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BULLETIN

Spring
1977

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Bristol Archaeological Research Group

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

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- Chairman: Dr A J Parker, Dept of Classics, University of Bristol,
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COMMITTEE

- Elected: Molly Ashley, 16 Orchard Rd, Kingswood, Bristol (1977)
J Bryant, 116 Doncaster Rd, Southmead, Bristol BS10 5PZ (1976)
J Durnell, 69 Stradbroke Av, St George, Bristol 5 (1976)
Deirdre Parker, 159 Cheltenham Rd, Bristol BS6 5RR (1976)
- Ex Officio: D P Dawson, City Museum, Bristol BS8 1RL
P J Fowler, Dept of Extra Mural Studies, The University, Bristol
- Co-opted: Pauline Belsey, Appleacre, Queen Charlton, Keynsham,
Bristol. Tel. Keynsham 3128 (Co-ordinator, Bulletin
Production Team)
Dr R H Price, 620 Long Cross, Lawrence Weston, Bristol
(Representative for 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 were due on 1 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 1 March please check that they are paying at the correct rate.

INTRODUCTION

by

The Chairman - Dr A J Parker

This issue of Bulletin is the last to be compiled by Joyce Popplewell, who is retiring from the Editorship, which she has held since 1973. As usual, she has succeeded with indefatigable devotion, in amassing an interesting and informative number. The pangs which afflict would-be contributors, faced with the effort of writing down their thoughts, are nothing compared with the trials of an editor, who has to extract the result in time for the next issue! This is a task at which Mrs Popplewell has excelled, and her expertise will be sorely missed.

From now on, Bulletin will be produced by a litho process, instead of mimeography. This offers several advantages in production, at a negligible increase in cost; notably, it will be possible to incorporate line illustrations anywhere in the text, and we hope that this will be a regular feature. Following the trend of the times, Bulletin now appears in A4 format, instead of the traditional quarto; we hope that in fact this size will be easier to handle and read. An Editorial Committee is now responsible for compiling Bulletin. Mrs Popplewell has kindly agreed to help out on this Committee for the time being, but we now, more than ever, need your contributions, comments, letters, and suggestions of subjects and authors you would like to see included. Please write to the Secretary with your suggestions - every idea helps!

As this issue is being distributed, the new financial year starts on a bleak note for the professional archaeologists in our region, hit by cut-backs in government spending. Not that this is an easy time for part-timers, either; the increasing cost of travel makes it more difficult for enthusiasts to attend meetings and visit archaeological sites, let alone engage in field research at any distance from home. In these circumstances, there still remains much that readers can do; either a survey, especially of a country parish not yet covered by the PSU scheme, or a watching brief on local developments. We hope to announce details of a developments watching scheme in the next Bulletin.

Finally, it gives me pleasure to welcome the appearance of our first article in this new style Bulletin by my colleague, Dr R J Harrison.

* * * * *

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE CLEVEDON AREA

On 14 May a symposium will be held at Clevedon, organised by Avon Archaeological Council, in association with the Clevedon & District Archaeological Society.

Morning Session: guided visits to Gatcombe Roman site and Nailsea Court, starting at 10.15 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. BY TICKET ONLY.

Lunch: own arrangements

Afternoon Session: at Clevedon Community Centre, Princes Rd, Clevedon.

Local material exhibition. Five papers will be given. All-day tickets (90p) limited to first 70 applicants. Additional afternoon only tickets - 60p.

Tickets and further information from: Miss Jane Evans, Hon Sec AAC, Woodspring Museum, Burlington St, Weston-super-Mare. Tel. 21028

FOREIGN CONTACTS IN THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE IN THE BRISTOL REGION

by Dr R J Harrison

The Middle Bronze Age of South-West Britain, roughly datable between 1400-950 BC (Burgess 1974), contains exceptionally rich materials which have been closely studied in recent years. In the Avon and North Somerset region there is a number of hoards of bronze metalwork that contain pieces of foreign origin, whose presence allows us to place the development of our own local Bronze working industries into the much larger regional setting of North West Europe, and to begin to speculate about the sort of changes that might lie behind the large amount of metalwork from this period. Traditionally, the MBA has been regarded as a period characterised by few traces of settlement, but with plenty of undistinguished coarse pottery, ubiquitous palstaves (flat axes with flanges and horizontal stop ridges) and numbers of rapiers and socketed spearheads.

What is especially distinctive about the later MBA in the South West is the group of hoards in Somerset and Avon which have a new range of personal ornaments and tool types. The ornaments are pretty simple ones, but they point to the increasing openness of the British bronze smiths to ideas from Northern France, and, more particularly, from North West Germany, where similar twisted bar torcs (or spiral twisted torcs) were developed. These contacts, which were intensively discussed by Margaret Smith (1959) and J J Butler (1963) show that Somerset in particular was a rich and important region in the 13th century BC. Distributions of two of the more distinctive bronze types are illustrated in Figure 1, just to show how clearly marked off the South West was from other regions of Britain in the MBA. Equally distinctive metal working centres arose in East Anglia and in the South East, one centred, apparently, around Brighton and the other in the Thames Valley.

Furthermore, contacts with Ireland, already well established in the Early Bronze Age, were as strong, if not stronger, than ever before. Novel fashions and ideas from Ireland were still being accepted into the repertoire of the local smiths, and especially distinctive are the high flanges on the bronze palstaves, which apparently made their hafting more secure. There is also a number of imported Irish dirks and spearheads, all of which suggests that the desire for copper and tin had to be satisfied with metal brought from Irish sources.

There is even the remote possibility of some contacts with the Iberian Peninsula, since we have a number of double looped palstaves whose distribution is decidedly South Western, and which have for long been thought to be closely tied up with the Late Bronze Age in North Spain and Portugal (Childe 1939). Such implements occur in their hundreds there, almost to the exclusion of other bronze products. It is now clear that this particular idea is not nearly so acceptable as was once thought, since the only decent association of a double looped palstave with any other metalwork is from the hoard of bronzes found at West Buckland (Somerset) before 1870, and lost by 1880. From the descriptions made at the time of discovery, we know that the other two bronzes were ornaments of the 'Somerset Ornament Horizon', and thus of MBA date. Hence our small group of palstaves, for long believed to be one of the few tangible contacts between Britain and Iberia in the Bronze Age, are now older than their supposed prototypes!

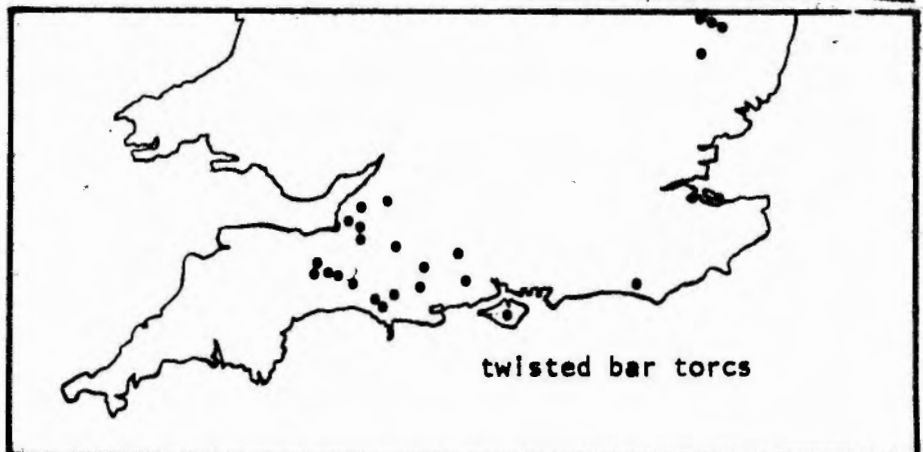
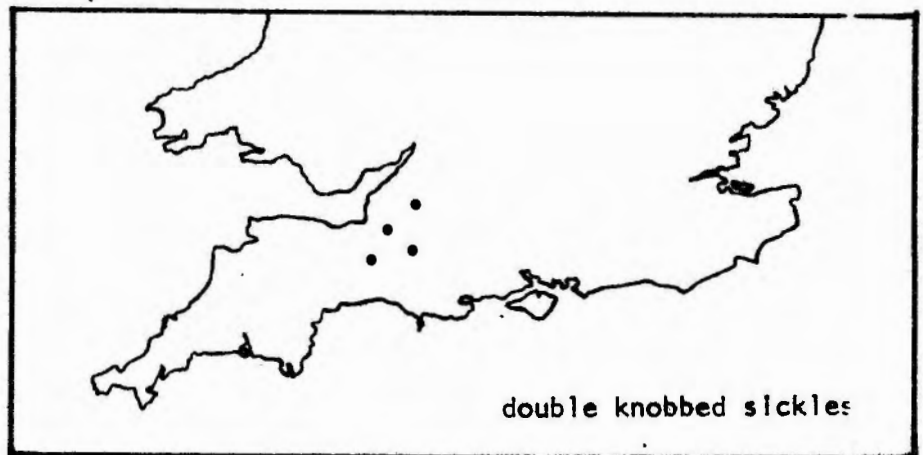
All of this metalwork has been thoroughly discussed by M J Rowlands (1976) who points out that there is a new and distinctive pattern of industrial organization, with its more elaborate and localized production of metalwork. There are still, at the moment, no hoards of MBA date with scrap metal (an important feature which only appears after c. 950 BC with the LBA), but the MBA in Britain seems to have been drawing much closer to the pattern of expanding production characteristic of all the West and Central European economic systems at this period. Although South West Britain is on the far western periphery of these great changes, the novel ideas and new systems of production and accumulation of 'wealth', as shown by the rapidly expanding quantity and variety of metalwork, were a potent force in Britain by the 13th century BC.

