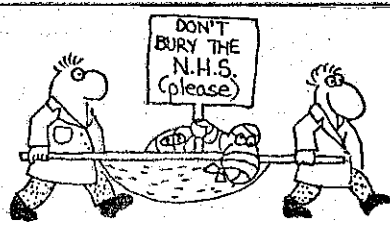


Radio Carbon



DUA on the March

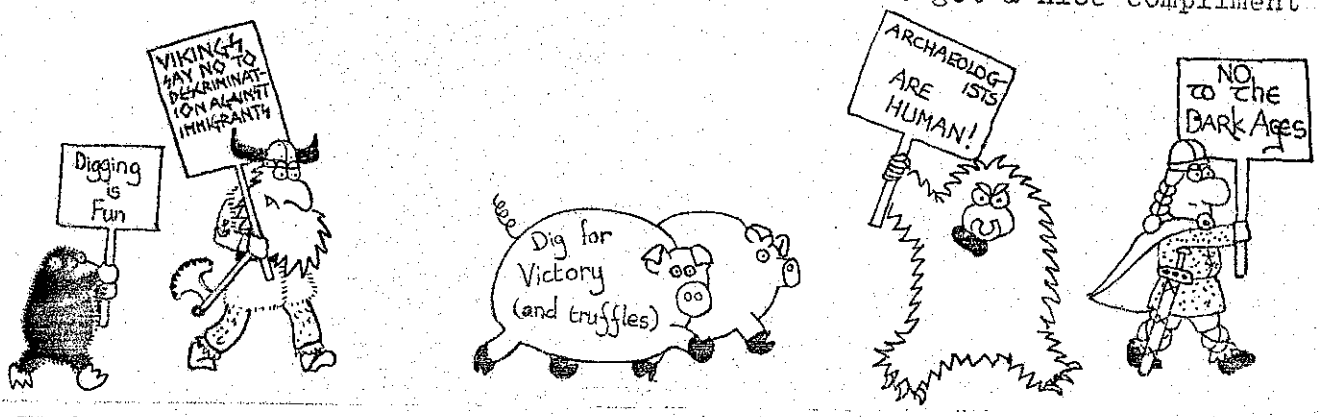




COVER STORY. On the 9th of March the TUC organised a march to back up their campaign for 'Economic Advance'. The main focus of the March was directed against the Governments Cuts, their implications for the social wage and unemployment, and the Governments Employment Bill, which it is felt will weaken the position of the Unions.

The Police estimate of the total attendance was 30,000 and the TUC's was 140,000. My own estimate, based on my experience of Hyde Park Concerts (!) would be between 50,000 and 70,000. Perhaps the estimates depend on whether you count at Hyde Park or at the Rally at Trafalgar Sq, because a lot of people drifted off from the latter, (you couldn't hear what seemed like boring speeches)

IPCS were I think impressed with the turn-out from the DUA, especially as we made up approx. 1/5 of the IPCS turn-out! There were 14 from the DUA and friends, including Sue and Claire from the Finds Dept. who unfortunately were not there when the photos were taken. We also got a nice compliment from the



Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Annual delegate conference, when he said 'So you're the Branch who sent up those progressive motions to conference'. He also said that if he had anything to do with it they would appear on the agenda. There does seem to be a feeling in IPCS that their membership is rather too conservative. Incidentally, conversation with IPCS HQ staff revealed that despite a relatively low proportion of women, IPCS has one of the best records for the employment of female Union Officials in an otherwise notoriously chauvanist TUC. Thanks to all who turned up.

KPF

KANONE-STRASSE

The Oberkommando Urban Archaeology crouched in their Basinghall St. Bunker. The DUA was under pressure, all the troops were pinned down in mopping (writing) up operations at Trig Lane. How could they afford to open a second front? Then a flash of brilliance. After scouring the drinking dens and dart kellers of Southwark for the scum of the City, a new unit - the Penal Battalion - was raised and marched to Kanone Strasse. Hiding in basements by day, only daring to emerge at night, pitifully short of equipment ("use the trowel of the Volunteer who has just died next to you") and forgotten by the world, this is the story of those concrete heroes, the

(Radio Carbon regrets the Break in Transmission, whether it is due to enemy action, the collapse of the basement, or the absence of the telephone lines is not known)

Note this account is purely fictitious. Any resemblance to Archeology living or dead is coincidental.

Due to the fact that the first 'Radio Carbon Revolution' in Archaeology began in Oxford, with its introduction to Sir Mortimer Wheeler by Lord Cherwell in 1949, it is fitting that a development of the method, which looks likely to become the second, and equally as important, revolution, should also have seen the light of day there.

The present system, which involves measuring the decay rate of the beta rays, by counting them as they are expelled, constitutes a number of difficulties, the worst of which are :

- a) It is extremely difficult to distinguish between the ^{14}C electrons and the others, especially the more abundant ^{12}C .
- b) The process is lengthy and time consuming.
- c) It is open to human error.
- d) The major limitation for its use in Archaeology is the large quantity of carbon rich material which is required.

The Institute of Archaeology at Oxford has, for some time, been experimenting with a Mass Spectrometer, which pumps the electrons through a tube, around which, magnets are situated in order to bend the rays; different electrons produce different sized arcs, and therefore it becomes easier to distinguish ^{14}C , and consequently easier to count their rate of decay. But this process only makes it slightly easier to detect, it does not help with any of the other inherent difficulties.

Meanwhile, similar experiments were taking place in America, but instead of using a Mass Spectrometer which functioned on 10 volts, they were using an Accelerator, a machine developed for use in Nuclear Physics, which used 3,000,000 volts.

The principle of the machine is similar, in that it bends the beta rays, but the extra power gives it two major advantages. Firstly, the rate of decay is increased which shortens the time required for measuring and counting, but secondly, it is possible to disperse all unwanted electrons by the use of the magnets, so that only the ^{14}C ray enters the detector. This simple fact is the force behind the Revolution.

If the radio-active particle can be completely isolated in this way, it means that its accuracy should be enhanced, but more importantly, for the time being, a much smaller sample of carbon rich material would be required. It is estimated that a sample size of between only 1 and 10 milligrams would be necessary, which is smaller than the eye can detect, but, in the field, would mean that a single carbonised grain would be more than adequate for the process. At the moment, this would be its major advantage. It should eventually be possible to increase the accuracy to as much as ± 16 years, for anything up to c. 100,000 b.p., but inevitably, this will take time.

At present there is a race between Oxford and somewhere in America, to see who can perfect the process first, but it looks as if it should be fully operational by this time next year, functioning for c. 400 samples p.a.

In conclusion, by next Summer it should be possible to sample a greater number of contexts in a shorter period of time, with as much accuracy as (and eventually more than) there is today. But a further advantage, which is probably the greatest that we could have wished for, is that the whole process may be ABSOLUTELY FREE, or at the least, nominal,

The Accelerator has been paid for, at great expense, by the Science Research Council, and once in operation, will only require basic running costs, the majority of which would be the wages of the operators, and these too may be funded by the S.R.C..

But then Radio Carbon always was free, wasn't it?

THE JUDGE CHILD PART 2

NEUTRON FLATS SLAVE MARKET

THE NEXT ITEM - ONE MEGA-CITY JUDGE! IN PRIME CONDITION! NO PREVIOUS OWNER!

WHAT AM I TO DO FOR JUDGE BREDD?

FIFTY GOLD PIECES!

SIXTY!

GOODMAN Credit Card
 14 MONTHS INTEREST FREE PERIOD
 NO ANNUAL FEE
 NO CREDIT CHECK
 NO CREDIT LIMIT
 NO CREDIT RISK
 NO CREDIT RISK
 NO CREDIT RISK

BUY HIM FOR ME, DREDD! I MUST OWN MY OWN JUDGE!



