

## Editorial

PLATES XXXIII-IV

We referred in the last number to the death of Professor Dr. van Giffen (1973, 169-70) and mentioned that he had excavated a megalithic tomb 'only a few months' before his death in his ninetieth year. We have since learnt that, although he was indeed working almost to the end, the excavations took place in the summer of 1970 when he was but a sprightly eighty-six. We print a photograph of him taken during this dig (PL. XXXIII): it was sent to us by Dr Friedrich Laux, of the Museumsverein für das Fürstentum Lüneburg, who writes as follows:

From June to August 1970 we excavated together a prehistoric tomb, 75 m. long, at Oldendorf a. Luhe. It was interesting but also very strenuous work. Professor van Giffen inspected the site in the morning, and, depending on his mood, whistled a tune. If he was feeling good it was 'The Prince of Orange', and if he was depressed, it was 'Silent night, Holy night'. After one bar you knew the whole story.

We had then about fifteen to twenty workers at the site, and gradually more and more levels in the megalithic tomb were exposed. We stood regularly in front of these, studying the sections, discussing the various discolorations of the earth and the inter-relations of the remaining charcoal and stones. We did not always agree, but further detailed study of the discolorations, and of the pattern of the stratified strips, soon proved who was right. It was van Giffen.

I shall never forget our discovery in this tomb of an undamaged cup dating from the time of the construction and use of the site. It lay directly on the stone pavement of the tomb. The old man insisted on retrieving the vessel himself, then putting it away safely. Long periods of strenuous bending and kneeling were by no means too much for him: in fact, just the

opposite—the excitement clearly made him forget his fatigue.

He answered every visitor's questions with courtesy and serious attention. When in following seasons I was digging other megalithic tombs in the same area, people often came up to me and asked after the old, friendly Professor from Holland.

In Herr Helmut Schwanke's photograph the face of the old, friendly Professor from Holland comes to us full of his character.

Our second plate includes a photograph of Crawford's tombstone in Nursling churchyard (PL. XXXIVc). A short while ago, Irwin Scollar of Bonn, after a pious visit to Nursling, told us that the grave of the founder of this journal was not being properly looked after. The Antiquity Trust have asked the Department of Archaeology of the University of Southampton—a department which Crawford's life-work and inspiration had some share in creating—to look after his grave, and Professor Renfrew has readily agreed to this. Mr Harold Edwards tells us that the tombstone was designed by a friend of Crawford's in the Ordnance Survey.

We also include in this issue photographs of the medal presented to Professor Greta Arwidsson on her retirement from the Professorship of North European Archaeology at Stockholm, a post she has held since 1956. She was a pupil of Sune Lindqvist at Uppsala, and from 1930 onwards was his assistant in the excavation of the famous Vendel- and Viking-period cemetery with boat-graves at Valsgårde, a few kilometres north of Old Uppsala. With

characteristic generosity Lindqvist delegated most of the responsibility for the excavation, and all the responsibility for the publication of this most important site, to his young student assistants, of whom Greta Arwidsson was the principal. This medal has a fine portrait of her on one side and on the other a detail of animal ornament from the pommel of one of the two 7th-century swords from boat-grave 7 at Valsgårde.

We had thought that the striking of medals such as this one was a common custom in Scandinavia but Mrs Sonia Hawkes tells us that this is not so, and that of Swedish archaeologists only Lindqvist and Stenberger have been thus honoured lately. The present medal was organized by Jan Peder Lamm, and Mrs Hawkes tells us that she was staying with the Lamms when the medals arrived from the mint in June. 'For days we lived in a house full of medals,' she writes, 'silver and bronze, and were each sleeping with parcels of the silver ones under our pillows!'

