



JOHN LLOYD (1948-1999)

The archaeology of classical antiquity in the Mediterranean lost one of its most effective British scholars, and the British School at Rome a true friend, when John Lloyd died on 30 May 1999 at the tragically early age of 51.

John read English as an undergraduate at Manchester, but he developed a strong interest in archaeology through working as a student volunteer on excavations in Wales and northwest England directed by Manchester's Professor of Archaeology, Barri Jones. On graduation he embarked on a career in publishing, working as a trainee editor with Cambridge University Press, but he continued excavating with Barri Jones during his vacations, including a spell in 1971 at Benghazi in Libya. That year clearance work had started on a Turkish Ottoman cemetery by the sea front in the Sidi Khrebish area of Benghazi, as a prelude to developing the site, but it rapidly became clear that it was destroying an intact area of the Greek and Roman city of Berenice. There had been a long history of British involvement in Libyan archaeology, with major excavations in the years before and immediately following the Second World War at sites such as Haua Fteah, Sabratha and Lepcis Magna, and the British archaeologist Richard Goodchild had been Controller of Antiquities in Cyrenaica from the late 1940s to the late 1960s. In 1969, at the time when Colonel Ghaddafi came to power, Donald Strong and John Ward-Perkins had been instrumental in setting up the Society for Libyan Studies, with a small grant from the British Academy, to maintain and foster British research in Libya, including archaeological fieldwork. As its first major archaeological project, the Society for Libyan Studies undertook salvage excavations at Sidi Khrebish. The initial work in 1971 showed the scale of the threat, the huge potential of the site, and the need for a major programme of fieldwork. In November 1972, at the age of 24, John Lloyd was asked by the Society to take over the Sidi Khrebish excavations as its Field Director.

He spent the greater part of the next three years in Benghazi. The excavation was large — the amount of spoil that had to be shifted necessitated a small railway being constructed — and like all deeply-stratified urban excavations extremely complex. It was also an enormous managerial challenge for so young a Field Director: John Lloyd had to coordinate a large number of British excavators and finds specialists, mostly older than himself, and a small army of workmen, on a highly visible site in the midst of an exceptionally sensitive political environment. He directed the fieldwork, and the subsequent publication programme, with exemplary professionalism. The excavations yielded a sequence of occupation spanning almost a thousand years, from the third century BC to the coming of Islam. After the fieldwork

finished he continued to be employed by the Society for Libyan Studies whilst he prepared the first volume of the series of major volumes, *Excavations at Sidi Khrebish*, on the stratigraphic sequence and structures revealed by the excavation (Lloyd, 1977), during which period he also completed his Ph.D. thesis, supervised by Barri Jones, on urban development at Benghazi (Lloyd, 1978). There were enormous quantities of finds from the Sidi Khrebish excavations — coarse and fine pottery, animal and human bones, mosaics, coins, wall-plaster and so on, the study of which he coordinated with immense patience and commitment, four more volumes appearing over the next twenty years, the last a few months before his death (Lloyd, 1979; 1985a; 1985b; 1998). The ‘archaeological history’ of a classical mediterranean city revealed by the excavations of Berenice is of a quality and detail that have probably been rivalled only by the combined efforts of the several international teams that worked at Carthage in Tunisia in the Save Carthage! campaigns.

I went to Benghazi in September 1975 as the excavations finished, as part of the team of finds specialists, in my case to work on the animal bones (another archaeologist on the team that year was Vicky Doughty, John’s future wife). The preceding summer I had embarked on the Biferno Valley Survey in Molise in south-central Italy. The valley was within ancient Samnium, whose peoples figure prominently in the history of classical Italy: determined and able warriors, the Samnites led Italian resistance to the expansion of Roman power in a long and bitter series of conflicts from the mid-fourth century BC, and were not finally eliminated as a political and military force until the late 80s BC. From the abundance of Samnite and Roman remains being found by the survey teams it was obvious that the project had an urgent need for a classical specialist. Having watched the professionalism with which John worked in Benghazi, coordinating the study of the classical materials from the Sidi Khrebish excavations, I invited him to join the Biferno Survey team. He participated in the project for the next three years, re-visiting Samnite and Roman sites being found by the survey teams, working through the materials from them, and organizing their specialist study where necessary.

