Roman invaders in the first century A.D. At the entrances and within the fort the situation was more complicated, and Dr.Stanford has distinguished no fewer than fourteen periods of reconstruction of the south-west gate (Fig.12), and in places as many as seven rebuildings of individual huts (e.g. Fig.49).

The unravelling of these intricate details is a tour de force, and archaeologists are indebted to Dr.Stanford not only for the skill with which he has managed his excavation in the field but also for the precise and lucid exposition of the sequence and significance of a mass of undercutting postholes. The result is by no means easy to read, but it would be unfair to ask for simplistic descriptions: in this section of his work Stanford leads us without dogmatism through the variant interpretations in the relationship of features, and distinguishes with some care between hypothesis and observed detail. Few hillforts can have been exposed to so close a scrutiny, and it is tempting to wonder whether the comparative simplicity of some other sites has been a result of less sensitive excavation.

The discussion of the excavations (pp.29-143) is followed by an illustrated catalogue and analysis of the finds (pp.144-222). Throughout, careful attention is paid to the provenance and significance of individual pieces, and a notable contribution is the reasoned discussion of the faunal remains by Ruth and David Whitehouse. The pottery, as on most hillfort excavations, was fragmentary, and its catalogue is comparatively brief. But Dr.Stanford is able to incorporate some of the remarkable results of the petrological examination of temper in his sherds: his account is prefaced by a revealing discussion of styles and origins of his pottery types.

The resources at Dr.Stanford's disposal were not large, and it proved necessary to tackle some parts of the site by a series of small trenches rather than by total excavation. The entrances, in particular, were sampled

rather than stripped, and the samples were often small (e.g. Fig.29). Reconstruction of the structures thus involves some conjecture and projection of features outside the excavated area (e.g. Fig.5). The small size of the cuttings, furthermore, means that even the careful reader may find it difficult with confidence to retrace the stratification across an area. How much easier to have long sections like Aa (Fig.30, for location cf. Fig.29)! But this treatment of detail is Stanford's strength: where some other excavators have published one or two sections only, as 'typical', or as tending to confirm their interpretation, Stanford has attempted to present all the available evidence. He thus invites the criticism of those who prefer their material pre-digested in a pithy summary. His is the more honest and laborious course, and future investigators, few if any of whom will have opportunity to consult the original records, will thank Stanford for his pains.

The size of the publication may tempt the reader into a hunt for conclusions. Some caution is necessary: the limited size of the excavation makes estimates of the building density extremely hazardous - whether it be 274 houses (p.129) or 277 (p.230): the further calculation of population of Croft Ambery and of Herefordshire (p.230) is a fortiori even more tenuous. More important, perhaps, Stanford discusses the various dating schemes with justifiable caution (pp.225-6), but his final framework (Fig.103) contains idiosyncratic preferences which may obscure the real value of his work, the demonstration that the fort and its buildings were kept in repair for many generations, and the consequent implication of continual occupation - not hillfort but hill town.

The volume is well illustrated - 15 plates, all useful, and (including diagrams) no fewer than 105 figures. Some of these have suffered a little by over-reduction. In particular the complex layering in the entrance sections is on occasion difficult to read and might have been better at a larger size (e.g. Figs.13,14: contrast the clearer, simpler sections at the same scale in Fig.30). The binding, stitched in stout but flexible card, is excellent. This reviewer's copy will lie open at the required page, as good books should, and despite heavy handling shows no signs of coming apart. The price, at £4.25, only a third that of recent bound reports of comparable size, is extraordinarily good value. Croft Ambery is available from Dr.S.Stanford, Ashfield Cottage, Luston, Leominster, Herefordshire, and all who are interested either in the Iron Age, or in the archaeology of the West, should acquire their own copy.

Philip Dixon

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#### NOTICES OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Avon Archaeological Council Newsletter No.2 (Autumn), edited by Georgina Plowright pp.6, duplicated A4, 15p. Available at the City Museum. In this issue aspects of fieldwork in Avon are considered, and Julian Bennett writes on 'Abonae: the Roman settlement at Sea Mills'.

Keynsham and Saltford Local History Society Newsletter No.1. pp.9, duplicated A4, 12p. to non-members. Work on local history material and accessions to the

Society's archives are to be recorded and made available in this way. Articles by Barbara Lowe on 'The Remains of Keynsham Abbey' and by Connie Smith on 'The Keynsham Educational Endowments' give a foretaste of members' diverse interests.