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Fig. 1

Bronze Age Metalwork in
South West Britain (after
Rowlands, 1976, Maps 13;
22)



BARG MEMBERS' SYMPOSIUM

No. 12: 22 January 1977

On the occasion of the Group's Annual Members' Symposium six speakers addressed an appreciative audience which packed the Schools Room in the City Museum to capacity. Tea was provided during the interval by members of the Committee. It is some considerable time since a meeting was so well supported in numerical terms, and this gives much encouragement to the organisers.

1. Recent Work on Gloucestershire Barrows

John Drinkwater

In this illustrated account the recent excavations of the Nympsfield Long Barrow - now on display in a picnic site - and the round barrow Swell 8 were summarised. The barrows of Gloucestershire are normally classified as cairns and can be detected in ploughed fields as patches of scattered stones. Swell 8 was found to be virtually stone free, a circumstance which has serious implications in the recognition of round barrows in the county.

The remainder of the lecture showed the destructive effect of ploughing on field monuments. With long barrows the problem was illustrated by the removal of the tail of the fine Colnpen barrow and the reduction (13 m off the length, 17 m off the width) of the Duntisbourne Abbots Hoar Stone Barrow.

With round barrows the problem is even more acute. The need for urgent action to preserve the handful of pristine barrows remaining in the county was demonstrated by the wanton ploughing of round barrow Sezincote 1, 2. Previously untouched by ploughing or excavation the grass cover over these barrows was destroyed, exposing the inner cairn material.

Constant vigilance of all barrow sites is necessary. Often, structures are uncovered by ploughing and subsequently removed or re-covered. Stone slabs have been seen in the Warren Tump (Cherington 2) and Sezincote (Temple Guiting 19) round barrows during the latest barrow survey; these would have been otherwise unrecorded.

2. Romano-British Small Towns and Ports

Roger Leech

Recent work has considerably increased our understanding of Romano-British small towns. In south Somerset and north Dorset a re-examination of known sites reveal that small towns may be more numerous than was previously thought.

The Roman site at Westland has been considered generally as a villa, but the evidence from excavation shows that it may be a small town, with a street grid and extending possibly over 40 acres. The buildings examined in 1728 may be individual houses rather than a unitary villa. Other possible small towns situated on known Roman roads include Littleton, north of Somerton, and Shepton Mallet. The latter produced 9 coins of

the Claudio-Neronian period indicating that, like Ilchester, it may have originated as a vicus outside a fort.

There are also several ports which may be considered as small towns. Ports have received very little attention as a type of settlement; the Bristol Channel and lower Severn examples are of great interest in that they permit reconstruction of local patterns of trade. In south Somerset Ilchester, Combe, Crandon Bridge and Cheddar were all probably ports. Their detailed history is difficult to establish because of the limited excavation work carried out on any of them. By their very nature, both small towns and ports can be recognised only by extensive observation through fieldwork or excavation.

3. Excavations at Upper Maudlin Street, Bristol, 1976

Steven Speak

During 1973, excavations on the site of medieval Greyfriars uncovered scanty traces of Romano-British occupation of the 2nd - 4th centuries. To investigate this area further a training excavation for students of Bristol University, directed by Dr A J Parker and Mr G L Good, took place on the site for 4 weeks in 1976.

The excavation lay within the foundations of the 18th century Moravian church which fronted Upper Maudlin Street opposite the Bristol Royal Infirmary. The upper levels consisted of post medieval make-up, containing only one feature of note. A large cess-pit 1 m square and surviving to a depth of 59 cms contained a large group of pottery, glass phials, wine bottles and clay pipes of late 18th century date. In the fill of the pit organic material survived including fabric, fragments of brush heads and bristles, bone combs and hazel nuts.

Directly below the post-medieval layers a short length of substantial walling survived. Large regularly spaced post-slabs under the outer wall face showed that the building originally had timber uprights on the wall exterior, presumably supporting a timber superstructure and roof. Along the interior face of the wall ran several discontinuous slots, probably once holding floor joists. The thin occupation spread within this building, possibly a barn or farm outbuilding, contained 3rd - 4th century pottery and a coin of Constantius in fresh condition, dating from the third quarter of the 4th century.

4. Mid 15th Century Floor Tiles from Acton Court Farm

Bruce Williams

The manor at Iron Acton, now known as Acton Court Farm, has a long eventful history which extends back at least to the Norman Conquest, when it was held by Sir John Acton. John Poyntz took possession of the Manor from the Actons in 1344 and from that period the Poyntz family resided in Acton Court for three and a half centuries, and here they entertained many eminent people.

The Manor House itself has undergone countless alteration. In its present state it is possible to define certain building periods, and one noticeable feature is a 15th century traceried window on the eastern side,

pertaining to the chapel. At one time the house was surrounded by a moat with a fine 17th century arched gateway on its southern side. The arch has since been moved to its eastern side, but traces of the moat are still visible.

The floor tiles, which Bristol City Museum was fortunate enough to acquire were found by the present owner of the farm, Mr J R T Keedwell, just 50 m south of the eastern corner of the house, whilst work was in progress on the building of a new access road. Unfortunately, many tiles had been accidentally removed already but sufficient of them remained in situ to deduce that they had in fact been reused, probably from the Manor House, and relaid as a garden path.

A date in the middle of the 15th century has been assigned to the tiles in the path from comparisons with other well known series of tiles of this type in the West Country, such as those in William Canynge's house from Redcliffe Street, Bristol, and those manufactured in the grounds of Malvern Priory in Worcestershire.

Publication: Tiles from Acton Court Farm, City Museum, Bristol,
Monograph No. 2 (forthcoming)

5. A Short History of Holy Trinity Church, Bristol

John Saysell

The foundation stone was laid on 23 September 1829 and building was completed by early 1832: the church was consecrated on 17 February. Rickman and Hutchinson were its architects and it was built of ashlar faced Bath stone. Its nave and two aisles are surmounted by a flat ceiling, ribbed and interspersed with enrichments. Splendid brasswork was provided, and this is to be given to other churches. The interior is light, glass in the windows being clear with only one exception. The screen is particularly fine: pews are of oak and deal. When the church was built part of the adjacent tollhouse wall was allowed to remain undemolished, thus preserving a visual link with earlier days in this Bristol suburb. A churchyard survey showed 1,834 graves. In some areas these were positioned closely, as little as 6"-9" apart, in parallel rows. There were no headstones, but 395 flat or table top gravestones were noted.

Holy Trinity Church, churchyard and vicarage are to be used by the Bristol Caribbean Community Enterprise (Evening Post 9 February 1977).

6. Trade Checks and Tickets used in late 19th Century Bristol

John Durnell

Whereas copper tokens of small denominations ($\frac{1}{4}d$, $\frac{1}{2}d$ and $1d$) were issued in the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries by local councils and traders to alleviate the shortage of small change, late 19th century issues of trade checks and tickets were of brass, having values of $1\frac{1}{2}d$, $2d$ and $3d$, and represented a quantity, usually a pint, of ale. They had the name and address of the tavern, and often some design around the value. Some, with a nice design of a man bowling at skittles were for use in the

tavern's skittle alley: others were for the music hall, then held in taverns. Many agricultural workers were paid partly in checks which had to be spent in the local tavern.

Some checks were used by local shopkeepers, mainly tea and coffee merchants and clothiers, to advertise their wares. Available space was used to maximum advantage to describe nature and price of the commodities and the shopkeeper's address. Another kind of check/ticket was issued by fruit and vegetable traders on the market, with minimal information apart from the issuer's name and the value. These were much higher: 2/6, 1/-, 6d, and sometimes 3d. These were probably given to warehousemen or market labourers for work done. They could be cashed at the end of the day or week.

All of these checks were issued over a period of about 70 years, from c. 1840 to the beginning of the First World War. Slides were shown of the different checks described and also of the copper tokens of earlier dates.