Coming from a background of urban archaeology, he could see the obvious problems with survey data: the lack of sealed contexts, the numbers of sites with collections of coarse-wares that were intractable to date, the biasing factors affecting recovery such as surface conditions, collection methods and differential archaeological visibility (the fact that some classes of artefacts are more visible than others, and/or more numerous) — he explored some of these problems in a paper we co-wrote (Lloyd and Barker, 1981). However, he also realised, as he discussed in that paper, that the fact that Roman sites in the Biferno valley were poorer in terms of their surface remains than contemporary sites in the ‘heartlands’ of western Italy did not

imply the poor pastoral landscape described to us by classical writers such as Livy: Roman Samnium had its villas, and landowning élites, just like Etruria. Furthermore, the survey evidence suggested that the villa or farm, though entirely unsuspected from the literary sources, was in fact a common feature of the Samnite landscape as well.

The thesis obviously needed testing by excavation, and after the Biferno Valley Survey finished in 1978, he spent the next few seasons excavating one of the larger category of surface sites with Samnite and Roman pottery we had found, site A166 near the village of Matrice in the middle valley. His Matrice excavations showed that the site began as a humble cottage in the third century BC, but during the second century BC a substantial terrace was constructed surrounded with outer walls of heavy polygonal blocks, the base for a large dwelling consisting of suites of rooms made of smaller roughly trimmed limestone blocks and tiled roofs, laid out round a central courtyard. After the area came under Roman control, the building was further enlarged in the first century BC and extended still more and partially restructured in the first half of the first century AD, the villa continuing in use to the end of the Roman period. Some of the rooms of the Samnite *villa rustica* were for dwelling, others for the processing and storage of agricultural produce and for stabling, and in the Roman period the living quarters were improved with a small bath suite. 'The impression is of a large working farmstead, not unlike the present masserie in the valley. It was probably owned by a member of the local aristocracy and run by a tenant or bailiff' (Lloyd, 1995b: 225). The final report on the Matrice excavations, about to go to press at the time of his death (Lloyd and Roberts, in preparation), will be a landmark study of a classical rural site in Italy: Matrice is one of very few such sites excavated to the highest modern standards, especially with full attention paid to the recovery and analysis of biological evidence for agriculture as well as artefacts, and its story is an elegant case study of the impact of romanization on one rural community.

John Lloyd joined the Department of Ancient History at the University of Sheffield in 1977 as a lecturer in classical archaeology, and whilst there he embarked on further fieldwork with Sheffield colleagues, directing excavations at the vicus or native settlement outside the Roman fort of Brough in the Peak District, and also a field-walking survey of Greek rural settlement around the ancient settlement of Megalopolis in the Peloponnese (Lloyd, Owens and Roy, 1985). Like Molise in Italy, the area of the Megalopolis survey, ancient Arcadia, was archaeologically unfashionable and under-researched, but he demonstrated many similarities in the agrarian development of the two regions in the Hellenistic and early Imperial periods, in particular a trend towards the formation of large estates in the last centuries BC as resources became concentrated into fewer hands, at the expense of independent peasant cultivators (Lloyd, 1991a). When we co-

edited *Roman Landscapes: Archaeological Survey in the Mediterranean Region* (Barker and Lloyd, 1991), a book arising from an international conference I had organized at the British School at Rome in my last year as Director (1988) reviewing the impact of field-walking projects on our understanding of classical rural settlement, his fieldwork in Italy and Greece underpinned his excellent concluding study, where he wrote of the entirely unsuspected 'busy countryside' of villages, villas, farms and cottages that was being revealed by landscape archaeologists throughout the Mediterranean, 'a more complex and economically more sophisticated world than we have been accustomed to imagine in the past' (Lloyd, 1991b: 238).