There were about three hundred and fifty subscribers to the fund which produced the medal and the list of names begins with the King of Sweden, Gustav Adolf, whose ninetieth birthday we celebrated in our March number (1973, I and PL. XII), and whose death in September of this year we now note with sadness and regret. He was not only a great king but a fine archaeologist, and one of the most distinguished members of that small band who readily supported Crawford when he started this journal in 1927 and who kept their subscriptions going until the present day. The Arwidsson medal, and the Lindqvist and Stenberger medals before it, have an important message that we in western Europe and America and elsewhere should heed. How much better are these elegant and commemorative plaques than the dreary *Festschriften* which pour, tired, late and dull, from presses that should be better employed in printing works of original scholarship and scholarly journals.

☞ We have often criticized French archaeological museums, national and provincial: we wrote of the Vannes Museum, ten years ago,

'this is a ghastly place; ill-lit, with old-fashioned cases crowded with objects hopelessly displayed and crumbling into decay . . . Vannes and many another comparable museum are quite shocking; they are decayed and dying charnel houses of French antiquarianism. We would not now tolerate such disgraces in England.' And of the Musée des Antiquités Nationales at St-Germain-en-Laye we said, 'It has certainly badly needed reconstruction and modernization for many years: I recollect only too well days of peering in bad light at the dark cases and old-fashioned labels' (*The hungry archaeologist in France* (London, 1963), 182-3). We then added, 'I hope I live long enough to see finely displayed collections of prehistoric antiquities . . . at St-Germain-en-Laye.' This has happened. The collections at St-Germain are now beautifully exhibited: our warmest congratulations to M. Joffroy and his staff. We now have galleries displaying the material from the Neolithic to Merovingian times and the Palaeolithic galleries will be opened to the public in 1974. It is lovely to see again the statue-menhirs of Mas d'Azais, Mas Capelier, and Serre-Grand, and to appreciate the cautious good sense of some of the labels such as 'objets chasséens du faciès breton', to admire the brilliant display of La Gorge Meillet, and to spend half-an-hour refreshing oneself with the beauty and vigour of Celtic art. We can never pay however short a visit to St-Germain without gazing in admiration at the linch-pin and 'tube with faces' from Champagne, so well illustrated in Nancy Sandars's *Prehistoric art in Europe* (nos. 261 and 262), and the Bouray God, so unaccountably missing from the plates in her book, but so well shown in colour on the dust-jacket. Is there anything more haunting and stimulating in Celtic art? Perhaps the mask on the base of the handle of the Klein Aspergle flagon, and the owl on the Brâ cauldron.

☞ From the new displays at St-Germain we went to two non-permanent archaeological exhibitions which must surely, with Tutankhamun, rank as the finest ever put on show. The first was 'The World of the Vikings' in

the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich. This was originally mounted by the Statens Historiska Museum, Stockholm, as its contribution to the cultural manifestations which accompanied the Olympic sailing events at Kiel in 1972. After the Games were over the exhibition moved to Berlin and then to Vienna. After Greenwich it goes to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and then returns to Stockholm to be disbanded. It was brilliantly conceived and mounted; Dr Bengt Schonback was responsible for the conception of the display and Eric Sorling, architect, designed the exhibition. 'The World of the Vikings' will have closed by the time these words are read, but let us still urge you to visit the National Maritime Museum. All its exhibits are intriguing and fascinating and the new archaeological display especially worthy of a visit.

From Greenwich to Piccadilly. The exhibition of archaeological finds from the People's Republic of China opened at the Royal Academy, Burlington House, London, on 29 September 1973 and will remain open until 23 January 1974. Sponsored by *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, in association with the Royal Academy and the Great Britain/China Committee, it brings together nearly four hundred objects found since 1949, when the People's Republic was established and the Institute of Archaeology, as a branch of the Academy of Sciences, was founded. It was nice to meet, at long last, Professor Hsia Nai, and to hear his praises sung in Chinese by the Master of Gonville and Caius College. Dr Needham himself wrote for us his article 'An archaeological study-tour in China, 1958' (*ANTIQUITY*, 1959, 113-19) and Hsia Nai, four years later, wrote his article 'Archaeology in New China' (*ANTIQUITY*, 1963, 176-84) which began with these words: 'Archaeology as a branch of historical science has made new headway in the thirteen years since the founding of the Chinese People's Republic.' Now, ten years after that article, some of the remarkable finds made in China in the last quarter-century are here in London for us to see, and most beautifully and intelligently displayed. Mr Robin Wade (who a few years ago designed

the Fishbourne Museum) was the designer of the Royal Academy exhibition (and many have told us how much better it is than the exhibition in Paris, where the finds were first exhibited after leaving China); Professor William Watson advised on the scholarly aspects as well as writing the catalogue, *The Genius of China*, beautifully designed and produced by George Rainbird Ltd, and marvellous value at 60p.