SOMERSET RURAL LIFE MUSEUM

by Martyn C Brown

The Somerset Rural Life Museum has been established by Somerset County Council to provide an educational and research centre for all items of rural interest which illustrate the traditional way of life in the County. The centre piece of the museum is the Abbey Barn, which was presented to the County by Mrs Francis Mapstone in 1972. The Barn was the principal monastic store house for Glastonbury Abbey; it was built about 1380 when Abbot Chynock presided over the Abbey and it is thought that one of the sculpted figures on the gable of the building may represent that Abbot. Other carved details in the exterior stone work show the symbols of the four evangelists and four male heads, one at each corner of the Barn; that on the South East corner is probably the head of Edward III.

The roof timbers of the Barn are also of great architectural interest. The roof consists of two-tier crucks designed to span a wide building without the need of extra supports; the appearance is more that of a Cathedral than a barn. A number of roofs of similar style are known in other buildings in the west of England, and they are thought to be the crowning achievement of the cruck building tradition.

The other Museum buildings consist of a courtyard surrounded by wagon sheds and cowstalls, and a large farmhouse built about 1890. The ground floor of the farmhouse has been converted to house museum exhibitions illustrating the social and domestic life of the country people in Somerset about 100 years ago, and will include a farmhouse kitchen

of c. 1890, complete with kitchen range, cooking utensils, settle and domestic furniture.

The museum collects items which were made or used in the county during the 'Horse-Age' in agriculture. It covers a period from approximately 1750 to 1920 and therefore shows the change from hand tools to mechanisation, the 'agricultural revolution'. The agricultural collections include a horse powered barn thrashing machine of c. 1840, and horse drawn farm equipment such as hay rakes, hay tedders, a binder, barrows and seed drills. The museum also has complete cider making equipment, and a collection of farm dairy items used in cheese making. Other local activities will be illustrated, peat digging, the withy industry and basket making and traditional country crafts, thatching, a wheelwrights work-shop, blacksmith and saddler. Last year the museum was very fortunate in acquiring a complete millwrights work-shop from Watchet which comprised water driven lathes and drills, woodworking tools, foundry tools and equipment and a large number of wood patterns used when casting pieces of mill machinery.

As a branch of the County Museum in Taunton, the Rural Life Museum has inherited a large part of the local social history collections from that museum, these include a large collection of Friendly Society emblems, about 500 horse brasses and a comprehensive collection of domestic items. The Rural Life Museum is now actively collecting other objects to illustrate the social life of the Countryman in Somerset, and is researching a number of topics, including folklore, domestic economy and dialect. A team of voluntary helpers has undertaken tape recordings of personal reminiscences of life in Somerset at the turn of the century.

The Abbey Farmhouse will be opening in July 1977 with an exhibition illustrating the life of a Somerset farm worker, a Mr John Hodges from Butleigh who was born in 1828. His story has been pieced together from local records, and museum objects will be used to show the various events in his life from christening robes to the dead cart of Butleigh Village Hospital.

The restoration of the Abbey Barn should also be completed by July, and the Barn will house the larger exhibits. The museum will be open daily, including Saturdays and Sundays, from 10.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m. and there will be a charge of 10p admission (reductions for school children, O.A.P.s, students etc.). An Historical Guide to the Abbey Barn, by Dr R Dunning, will be available for sale and there will also be a number of museum publications of local interest.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Bristol Archaeological Research Group was held on Saturday 26 February 1977 at 2.15 p.m. in the Schools Room, City Museum. In his introductory remarks the Chairman commented on the Group's successful adaptation to changes and pressures of many kinds since its foundation in 1962. Its fifteenth year, just completed, had been a good if unspectacular one.

Minutes of the AGM held on 21 February 1976 were read and approved, as were Officers' Reports for 1976-77. Officers and Committee were elected as listed on p.1. Mr J E Hancock was thanked for his work on the Committee during 1975-77. Mrs Popplewell, retiring Editor of Bulletin, was also thanked for her endeavours since Spring 1973. She will continue to act in a limited capacity as a temporary expedient.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Hon Secretaries: The office has been shared between Georgina Plowright and Angela Sandalls throughout 1976 with excellent results. However, Mrs Sandalls feels she must concentrate on her other duties in future, so Miss Plowright will need alternative secretarial help. Lectures during the winter attracted audiences varying in number from 12 to 40. A steady, small number of members, mostly Associates, continue to meet on Thursday evenings in the Museum basement store. Publications: Stock - FG1A (pre-historic) .. 1600: FG2A (Roman) .. 1560: FG3 (medieval) .. 275: FG4 (Industrial) .. 40: Special Publication Mendips .. 200. Recently, orders have been received to the value of £75.

Hon Treasurer: The balance sheet of the Group which is in a sound financial position is circulated with this Bulletin.

Hon Editor Special Publications: Positive progress towards production of a new Field Guide of Dark Age and Early Christian sites in the region has been disappointing, though Mrs Fowler has been invited to collaborate and has agreed to do so.

Hon Editor Bulletin: Volume 5 was completed during 1976. Three 30-page issues appeared, comprising about 1,000 copies in all. Emphasis has been laid on various aspects of parish survey work following the Group's decision to re-launch that project in March 1976. Two further checklists, for Burnett and Nailsea, have been published. The retiring Hon Editor thanked all who had helped with Bulletin during her term of office, particularly remembering the City Museum's Archaeology Department.

Hon Membership Secretary: After the subscription rate was raised membership declined, but this position has now been reversed and numbers are back to their former level. An encouraging sign is the increasing numbers of Associates. Anticipated income for 1977 is about £388.

Hon Secretary Associate Members: The Associate Section held a number of lectures in 1976; the best attended was about the Peter Street excavations in Bristol. Three day trips took place since the last AGM: to Dorset, S Wales and to London (including the Pompeii exhibition). A 4-day excursion by minibus was arranged in N Wales, based in Bangor. A small number of Associates have been carrying out research and other work, in the museum on Thursday evenings.

Co-ordinator, Parish Survey Unit: Useful contacts have been made in Whitchurch, where the newly formed Local History Group has announced its intention to carry out a parish survey. An explanatory visit will be made shortly, and record slips and other materials supplied.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs F Neale suggested from the floor that a list of publications available in the BARG Library for reference should be published in a future Bulletin. This was approved, and arrangements for preparation of the list will be put in hand.

SNAIL DOWN

After an interval for tea Mr Nicholas Thomas addressed the Group on his three seasons of excavation at Snail Down. This is an important barrow cemetery on Salisbury Plain which has been grossly mutilated during and since the Second World War by tank training practice. All types of barrow were represented in two roughly linear settings which met at an approximate right angle. Pre-Roman ranch boundaries which respected the barrows and a Roman 'village' with tracks which did not, made up this complicated site. Answers to the excavator's basic questions, viz: Why was the cemetery in that place? Were the barrows all contemporary? What could be learnt of any ritual used there? and were many groups of people involved, or was a homogeneous society represented there? were gradually imparted during one of the most fascinating lectures ever given to our Group.

* * * * *

A NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE

The Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire has been formed under the auspices of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society to act as a focus for archaeological matters in the county. The following bodies, together with individuals co-opted for specific interests, are represented on the Committee:

Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society
Cirencester Archaeological & Historical Society
Gloucester & District Archaeological Research Group
Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology
The County Museums
Archaeological Units operating in the county

The Committee asks for support from all quarters; it will be glad to answer queries: pass on information relevant to archaeology: receive notice of work in progress: and especially to hear of damage which may be occurring to archaeological sites.

Further details, including a list of its main functions, can be obtained from the Secretary: Bernard Rawes, 11 Trowscoed Avenue, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Tel. Cheltenham 28461

BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

Receipts and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1976

Postage and Telephone	£25.79		<u>Subscriptions, arrears</u>	£ 33.00
Stationery and Printing	24.22		Current	349.05
Subscriptions	21.00		Advanced	<u>20.00</u> £402.05
Insurance	11.25		CRAAGS PSU Grant	50.00
Meetings Expenses	23.75		Carnegie UK Trust Grant	
Bulletin Expenses	191.04		for Level	130.00
P.S.U.	18.32			
Level and Staff	183.26		<u>Sales of Field Guides</u>	
Book	5.75		No. 1	23.64
Bank Charges	4.85	<u>£509.23</u>	No. 2	22.18
			No. 3	14.23
			Mendip	<u>56.31</u> 116.36
			Sundries	50
Excess of Receipts over Expenditure		<u>235.84</u>	Interest on Deposit Account	<u>46.16</u>
		<u>745.07</u>		<u>745.07</u>

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

Balance General Account 1st Jan. 1976	605.49	Cash at Bank	93.49
and excess of Receipts over Expenditure	<u>235.84</u>	Deposit Account	<u>747.84</u>
	<u>841.33</u>		<u>841.33</u>

I have examined the above Receipts and Expenditure Account and Statement of Account as at 31st December, 1976 and found them to be in agreement with the books and vouchers presented to me.