The final volumes on the Biferno valley survey took a long time to see the light of day (mostly, though not entirely, my fault!), being published in 1995, but in many ways they were the stronger for the delay, for it meant that the survey data could be integrated with the results of ensuing excavations (several on sites like Matrice first found by the survey teams). The collections of coarse pottery were restudied with the improved knowledge gained from these excavations, site chronologies were established with more confidence as a result, and the resulting settlement trends were integrated with information from excavations about structural layouts, production and consumption evidence, and so on. This was particularly the case for the prolific Samnite and Roman data. Paul Roberts's Ph.D. (1992) supervised by John, on late Roman ceramics from the region (including from the survey and Matrice), together with Richard Hodges's excavations at San Vincenzo al Volturno and the 1990 Ph.D. of his student Helen Patterson on early medieval ceramics, greatly enhanced understanding of the transition from the Roman to the early medieval worlds in the Biferno landscape. In addition to Matrice, knowledge of Samnite and Roman settlement had been transformed by excavations by Italian colleagues, for example of the Monte Vairano *oppidum* (Gianfranco De Benedittis), Campochiaro sanctuary (Stefania Capini), Saepinum (Maurizio Matteini Chiari), Larinum (Angelo Di Niro), and vicus/villa sites near San Martino in Pensilis and San Giacomo degli Schiavoni (Valeria Ceglia).

John's chapters in the main Biferno volume (Lloyd, 1995a; 1995b), supported by a meticulously-produced catalogue of supporting data in the accompanying volume (Lloyd, 1995c), are probably the most outstanding regional study of classical settlement yet available in Italy. They are certainly the strongest component of the Biferno valley project, and I have no doubt that they will be of the most enduring value. The Samnites, for example, had traditionally been regarded as a primitive pastoral and agrarian society with an archaic political structure — *montani atque agrestes* in a famous phrase of Livy — but John demonstrated how the archaeology of the Biferno valley revealed a dramatically different society. Centuries before the war that was to lead to the Samnites' incorporation within the Roman state, there were major

centres of population and craft production in the valley, a complex ritual landscape of major and minor sanctuaries, a hierarchy of rural settlement including villas and, linking all these, economic, social and cultural structures reflecting urbanization.

In the ten years since he moved from Sheffield to Oxford's Institute of Archaeology, John had resumed work in Libya, directing rescue excavations for the Society for Libyan Studies, with a colleague from Benghazi's Gar Yunis University, at Euesperides, the first Greek colony at Benghazi. Though he had continued to publish on Cyrenaican archaeology, for example on Roman water supply (Lloyd and Lewis, 1977), the development of city life at Euesperides and Berenice (Lloyd, 1985c), and in Cyrenaica generally (Lloyd, 1989), he was — typically — unsure of how he would be regarded in Libya returning so long after his youthful years in the hot-house atmosphere of Benghazi in the early 1970s. To no surprise of the rest of us, he found himself fêted by an archaeological community that revered his achievements at Benghazi. The ensuing excavations in 1995, 1996 and 1998 demonstrated that the city was founded earlier than supposed, in the sixth century BC, surviving till it was replaced by Berenice in the third century BC. In addition to discovering and dating an Archaic city wall, they revealed three phases of houses (Archaic to early Hellenistic), quarry works, rock-cut tombs, kilns and domestic structures. The finds have provided the first insights into how the Greek colonies of Cyrenaica were supported by their agricultural hinterlands, how they established and maintained trade networks with the outside world, and how they interacted with the indigenous population (Buzaian and Lloyd, 1996; Lloyd, Buzaian and Coulton, 1995; Lloyd *et al.*, 1998). John always saw a primary objective of his Euesperides work as helping to train a new generation of young Libyan archaeologists in the full gamut of modern scientific techniques of excavation and analysis, and it was a particular pleasure that by the time he completed his final season the Libyan team included ceramic specialists, archaeobotanists and archaeozoologists in addition to highly skilled surveyors and excavators.

His primary field research through the 1990s, though, was again in Samnium, in the Sangro valley in Abruzzo some 50 kilometres north of the Biferno valley. The focus of his interests was the role of the hill-fort in Samnite society, and its relation to its hinterland, but with systematic survey seen as one key approach, the project also adopted a diachronic perspective, embracing regional settlement trends from late prehistory to early medieval times. The field survey was designed by John and his Oxford colleague Gary Lock to be cutting-edge in its methodologies — the field procedures, for example, were designed from the outset to support and be supported by computer systems of spatial analysis (Geographical Information Systems). The survey was just one component of current work in the Sangro valley, which John conceived and nurtured as a close partnership of British and Italian

teams working together on the landscape history of the valley from 1000 BC to AD 1000 involving, in addition to the field survey, excavations of iron age cemeteries, the Samnite *oppidum* of Monte Pallano and medieval fortified settlements, together with ethnographic and ethnoarchaeological studies of modern communities such as transhumant shepherds (Lloyd, Christie and Lock, 1997). It was during his final scheduled season of fieldwork in the Sangro, in September 1998, that John was first taken ill with what transpired to be a brain tumour.