SMALL ADS

Claire our new illustrator would be interested to hear from anyone with information about accommadtion (permanent) for two people .

STOP PRESS

A new document has recently been distributed by the Museum dealing with the vexed question of Metal detectors . It follows roughly the CBA document seen in this magazine , but is more moderate in tone in that it reckons that Detectors are here to stay , and must be lived with.

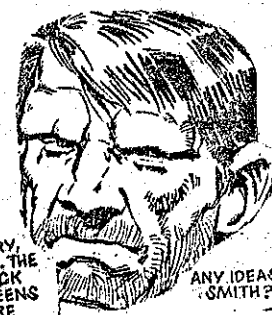
I'M STAR-TROOPER SMITH, PART OF THE REPRISAL FLEET OUT TO AVENGE THE MASSACRES IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM BY THE ALIENS WE CALLED THE GEEKS. WE'D WARPED ACROSS SPACE TO THE GALAXY NAMED NGC 598... AND FOUND THEM WAITING FOR US!



CLOSE-UP, STAR-TROOPERS! THEY'RE FIGHTING WITH THE LIGHT OF TWIN SUNS BEHIND THEM!



DAMN IT, JUPE! WE'RE RUNNING BLIND!



SORRY, SARGE. THE TRACK SCREENS ARE USELESS... TOO!

ANY IDEAS, SMITH?

Renfrew's *Transformations through Time* is a serious and (to my innumerate mind) incomprehensible series of papers explaining diachronic relationships in archaeology, expressed in mathematical terms. It does however include, in his opening paper, an aside which relieves the solidity of the rest. This is the use of Osbert Lancaster's superb drawings of the English town through history, extending from the Roman period to the present day. Renfrew uses them to illustrate 'invariants in temporal transformation'; certain features, notably the beggar, re-appear in the same corner of the market place in every period. This was clearly also a model for a fictional reconstruction of the re-incarnated beggar in a well-known genre. It was also however material for science fiction. It reminded me of the small impact that SF has so far had on archaeology, and how it could be the medium for the liberation of new ideas in considering an imaginary past or future. This would extend the range of hypothetical models about man in environment, which already verge on the borders of SF.

I was also led to consider this by the quite unjustifiable letter to the THES by a correspondent who deplored the use of its pages for science fiction. He was in fact referring to my paper on Sutton Hoo in the previous issue in which I summarised the modern techniques which should be employed in a new Sutton Hoo excavation if it were to be the best in the world. Those I listed had either been tried already or were possible given current technology. It appeared to the letter writer however as SF and suggested I be deep-frozen until some time in the future until such things were possible. At the same time I was accused of inventing some data on an Irish shrine which I had used in a recent paper. Subsequently, my ideas on Sutton Hoo inspired an actual piece of SF, a vision of the early stages of that excavation (see *Rescue News* April 1980).

Another reminder at the same time was the appearance of an archaeologist in the 'Hitch-hiker's Guide to the Galaxy'. My colleague Edward James subsequently told me of the not infrequent appearance of archaeologists in SF situations, and also that they were both uninformed and uninspired.

Archaeologists must therefore, it seems, write their own SF, and the purpose of this circular is to invite you to do so - to contribute to a book which I would edit, with some title such as that which heads this paper. I have no doubt we should easily find a publisher and would do something to spread what Curwen once called 'the lighter side of archaeology' to a public who may begin to suspect we are rather dull. I would suggest short (3000-5000 words) papers ('novella' in SF). They could be in any of the following genres (though I would welcome the suggestions of others).

AAAAARGH!

THEY'RE AFTER THE BATTLE-TROOPERS IN THE TROOPSHIPS!

- 1 The Archaeologist in Science Fiction (Edward James is working on this, and so also may be Charles Thomas who has already explored the archaeologist in fiction, and probably also Jessic Mann). This could include both the modes of the archaeologist's appearance in other worlds, expeditions etc, but also the collection of past gens such as 'The Line and Circle Folk' in *Punch* many years ago (a reconstruction of the Underground people in atomic-destroyed London).
- 2 A review of the archaeological cartoon dealing with SF situations in the pages of *Punch* and elsewhere.
- 3 A review of the SF elements in historical reconstructions such as Angus Wilson's *Anglo-Saxon Attitudes* or A Connecticut Yankee at the Court of King Arthur or Golding's *The Spire* or *Asterix*.
- 4 Archaeologists in other worlds - either indigenous or expeditionary immigrants.
- 5 Contributions to *Galactic Archaeology* at any future date (no 1 will be published c 1994).
- 6 Reconstructions of the past embodying SF ideas as a reconstruction of the twelfth century exhumation of Arthur in which the monks display foreknowledge of future archaeology or archaeologists.
- 7 British archaeology as seen by an archaeologist or others from Alpha Centaurus.
- 8 Reconstructions of *Life on Earth* by space archaeologists (mis)interpreting the debris of our civilisation.
- 9 A review of *Lunatic Archaeology* bordering on SF (you only need to consult *Antiquity* to do this) (Von Danniken, etc).
- 10 The use of archaeological SF in developing modern theory ('serious' papers).
- 11 'Spook' papers on current archaeology or discoveries appertaining to SF.
- 12 SF interpretations of ethnographic data such as Millies Camp.
- 13 Visions of future excavations or research (cf current *Rescue News* piece).

Contributors may append Harvard bibliographies, (imaginary) which should also give scope for some humour or imagination.

If you think there may be something in this write to me, either to say you can write a piece (say by Autumn 1981) or to give suggestions for other aspects of the genre; or bibliographical items.

Not all archaeologists are SF enthusiasts (some actively dislike it). Those that are will find it easy to think of a theme, but there may well be others who could turn their talents to the medium; and it is very likely that they will not be archaeologists. If you know any such send me their names. Do you think the appeal should be a more general one in eg the pages of *Antiquity* or *The Times*? Finally, how should the final selection be made?

PHILIP RABT

University of York

MUSION, CITY OF THE DAMNED, WHERE CONTRACTS ARE FORBIDDEN. HERE, THE DOCTOR AND HIS REBEL FRIENDS HAVE COME TO BRING A WARNING - BUT TOO LATE!

WHERE THE BLOOD BUGS PASSED, THEY LEFT ONLY BONES--

ALREADY, BILLIONS OF BLOODBUGS HAD REACHED CITY LEVEL--



IN MY TRAVELS I HAVE SEEN AND HEARD OF MANY MYSTERIOUS AND HORRIFYING THINGS... YET THERE IS A TALE, MORE TERRIFYING THAN MANY OTHERS - THE STORY OF THE B.O.G. AND THE CONTRACTLESS-URBARCHS!

IT'S SO SIMPLE! CONTRACTS KILLS THE BLOODBUGS! ALL WE HAVE TO DO TO BEAT THEM IS GIVE THE PEOPLE BACK THEIR CONTRACTS!



THE DOCTOR HAS TO CONFRONT THE B.O.G.-THE BRAINS TRUST--THE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED INTELLIGENCES THAT HAD GUIDED THE CITY ALONG THE PATH TO 'HARMONY'--

YOU HAVE THE EQUIPMENT! YOU CAN GIVE YOUR PEOPLE BACK THE CONTRACTS YOU STOLE FROM THEM! IT'S THEIR ONLY CHANCE!

P.T.O. FOR THE B.O.G.'S ANSWER!