Signed P. Twentyman January 1977

When this splendid exhibition closed in March, some 700,000 people had visited it. Of this total some scores were BARG members, motivated by similar interests. There are, however, other ways of looking at certain exhibits than our own, and we are privileged to print the reactions of a marine biologist to the celebrated Fish Mosaic (catalogue no. 253). Dr T E Thompson of the Zoology Department, University of Bristol wrote for Nature vol 265, 27.i.77, pp 292-294, and it is with the kind permission of the Editor that this abridged version is included in Bulletin.

A MARINE BIOLOGIST AT POMPEII AD 79

by Dr T E Thompson

The Pompeii AD779 exhibition at the Royal Academy contains, in a mural on loan from the Naples Museum (number 120177), a mosaic illustration about 90 cm square which shows fish and other marine animals of culinary importance from the Bay of Naples. These organisms are portrayed with such vigour and scientific accuracy that marine biologists may well find this mosaic the most interesting and challenging of the exhibits. The artist was a scientific illustrator of rare talent making this composition, originally executed as a domestic decoration, well worth closer inspection.

The animals are illustrated with faithful delicacy and accuracy. The only serious error detectable in the mosaic is in the depiction of the electric ray Torpedo (1), an error of transcription on the part of the illustrator, and probably occurred between the fishmarket (where he must have made his preliminary sketches) and the execution of the mosaic in situ. The animals are portrayed in the freshly killed state: they were not observed from life in aquaria. This is evident in a number of cases where fins or other excrescences are illustrated in a collapsed state (as occurs in air but not in water).

(1) ELECTRIC RAY : Torpedo torpedo

This animal is characterised by its possession on the upper surface of several (usually five) dark false 'eyespot' (ring-like markings, not true eyes at all). It is remarkable that the artist has depicted nine such markings and it may be surmised that this represents an error of transcription from the artist's notes and sketches to the mural itself. He has mistakenly depicted the ray's real eyes and spiracles (Fig. 1) (exhalant openings for the respiratory stream) to be four extra false 'eyespot'. This is the only major inaccuracy detectable in the whole mural.

(2) RED MULLET : Mullus surmuletus

This fish is tantalisingly damaged in the mural and the tendril-like jaw processes characteristic of Mullus are not shown and other features of the snout can only be guessed at. Because of this damage, the possibility cannot be ruled out that this fish belongs to the related

variety (or separate species, according to one authority) Mullus barbatus. Both occur in the Mediterranean Sea. They are among the most highly prized table-fish in the world, and are commonly cooked whole, not gutted. (Naples slang for these fishes is fragaglie).

(3) GREY MULLET : Mugil sp.

A beautiful illustration of a beautiful fish. Highly esteemed for their flavour, grey mullets were in classical times thought to be the most gentle and holy fish because they were herbivorous.

(4) WRASSE : Labrus sp.

(5) CRAWFISH : Palinurus vulgaris

shown in combat (more likely to be imagined than real) with an octopus. It is interesting that the European crawfish is depicted and not the African or Green crawfish, which nowadays often finds its way to the fish markets of Italy. According to a cruel legend recounted by Robert Graves, the Emperor Tiberius is said to have ordered a fisherman's death (the unfortunate man had startled the Emperor near the cliff-top in Capri) by the unusual means of having his own catch of Crawfish (Suetonius writes instead that it was a mullet) rubbed into his face. He was then thrown from the cliff to the sea and rocks far below. Crawfish are nowadays best caught by SCUBA diving, but two thousand years ago they were probably trapped in baited wicker baskets.

(6) All scientists and illustrators are duffers outside their chosen areas of knowledge, and the author of the mosaic was evidently no ornithologist. This bird is a curious mixture of kingfisher, dunlin and rock pipit. It seems to have been included in the mosaic purely for artistic reasons. Whereas all the marine animals in the composition are represented faithfully and usually be identified to genus and species, this is a generalised, stylised token bird, Disneyesque in its anonymity.

(7) RAINBOW WRASSE : Coris julis

Such small fish were and are usually cooked whole, and form an essential part of the modern Zuppa di Pesce.

(8) LESSER SPOTTED DOGFISH : Scyliorhinus canicula

This is the commonest small shark of the Mediterranean Sea and is taken by net or line on muddy and sandy ground in shallow waters. The flesh is unpleasant when fresh and fishermen often immerse the skinned bodies in seawater to achieve an acceptably flavoured fish (the taint is caused by the presence of a high concentration of urea in the fish's blood).

(9) SEA BREAM : Diplodus sargus

The artist has accurately depicted the dark markings near the tail and under the pectoral fin which distinguish this species from other sea breams.

(10) RED GURNARD : Aspitrigla cuculus

This is a famous delicately flavoured gourmet fish. The artist has not illustrated the separate 'sensory' rays of the pectoral fin which are

usually seen in the gurnards; perhaps they were collapsed or damaged in this specimen.

(11) This is probably a near relative of number 18, q.v.

(12) SEA BASS : Dicentrarchus labrax

This excellent fish may occur in brackish lakes and estuaries as well as in the sea. According to Pliny, the Romans preferred specimens caught in the rivers ('At in lupis, in amne capti praeferuntur'), but things are not what they used to be, and nowadays those taken in the sea are better. Bass patrol rocky shores and pounce on shoals of sand-smelt or prawns. They will also maintain an uncanny watch on a SCUBA diver after the style of barracudas in the Caribbean.

(13) MORAY EEL : Muraena helena

This cunning and dangerous fish is highly esteemed by some gourmets, but others deem it worthy only of the Zuppa di Pesce. The skin is thick and slimy, but lacks scales. The artist has convincingly depicted the camouflage mottling and the gill opening just behind the mouth.

(14) This is in some ways the most interesting specimen in the mosaic, from the point of view of the marine biologist. It shows a neogastropod whelk having a long grooved siphon, the mark of a hunting snail. The length of this siphon proves the animal to be Murex brandaris, one of the snails used by the ancients in the manufacture of the dye Tyrian Purple, used for colouring imperial robes and other garments and furnishings. Whether the specimen illustrated was destined for the table or the dye factory is open to speculation; the species is, under the colloquial name of murice (in various parts of Italy) or sconciglio (around Naples) still eaten. The modern Neapolitans use the expression 'ugly as a sconciglio' as an insult.

But this individual is especially interesting because it appears to show around the aperture of the shell a circle of flask-shaped excrescences. These hide the true spines of the shell, which are in any case slender and distinctive in this species, and it appears that they are the eggs of the cuttlefish Sepia officinalis. Such eggs are not infrequently found attached to Murex brandaris shells, and a drawing of such an association found on the island of Ischia (close to Naples) is reproduced here for comparison (Fig. 2). It seems that the artist may have selected for his sketches just such an individual, perhaps because the unadorned animal was even at that epoch regarded as ugly and uninteresting.

(15) A blenny, of which several species occur in the Mediterranean, in the genus Blennius. It is possible but not likely that it is instead a goby. Gobies were not thought highly of as table-fish, although a dissenting Venetian view was recorded by Martial:

'At Venice, famed for dainty dishes,
The Gobies rank the first of fishes'.

(from Mediterranean Seafood, Alan Davidson, Penguin Books, 1972)

(16) STRIPED BREAM : Lithognathus mormyrus

The tail of this species is usually found to be forked (as shown in the bream number 9) but the artist has here illustrated it in a collapsed state.

(17) SMOOTH HOUND Mustelus mustelus

This small shark differs from the Mediterranean species of dogfishes (see number 8) by the forward position of the first dorsal fin. The artist has shown this feature of shark classification extremely well.

(18) SCORPION FISH : Scorpaena porcus or S. scrofa

Scorpion fish are utilised chiefly as a flamboyant ingredient in the Neapolitan Zuppa di Pesce. The fish in the mosaic was evidently sketched out of water, because the head processes (which normally stand up in water) are not illustrated.

(19) SHRIMP : Crangon vulgaris

The artist has spread the peraeopods (walking legs) guilefully in order to illustrate all 18, but the chelae (nippers) are not shown so convincingly. One wonders why the artist chose to include Crangon, rather than the more exotic delicate-tasting 'scampi' (Neophrops norvegicus) or one of the larger prawns. Perhaps the gear to capture these was at that time non-existent.

(20) SQUID : Loligo vulgaris

The diamond shape given to this squid by the position and extent of the gliding 'fins' serves to identify this species, sometimes called the long-finned squid. Typical specimens have eight short arms and two long ones, but the artist has shown one which lacks a short arm. Was this an inaccuracy or had this individual lost one ?

(21) TWO-BANDED BREAM : Diplodus vulgaris

(22) OCTOPUS : Octopus vulgaris

This is the 'Polpo' beloved of modern Italians. The artist has accurately depicted both the restless squirming energy of the octopus and the external features needed for an identification to species. The arms are shown to have two rows of suckers, typical of species of the genus Octopus (Eledone has single rows), and the proportions are of O. vulgaris not the other Mediterranean octopus, O. macropus. Large specimens can reach 25 kg in weight, 3 m across the tentacles; not exactly a kraken, but pretty frightening to meet underwater.