Cheddar Caves Museum Handbook (Photo Precision Ltd., 1976) pp.24, colour ill.17, B.and w.1. 35p. The Museum's North Room displays archaeological material found in and around the caves themselves, from early Upper Palaeolithic to medieval times. Christopher Hawkes' lucid text explains this progression admirably. The South Room, using a different technique, treats its theme 'Man on Mendip' imaginatively in a series of colourful episodes. Here the text is by David Dawson and Paul Elkin. This is a most attractively presented booklet with a high proportion of excellent colour photos. It is astonishingly good value for money.

Discovering Avon by G.N.Wright. Shire Publications Ltd., 1976, pp.80, 22 plates, 1 map. 45p. A useful compendium of the new county. Whilst catering for all tastes the writer has dealt generously with archaeological and historical matters. The Gazetteer presents some anomalies: Winterbourne, Westbury on Trym both omitted, whilst Wickwar gains a place.

The Goods and Chattels of our Forefathers edited by John S.Moore (Phillimore, 1976). pp.364, £6.50. Under Mr.Moore's guidance Frampton Cotterell and District Local History Group made an intensive study of all known probate inventories from several adjacent parishes in south Gloucestershire, spanning the years 1539-1804. These are here published for the first time. A 38-page introduction and 10 tabulated lists summarise the wealth of social and economic information derived from detailed study of these inventories and other relevant documents. A useful glossary is provided.

Folklore of Prehistoric Sites in Britain by L.V.Grinsell. (David & Charles, 1976). pp.320, 31 ill., 8 maps, 6 line drawings. £7.95. The author began assembling material for this book in 1930, and apart from some Yorkshire sites, himself collected all the English entries; many legends were confided personally to him. The book is in two parts. First, in the Introduction all aspects of folklore are considered, backed up by eight distribution maps illustrating the commoner attributions (the Devil, fairies, giants): more esoteric examples (Ossianic, Irish and medieval traditions: the Arthurian cycle); and ideas about petrification and stone-movements. Christianisation of prehistoric sites is considered, and among many examples two sites on Mynydd Illtud, Brecon, linked with the Breton saint, are of special interest. Second, the Inventory which gives a county by county list of prehistoric locations, each one named, with its parish and NGR, and a masterly thumb nail account of its particular legend(s), its archaeological typology and its bibliographical references. Of great variety, these legends are engrossing - and sometimes spine-chilling. At Manton Round Barrow early this century could be seen the seed-to-fruit process of a ghoulis legend in the making.

#### Readers' recommendations in brief

The Making of a Manor: the story of Tickenham Court by Denys Forrest. (Moonraker Press 1975). pp.123, 16 plates, 9 maps and plans. £3.50.



The Landscape of Towns by M.Aston and J.Bond. (Dent 1976) pp.224, 30-line drawings, and photographs. £5.50.

My Archaeological Mission to India and Pakistan by Sir Mortimer Wheeler. (Thames & Hudson, 1976). £4.50.

The Environment of Early Man in the British Isles by John G.Evans. Now in paperback. (Elek) £3.50.

Stone Circles of the British Isles by Aubrey Burl

The Country House H.M.S.O.

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#### MEMBERS SYMPOSIUM

The twelfth annual B.A.R.G. Members Symposium will be held on Saturday 22nd January 1977 in the City Museum, Bristol, starting at 2.00 p.m. Speakers will include our Chairman Dr.Parker, who will talk about the Upper Maudlin Street site, John Durnell on Trade Tokens, and Bruce Williams describing Medieval tiles from Iron Acton Court. The meeting is expected to finish by 6.00 p.m.

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#### A NEW GALLERY AT THE CITY MUSEUM

A 15th century stone archway from the former Wine Street guardhouse makes an effective entrance to the new Temporary Exhibition Gallery which is situated at the NE corner of the Museum's ground floor, approached through the SW British Archaeology Gallery. Its opening coincided with the most successful late summer T.V. Series 'The Past Around Us', in which Peter Fowler and Nicholas Thomas, helped by other well-known local archaeologists, gave a briskly comprehensive review of the subject from palaeolithic to medieval times, using mainly local sites and material as examples. A selection of graphics prepared for this series and finds shown during it are currently displayed in the gallery, together with the roller-caption for the final programme, 'Medieval Cities - Bristol' screened on 17th September.