CONFERENCE ON ROMAN URBAN DEFENCES IN THE NORTH-WEST PROVINCES

A very enjoyable and informative weekend was had by all who attended the M of L's Urban Defences Conference. It is always stimulating to have ones horizons broadened by a collection of experts who can give us a new insight into problems which we might otherwise view myopically. As the Conference went on the London defences began to get smaller (and homely) in one's mind eye as we compared them to the Walls of Rome and Hatra (the latter even withholding an 18 month siege against those military machines, the Romans). Talking of machines, Dr. Baatz of Germany suggested that perhaps Bastions may not have been used for siege weapons, as the crucial job of directing fire to the foot of the walls could equally well be done by soldiers throwing or dropping stones from the wall itself.

Of the DUA's speakers, Brian Hobley's introduction was better than last year's. John Maloney was very impressive pacing his uncluttered speech very well, and was easy to follow as the facts were fitted into an easily remembered sequence.

At the summing up of the Conference John Wachter said that after hearing Mr. Hobley's contribution he now knew what the Ancient Mariner had felt like having an Albatross wrapped round his neck! (literary types please explain the meaning of this obscure reference) and thanked Max Hebditch and the Museum staff warmly. Professor Wilkes praised Brian Hobley, granting him the credit for the success of the Conference. Brian Hobley then thanked again the Museum staff, and John Maloney and Trevor Hurst for the exhibition. It was a pity that Brian Hobley only thanked John Maloney for doing the photographic exhibition, when, in fact, the original idea of the Conference was John's, who also did the bulk of the groundwork setting it up. (KF & DJT)

Diana, Vanessa, Wendy and Crispin put on a truly wonderful free reception at the DUA, which put the Museum's fl effort to shame. Diana deserves all the credit for making that reception a great success despite the conditions she had to work under.

To sum up then a very good Conference, but perhaps as an established study a less epic effect than last years Waterfront Conference, but what a fantastic exhibition!

KF

ALL THINGS BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL

ELECTRIC SHOCK HORROR: within five days of the clocks going forward, electric power comes to Trig Lane, but sadly the lights are going out all over JJ and ABL. The ILA and WEL archive reporters have now plugged into the TL supply, and the brilliance of POM is illuminating Level III, although a temporary CUT is being short-circuited by Clare and Co. Former DUA Bright Spark Steve is keeping his GPO team super-charged with alternating currents of text sections, but unfortunately Annie (the well-known live wire) was neutralised by falling to earth, whilst Patrick blew a respiratory fuse and is now being serviced. Luckily he's still under guarantee.

Meanwhile, in order to lighten Alan's overload, he's been ordered to take "one and a half assistants", viz Biker Burch and Shakin' Stevens respectively. Rude Boy Flude remains undaunted by his Clash with the Marxists and Theologians, and Simons wet cell is continually processing batteries of soiled ceramics, and high-powered Friedrike & Micro chip Harrison have embarked upon a plant intensive hydro electric scheme .

Flo Rescent

COMING SOON: IN SEARCH OF ROSKAMS

Michael Woods, the well-known character actor and epileptic, goes in search of SP Roskams the enigmatic Dark Age figure who left his mark from Gloucester to Grunwicks, from Clapham to Carthage and from Milk Street to the Magogs. Our intrepid reporter visits the site of the palace in Newgate Street from whence the Emperor issued his most famous decrees, rediscovers a rusting BMW once owned by the imperial personage, and attempts to decipher the 714 volumes of the GPO Gospels written during a historic tea break almost four weeks ago.

DARTS@DARTS@DARTS@DARTS@DARTS@DARTS@DARTS@DARTS@

Behind the back comments are never nice . I have heard rumours about my standard of dart playing (re when Jules and I were competing for a place in this years final). Now as you know I'm not one to make excuses or try to place the blame (Peanuts: It's not whether you win or lose, its how you place the blame .) on anybody else ;not even myself ! The truth you will probably find hard to believe , but I will explain anyway

That Wednesday happened to be the day , ten years after, that my pet mouse passed away to the great mousetrap in the sky . I was very cut up ! Also I had a very bad attack of shingles , cramp in my foot , I had not had anything to eat for two weeks , except for the odd peanut I could scrounge . I was very very weak . Oh I'll never forget that awful day . It was 2 games to one for Jules I had to get the double to win , I felt really confident , my arm drew back , the dart was poised firmly between my fingers , my arm flew forward confidently . My fingers began to release the dart when suddenly my little dead mouse came into my thoughts . I missed again and again and again ...

JBE

THE B.O.G. ANSWERS!

WITHOUT CONTRACTS
WE HAVE CREATED A WELL-
ORDERED, OBEDIENT POPULATION.
THERE IS NO CRIME, NO STRIFE.
WE LIVE IN HARMONY--
**THE PERFECT
SOCIETY!**

BETTER THAT
WE PERISH THAN
RETURN TO THE
EVIL WAY OF
-CONTRACTS!



CAN THE DOCTOR MAKE THE B.O.G.
SEE SENSE? WATCH THIS SPACE!

John-John's Swan-Song

Gosh! to think in a few weeks time I'll be an ex-DUA employee ; and it only feels like 5 years instead of a few weeks since I began here.

You know , its only at times like this that its possible to look back over a length of time and play 'Spot the changes'. Most people in the Unit assume it seems , that whatever is happening now has always been ; very untrue ! For instance trig Lane was supervised by a chap called "ark Harrison ; a nice enough bloke but very young and he suffered from delusions of granduer which after a year or so allowed his knowledge to be overtaken by Gustav ; the twain didn't meet so he bugged off . The GPO site had opened in my first year (75) and characters like Andy Boddington and Sal Garfi were in the forefront pushing for the top - they've both gone now . Charles Hill was the field officer and John Schofield had made himself Senior Site Supervisor because of Charles impending 1 year sabatical to 'write-up' the Riverside Wall . Ed Harris began his crusade for the Matrix and most people thought he was nuts . "What give a cut a number?". Now ofcourse it seems uncanny that such an idea was not thought of (or at least put into practise) years ago .

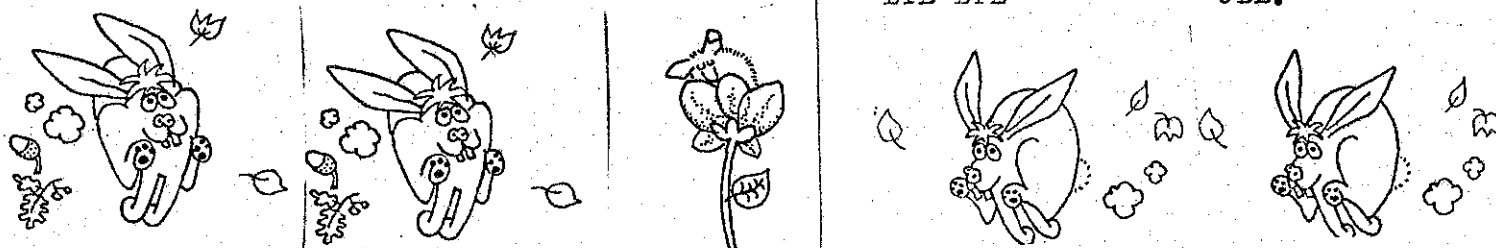
Anon came the 4 metre square planning ; first of all several layers on one sheet , then dwindling to one layer per sheet . Colours were introduced , the experiment ranged from water colour realism to Derwent Series No 19 . Context descriptions became more standardised , Hobley applied for more jobs - unsuccessfully . Hilary Kent approached ASTMS to make the DUA unionised . She got the sack at the earliest opportunity . The Museum wouldn't recognise ASTMS , only IPCS , initially IPCS wouldn't recognise us but eventually conceded to our wishes . So it was goodbye ASTMS , hello IPCS and goodbye to about £1 per month . Was it worth it ? Suppose so!