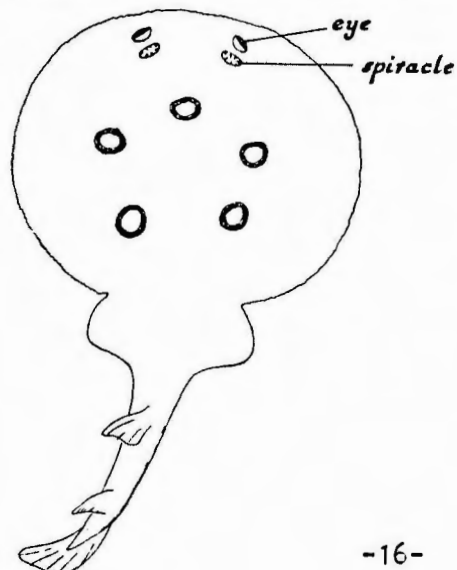


Fig. 1

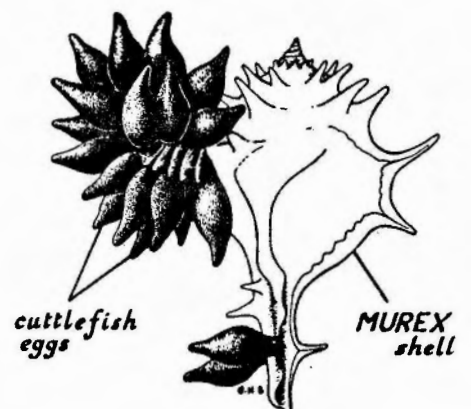
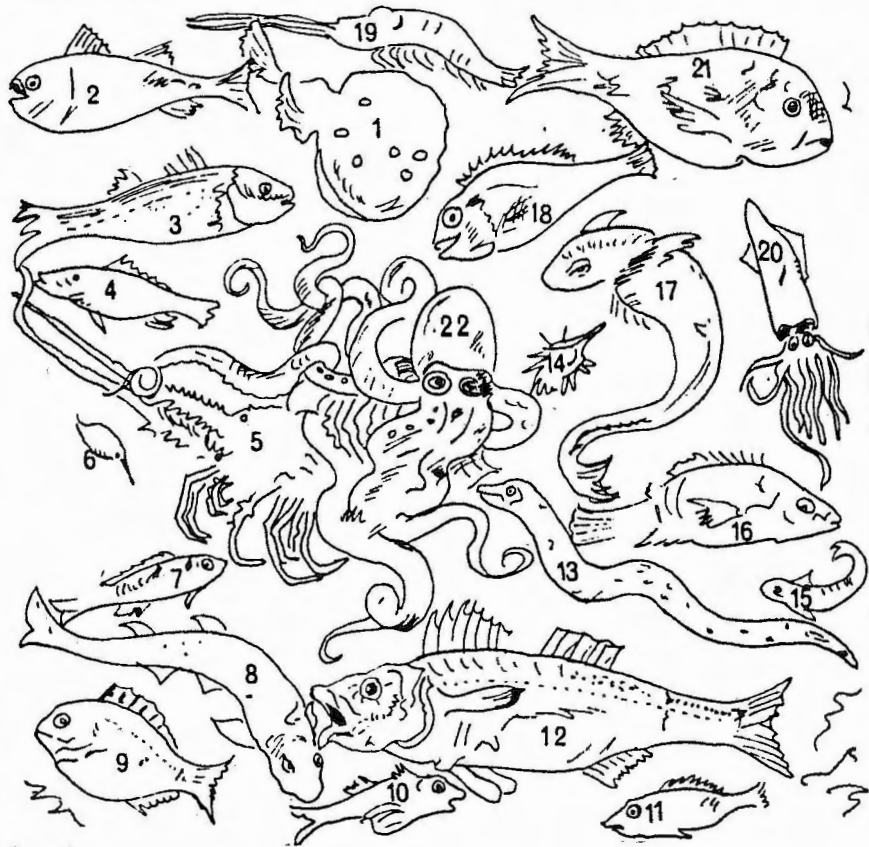


Fig. 2



'THE THREE ARCHAEOLOGISTS'

Once upon a time there lived a family of three brothers who were all archaeologists. The youngest brother was very keen, and knew almost everything there is to know about archaeology - from bronze daggers to flint arrowheads, and this made his older brothers jealous. So they kept him at home, and while they were out digging things up in the sun, he had to stay inside, writing up sites and drawing pottery and filling in index cards.

One day the two brothers left to go to the year's most important conference leaving their brother with a mass of dull and boring flint tools to classify. 'If only I could go to the conference', he muttered, 'then I could show everyone my true worth. I could begin all sorts of excavations, and follow up my interest in the Early Christian settlement of Scotland'. He went back to his flints, wishing he could be at the conference. As he worked, a mist formed round a huge collared urn standing in one corner of the room, and as he turned around there he stood - a huge, hairy, hulk of a man, dressed in hides and covered in woad.

'I am your fairy Bronze Age chieftain', he announced, 'and you shall go to the conference!'

'Holy baulks!', cried the young brother, 'dressed like this?' And he looked at his boiler suit and scruffy digging hat. As he looked, he was suddenly immaculately dressed in evening wear, complete with the latest J Brit Arch Ass and a well-worn trowel in his back pocket. ('Just in case', said the chieftain).

'How will I get there?'

'Have you a few bones and some horse-bits?'

They were duly produced.

'Have you the plans from a chariot burial?'

They were duly produced.

A few mumbles from the chieftain, and there, yoked to two white horses, stood a perfect reconstruction of a chariot.

'Now you can go to the conference, but you must be back here before midnight, or everything will change back again. Now, wear this gold torc and you'll attract all the famous archaeologists'.

What a time he had at the conference! He aired all his intelligent theories to all the best people, and even showed up his two brothers, who didn't recognise him. He had seven offers to dig, and was hinting for an eighth, when the clock began to strike. Midnight!

'Excuse me, I feel rather unwell', he said to the director of the biggest museum in the land, and off he ran, dropping his gold torc. Outside, he found himself in his boiler suit and had to carry the chariot burial plans all the way home.

Back at the conference, the director picked up the torc, and to the astounded faces of the conference members, shouted:

'I will find the man whose neck fits this torc, and I will make him the most famous archaeologist in the land!'

So he got into his land-rover, and began his great search, until one day, nearing despair, he arrived at the house of the three brothers. The younger one was drawing bone pins while his two brothers played at Picts and Romans, using the sofa as the Roman Wall. Immediately, one brother tried on the torc, but he was so thin it went right down over his shoulders. So the second brother tried, but he was so fat he almost choked trying to make it go round his neck. Quietly, the young brother left his work and tried on the torc, and of course, it fitted him perfectly.

'At last, at last!' cried the director, and he took the brother away. So the young brother began his excavations, and became very famous. He kept his two brothers to work for him, moving the spoil tips around - so they, at least, did not live happily ever after.

Anon

* * * * *

CHECKLIST OF THE BRITISH COLLECTIONS OF BRISTOL CITY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Part I ed. by D P Dawson, Curator in Archaeology & History

A number of years ago the BARG Bulletin published a series of checklists of the archaeological collections of all local museums except those of Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery. Over the last five years, tremendous progress has been made in organising and cataloguing the material outstanding. We are very grateful to all those people who have helped us in this project. It is very fitting that the first part of the checklist has been compiled by Margaret Cory who has done so much work on our palaeolithic collection in her spare time. She has been assisted by Jessie Sheppard and one of our Museum Assistants, Sue Giles. Some of the material mentioned will be reclassified but their reference numbers will remain the same. In addition, it should be noted that palaeolithic material is held from elsewhere in the world, eg India.

THE LOWER PALAEOLITHIC PERIOD : LOCAL MATERIAL

The Bristol City Museum has a large collection of Lower Palaeolithic chert and flint implements found in the Bristol Avon gravels by the late R G Hughes and T R Fry. The accession number for the Hughes Collection is 29/1953 and for the Fry Collection 14/1969.

All the listed implements are of Acheulian type unless otherwise stated.

REFERENCE NO.	SITE	PARISH	DESCRIPTION
Ac. No. 29/1953 F3564	Chapel Pill	Abbots Leigh	Abbevillio-Clactonian type implement
" " F3565	" "	" "	Acheulo-Levalloisian " "
" " F3566	" "	" "	Chert implement
" " F3567	" "	" "	Flint scraper
" " F3568	" "	" "	Utilised flint blade. Acheulo-Levalloisian type
" " F3569	" "	" "	" " " "
" " F3570	" "	" "	Utilised flint blade
" " F3571	" "	" "	Chert core
" " F3572	" "	" "	Chert implement
" " F3573	" "	" "	Chert hand axe
" " F3574	" "	" "	Worked piece of tabular flint
" " F3575	" "	" "	Worked flint flake
" " F3576	" "	" "	" " "
" " F3577	" "	" "	Chert biface hand axe
" " F3578	" "	" "	" " " "
" " F3579	" "	" "	" " " "

REFERENCE NO.	SITE	PARISH	DESCRIPTION
29/1953 F3580	Chapel Pill	Abbots Leigh	Chert biface hand axe
" " F3581	" "	" "	" " " "
" " F3582	" "	" "	Chert implement
" " F3583	" "	" "	Ovate flint implement
" " F3584	" "	" "	" " "
" " F3585	" "	" "	" " "
" " F3586	" "	" "	Pointed worked, chert flake
" " F3587	" "	" "	Flint chopper-tool
" " F3843	" "	" "	Chert implement
" " F3844	" "	" "	" "
" " F3846	" "	" "	Ovate flint implement
" " F3847	" "	" "	Chert implement
" " F3848	" "	" "	" "
" " F3849	" "	" "	Ovate flint implement
" " F3854	" "	" "	" " "
" " F4654	" "	" "	Fine example of a chert hand axe

A D Lacaille considers the following flakes and cores to be mesolithic or later.