The standard entrance charge to the exhibition is 60p. Professor Hsia Nai proudly showed us his season ticket to the 1935 Chinese exhibition; it was no. 40 and the price was seven shillings and sixpence (37½p). With this he was able, while studying at University College, London, to pay many leisurely visits. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to Hsia Nai, William Watson and Robin Wade, as well as to the politicians and diplomats in France, England and China whose advocacy and co-operation made this remarkable exhibition possible.

Most visitors to the Chinese Exhibition will hurry in great expectation to the central room where is displayed the jade funeral suit of the princess Tou Wan, but while this is beautifully displayed and lit, it is more interesting as a historical and personal document than as a work of art. No one can fail to find exquisite and moving works of art in this exhibition: when we go again we shall especially look at the bronze wine bucket *hsiao yu* and the bronze wine mixer *kuang*, ritual wine vessels of the fourteenth to eleventh centuries BC from Shih-lou, Shansi; the bronze lamp in the shape of a seated ram from the tomb of prince Liu Sheng (Tou Wan's husband); the two parcel-gilt bronze figures of leopards, inlaid with silver and garnets, found in princess Tou Wan's tomb and probably used to weigh down the sleeves and edges of funeral palls ('the exquisite workmanship of these pieces would be hard to match in any other product of the Han craftsman', says Watson in the catalogue); and of course the bronze figures of the two pawing and neighing horses, and the bronze of a 'flying horse' balanced by one foot on a flying swallow, excavated in 1969 at Wu-wei,

Kansu. We have already published photographs of the jade suit and flying horse (ANTIQUITY, 1973, pl. XXIV).

The discovery of the tombs of Liu Sheng and his wife Tou Wan is a fascinating story. Liu Sheng, the brother of the Emperor Han Wu-ti, died in 113 BC. Of him the Chinese historian Ssu-ma Ch'ien wrote, 'he is fond of wine and women'. To this verdict a modern Chinese historian has added, 'He and his wife forced thousands of labouring people to build such huge underground palaces for them, and ordered large quantities of priceless objects to be buried in their tombs, dreaming of enjoying them even after death.'

In the summer of 1968 an engineering unit of the People's Liberation Army came upon a mysterious tunnel leading into the mountain-side at Man-ch'eng, Hopei, 160 km. south-west of Peking. The troops, with flashlight in one hand and gun in the other, followed the tunnel passing the skeletons of horses and the remains of chariots. Archaeologists who came in the wake of the soldiers found their way blocked by an iron door but were able to bypass it because the tunnel behind had collapsed. Thus was found the tomb of prince Liu Sheng, where his body had been deposited in a suit made of 2,690 jade tablets linked with 1,100 grammes of gold wire. Not far away was the tomb of his wife Tou Wan, which was also protected by an iron door: this door had to be breached with explosives. She had been laid to rest in a suit made of 2,160 tablets of jade joined together with 700 grammes of gold wire. Each tomb was large enough to hold 300 people. The remains of the prince and princess had long since turned to dust: both suits were in a state of disintegration but have been ingeniously restored around an aluminium structure. We quote from the catalogue:

Preoccupied with the search for an elixir of life, Taoist magicians received increasing notice in the Western Han period. Their lore included a belief that jade could prevent the decay of the corpse, which therefore from about the time of the Man-ch'eng tombs was often furnished with small jade pieces intended to stop the nine orifices of the body, a cicada of jade being laid

upon the tongue. Prince Liu and his wife took this belief to ostentatious length and prepared for themselves complete suits of jade, being perhaps the instigators of a fashion which was still observed occasionally in later times.