So many changes have occurred ! The Guildhall Museum was no more when it became the Museum of London , then run by Tom Hume ; now by his then assistant Max Hebditch . Oh yes , before the opening of the new Museum the offices were around the corner to the present ones ; the DUA and its parent were then run from the same place .

Charles resigned , Schofield took over his job , BH stopped applying for other jobs . and decided to 'give 5 years to the DUA'.

Steve Roskams joined the DUA , Andy Boddington went to Northampton and management-worker communications went totally to pieces . The JCP scheme began to the cry from BH 'We want pickers and shovellers not thinkers' (his first person was a young black bloke , Albert , a nice fellow but colour prejudice , nearly the next one was Dave Stephens . It became obvious after a while that BH's thoughts had altered because JCP'S were being hand picked and , usually had to have a degree of some sort (maybe a case of keeping up with the Joneses , or other Unit managers). And so things went changing , Steve brushed up the recording system , vacuum cleaners were introduced to suck-up the dirt and the by then obvious hierarchal system caused people to suck-up to the management .

Some things ofcourse haven't changed overthese few years . There are no open-ended contracts , no decent wages , still the threat of redundancies , still the threat of budget short-falls , still the DUA hasn't got a permanent home , still a backlog in finds because of the still present shortage of staff , still , still waters run deep .



SMALL ADS

STEP INTO THE FIELD OFFICER'S BOOTS! John Schofield is giving away his size 8 Dr Martin's boots, which he received in the first clothing allowance; hardly worn because his feet are size 8½. Since these are Museum property, he gives them free to the first Cinderella (or Prince Charming) with appropriate feet and need. See him as soon as possible.

Run at Aintree, Liverpool, Saturday, 29th March, at 3.30 p.m.

In horse racing, as in many other walks of life, communication is often a problem. The trainer thinks his horse is going to win; the jockey thinks it is going to win; the owner hopes it is going to win because he has a packet on it. The problem arises because no one has bothered to tell the horse he is going to win. So it follows that the poor animal, being unaware of what is expected of him, regards the Grand National as just another outing. Some years ago an American song, doing the rounds, had the lines:-

The owner told Clarence (the Clocker)

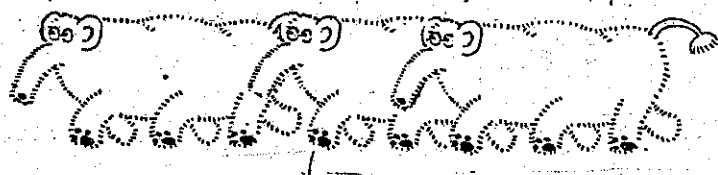
The Clocker told jockey Magee

The jockey of course passed it on to the horse, and the horse told me.

Please do not remind me that in the pages of this journal last year I tipped four against the field, who started out at three thirty on the Saturday, and did not return until three thirty on the Sunday! If the jockeys and horses can remain united over four and a half miles, jumping thirty-two fences in the process, and given the luck in running, my four against the field have a chance, be it a horses chance, or a dogs chance, who can say.

Godfrey Secundus 33-1
Another Dolly 18-1

Coolishall 33-1
Prince Rock 20-1



PENISULAR HOUSE

Peninsular House has now come to an end. Despite earlier intentions of barricading themselves behind their wheelbarrows and heaving molotov cocktails at the first sign of MacAlpine's shock-troops, the site has at last succumbed to the pressures of international finance and the imminent arrival of several hundred thousand tons of concrete.

Like the Phoenix, however, Peninsular House will rise again. The show may be over but soon - The book of the show: "First Interim Report". 400 (almost) pages of erudition and wit not to mention imagination with a dash of je-ne-sais-quoi or god-knows-what packed into one exciting volume. Bound in lush green Moroccan leather, tooled with artistically crafted gilt scrolls and thingies printed in large black easily readable letters, purchase of this report will enrich your library and our directors.

Following this, a four hour musical version is being considered, complete with customary hackneyed cliches - 2,000 tapdancing chimney sweeps, 5,000 jolly beggars, 150 mirthful lepers and ofcourse Julie Andrews.

Well, enough of these half-truths, now for some half-lies. P.E.W. (or post excavation work as we in the trade know it) is coming on apace and indeed along. P and N are killing (sorry) finishing off A, while ofcourse D has sorted out E (S only). E(C) and E(N) should have been done by RH and PN but they couldn't face it. And who blames them? D ofcourse is also sorting out anyone who is foolish enough to disagree with him. GM has given up in despair and gone to sort out TL and the W.C. B is going to burnt as a symbolic offering to the Gang of One in Downing Palace. If that doesn't bring in more funds we will consider holding BH a hostage and demanding £5 for his release!

Ofcourse it might not work

Pen Pal



It was with a great deal of apprehension that I took myself off to "The Third Policeman" at the ICA club - an event in the Sense of Ireland programme. The idea of a novel by Flann O'Brien presented by the Science Fiction Theatre of Liverpool seemed a bit like a Ballyferret Irish Countrywomen's Association's rendering of Star Wars.

However a sense of Loyalty to both the novel and the Theatre, and of course, an element of curiosity made me risk witnessing the possible ruination of the one by the other.

As it turned out my fears were unfounded and credit must be given where it is due. Ken Cambells adaptation was consistent with the atmosphere of the novel.... and it is here that the worst fault might have been. Yes, the feeling was right which meant that for me the pressure was off. I could sit back and relax and even play 'the hunter in the ditch' as to the minor flaws and nitty gritty of the action. The last scene was undoubtedly too rushed and the major denouement of the story that the main character has in fact been dead throughout the play. The play could easily be misunderstood - and indeed was, by some (not that this spoiled their enjoyment of the play). To mistake a dream Journey (in fact a sort of hell journey - Author's description) for an average jaunt through the Irish Countryside is, I must say, attributing more than their fair share of peculiarities and absurdities to the population of the Green Ireland. The fact that twenty years in worldly terms has passed during our heroes three days adventures was not at all clear. It was rather pointless showing his accomplice Divney as a well settled married man complete with heavily pregnant wife at the end when he had never been shown otherwise. Neither was it made clear that Divney actually suffers a heart attack and dies from the shock of seeing his old partner in crime and that he then finds himself in this hell world, which is nothing more than an exact repetition of the first. This time two of them travel the road of the crazy policemen whose obsessions range from the prevention of excessive exchange of atoms between humans and bicycles, the manufacture of beautifully carved chest each one containing one exactly similar getting smaller and smaller and smaller and the last number of which are completely invisible, and to the hanging of innocent men, just to please the 'inspector'.

My other main criticism of this adaption was a sin of omission rather than content. I feel there should have been a lot more narrative on the antics of De Selby, 'Scientist Extraordinaire' which are contained in a series of lengthy and completely absurd footnotes throughout the book. An attempt was made to include or at least acknowledge these footnotes but the De Selby Character was never mentioned and the one or two passages used were simply not enough to do the idea justice. The Play therefore while containing the obvious and winning episodes lacked a lot of the subtleties intended by the author.

Nevertheless the acting was just about flawless. Mitch Davies, as the hero was excellent showing every aspect of the horror of his experience in his face. The accents were consistently good and the twisted perspective of the sets and props together with the weird and cacophonous sound effects - complete with bicycle percussion - maintained a sense of mystery and fear which gave us that necessary hint of the supernatural and kept us wandering.

Val

Tis indeed a fine pancake and a conundrum of the first order this Atomic Theory, this passing of the atoms of yer man to the bike and of the bike to yer man, till yer man's half bike and the bike's half man. Sure it could be true but then meself would be half man and half typew owijijseifjr 89))(&__ clickety clickety clickety ping.