14/1969 F4926	Ham Green Farm	Easton-in-Gordano	Flint flake
" " F4927	" "	" "	" "
" " F4928	" "	" "	Flint flake. Retouched
" " F4929	" "	" "	" "
" " F4930	" "	" "	Flint core
" " F4931	" "	" "	" "
" " F4932	" "	" "	Flint flake
" " F4933	" "	" "	" "
" " F4934	" "	" "	Flint core
" " F4935	" "	" "	" "
" " F4936	Chapel Pill	Abbots Leigh	Flint flake
" " F4937	" "	" "	Flint core

REFERENCE NO.	SITE	PARISH	DESCRIPTION
14/1969	Brislington House Farm		14 chert implements
14/1969	St Annes Park	Brislington	1 chert implement
	Broomhill		Core
	Ham Green Farm	Easton-in-Gordano	14 flint and chert cores and flakes
	" "	" "	7 flint implements
	" "	" "	1 chipped pebble
14/1969	Church Farm, Kelston 250 yds s of the church	Kelston	16 heavily patinated, 'rolled' flint and chert implements. These surface finds include ? flakes
	SHIREHAMPTON		
14/1969	Barrow, Hill Road		Chert flake
	Boltons Field	Shirehampton	? flake
	Cemetery	"	5 chert implements
	Cotswold Estate	"	3 chert, 1 flint implement
	Groveleaze	"	1 chert implement
	Portbury Rd	"	6 " "
	Portway, near railway stn.	"	3 chert implements
	St Bernards Rd	"	2 worked flints

THE LOWER PALAEOLITHIC PERIOD : NON-LOCAL MATERIAL

A E W Paine collected many implements from the Broom gravels. These are mainly Acheulian type hand axes of honey-coloured chert. The accession number for the Paine Collection is 7371 and Accession No. 6399 refers to the donations of Rev H H Winwood.

All the listed implements are of Acheulian type unless otherwise stated.

REFERENCE NO.	SITE	PARISH/COUNTY	DESCRIPTION
F3796	Aston Cross	Nr Tewkesbury, Glos.	Flint hand axe

REFERENCE NO.	SITE	PARISH/COUNTY	DESCRIPTION
	BROOM GRAVELS		
F4946	Latch Pit	Axminster	Ovate, chert hand axe
7371 F2525	Broom gravels	Axe Valley, Dorset/ Somerset, Devon border	Small, ovate hand axe
7371 F2517	" "	" "	" Chert hand axe
6399 F2518	" "	" "	" " " "
F4648-53	" "	" "	" 6 chert hand axes
F4947	? Exmouth Junction ? Broom		Chert hand axe. Unusually round with a pointed working end
F2520	Ballast Pit, Broom	Thorncombe, Dorset	Large chert hand axe. Length 16 cms
F5341	Broom	" "	Ovate, chert hand axe
F5342	"	" "	Pointed ovate, chert hand axe, gradually tapering to a point
F5343	"	" "	Pointed ovate, chert hand axe, gradually tapering to a point
F5344	Unprov.		Small chert implement
F4948	Cadbury Pit	Devon	Flint hand axe. Length 15.5 cms
7371 F5336	Chard Junction	Somerset	Pointed, ovate, hand axe. Honey-coloured chert
7371 F5337	" "	" "	" " " "
7371 F2511	Dunbridge	Hampshire	Pointed ovate, flint hand axe
7371 F2512	"	"	Ovate, flint hand axe
7371 F2507	"	"	" " " "
?7371 F4939	"	"	" " " "
7371 F2523	"	"	Heavy Clactonian flake tool
?7371 F4940	"	"	Worked flint flake. Length 11.5 cms
?7371 F4941	"	"	" " " " 8.5 cms
?7371 F4943	"	"	Ovate, flint hand axe
7685 F2508	Heytesbury R Wylve gravels	Wiltshire	Flint hand axe
F5410	Kempston	Bedfordshire	Flint hand axe
F5411	"	"	" " "
F4949	NE London Gravels		Flint hand axe
F2525	Northfleet	Kent	Levallois flake. Flint
F2526	"	"	Levallois flake from tortoise core. Flint

REFERENCE NO.	SITE	PARISH/COUNTY	DESCRIPTION
F3920	Poole Keynes	Gloucestershire	Flint hand axe
	ROMSEY	Hampshire	
F5365	Luzborough Pit	"	Flint biface hand axe
F5412	Minchin Hill Pit	"	Large flint hand axe. Length 16.4 cms
7371 F2509	Knowle Farm, Savernake	Savernake, Wilts	Ovate flint hand axe
7371 F2510	" "	" "	Irregular shaped hand axe; flint with patches of glass peculiar to this area
6589 F 969	Swanscombe	Kent	Pointed ovate flint hand axe
F4942	Coulters Pit, Swanscombe	"	" " " " "

The following list includes various flint and chert artefacts which are awaiting registration:

The remainder of the large A E W Paine Collection consists of various flint and chert palaeoliths from Woodgreen and Timsbury.

R G Hughes Collection - palaeoliths from the Bristol Avon gravels.

K Reed - implements from the Bristol-Mendip area.

Col Jenkins - implements from Surrey.

A collection of 'eoliths' from Kent.

17 Flint implements from Reading, Berkshire.

A selection of unprovenanced palaeoliths.

THE UPPER PALAEOLITHIC PERIOD : LOCAL MATERIAL

REFERENCE NO.	SITE	PARISH	DESCRIPTION
F2503	Avelines Hole, Mendip	GR ST 476587	Antler harpoon. Cast of original in Gough's Cave Museum. Cheddarian
F2855	Gough's Cave	Cheddar	Bone tally stick. Cast of original in Gough's Cave Museum
F2856	" "	"	Antler 'Baton-de-Commandement'. Cast of original in Gough's Cave Museum
F2587	" "	"	As above

REFERENCE NO.	SITE	PARISH	DESCRIPTION
6/1967 F4186	Gough's Cave	Cheddar	Flint end scraper
" F4187- F4204	" "	" "	Backed blades. Flint
" F4205	" "	" "	Pointed blade, broken at one end. Flint
" F4206	" "	" "	Backed blade " " " " Flint
" F4207	" "	" "	Cheddar point. Flint
" F4208	" "	" "	Blade notched at one end. Flint
" F4209	" "	" "	Cheddar point. Flint
" F4210	" "	" "	Backed blade. "
" F4211	" "	" "	Blade utilised as a borer or hollow scraper
F4216- F4218	" "	" "	Cheddar points. Casts of originals in Gough's Cave Museum
F4366- F4368	" "	" "	Cheddar points. Casts of originals in Gough's Cave Museum
F2531-2	? Cheddar	? Cheddar	Points. Flint
F4829	Bridged Pot Shelter Ebbor		Implement of 'British Solutrean' laurel-leaf type. Cast of original in Wells Museum
F2538	Uphill Cave, Nr Weston-s-Mare	Uphill	Worked flint flake. Probably Aurignacian or Proto-Solutrean
F2539	" " "	" "	Flint keeled scraper. Probably Aurignacian or Proto-Solutrean
F2540	" " "	" "	Worked chert flake. Probably Aurignacian or Proto-Solutrean

All the Uphill material was purchased in 1901 from Mr Ellis

F4319	Badger Hole	Wookey	Implement of 'British Solutrean' laurel leaf type. Cast of original in Wells Museum
F 540	Hyena Den	"	Implement of 'British Solutrean' type. ? Proto-Solutrean
F4219	Wookey Hole	"	Implement of 'British Solutrean' type. Casts of originals in the University and Pitt-Rivers Museum, Oxford
F4220	" "	" "	Implement of British Solutrean type. Cast of originals in University and Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford
F4221	" "	" "	As above
F4222	" "	" "	As above

THE UPPER PALAEOLITHIC PERIOD : NON-LOCAL MATERIAL

REFERENCE NO.	SITE	PARISH/COUNTY	DESCRIPTION
These flakes and blades were donated by the Rev H H Winwood in 1921			
6399 F2533	Hoyles Mouth Cave. 2 miles W of Tenby	Pembrokeshire (Dyfed)	Curved flint blade
F2534	" "	" "	Flint blade with La Gravette point
F2535	" "	" "	Flint blade
F2536	" "	" "	Worked adinole flake
F2537	" "	" "	Worked flint flake

* * * * *

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: FORTHCOMING EVENTS

It is planned to hold a number of excursions this summer for Associates; other members of BARG and guests will be welcome to spare places. Transport will normally be by coach or minibus depending on the numbers interested; please book as far as possible in advance by sending fares to Peter Maggs. All trips will start from University Road, at the site of Bristol City Museum.

