

VII. Resources

From **Heather Sebire** (h.sebire@museums.gov.gg).

Many autodidacts and polymaths of the Victorian era were utterly remarkable scholars (Bahn, 1996).

The work of early pioneer archaeologists is of great interest to present day scholars, not only for the content of their archives, often in the form of early observations, but also as indicators of the development of archaeology as a discipline. Histories of archaeology have included those taking the broad historical sweep, such as Daniel (1950, 1967) and more recently Schnapp (1996), alongside individual biographies such as those by Piggott (1976, 1985) and Dyer (1975). In depth studies of historical aspects of regional archaeologies across Europe have also been examined, even more recently by Schlanger (2002).

In all such works, one character is omitted, namely Frederick Corbin Lukis. Lukis was an archaeologist and polymath and is worthy of remembrance and study, not only for the work he carried out in his native island of Guernsey, but also for his legacy to the wider world of archaeology. His work is particularly important because he was active at a critical time in the nineteenth century, when archaeology was in a transitional phase between antiquarianism and the complex discipline that we know today.

Frederick Corbin Lukis F. S. A.

Frederick Corbin Lukis was born in Guernsey, the second largest of the Channel Islands, in 1788, and during his long life he became expert in many disciplines (Lukis, 1974). Although a true polymath, Lukis is particularly remembered for his archaeological work, both locally, in England and in neighbouring France. Guernsey Museum holds his *Collectanea Antiqua* in its collections, the main record of his endeavours, in which he documented his excavations and field work. This opus consists mainly of seven volumes, at present unpublished in any form other than the original, along with a number of his letters, notebooks and diaries. This body of work, although compiled without the scientific background that modern day archaeological research would involve, still forms the basis for any serious study of Guernsey's prehistoric past. For this fact alone, it is significant in the history of archaeology both for Guernsey and for neighbouring Britain and France. Lukis was ahead of his time in many respects, particularly in his excavation methods and was influential amongst the intelligentsia of Victorian England. Guernsey Museum also has, in its collections, many letters and note books written by other members of his family, the most prolific of whom was his third son, William Collings Lukis.

Research on the Lukis Archive

A recent study (Sebire, 2003) illustrated how F. C. Lukis deserved the recognition he has hitherto not received, as a pioneer of disciplined archaeology in Western Europe, in the earlier part of the nineteenth century. This study has set Lukis and his archive and collections in a suitable place in the history of archaeology, with regard to the local, national and international spheres of his day. The aim through publication is to bring him and his legacy, which includes the whole family dynasty of archaeologists, to the attention of anyone interested in the study of antiquarian archives and what they can elucidate about the social, economic and political background of the time. Lukis' methods and achievements are appraised in their context and

his legacy, both in Guernsey and further afield in Europe, examined and evaluated.

Methodology

The obvious starting point for the study was to examine the large archive in detail.

A minimal amount of curatorial work had been carried out on it, before the present project started. In order to become familiar with the documents, there was no short cut to carefully examining each in some detail. This made it possible to document Lukis' archaeological work, compiling biographical information about him and his family in the process. Due to the constraints of physically handling the material, this has been a very lengthy process.

The Archive

The manuscripts are legally the property of the States of Guernsey and are part of the collections of Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery. The extended archive, i.e. that produced by members of the family as well as F. C. Lukis, contains material that will be of interest to students of the history of collections, but also to the archaeological record of many other geographical regions. Requests for information about the archive from archaeologists in Brittany, Normandy, England, Scotland and Wales are frequent, not least because within it are plans and sections of megalithic monuments from across Europe. At the present time, it has been possible to itemise 11,569 items within the entire archive, of which there are 56 bound volumes, 6707 unbound pages and 7314 pages of text. There are also 3045 pages of watercolours and drawings. The maps and plans number 1000, along with 209 pages of photographs.

Lukis' Network of Contemporaries

In order to analyse his contacts and network of contemporaries, much of Lukis' correspondence has been read, transcribed and annotated, both with his family and the outside world. Correspondents include, Thomas Bateman of Derbyshire, Charles Roach Smith of London and J. J. A. Worsaae of Denmark. Other contemporary sources were also examined, both historical and sociological, for insights into the world in which Lukis lived. He was an acquaintance, for example, of the Romantic poet, Georges Métrévier, who in turn befriended Victor Hugo during his exile in Guernsey.

A Context for the Study

In order to place Lukis in the broad spectrum of the history of archaeology, research on other antiquarians of the same period was carried out. It soon became apparent that there was very little detailed history of individual antiquarians in the early to mid-nineteenth century, other than their inclusion in broader histories. This study of Frederick Corbin Lukis will contribute to the growing corpus of work on antiquarians during the transitional phase, when archaeology becomes a discipline and a recognised profession. In terms of its contribution to local Channel Island's archaeology, many of Guernsey's prehistoric sites were destroyed due to industrial activity in the last century and later during World War II as a result of which, it is very difficult for the modern archaeologist to make sense of the landscape that does survive. The first hand accounts of the initial discovery of monuments, are particularly enlightening and with the text and the superb illustrations that survive, provide a substantial archive of information for the present day researcher.

Some Previous Studies on the Lukis Archive

The Lukis material housed in Guernsey Museum has been studied in part several times in the

past. T. D. Kendrick, during his time as Director of the British Museum, examined the material when he came to Guernsey in 1928, to carry out research. This was incorporated into his book on the Archaeology of the Channel Islands, of which the Guernsey material forms Volume 1 (Kendrick, 1928). Several researchers in recent years e.g. Dr Ian Kinnes formerly of the British Museum and Dr Serge Cassen of Nantes University have used the documents as a primary source of information, particularly on the megalithic monuments of Guernsey and neighbouring Brittany. Also, Guernsey Museum curatorial staff, have used various parts of the work, both in exhibitions and to provide information for fieldwork. For example, in 1988, Guernsey Museum mounted an exhibition to celebrate the two-hundredth anniversary of Lukis' birth and when the museum was re-displayed in 1995, a permanent gallery dedicated to Lukis' life and work was set up. A temporary exhibition will be mounted in Guernsey in Spring 2006 and it is hoped that a short conference will take place over the first weekend in June. For further information please contact h.sebire@museums.gov.gg

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VIII. Doctoral dissertations

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Towards a Cultural History of Archaeology: British Archaeology Between the Wars

This thesis is an attempt to write a cultural history of British archaeology between the two world wars. It endeavours to place archaeologists in their social and intellectual context and examines how their work was affected by, and reflected, the understandings of imperialism, class, race and gender current in inter-war Britain.

I begin by examining the already published histories of archaeology and discussing how they have constructed the history of the discipline. Within this critique I have emphasised where I think they have omitted interesting areas of study, and I suggest different questions we can ask in order to construct alternative histories of archaeology. In connection with this discussion I have outlined my understandings of history and historiography, and how my methodology and theoretical standpoint departs from previous writers on the history of archaeology. I have included a history of the 20s and 30s with particular reference to those areas I feel impacted most on the lives of archaeologists and affected their constructions of the past. From this general history I have moved on to looking specifically at the history of