Kevin

STOP TAKING OUR PAST

The campaign against the plundering of Britain's past



STOP is a national campaign promoted by the following major organisations who are concerned that the growing use of metal detectors is having a serious and detrimental effect on the archaeological landscape and the national heritage.

STOP was founded in 1979 in order to bring to the attention of the general public, politicians, local authorities, landowners, schools and metal-detector users themselves the inherent dangers of this 'hobby'.

STOP is actively supported by:

THE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICERS — the body which represents archaeologists employed by county councils

THE COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY — the representative body for British archaeology, comprising local and national societies, professional units, museums and universities

THE MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION — the body representing the interests of local and national museums

RESCUE, THE BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST — an independent Trust concerned with the safeguarding of the archaeological environment

THE STANDING CONFERENCE OF UNIT MANAGERS — the association of professional archaeology unit directors

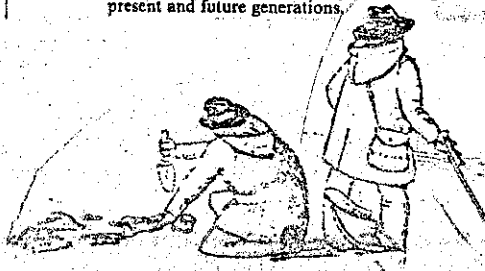
THE SOCIETY OF MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGISTS — representing archaeologists working within museums

THE UNITED KINGDOM INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION — representing all those concerned with the conservation of objects in museums, units, trusts and universities

YOUNG RESCUE — for children aged 9-16 who are interested in archaeology

in fact **STOP** is supported by all those people, amateurs and professionals, concerned with the excavation, preservation, interpretation and display of material remains.

STOP believes that treasure hunting constitutes a great threat to the country's archaeological heritage, and is thus contrary to the national interest. The concept of treasure hunting is totally at variance with the objectives and practices of archaeology in studying and safeguarding our tangible past for the good of present and future generations.



WHY STOP?

One of Britain's richest assets is its heritage. Known archaeological sites are not simply objects of antiquity in an archaeological desert, but represent a much more extensive reservoir of information than lies below. An archaeologist can rarely assure a treasure hunter that a particular area is archaeologically 'safe'. As a result, the growth of indiscriminate treasure hunting poses a threat to our past. There have been other threats, as for example in the early 1970s when large numbers of archaeological sites were destroyed without record by mining, urban development, motorways, intensified agricultural methods and afforestation. But the new threat is hybrid-headed, and perhaps more substantial, in that it is the interests of the public themselves who are now destroying their own past.

Only education and improved public awareness can remove this threat. At root it is a social problem which can only be cured by the public itself making the irresponsible aspect of treasure hunting socially unacceptable. **STOP** was formed for this purpose. The campaign aims to increase public understanding through the media, in museums, in schools, through local authorities and landowners. Already several local authorities have responded by prohibiting the use of metal detectors on their land, and the campaign has the support of the Association of District Councils.

The organisations behind **STOP** represent all aspects of archaeology, both professional and amateur. They have all had enough of seeing objects taken away by individuals. They are tired of seeing their land being dug up by thoughtless or unscrupulous people with metal detectors. They are aware that a great creation of history is taking place which will be the loss not just of this generation but to all generations in the future.

It is time that the public was told how it is being deprived of its common heritage and that is what **STOP** intends to do.

TREASURE HUNTING AND THE LAW

Once a treasure hunter goes outside his own plot of land, he comes within the reach of the law. This principle, therefore, binds upon treasure hunters for most of their operating time. Yet it is quite plain that many treasure hunters either do not know or simply do not care how the law affects them.

In the first place, nobody has any right whatever to go, without permission, on to somebody else's land. All land is owned by somebody. Common land, roadside verges, woodlands, river banks and the seashore are no exception. To go upon another man's land, without his leave, is actually sought and given, is nothing less than an illegal act. Glib talk about 'doing no harm' or 'thinking the owner would not mind' is beside the point and deceives no-one. Entering the land secretly or at night increases the wrong, whether or not the treasure hunter does go on to somebody else's land. A treasure hunter does not go on to somebody else's land to admire the view or blow his nose. He is often bent upon removing, if he can, objects of value which do not belong to him. It would be very odd indeed if the law did not penalise such conduct. In truth, the law operates precisely and firmly in every such case.

At criminal law, the removal of objects from another man's land is just as much theft as the removal of objects from his house. It matters not who placed the objects in the land or how or when. Their acquisition by the treasure hunter makes him liable to a criminal prosecution under the Theft Act 1968. The punishment for theft may be a fine or imprisonment, or both.

Objects that are made of gold or silver may belong to the Crown as treasure trove. Such objects have to be reported to the Coroner at once. The pocketing of such objects will be theft, whether they are treasure trove and would pass to the Crown or are not treasure trove and belong to the landowner in the ordinary way.

At civil law, the mere act of going, without permission, upon another man's land is trespass. The result can be a court injunction and an award of damages against the treasure hunter. It would not assist the treasure hunter to claim that he was seeking, in fact, to remove treasure trove objects, which pass to the Crown. The intention to remove something from the land would, in fact, aggravate the trespass and could increase an award of damages. Furthermore, the treasure hunter may be liable to damages to the landowner (for the value of any treasure trove removed). But for the treasure hunter's unlawful entry and interference, the objects, even though treasure trove, would have remained in the landowner's possession, and he himself could have secured the reward payable by the Crown for treasure trove.

Archaeological sites, protected by statute, are on a special position. In addition to the penalties already noted, the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 makes it an offence to use a metal detector on such a site without the consent in writing of the Secretary of State. It is a separate offence to remove any object of archaeological or historical interest discovered on such a site by the use of a metal detector.

It is, therefore, clear that the use of a metal detector in the manner adopted by many treasure hunters is unlawful activity. All treasure hunters should understand the true situation under the law. Landowners on their side should realise the many legal remedies open to them and to the local authorities for the control and equipment of trespassers that is as anti-social as it is unlawful.

Treasure hunting has been described as 'Britain's fastest growing hobby'. Home Office figures show that the number of licensees has increased about 100% a year since 1974. Of these detector owners a large number belong to organised detector clubs whose activities are often responsible and adhere to codes of conduct. It is difficult to work out the total membership of these clubs and societies but it would be fair to say that they constitute only a minority of total users. In addition there are those who have no licence at all and escape the official figure.

Many detector users are by nature solitary operators, taking their machines out into fields and operating them in their own favourite and rarely disclosed places. These include people who act purely for their own personal gain, resulting in the removal of objects of importance from our national heritage. These people seldom report their finds to local museums or archaeological groups, or may do so only in order to have their finds identified, live of charge, so that they are better equipped to dispose of the objects for a good price. Some have no interest in the site or even in the object itself — merely as a monetary value. They are known to range over the countryside in search of objects, often illegally on protected sites and on private land, often without the knowledge of the landowner.

These 'hobby' acts in direct opposition to the much larger local museums or archaeological groups, or may do so only in order to have their finds identified, live of charge, so that they are better equipped to dispose of the objects for a good price. Some have no interest in the site or even in the object itself — merely as a monetary value. They are known to range over the countryside in search of objects, often illegally on protected sites and on private land, often without the knowledge of the landowner.

The conflict is not simply a collision between a hobby and a profession's conservation and archaeological interests. On the side of the treasure hunters are ranged the forces of big business with their investment in the sale of metal-detecting machines, and, more insidiously, the growth in dealing in antiquities.