Saturday 28 May: we shall visit Deerhurst, well known for its Saxon ecclesiastical architecture; we shall also visit Uleybury hillfort, the canal at Sapperton and other Cotswold sites. The coach will leave at 9.30 a.m. Cost for Associates will be 70p and for others £1.40.

Saturday 11 June: we shall tour a selection of the finest old churches in N Somerset and the neighbouring parts of Avon. The churches to be visited will not be named in advance so that rather than just memorising a description of a building, members will be encouraged to discover and interpret some of the features for themselves - however someone with knowledge of the buildings will be with us to fill in details that would otherwise remain unnoticed or be wrongly understood. To add variety we shall also visit the castles at Farleigh Hungerford and Nunney. Cost: 50p for Associates, £1.20 for others; the vehicle will leave at 9.30 a.m.

Sunday 10 July: Visit to Tewkesbury, the prehistoric forts on the Malvern Hills and other sites in the area. Cost - 90p for Associates, £1.80 for others. Vehicle leaves at 10 a.m.

Friday 29 July to Monday 1 August: 4-day minibus excursion to Hampshire, Isle of Wight and West Sussex, including Winchester, Chichester and rural sites. Major sites include Fishbourne Roman Palace, and Portchester and Carisbrooke Castles. Minimum cost - £15 for Associates, £25 for others (to include accommodation, entrance fees, all transport - but not covering the cost of all meals). Further information and booking forms on request. Numbers are limited so early applications are advised.

Sunday 21 August: outing to Tintern Abbey and other sites in or near the Forest of Dean. Cost - 80p for Associates, £1.60 for others. Meet at 10 a.m.

Sunday 4 September: Outing to Cotswolds to see some of its finest sites of antiquity. Cost - £1 for Associates, £1.70 for others. Meet at 10 a.m.

Saturday 24 September: a further visit to investigate an unnamed selection of churches. Cost - 50p for Associates, £1.20 for others. Meet 9.30 a.m.

PUBLICATIONS

A. REVIEW

Mendip: a new study, edited by Robin Atthill (David & Charles. £9.50. 1976).

A few years ago, David & Charles put a photograph on the back cover of The Bookseller, depicting a contraption with a cylindrical tank and a chimney which they had acquired along with their ex-railway premises at Newton Abbot, and invited captions. There was no prize for the contributor of 'another pot-boiler from D & C'. That is a description which might too easily have applied to a new book coming so soon after Man and the Mendips, and the third edition of The Mendips, but Mendip: a new study has escaped being just a re-hash of material which was readily available before.

The reason for this is the large amount of original research, over a wide range of subjects, which the Mendips have attracted in recent years. The contributors have taken a notable share in this themselves, and where they have published already (as P J Fowler has done in Recent Work in Rural Archaeology, and Michael Williams in Agricultural History Review) they have addressed themselves more to students of their own discipline than to the local readership as a whole. As Robin Atthill quite properly claims in the introductory chapter, this book is 'a survey and a summary and an interpretation of our existing knowledge about the whole of Mendip'.

The actual roll-call of contributions is as follows: 'The Physical Environment of Mendip - 1. Geology and Climate', by D I Smith (editor of the much more substantial treatment of this subject, Limestones and Caves of the Mendip Hills) and - 2. 'Natural History and Ecology' by A J Willis; 'Early Mendip', by P J Fowler, and 'Saxon and Medieval Landscapes' by Frances Neale (both of course leading members of BARG); 'Mendip Farming: the last three centuries' by Michael Williams; and 'Transport and Communications', 'Industry', 'Recreation', and a final chapter: 'The Changing Face of Mendip', all by Robin Atthill himself, with the exception of D I Smith's note on caving in the recreation chapter.

Even if we leave aside the geology, the range of subjects covered is immense, starting with the material deposited in Westbury Quarry nearly half a million years ago, and ending with the A.R.C. lime-burning operation at Batts Combe, and the extension of the show cave at Wookey Hole by Madame Tussaud's. So the selection of particular points for comment must be arbitrary. Frances Neale brings out most convincingly a contrast between the intensively developed towns and villages around the edges of Mendip, and the formerly bare open spaces of the plateau, the latter 'always separate, contributing to the fabric and prosperity of the villages, yet remaining distinct from them. Medieval people of Mendip lived in the one landscape, and used the other'.

That is an important theme. A less central one, also from Frances Neale's chapter, is that the place-names and charters both indicate a 'cleared, farmed landscape' already in existence in early Saxon times. This is interesting, because it seems to point the opposite way to some indications from the archaeological evidence, adduced by P J Fowler in Recent Work in Rural Archaeology, that arable and pasture were reverting to scrub and woodland during the fifth and/or subsequent centuries.

The book concludes with a gazetteer, compiled by Robin Atthill, followed by 'notes, references and sources' (admirably signposted with each chapter's number, pagination, title and author, so that they can be readily consulted without the need for one finger in the contents page, and a second in the text) and an index. The gazetteer is accurate and well-balanced, which too many gazetteers are not, but it is less satisfying than the topical chapters, and has less that is original to contribute.

On the other hand, is anything missing which might have given the reader a more complete picture of Mendip? 'Kings and battles' history, in the shape of the Civil War and Monmouth, would have added nothing useful: but more about former social conditions would have been welcome. We are given glimpses of the horrors of Shipham and Frome, as seen by Hannah More and Cobbett respectively. These might have been supplemented from Skinner's diaries, and from Francis George Heath's sarcastically titled Romance of Peasant Life; from overseers' and guardians' records, and from the visible evidence of the lock-up at Mells and the man-traps in Axbridge Museum.

A couple of dozen misprints have escaped the proof-reader's eye. Most are quite trivial, but there are curious jumbles of letters and figures on pages 35 and 113, and two whole lines appear to be missing from page 143. Most disconcerting to the reviewer, who personally recalls the occasion, the Chew Valley lake was inaugurated by the Queen on '17 April 1056'.

Finally, there is the question of the price. The companion volume on the Cotswolds was published for £5.25 in late 1973. There is no need to doubt that publishing costs have risen by 45% since, but it may be questioned whether book-buyers' expectations (and resources) have kept pace. Those who are unwilling or unable to spend £9.50 will prefer Man and the Mendips, which the Mendip Society are still selling at a bargain £1.50; but those who can afford the larger sum will find that the new book has a lot more to offer them.

David Bromwich

B. RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Gloucestershire Volume 1: Iron Age and Romano-British Monuments in the Gloucestershire Cotswolds. Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England). H.M.S.O. (1977) pp. 216, ill. 70, colour plates 7, 13 maps. The area covered by this magisterial survey includes a large part of Northavon which was formerly Gloucestershire. Surprisingly, Cirencester

with its influential school of mosaicists and other Cotswold connections is omitted. In all, 182 civil parishes were examined and their monuments of these periods reviewed in depth, amounting to 29 hill-forts, 56 Romano-British settlements and 40 villas. Some 37 sites formerly called 'camp' or 'hill-fort' are here explained in other terms, though the evidence for this new evaluation of these sites may not afford universal satisfaction. Every known mosaic pavement in the area is illustrated to a uniform scale. Also included are many recent air photographs which have led to identification of new sites.

Guide to Prehistoric England, by Nicholas Thomas. Batsford (1976) pp. 200, ill. 254 £5.95 (hardback) £2.50 (paperback). A completely revised second edition, which incorporates results of excavations and field research carried out since the book first appeared in 1960. The Gazetteer now lists sites according to the new county divisions.

Arthurian Sites in the West, by C.A. Raleigh Radford and Michael J. Swanton. University of Exeter (1975) £1.00. Useful summaries of excavations at Tintagel, Castle Dore, Glastonbury and Cadbury-Camelot together with a lucid review of the post-Roman south-west make this compact booklet excellent value for money. It contains plans and illustrations including two folding maps. Obtainable from the University Publications Dept., Northcote House, University of Exeter.

Heart of Mendip, by F.Knight. Reissued in facsimile. £3.50. First published in 1915, this classic reference book for Mendip local history has long been unobtainable despite an intervening facsimile issue some time ago. This reissue, too, is unlikely to satisfy demand so would-be purchasers are advised to buy on first sight.

Two further titles in 'Peoples of Roman Britain' series are The Cornovii, by Graham Webster and The Trinovantes, by Rosalind Dunnett, both are illustrated and cost £2.80. General series editor is Keith Branigan; Duckworth.