Looking at Tou Wan's jade suit, mortal evidence of her belief in immortality, it is worth reflecting on the estimates Chinese archaeologists have made of the work involved in these funerary practices of the late 2nd century BC. The making of one suit would have taken a single jade-smith ten years; and today, using the latest earth-moving equipment, it would take one hundred men a whole year to construct the two tombs. Both tombs were sealed by pouring molten iron into cavity walls, but this did not prevent them being entered two thousand years later and modern man seeing the dust and decay which the thousands of jade tablets had failed to prevent.

And now, quite naturally, there is a spate of books on Chinese archaeology and the new finds from China. We have already referred to the large book *Historical relics unearthed in China* (1972, £3.50), and the smaller book *New archaeological finds in China* (1972, 20p), when we first discussed the Chinese exhibition (*Antiquity*, 1973, 92-3). Both these books can be obtained from Collet's Chinese bookshop in Great Russell Street, as also can the splendid book of 167 plates edited by The Organization Committee of the Exhibition and published in Peking by the Wen Wu Press (1973, £7.85). Other books of recent date are Bamber Gascoigne, *The treasures and dynasties of China* (London, 1973, £4.95), Michael Ridley, *Treasures of China* (Christchurch, Hants, 1973, £2.50), W. Watson, *Cultural frontiers in Ancient East Asia* (Edinburgh, 1971, £4.00), Michael Sullivan, *Chinese art: recent discoveries* (London, 1973, 75p), and *The arts of China* (London, 1973, £5.00): the last is a new and revised edition of Professor Sullivan's *A short history of Chinese art* (London, 1967). Also to be recommended are the Mentor Magazine publication, *A new light on Ancient China: archaeological treasures from the People's Republic of China* (1973, and amazing value for 40p), and *China: a cultural heritage*, compiled by Marjorie

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Norman and Peter Evans, being Jackdaw no. 140 (Cape, 1973) and again remarkable value for 80p. Dr Chêng Tê-k'un, who retires next year from his Readership in Chinese Archaeology in the University of Cambridge, has just published *An introduction to Chinese art and archaeology: the Cambridge outline and reading lists* (privately printed and published, distributed by W. Heffer and Sons Ltd, 20 Trinity Street, Cambridge, £3.00). This invaluable publication is the distillation of over twenty years' teaching in Cambridge. It comprises an introduction on the study of Chinese art and archaeology, a list of selected periodicals, and an outline and reading lists for the five courses which Dr Chêng has given in Cambridge, on Chinese art, the archaeology and art of ancient China, Chinese ceramics, Chinese bronze and sculpture, and Chinese painting.

☞ The Spring 1973 number of that lively and highly contemporary journal *Rescue News* (published by Rescue, the Trust for British Archaeology, 25a The Tything, Worcester, for the low figure of 10p a copy) contained an article by Peter Addyman describing and deploring the non-publication of excavations. He estimated that at least 40 per cent of modern excavations remain unpublished after ten years. 'Some archaeologists would guess 60 per cent', he says, adding, 'It is hardly a good return for the expenditure of public money.' In the summer number (*Rescue News*, 1973, 8), Dr John Coles wrote a letter which we print here with his and the Editor's permission:

I read the paper 'Publish or be damned', by Peter Addyman with interest. He rightly points out the present chaotic state of excavation data, with quantities (40-60 per cent estimated) unpublished after ten years, and asks for provision for report preparation in financing a state archaeological service. This is all very well, but he also says that there exist 'distinguished scholars or administrators' who cannot now cope with their excavation notes and finds accumulated over upwards of thirty years. Salaried assistants seem to him to be the answer, but I do not think that this is a complete solution. Notes of an excavation may be the most meticulous and precise, but they still cannot match the

personal knowledge that exists, unthought-of no doubt for many a long year, in distinguished excavators' heads. Donkey work by assistants would help, but these leading figures surely are just those who have had such assistants (students or others) for years and years. They should have made time, or should now take time, to do the necessary work themselves. Without this, they cannot be of any service at all to any national archaeological pressure group hoping to bring the subject up to a standard able to cope with the present crisis. A common excuse is the scarcity of space in journals, but this is not the point, nor is it always true; queues are not that long, and if the report is complete the data would be accessible and preserved at least in manuscript form.

