

VII. Conference reports

Abstracts of Papers Given at the HARN Conference

held at the University of Cambridge on Saturday, 14 March 2009
in the West Building Seminar Room, Dept of Archaeology, Downing St, Cambridge

<http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/departments/contacts.html>

Session One: Visualising Technologies and Knowledge Construction in the History of Archaeology

Jennifer Baird: *Imag(in)ing the Other at Dura-Europos*

At Dura-Europos on the Syrian Euphrates, a joint Yale University/*Academie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres* expedition conducted major excavations in the 1920s and 30s. This presentation will examine how the practice of photography at the site, and the creation of the photographic archive, was key in the relationship between the Western archaeologists and the local workers and also constitutive of archaeological knowledge.

Katherine Cooper: *Constructing Prehistory through Objects: The Transmission of Lake Dwellings Artifacts to the UK. 1850–1900*

This paper briefly presents research undertaken as part of a PhD on the transmission and interpretation of lake dwelling materials between Switzerland (one site in particular) and the UK between 1850–1900. It is particularly interested in knowledge transfer through images and objects and the contexts in which lake dwelling objects and images were created, displayed, moved and interpreted. It is hoped thereby that archaeological collections and associated imagery and biographies are reconsidered as sites for the construction of various conceptions of prehistory. In this paper some of the collections are discussed as examples of this approach to these questions.

Session Two: Institutional Spaces and the Production of Archaeology

Sara Perry: *Mobilising Vision at the University of London, 1926–1945*

This presentation stands as a brief look at the history of archaeological visualisation in the context of its production, circulation and consumption in one of the first archaeology departments in the UK; namely, the Institute of Archaeology at the University of London. Drawing on preliminary results from archival research at, and interviews with key archaeologists affiliated with, this British school, it aims to trace the intimate networks between people and pictures present in early classrooms, departmental exhibitions, presentations and collections. The goal is to expose visual representations as vital actors that manifoldly prompted action, defined and measured ‘expertise’, and added social and financial value to individuals and the Institute of Archaeology itself.

Pamela Jane Smith: *Affective Space, Pedagogy and the Creation of Archaeology at Cambridge*

This paper re-examines earlier investigations of the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology’s tea-room as a knowledge-making site for the genesis of archaeological agendas during the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. The importance of the tea-room as Steven Shapin’s (1991)

'practical solution to the problem of trust' is discussed. The important 'synchronicities' that occurred are discussed as the tea-room changed 'in sync' with changes in ideas, behaviours, emotional commitments, mode of conversations, disciplinary boundaries, walls, architectures and teaching methods. The only 'artefact' that remained the same over three decades was the tea.

Session Three: Heritage Policy and Archaeological Histories

Sam Hardy: *The Liberation of Censorship in Cypriot Archaeology: Representations of a Suppressed UNESCO Report in Histories of Cultural Heritage Destruction*

In 1975, restoration architect Jacques Dalibard studied the Cypriot cultural heritage crisis for UNESCO, but his report was first suppressed, then finally published, heavily censored, in 1976. Since then, it has become a legend, not only part of histories of the destruction of cultural heritage in Cyprus, but part of general histories of Cyprus, and even global histories of censorship of historical thought. This paper explores the influence of the unpublished report upon histories of the destruction of cultural heritage in Cyprus.

Stephen Leach: *The Inter-War Conservation of Hadrian's Wall*

Faced with the imminent prospect of stone being quarried just ten feet away from one of the best-preserved stretches of Hadrian's Wall, archaeologists in the 1930s realized to their horror that although existing legislation served to protect the Wall its immediate environment was left unprotected. The prospect of the Wall being left perched on an artificial knife-edge led to a numerous protests in the national press and to discussion at the highest level of government. This protest led to the passing of the *1931 Ancient Monuments Act*, granting the First Commissioner of H. M. Works the power to make planning schemes and pay compensation. However, there were a series of delays before this act was implemented. When it was eventually implemented for the first and last time – it protected the surroundings of the central section of the Wall by means of the Wall and Vallum Preservation Scheme, now incorporated within Northumberland National Park.