Britain is unusually rich in the material remains of the past. Until recently this wealth was available to everyone, lovingly investigated, conserved and presented by generations of amateur historians and archaeologists. Metal detectors, in the hands of pirates who act in the name of a hobby, are now being used to plunder that past under the guise of sport.

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Archaeologists, part of the national heritage, have been ransacked across the country. Treasure hunters have damaged the archaeological landscape and even some sites which were in the process of excavation.

At the scheduled Roman site of Mildenhall, Wiltshire, a coin hoard was discovered by treasure hunters who removed it in order to retrieve some useful information about the hoard. A controlled rescue excavation was immediately carried out by archaeologists from Devizes. The following night police apprehended three treasure hunters on the same site. The next day more information about the hoard was obtained by archaeologists from the region of the hoard. The site was disturbed to a depth of 70cm (24") and important historical evidence, including part of a Roman floor, was destroyed and the remains of not one, but two hoards were hopelessly jumbled.

The Mildenhall case is not an isolated example. Instances of treasure hunters working on scheduled sites have been reported from many parts of the country, including Somerset, Dorset, Hampshire, Surrey, Gloucestershire, Essex, Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire and West Yorkshire. Rescue excavations have had to be mounted at the nationally important sites of Illey, Gloucestershire, Wilber Low, Dorsetshire and in the New Forest as a result of severe damage by treasure hunters. In the Welsh counties of Glamorgan and Gwent treasure hunters have been observed at work on a wide range of archaeological sites, including Roman villas, Romano-British settlements, forts and Roman walls. In some cases known to **STOP** concern scheduled ancient monuments.

Treasure hunters often maintain that the holes they dig are very small, and hence that they cannot be held responsible for damage to the archaeological site. This argument takes no account of the cumulative damage which can be caused when a site is repeatedly worked by treasure hunters over a period of time. An excavation at one such site — a Roman temple — revealed that 75% of it had already been disturbed. A visit to another site where users of metal detectors are to be seen at most weekends showed no less than 40 treasure hunters at work. The site is scheduled, but the damage is so extensive that it is now impossible to fence. Barbed wire and high security lights had to be erected to protect the site from further pilage.

Damage is not confined to the making of holes in the past. One site in Wiltshire, where treasure hunters looted Roman graves and the situation became so bad that a double row of fencing, barbed wire and high security lights had to be erected to protect the site from further pilage.

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THE PURPOSE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

We all need the stability which comes from a thorough knowledge of our own heritage, our own forebears, the landscape they formed in which we live and the objects they made and used which form the basis of our own economy and technology. And, although the past began yesterday, the distant past stretching back to the first settlement of this island is part of a long chain of actions and events which make up our common history.

Archaeologists are not self-appointed custodians. Their training and their work is aimed towards producing a clearer picture of our past which can be passed on to everyone and handed down to future generations. They are concerned with facts. These facts are derived not only from the objects but also from the places where those objects came, and the structures and settlements in which they were lived and died.

Archaeologists are interested in objects made of many different materials — of pottery, stone, bone and glass — as well as of metal and, from a mosaic of tiny bits and pieces, they can reconstruct national treasures like Sutton Hoo and the Roman palace at Fishbourne.

Excavation is probably the best known archaeological technique. The successive layers of evidence laid down by our ancestors are peeled off one by one, starting from the most recent, and are subjected to meticulous study and analysis. The remains of structures and features such as pits, ditches and hearths are recorded and the objects found in them are related to the layers in which they were found. Every morsel of information is extracted from each layer — not excepting the topmost — before the next one is broken into. This information is derived not only from man-made objects but also from the pollen deposited in distant summers, from the remains of animals and berries, and from the charcoal from long-dead hearths.

These archaeological layers form a record nearly as informative as the written word and digging irregular holes to grub out individual objects of metal may be compared to tearing illuminated capitals out of unique manuscripts. The layers have little significance in themselves and the full text is mutilated so that it becomes hard to understand.

It is, therefore, clear that the use of a metal detector in the manner adopted by many treasure hunters is unlawful activity. All treasure hunters should understand the true situation under the law. Landowners on their side should realise the many legal remedies open to them and to the local authorities for the control and equipment of trespassers that is as anti-social as it is unlawful.

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Any comments?
Especially bear in mind the tension between the two sides. Sorry about the small print.

RADIO CARBON AND RADIO CARBON

We would like to thank you all for the expressions of support you so overwhelmingly gave us last issue on the 2 articles which by all accounts were not really appreciated by the management. We think that this support pinpoints the role of Radio Carbon in expressing staff feeling in a way that cannot be done in any other forum.

We do spend a fair amount of time listening to staff's informal comments, and are sure we express widely held views. But it is becoming increasingly clear that management tends to see this in a more personal light. Therefore we would like to start holding Radio Carbon Meetings to discuss the views reported in Radio Carbon.

We do also try to commission articles from people to balance our coverage, but sometimes this does not work as our invitations are declined. This was in fact the case this month, when we received 2 refusals, both on the subject of the Board of Governors, one from Senior Management and the other from a member of the Board itself. So it is really no wonder that we have a prejudice view of the B.O.G.

In October 1973 I took a fortnight package tour to Istanbul . This one flew me there and provided a hotel quite cheaply , but like most packages the Big Sell is the exorbitant price of excursions once you are there .

On the first day I took an Internal flight at Turkish Airlines Istanbul office for the day after next . During the next two days I visited the huge Blue Mosque , the Yeri Batan underground cisterns , built about 1000 years ago to store fresh water when the Byzantine City was under siege etc .

The flight from Istanbul to Kayseri took me about 400 miles into the Anotolian Massif . Soon after take off the plane flew through a violent electrical storm . A thunderbolt exploded a few yards from us . Although it is not dangerous (a TWA jet was struck by lightning recently and no damages or injuries sustained) I exclaimed in surprise ' Kerr...ist!' . As all the other passengers were Turks , and presumably , Moslems perhaps they thought I was praying for divine intercession .

I visited several Mosques and other monuments in Kayseri such as the ruins of the ancient Byzantine town walls and bastions , and the Seljuk (the first Turkish dynasty - before the Ottomans) Castle .

I travelled on a Dolmus bus to Nevsehir . In Turkish 'Dolmus' means 'stuffed' and they cram in as many passengers as it will hold . When all the fixed seats are occupied the driver produces stools for extra customers and departure time is when its completely full , not before .

Most of the 80 km. journey was through the Cappodocian desert . By world standards it is small , but it is a rocky desert , the scenery is spectacular and rocks have numerous colours . The Dolmus passed Lake Tug salt flats and several of the curious flat topped mountains called Mezas .

Nevsehir is the centre of a 'Villayet' - the Turkish version of a département and it clusters around a steep conical hill surmounted by an early post-medieval fortress . I also visited the small local Museum . Luckily Turkish is written in Latin Letters , not Arabic so Hittite is HITTITE .

I caught the Dolmus to Kayseri and next day travelled to Goreme where Xian Monks had carved out dwellings in the wierdly eroded soft Tufa stone . The main road runs near the site , but I asked the driver to drop me off at a motel and I walked the last mile .

On the way back to Kayseri I stopped off at Urgup where more 'cavelets' had been hollowed out . Most were now used as tool sheds and animal shelters but originally they too were dwellings . The road back to Kayseri runs parallel to the railroad tracks, for some miles we raced an old steam engine , sparks and small flames flaring from its firebox and chimney . In the gathering dusk , with 16,000 ft Mt. Argus in the background , it was most impressive.