Many archaeologists have talked of 'black lists' of non-publishing excavators, but such lists do not exist except in the dissatisfied minds of students and others who want to get at the data from presumed important sites. Although the Department of the Environment may now be able to bring more pressure on its own recalcitrant specialists, not all of the unpublished excavations were originally financed by the Department, or its predecessor, and we cannot always distinguish between private and public works in terms of their importance to our knowledge.

What is to be done? I suggest a list in ascending order of excavations unpublished after three years since the site was abandoned or wrecked by digging. And, to follow, a ban on those who have three or more sites on the list. Who to enforce this? The Department of the Environment or the Council for British Archaeology through its membership, at least for a start. Such a ban would not be any concern to those who dug and no longer do so, but it might prevent an increase in the number of such people who lack archaeological consciences. To those who say that we cannot afford to be without any excavators in the present crisis, both Addyman and I agree that excavation data if unpublished is as lost as if the site had never been rescued.

Clearly the message is 'Publish or be damned' (to adapt the famous phrase attributed to the Duke of Wellington). It was Sir Leonard Woolley who first said that all excavation was to a certain extent destruction, and this maxim has often been brought to our attention

by Sir Mortimer Wheeler. John Coles himself not only digs and publishes, but experiments: his fascinating new book, *Archaeology by experiment*, will be reviewed in our next issue.

On the 20 September 1973 Mr Geoffrey Rippon, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced that he had approved substantial increases in the funds allocated for conservation areas, historic buildings and archaeological excavations in England and Wales. These were:

1. £1.5 million available for the repair of outstanding historic buildings in England in 1973-4 compared with £1 million in 1972-3. This is an increase of 50 per cent on these grants which are given on the recommendation of the Historic Buildings Council.
2. The grants for important conservation areas in England (grants given on the recommendation of the Historic Buildings Council under Section 10 of the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act, 1972) which were half a million in 1972-3 will be three-quarters of a million in 1973-4 and will rise to £1 million in 1974-5.
3. The Department has provided £813,000 in grants for rescue or emergency excavations in Great Britain in 1973-4 (£740,000 in England) compared with £440,000 in 1972-3, and hopes to provide even more in the following year.

We have already mentioned the Department of the Environment's plans for the complete reorganization of regional archaeology, and described this as 'the most important news in British archaeology for a very long time' (1973, 170): we published in our last issue Dr Michael Jarrett's article 'A revolution in British archaeology?' (1973, 193-6), and we said that we understood a definitive statement would be issued in October. This now says:

After discussions with archaeological interests and the local authority associations, the Department of the Environment is working on proposals for new regional arrangements for rescue archaeology in England and Wales. The proposals envisage a limited number of units, grouped regionally, with common support facilities.

Local authorities already give substantial help for archaeology and it has been agreed with the associations to continue discussions on the details of the proposals. There will also be further consultations with all the various interests involved.

In order to implement the new proposals for rescue archaeology and to review existing powers in this field, Mr Rippon has appointed Mr Dennis Haselgrove, CB, to a new post as Under-Secretary, Archaeology, under the Department's Chief Planner. Mr Haselgrove, formerly an Under-Secretary in the Highways Directorate, will work in association with the Director of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings, Mr V. D. Lipman, and will also review the Department's responsibilities for industrial archaeology and arrangements for the co-ordination of excavations with road planning and construction.

In a letter to *The Times* on 26 September, Nicholas Thomas, who has now succeeded Professor Charles Thomas as President of the Council for British Archaeology, wrote:

The announcement by the Department of the Environment about current and future provision, financial and organizational, for rescue archaeology and historic buildings, is the most significant single official statement for British archaeology in the past decade . . . my Council wholeheartedly welcomes Mr Rippon's public commitment to a policy of enlightened and increasing responsibility. . . . Let us hope that the new local government bodies will develop an equally well-informed and responsible attitude.