The *1931 Ancient Monuments Act* marks an intermediate stage between the impassioned but necessarily palliative and *ad hoc* protection of ancient monuments afforded by groups of public spirited archaeologists and the more holistic and comprehensive approach to planning that has since been sought by local and national government. I shall discuss both the events leading up to the passing of this Act and the events that ensued. (Owing to the extensive press coverage that the threat to the Wall provoked at the time it is possible to re-create these events in some detail.)

Session Four: Biography, Interpretation and Inter-War Archaeology

Amara Thornton: *George Horsfield, Conservation and the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem*

George Wilberforce Horsfield, director of Antiquities in Transjordan during the inter-war period, came to archaeology later in life from a professional architecture background. This presentation will explore how his background and personal connections enabled him to rise to a high place in British Mandate government protecting and preserving archaeological remains.

Marcus Brittain: *Herbert Fleure and the League of Nations' (1919) Minorities Treaties: A Study in Archaeology and Post-conflict Reconstruction after World War 1*

This paper traces an attempt at political intervention after the First World War by an archaeological discourse highlighting the diversity and hybridity of local and global cultural practices and cultural heritage. In particular, the focus is directed to the work of Herbert Fleure whose 'biological socialism'

infiltrated archaeological narratives of prehistory during the interwar period. Based in Aberystwyth, Wales, Fleure's work proved influential to the development of a mature archaeological discipline, yet embodied a somewhat peripheral underlying stance towards issues such as internal colonialism, internationalism, statehood, and race. Through archaeological evidence, and drawing upon the notion of 'world citizenship', Fleure openly challenged the stance held towards minorities by the League of Nations' and the British government after 1919. This highlighted a concern that still pervades UN policy, namely the problem of the definition of the term 'minority' in human rights protection, and pre-empted the importance of intangible heritage to local communities that has more recently returned to the focus of discussion. The aim of this historiography is to first present an early attempt to engage archaeology in post-conflict reconstruction, and second to highlight the connectivity of current issues in archaeology to those encountered during a period that is rarely afforded exploration.

VIII. Reports on research projects

The Personal-Histories Project

A short report of the project's *raison d'être* and on past and future oral-history events
by **Pamela Jane Smith** (pjs1011@cam.ac.uk)

No more elegant tool exists to describe the human condition than the personal narrative. Oral recordings can capture the tone, volume, silence, emotion and personal meaning of events, the ethos and etiquette. Attitudes can be rediscovered and descriptions made colourful. A primary merit of oral recollections is that they can help to recreate the complexity and uniqueness of past experiences. History becomes enriched and more complete.

My personal-histories project hopes to introduce students and researchers to the enjoyable experience of listening to life histories in archaeology as I create aural and visual sources. These can then be combined with published literature and unpublished archives to enhance our understanding of twentieth-century archaeology.

The film of the first personal-histories of archaeological method and theory discussion, "Memories of the New Archaeology", with Ezra Zubrow, Mike Schiffer, Colin Renfrew, Graeme Barker, Rob Foley and Paul Mellars, held at Cambridge University, U.K., in 2006, is available online: <http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/personal-histories/video.html>.

This film has been widely distributed and used as a teaching aid. The second film, from 2007, with Henrietta Moore, Meg Conkey, Ruth Tringham and Alison Wylie examining their recollections of the emergence of gendered approaches to archaeological interpretation, is available on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYQSanfJgPg>.

Perhaps the most popular retrospective was held 3 November 2008, in Cambridge with Meave Leakey, David Pilbeam, Leslie Aiello, Chris Stringer and Adam Kuper remembering their lives as researchers involved in the study of human origins. This occasion drew a huge and enthusiastic crowd. A volunteer group of media students, led by Silas Michalakas from Goldsmiths, University of London, U.K. is producing the film of these memories. This will soon be available to be used in teaching.

On 16 December 2008, at Southampton University, U.K., Andrew Fleming, Richard Bradley, Clive Gamble, Tim Darvill, Colin Renfrew, Duncan Brown and Tim Champion gathered to create the first history of TAG, (Theoretical Archaeology Group). The Chair, Tim Champion, introduced this session