The Roman Villa in South-West England, by Keith Branigan. Moonraker (1976). pp. 127, ill. 149. £4.25. Professor Branigan gave much thought to problems about development of villa plans and their continental links when he was in Bristol, and lectured to BARG on the subject. This beautifully presented book will recruit uncommitted readers and convert them into willing students. It should be in every school library. To be reviewed in a forthcoming Bulletin.

Cotswold Churches, by David Verey. Batsford (1976) pp. 200, plates 83, figs. 4 £5.50.

Avon Valley Local Plan: Report of Physical Survey, pp. 66, maps 15, £1.50. Published by Avon County Council Planning Dept. A detailed consideration of all aspects of this area in terms of its past, present and future usage. Map 11 Building Conservation and Archaeology illustrates known sites and monuments, giving excellent coverage to Industrial Archaeology, but ignoring chance finds along the Avon and doing less than justice to evidence for land-and-river use in prehistoric times.

Society Publications

Glevensis:Review No. 10 reflects the enthusiasm, and the diverse interests of GDARG's members in the field. Most enviable is their willingness to write about their activities: the result is a lively yet academically satisfying publication, dealing with two ecclesiastical sites, a 16th century townhouse in Gloucester, a castle site at Tewkesbury and mesolithic and Romano-British fieldwork in addition to the major Romano-British excavation at Andoversford.

Proceedings of University of Bristol Spelaeological Society, Vol. 14 no.2 includes 'Two pieces of worked bone from the Pleistocene deposits at the Chelm's Combe Rock Shelter, Cheddar' by R.A. Harrison (p. 115-122) and 'A Late Upper Palaeolithic Calculator (?)', Gough's Cave, Cheddar, Somerset', by E.K. Tratman p. 123-129. 'Brean Down Hillfort, Somerset, 1974', by Ian C.G. Burrow, p. 141-154 describes a limited excavation of the defences of this earthwork. Radiocarbon date indicates the latter part of the Iron Age for their construction. Iron Age 'A' type pottery was in use on the site prior to this construction. The site continued to be frequented in the Roman period. 'Gorsey Bigbury, Cheddar, Somerset' by A.M. Apsimon, J.H. Musgrave, J. Sheldon, E.K. Tratman and L.H. van Wijngaarden-Bakker, p. 155-183 includes results of radiocarbon dating of animal bone and charcoal, reports on human and animal bones, charcoal and clay daub, together with an archaeological reassessment of the excavation carried out in 1931-4.

C. FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Excavations at Chew Valley Lake, Somerset, by P.A. Rahtz. Archaeological Report No. 8. H.M.S.O. Expected very shortly. Further information from Stationery Office, Southey House, Wine Street, Bristol.

Items from Leslie Grinsell: A note on the megalithic monument in a garden at Druid Stoke, Bristol will probably appear in Transactions, B. & G.A.S. for 1979; and Dartmoor Barrows will be published in the forthcoming Proceedings of the Devonshire Archaeological Society. A large part of this work was heard by many BARG members at the 11th Annual Symposium in 1976.

BANWELL CONSERVATION AREA

The Woodspring District Council has recently designated an extensive conservation area in Banwell, after the thorough public consultation which is now encouraged by central government in these cases. The Banwell Society of Archaeology took the opportunity to become involved in this consultation process, and has been gratified to find that the area finally designated takes in three sites of primarily archaeological importance as well as the standing buildings of the village centre. The former comprise the grounds of Banwell Abbey, which are the site of the medieval (and ? Saxon) bishop's palace; the Roman villa in Ten Acre, off Riverside; and the cruciform earthwork near Banwell Castle. Readers of the Bulletin are urged to look out for similar opportunities elsewhere.

David Bromwich

CALENDAR
of FORTHCOMING COURSES, MEETINGS and LECTURES
April - September 1977

April

- 23 Dating Hedgerows. S.A.N.H.S. Meet at the Green, HIGH HAM (ST 426310) 10.30 a.m.
- 30 CBA Group 13 Spring Meeting in BRISTOL University, Chemistry Building. 2.00 p.m. Business Meeting. 3.10 p.m. Dr John Evans 'Recent snail work in Wales & the West'. 4.20 p.m. Prof Peter Warren 'Pottery making in Crete through 8,000 years'. Bookstall, tea, exhibition. Admission 30p including tea. Tickets at the door. Open to all.

May

- 5 'My Lady's Jewels': Bronze Age style, by Nicholas Thomas. Lunch-time talk, City Museum, BRISTOL 1.0 p.m. (postponed from 13 Jan.)
- 6-8 'Moats, Manors & Villages'. A residential weekend on current research at Burwalls Centre, BRISTOL. University (P) A few non-residential places available.
- 7 Spring meeting. B.&G.A.S. FRAMPTON-on-SEVERN - FROCESTER - LEONARD STANLEY. Apply to Miss D Bailey, Garth, West Hill, Wraxall, Bristol BS19 1JX
- 11 A conducted walk for Bristol Threatened History Society. Meet at the foot of Christmas Steps, BRISTOL, 6.30 p.m.
- 14 Avon Archaeological Council. Symposium at CLEVEDON. Open to members of the Council's affiliated societies. Tickets from Miss Jane Evans, Secretary AAC, The Museum, Weston-super-Mare. see p.2
- 14 Visit to SALT FORD Conservation Area. K. & S.L.H.S. Led by Messrs Linfield and Sims. 2.30 p.m. Details from Bob Milner, 14 Chelmer Grove, Keynsham.
- 15 Steepholme Island. S.A.N.H.S. Prior booking essential. Details from Hon Sec, P Davey, Taunton Castle.
- 21 AGM of S.A.N.H.S. Wyndham Hall, Taunton Castle, TAUNTON. 2.30 p.m. Address by retiring President, Prof E K Tratman on 'Roman lead mining on Mendip'.
- 28 Associates: Deerhurst, Uleybury hillfort, Sapperton canal and other Cotswold sites. Coach leaves 9.30 a.m.
- 30 B. & G.A.S. Bristol section. John Wesley's Chapel, Broadmead, BRISTOL. prior application essential to Mr R Knapp, 9 Beaconsfield Rd, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2TS

June

- 2 Lunchtime talk. 'Private museums in 19th century Bristol' by Michael Crane. 1.0 p.m. City Museum, BRISTOL
- 10 The City of Wells, by Dr R D Reid. B.S.A. Village Hall, BANWELL 7.30 p.m.
- 11 LUNDY Excursion from Ilfracombe arranged by Lundy Field Society. Prior application essential. Applications to A F Langham, 17 Furzefield Rd, Reigate, Surrey
- 11 Associates: churches in N Somerset and parts of Avon. Farleigh Hungerford and Nunney Castles. Coach leaves 9.30 a.m.

June

- 22 The waterfront of medieval Bristol. City Museum conducted walk. Led by D P Dawson & M W Ponsford. Meet by the tower of St Peter's Church, Wine St. BRISTOL 6.30 p.m.
- 30 'From the Bubastis to Sylvester': some archaeological pussy-cats by Georgina Plowright. Lunchtime talk City Museum, BRISTOL 1.0 p.m.

July

- 8 'Stonehenge, Woodhenge and other henges' by D F Callow. B.S.A. Village Hall, BANWELL 7.30 p.m.
- 10 Associates: TEWKESBURY, Malvern hill sites. Coach leaves 10 a.m
- 12-15 Summer meeting B. & G.A.S. at GUILDFORD. Details from Miss D Bailey, Garth, West Hill, Wraxall, Bristol
- 19 Conducted tour of Castle Farm Folk Museum, MARSHFIELD. B. & G.A.S. Details from John Macdonald, The Old House, Freshford, Bath
- 29 - 1 August : Associates: 4-day excursion to Hampshire, Isle of Wight and West Sussex. Details from Peter Maggs, 5 Lansdown Terrace, Kellaway Av, Bristol BS6 7YW

August

- 21 Associates: outing to Tintern Abbey and other sites near or in the Forest of Dean. Coach leaves 10 a.m.
- 22 Evening field meeting to AXBRIDGE. B. & G.A.S. Bristol section. Guide Mrs F Neale. Details from Mr R Knapp, 9 Beaconsfield Rd, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2TS
- 23 Boat trip on the Kennet & Avon Canal, with buffet supper. B. & G.A.S. Applications by 20 July to John Macdonald, The Old House, Freshford, Bath

September

- 4 Associates: outing to Cotswolds. Coach leaves 10 a.m.
- 17 Autumn meeting B.& G.A.S. In the BISLEY area near Stroud. Details from Miss D Bailey, Garth, West Hill, Wraxall, Bristol
- 24 Associates: another mystery tour of churches. Meet 9.30 a.m.
- 25 B.& G.A.S. NORTH SOMERSET & EXMOOR. Details from John Macdonald, The Old House, Freshford, Bath.