These are sentences from a letter which deserves careful reading in its entirety and mentions other matters, such as current proposals for the reduction of the archaeological usefulness of the Ordnance Survey, to which we will return in our next Editorial, by which time we shall know more about the details of the scheme for regional units. We understand that the Department is at present negotiating with the Local Authority Associations and, as soon as details are agreed, will issue a circular on their regional unit policy. Let us echo the statement of the President of the CBA and add our welcome to Mr Rippon's statement.

☞ Meantime, while all these serious matters are being discussed, and people in their thousands are flocking to Burlington House to see the Chinese Exhibition, this summer has seen the usual development of the silly archaeological season. Another expedition has gone to Mount Ararat to look for Noah's Ark, and an American expedition has been looking for Atlantis off the coast of Cadiz. The expedition, under the direction of Mrs Maxine Asher, from Pepperdine University in California,

declared it had found evidence to prove the existence of the sunken continent. *The Times*, reporting Mrs Asher's press conference (23 July 1973), declared that the evidence was 'a single, somewhat murky, black-and-white photograph of two divers holding an indistinguishable object' which Mrs Asher claimed was of an amphora. Mrs Asher is reported to have said that she knew the expedition was certain of success because she was psychic 'and has got the message that it is here'.

## Antiquity: new subscription rate from 1974

We announced in our September Editorial that the subscription to ANTIQUITY was to go up from £2.50 to £4.00 (\$12.00) per year with effect from 1 January 1974. This decision was taken with great reluctance by our Trustees at their annual meeting in April 1972, when it was estimated by our accountants that we were unlikely to manage more than one year's trading at the old price. Our regular readers will recall that our last increase (from £1.00 to £2.50) was made on 1 January 1966. At that time we had high hopes of holding this for ten years.

Under the circumstances—when printing, paper, postage, and ancillary costs have been increased many times during this period—we like to think that we have not done too badly by our readers in absorbing these increases and holding the subscription steady for eight years. It should be remembered that this sum of £4.00 or \$12.00 (single copies £1.25 or \$3.75) includes postage to subscribers anywhere in the world.

We very much hope that you will all continue to subscribe at the new rate.

## Bankers Orders

**Bankers Order Forms** and **Subscription Forms** are included in this issue. We urgently request readers to fill in a **Bankers Order** and **post it back to us** (*Antiquity Publications Ltd, c/o Heffers Printers Ltd, King's Hedges Road, Cambridge, England CB4 2PQ*). Those readers already paying by **Bankers Order** would ease our problems of changeover greatly if they also would kindly fill in a new order and **send it to us** to record and then pass to the banks concerned. This avoids possible duplication of payment, since the form asks the bank to cancel the previous order. Similarly, we should be grateful if there are any who feel that they *must* cancel their subscriptions, now made by standing order, would inform us at the same time as they instruct their banks. Our normal terms of trading are *payment in advance*. We shall naturally be unable to despatch the March 1974 issue to annual subscribers who have not paid. Early subscription on the part of those unwilling (or unable) to pay by standing order will ensure that adequate numbers of the March issue are printed to satisfy all comers. It will be appreciated that immediate action on your part will save many administrative headaches, and will greatly smooth the task of Mrs Bilton at Heffers who copes single-handed with all subscription matters.



PLATE XXXIII: EDITORIAL

*The late Professor Dr van Giffen during the excavation of a megalithic tomb at Oldendorf during the summer of 1970*

*See p. 257*





PLATE XXXIV: EDITORIAL

(a) Portrait head of Greta Arwidsson on the medal struck in her honour; (b) the reverse of the medal showing a detail of animal ornament from a Valsgårde sword-pommel

(c) The tombstone in Nursling churchyard, Hants, of O. G. S. Crawford, founder in 1927 of 'Antiquity', and Editor until his death in 1957

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Photos: a, b, Antiquity  
c, Nick Bradford, University of Southampton