Also on view are plans and photographs of City Museum excavations including Greyfriars, and more recently Peter Street, together with an interesting range of finds from these sites. Other exhibits include local artifacts formerly on view in the SW British Archaeology Gallery, with a time span from Lower Palaeolithic (Acheulian tools found at Chapel Pill) to Medieval (silver coin of Cnut, AD 1016-1035, and ceramics from Ham Green).

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CALENDAR  
OF FORTHCOMING COURSES, MEETINGS AND LECTURES

January - April 1977

Abbreviations additional to those already listed in previous issues of Bulletin

B.U.A.S. Bristol University Archaeology Society  
N.S.A.A.F.S. Northavon Society for Archaeology and Associated Field  
Studies (See p. 237 )

January

- 3 A.G.M. at the Arts Centre, BRIDGEWATER, Somerset. B.& D.A.S. 7.30p.m.  
7 Local History in Shipham, by M.D. Costen. 10 meetings weekly at  
the Village School, SHIPHAM. University 7.30 p.m.  
10 The archaeology of post-Roman Somerset, AD 400-900, by R.H.Leech.  
10 meetings weekly at the Arts Centre, BRIDGEWATER. University.  
7.30 p.m.  
11 Pastoralists and Prehistory, by Miss B.J.Orme. B.& C.A.S. Lecture  
Theatre, Bath Technical College (new building) BATH. 7.15 p.m.  
11 Industrial Archaeology in Northavon, by Owen Ward. N.S.A.A.F.S.  
At Chipping Sodbury. (See p. 237 )  
11 Further Heraldry, by Mrs.G.Grant. 10 meetings at the Folk House,  
40 Park Street, BRISTOL 6.00 p.m.  
12 The development of artifacts and tools, by A.C.A.Wright. 10  
meetings weekly at The School, MARSHFIELD. University. 7.30 p.m.  
12 Local History Research Group, led by M.D.Costen. 10 meetings  
weekly at The Library, NAILSEA. University. 7.30 p.m.  
12 Windwills and Watermills, by M.Turner. 10 meetings at the Folk  
House, 40 Park Street, BRISTOL 7.45 p.m.  
13 Family History: ways and means of research, by Mrs.J.Phillips.  
10 meetings at the Folk House, 40 Park Street, BRISTOL. 6.00 p.m.  
13 Principles and practice in archaeological excavation, by  
M.W.Ponsford. 10 meetings weekly at the Teachers' Centre, STROUD.  
University 7.30 p.m.  
13 Jan-My-Lady's Jewels, Bronze Age style, by N.Thomas. Lunctime  
lecture. City Museum, BRISTOL. 1.00 p.m.  
14 History of Local Government in the Avon area, by John Haddon.  
K. & S.L.H.S. Ellsbridge House, KEYNSHAM. 7.30 p.m.  
17 Introduction to Pompeii and Herculaneum, by J.Punsnon and B.Rawes.  
G.A.D.R.G. Old Crypt Schoolroom, Southgate Street, GLOUCESTER. 7.30 p.m.  
21 The Bath Stone Industry, by John Perkins. Bristol Industrial  
Archaeology Society. 25 Great George Street, BRISTOL. 7.30 p.m.  
22 B.A.R.G. MEMBERS SYMPOSIUM Schools Room, City Museum, BRISTOL  
2.00 p.m.-6.00 p.m. (See p.251)  
25 Snails in archaeology, by Dr.John G.Evans. B.U.A.S. Room 3,  
Wills Memorial Building (ground floor), University. BRISTOL 5.00 p.m.  
26 B.A.R.G. LECTURE: ROCK ART IN IRON AGE EUROPE, by Dr.John G. Evans.  
Schools Room, City Museum, BRISTOL. 7.30 p.m.  
27 West of England church roofs, by R.Ford. C.& D.A.S. Community  
Centre, CLEVEDON. 7.30 p.m.  
28 The history of the Gloucestershire landscape, by Brian Smith.  
W.-u.-E.H.S. Wotton Library, WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE. 7.30 p.m.  
29 The 'Iron Age' reviewed, by R.Bradley. Seminar at Salisbury Museum,  
St. Ann Street, SALISBURY. University (P) 2.00 p.m.