I flew back to Istanbul for a few more days . I went on one of the old steam reciprocating boats up the Bosphorus for 10p (the travel company charge £5 for a motor launch) to the Roumeli Hissar Fortress . The largest of its 3 donjons is the huge Tower over 100ft high . Apart from some heightening by the Turks following the 1453 final conquest it was built about 1070 A.D. by the Byzantines . A party of American Tourists were wandering around . After a few minutes the guide blew his whistle and shouted 'Everyone back to Britain'

On the plane back to Britain I realised how nice it was not to be 'rounded up' by a sheep dog .

LLEGSCS NOMIS .



'A WORD FOR THE VIKINGS'

('The Times', Saturday, 23rd Feb, 1980)

'Perhaps the Vikings did not destroy the York Library books but just took them home to read.'

POETIC LARCENCE

Maggie Blue, Maggie Blue,
sits at number ten;

Maggie Blue, Maggie Blue,
with her band of men;

steals from the poor,
gives to the rich,
silly bitch.

E.J. Carbon

C14: Once again we have been presented with an inflationary Budget showing a persistence of the disgusting tory economic policies, whereby the working class are forced to suffer at the hands of the wealthy. Inflation has doubled in the last year, and will be allowed to remain at a staggering 19%. The 49p rise to the single person by the abolishment of the 25% threshold does not signify a cut in tax, but instead, a real increase in tax to the lower paid since the tories took power. The deflationary budget continued its attack on basic public services, including a 400% increase in N.H.S. prescription charges since 1979, further demining the principle of the

Health Service, and increasing the burden on the poor. In real terms, child benefit has been cut by 80%, and their schooling has been allowed to continue its decline. Haven't we had enough? Are you still going to sit back and allow our standards to decline. The country is going to the rich, and with it goes Archaeology, back to the days of Pitt-Rivers. THINK... and find ways to fight back, it is up to everybody, we are all suffering from this Government. Even Maggies own members have no faith in her policies, they said so in Parliament but voted for their jobs, it is now for the people to decide...

C14: ER 218 Bucklesbury House. Timber lined well to the south of the Temple site, uncovered and cut into by an unescorted boy. The well contained little of any importance save for an iron arrowhead and a wooden bucket. The latter was damaged by the boy, but sufficient remains for a reconstruction to be achieved. 3rd - 4th Century.

ER 222 Bucklesbury House. Small timber lined well 'excavated' by unescorted boy with a coal hammer as his principal instrument. The deposit can not be considered of any value.

Peter Marsden then went on to play a major part in the excavating of the City; providing a skeleton upon which the Unit has built...from small beginnings...

C14: Ex DUAer Graham Cadman has for some time been in charge of the excavation of Raunds. Andy Bodington meanwhile moved on to University last September.

C14: A year ago we asked why we had not been allowed seminars by eminent Archaeologists as we had been receiving a year previous. We were told that plans were already in motion for a continuation of this important service. Since then we have seen nothing, so once again we make an appeal for a reincarnation of the admirable supply which the DUA was administering until recently.

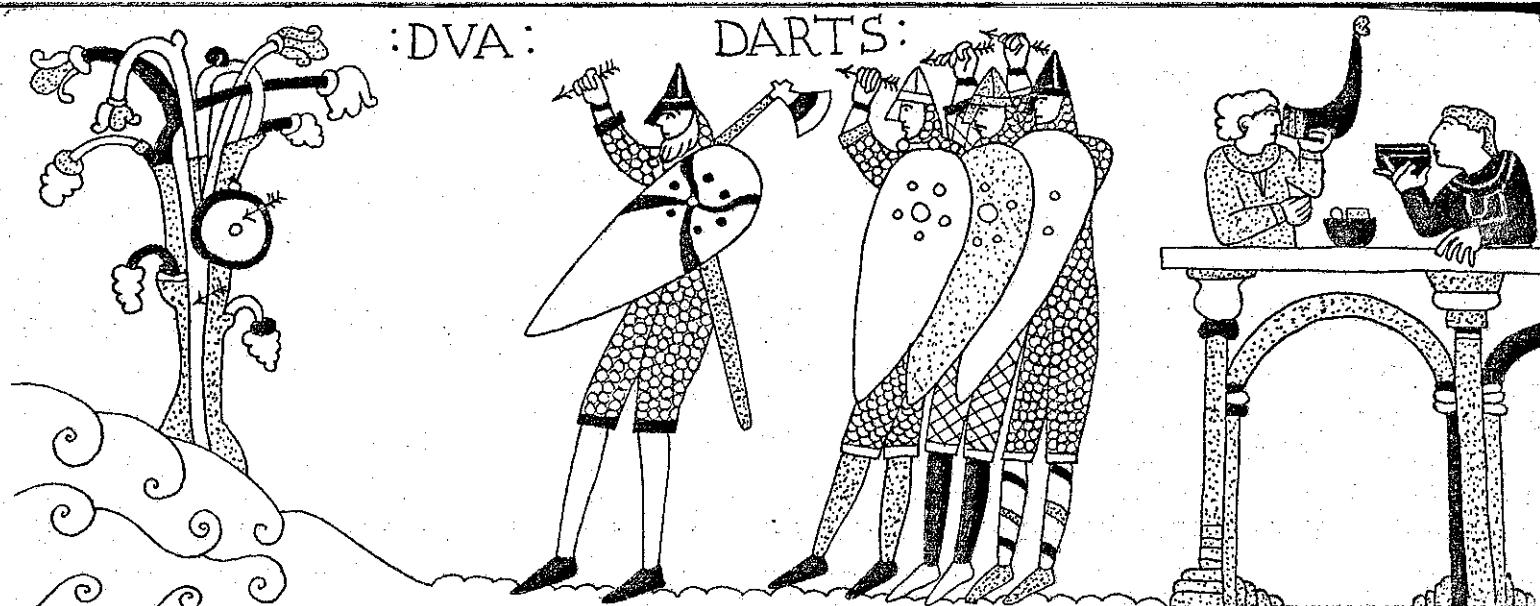
For Graham Larksbey in S. Wales we publish an interesting snippet as an accompaniment to his excellent serial for which we express our heartfelt thanks and beer soaked gratitude...

FROM COTTAGE ECONOMY by William Cobbett. First published 1821

I view tea drinking as a destroyer of health, an enfeebler of the frame, an engenderer of effeminacy and laziness, a debaucher of youth and a maker of misery for old age.

In the fifteen bushels of malt, which make 274 gallons of good beer, there are 570 pounds weight of sweet, that is to say, of nutritious matter, unmixd with anything injurious to health. In the 730 tea messes of the year there are 54 pounds of sweet in the sugar, and about 30 pounds of matter equal to sugar in the milk. Here are eighty-four pounds instead of five hundred and seventy, and even the good effect of these eighty-four pounds is more than over-balanced by the corrosive, gnawing and poisonous powers of the tea.

It is impossible for any one to deny the truth of this statement.



The 1980 DUA Darts Championship, Sponsored by Bandid and backed by the International Olympic Committee, the final was played at the international venue 'Upstairs in the Globe' on March 20th.

Despite making an official draw, one night in t'Pepys, organisation proved futile where the DUA sporting crowd were concerned. Eleventh hour entries from Peter Cardiff and Alison B.L., as well as fixture clashes turned the draw inside out.

'The Globe' 29 Feb 1980 First Round. Clare chased Mark all the way but went out 0:2. Friederike (one of the international stars) and Mike (who isn't) staged a sensation match. Mike staggered out a 2:0 winner. Dave 'Can anyone take my darts out?', dashed poor Annie's hopes 2:1. Don fought tooth and nail, against Simon and lost both 1:2.

Second Round. Mike feeling confident took on Peter, but slumped 0:2. Alison 'Is this real? I must be drunk!' almost knocked out Dave but lost 2:1.

Quarter Final. Peter anxious to keep going while his luck held played Dave and crawled through to the semis 2:1.