As well as being awarded the British School's Balsdon Senior Fellowship in 1988–9, John served as a member of its Faculty of Archaeology, History and Letters from 1985 to 1995, and was Chairman of the Publications Committee (1990) and Publications Advisory Board (1991–5) (re-establishing a family connection with the School's publications, for his wife, Vicky, had been Secretary to the Publications Committee and Assistant Editor of the *Papers* in the 1980s). In this time he edited five volumes of the *Papers* (volumes 59 to 63, 1991–5), and masterminded probably the most active period of monograph publication in the School's history to date. A dozen volumes were published under his aegis: *Romans in Northern Campania: Settlement and Land-Use around the Massico and the Garigliano Basin* (P. Arthur, 1991), *Roman Landscapes: Archaeological Survey in the Mediterranean Region* (G. Barker and J. Lloyd (eds), 1991), *Roman Brickstamps: the Thomas Ashby Collection in the American Academy at Rome* (J.C. Anderson, 1991), *Three South Etrurian Churches: Santa Cornelia, Santa Rufina and San Liberato* (N. Christie (ed.), 1991), *Gravina, an Iron Age and Republican Settlement on Botromagno, Gravina di Puglia. Excavations of 1965–1974* (A. Small (ed.), 1992), *Marble in Antiquity: Collected Papers of J.B. Ward-Perkins* (H. Dodge and B. Ward-Perkins (eds), 1992), *San Vincenzo al Volturno 1: the 1980–86 Excavations Part I* (R. Hodges (ed.), 1993), *Radiocarbon Dating and Italian Prehistory* (R. Skeates and R. Whitehouse (eds), 1994), *San Vincenzo al Volturno 2: the 1980–86 Excavations Part II* (R. Hodges (ed.), 1993), *The Hill-forts of the Samnites* (S.P. Oakley, 1996), *In Vino Veritas* (O. Murray and M. Tecuşan (eds), 1995), and *Land and Power: Studies in Italian and European Social History, AD 400–1200* (C. Wickham, 1994). He was a complete professional in all aspects of the publication process, and all of us on that list, as well as the authors in the volumes of the *Papers* he edited, can attest to the consummate care and skill he brought to bear on the texts we offered him, to ensure the highest standards of publication for the School.

John was an exceptionally modest man who constantly downplayed his own achievements, but his archaeology was characterized by meticulous and careful scholarship made to last, whether in his own research or in his editorial work for the British School and the Society for Libyan Studies. His life was tragically curtailed, but he achieved remarkable and enduring results

in his Libyan, Greek and Italian fieldwork not just because he was an outstanding field archaeologist but also because of the modesty, sensitivity and integrity he brought to his professional relations. He had a tremendously strong sense of the importance of doing the right thing by his collaborators, his colleagues in the UK and abroad, his authors, his field teams, the students he taught at Sheffield and Oxford, and the family of which he was so proud. Burly, curly-haired and saturnine, he alternated between studied gloom and impish fun (I remember him combining the two during the Biferno Valley Survey, at a Soprintendenza party for us in the Roman theatre at Saepinum, when he gave a convincing impression of a bronzed and toga'd Caligula!). Ever cautious about his own archaeological achievements, he was always generous in his judgements of and support for other scholars. He set standards of professionalism in the field and in publication that few archaeologists emulate. His fieldwork has given us new understanding of ordinary life in towns, villages and farms throughout the ancient world. And in his caring for the profession of archaeology, and how it should be done to the highest standards, he had a profound influence on the careers of scores of archaeologists in Britain and abroad fortunate enough to be touched by his wisdom and wit.

GRAEME BARKER

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