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"The Samuel Pepys" 5 March. First Round. Hester and Jon V. Price made sparks fly, Hester winning 2:0. Pete 'Spearchucker' from over the water, regained consciousness just in time to stem Kevin's winning streak. 2:1.

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"The Globe" 6 March. First Round. Jon Jon, defendin' Champion, saw off the challenge of Louise 2:0.

Second Round. Chris (Louise's little friend), being stateless didn't win any sympathy from Simon losing 0:2.

"The Globe" 7th March. Second Round. Henk (another star from the continent) played well but still lost to J J 0:2. Derek gave a perfect example of how not to start and went out 0:2 to Mark.

Quarter Final. Mark then took on J J but sunk 1:2.

"The Globe" 12 March. First Round. Jenny kept Ian waiting for him to win 2:0.

Second Round. Penny couldn't stop Ian from repeating a 2:0 score.

Quarter Final. Simon however finished the last game on 114 to beat Ian 2:1.

"The Globe" 14 March. Semi-Final. Simon arrived with supporters, but was overtaken by a very confident Peter 3:2.

"The Pepys" 19th March. Hester had a walk-over when Patrick retired to to Guys Hospital, injured before their second round match.

Quarter -Final. Hester scored a white-wash in one game but lost 1:2 to a determined Julie.

Jon Jon could't hit the right scores and super cool Julie shot on to a 3:1 Victory.

The final played early in the evening, 'to get it over and done with' at the players request, was not the pairing originally thought possible.

Julie reached the final without even being aware her name was down in the

DARTS CONTINUED .

in the first place .Peter had put off entering while his job was unsettled.

On the night Peter was ~~too~~ confident and secure to let anything slip and ran away with a 4:0 win though Julie wasn't white-washed in any games .

Gentleman Peter , then bought all the officials and his opponent a drink , hic! Well he did win a fiver !

MFB.

The DUA beat the Institute :- Away 10:2 + the beerleg . (at Darts;
Home 5:3 " " " " .

DIGGING IN AFGHANISTAN

COMPETITIONS

Free Digging Holiday ! All you have to do is , in less than 20 words , describe the expanding horizons of Russian Afghan Archaeologists , starting I love digging in

Competition No 2 . Be the First to enter a Radio Carbon competition.

Competition No 3 . Count the number of deliberate spelling mistakes in this Months Radio Carbon . First Prize : Correct all the

Spelling Mistakes in all the Radio Carbons . Bonus marks for Grammatical Errors and Clumsy Expressions .

SINGLETON

John would like to remind you all of the Coach trip to Singleton and Porchester on Sun 13th April . If you haven't been there its well worth the effort .

Union Matters

We need nominations for Union Reps for all subsections in the DUA , as the Annual General Meeting requires the election of reps in the near future . Nominations please on a piece of paper with a proposer and seconder .

Derek is continuing to deal with the preparation of a legal case for our contracts . Letters are being sent to our Museum Unions to canvas their support for the proposal for elected staff representatives on the Board of Governors . The committee discussed the IPCS report on the structuring of staff in Museums . This is the document on which we hope to use as a comparison to end the disparity in pay between ourselves and the National Museums .

A DUA sub-committee discussed the subjects of Substitution Pay and Responsibility Pay . A report is in preparation suggesting ways to organise such a system . For Substitution Pay the corporation requires that the applicant performs all the functions of the absent Superior , and apparently the Museum was very reluctant to help Museum Staff in this way , when 2 people were eligible . Eventually they did get the Pay though .

RADIO CARBON was produced and directed by Stanley Baldwin (once when in a Railway Carriage Britains answer to Calvin Coolidge - he'd Dead ,? I never know he was alive ! was recognised by a man who said 'You are Baldwin aren't you ? Pleased to be recognised Baldwin smiled . The stranger continued Venables - 4th form Winchester , Remember? . Tell me Baldwin what are you up to these days?') Aided and abetted by KPF with MH . Contributions from DT JAS JBE ABL (who we thank for their past contributions to RC, Goodluck) JP JM PR AC SG JH PenPal VdE MdH JB (Royal Stuart has an outside Chance) Artwork by CU MdH JP 2000AD Dr Who Weekly Pop Arch and those wonderful photos by Richard Harris , neighbour to DG MR JK and RH (have a nice time in the USA)



Where were you all then? You missed a very entertaining evening debate on Philosophies of Archaeology and History , which saw Kevin , Derek , John Price , and Dom fight for their places in a leaking hotair Balloon by the persuasiveness of their arguement . Unfortunately before take off , the wires of the Balloon were slightly crossed as Dom and John seemed to be discussing justifications of archaeology while Derek and Kevin were discussing a philosophical framework within which to interpret Archaeology .

Be that as it may it was still fun . Dom argued that as Archaeology is not a cost effective method of learning about human society and that as pain and pleasure are the only true 'values' we should study archaeology with no illusions beyond our enjoyment of it .

Derek (says he spitefully) ran one quote from Marx or was it Engels with a verbatim precis of 'Archaeology in Britain - a Marxist View' by L.S.Klein and proved that the (unfortunately) logical outcome of state marxism is the loss of originality! He did however read it very well ! (That'll serve you right for beating me !)

John Price was very funny and he sure needed to be arguing as he did that the basis of Archaeology is the religious , manifested as it is in the Symbol of the Trowel , the Obeisance to Harris the Great Matrix , and the Daily Reaffirmation of Faith in the filling out of the Context sheet (OH Mighty Dark Grey Silt with Freq Flecks of etc)

Kevin(having been beastly to Derek , I'm afraid I'll have to be honest) seemed to me to have presented his case abysmally . He was trying to hold the middle view of an agnostic , anti-dogmatic liberal interpetation of History , viz that liberty vied with Power to be the major theme of society . It wasn't very funny (at least not intentionally!)

So at last the moment came when ,backs to the audience with bated breath, the 4 awaited the decisions .Who was to be was to be thrown out of the Balloon ,to be dashed to the ground,all to save the leaking Balloon from final disaster . The audience (quite rightly) decided that Kevin had to go (RETTON BEASTLY LOT ! Just cos it was all way above your heads ! Who organised it all then AAAARRRRRRGGGGGHHHH ! SPLAT)

Derek then retrieved his stock of credibility (at least to the cognoscenti) by answering very well,all the questions put to him,in an authoritative way . So as the Balloon continued to sink despite the Hotair,it had to be the Pleasure seeker who was thrown over board . Hopefully he resolved successfully the conflicting truth of the pleasure of the descent with the pain of the arrival!

Only Two left and still the combined omnipotencies of Marx and God (in the Pantheistic sense) couldn't stop the descent of the Balloon ! Somewhat inevitably though God won because Marx has already proved his mortality by his long sojourn in Highgate Cemetery . God is Eternal so it was fitting that the Godly John Price floated skyward to the Heavenly Research Excavation in the sky .

Kevin-the bad loser!

IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE

The London Hospitals are repaying the DUA for its reinvention of Hospital Archaeology , by playing Host to 3 Urbarchs and 1 ex-arch . Patrick , Annie and Amanda all paid visits for assorted injuries and ailments . Patrick reports that he is sorry but he is still a walking wounded , having trouble with breathlessness and tiredness , after his collapsed lung . Annie has been seen back at work without that fashionable mauv shoe . Is Prince Charming around with the other shoe ? Amanda apparently broke her nose , thats what comes of being out of this world on the Forbidden Planet .

Poor old Richard got run over by a lorry and has been sent to St Barts to finish the Finds Backlog . He did have some rather nasty injuries but seems to have made an astonishing recovery Get Well Soon , You all .

KEV

