

## I. Editorial

With the May 2000 issue (10:1), *The Bulletin of the History of Archaeology* begins its tenth year of publication. The BHA was hatched nearly 11 years ago when Don McVicker, Alice B. Kehoe, and I sat in the offices of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at North Central College (Don McVicker's former affiliation) to begin a discussion amongst ourselves of the current status of research into our discipline's origins and into new and innovative ways of writing the history of Americanist archaeology. Our discussions also included some of the best ways to approach the continuation of our understanding of the origins and development of the practice of archaeology. As my recollection of these events indicate, we three discussed the possibility of a symposium series on the history of archaeology, a volume series dealing with substantive contributions to writing of the history of archaeology, and lastly the creation of a forum (newsletter) to be accessible by colleagues interested in exchanging information about their researches into the history of archaeology. Thus, the BHA was born and has enjoyed nine years of fruitful existence and has brought together many scholars who have a research and a general interest in the history of archaeology. As the BHA is a forum for the exchange of ideas, research, and source materials relating to the history of archaeology, I opened its pages seven years ago to all scholars around the world who had an interest in the history of archaeology. I am happy to report that the readership of the BHA enjoys an international readership. The BHA has afforded the opportunity for colleagues to come together and exchange information amongst each other to enhance to the future explanation of the development of our archaeological endeavors. To all who have contributed in the past and to all past and present members of the BHA's Editorial Board, I say thank you for your input, expertise, and guidance. Without the contributions of all, the BHA would not have had the longevity that it has enjoyed.

As we move forward, I again invite all those interested in the history of archaeology to utilize the BHA as their forum for the exchange ideas. Discourse, debate, source material repositories, and information about current "doings" in furtherance of our understanding of the history of archaeology is the foundation of this biannual publication. This publication will always welcome contributions. The Editor also will receive comments and suggestions from the BHA's readership at any time.

Good wishes to all as we begin a new decade of exchange and communication.

Douglas R. Givens, Editor  
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## II. Discourse on the History of Archaeology

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### **William F. Grimes: The Making of a Prehistorian**

by

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Professor William Frances ('Peter') Grimes (1905-1988), Director of the Institute of Archaeology in London, is often associated with Roman archaeology. Although his roots were in the classical world, he made a significant contribution to the study of pre-Roman Wales, and was in the vanguard of field-archaeologists in Britain considering prehistory (Gill in press; Hall and Macdonald 1988; Merrifield 1990; Miles 1989).

Grimes was born in Pembroke in south-west Wales. His family moved to Bedford in England where his father worked as a draughtsman on airships. Grimes returned to Wales in 1923 as an undergraduate at the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire where he studied Latin. One of his lecturers was to be Mortimer Wheeler who in 1920 had been appointed Keeper of Archaeology at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff as well as lecturer in archaeology at the university (Hawkes 1982: 79). Wheeler's emphasis was on Roman archaeology, first in the excavations at the Roman fort of Segontium (Caernarfon) in north Wales, and then, in the summers of 1924 and 1925, at a Roman fort in the Usk valley to the west of Brecon (Hawkes 1982: 90). Wheeler's *Prehistoric and Roman Wales* appeared in 1925, and for the first time gave an introduction to the prehistory of Wales (Hawkes 1982: 93; Wheeler 1925).

Grimes was also taught by Cyril Fox who had been appointed Keeper of Archaeology and lecturer in archaeology when in 1924 Wheeler was made Director of the National Museum of Wales (Grimes 1967; Hawkes 1982: 93-94; Jope 1981; Piggott 1967). Wheeler himself (and his wife Tessa) continued to excavate at Roman sites, notably the amphitheatre adjacent to the legionary fortress at Caerleon in south-east Wales which started in 1926 as he himself was moving to London to take up the position as Keeper at the London Museum which he started in July (Hawkes 1982: 95-96).

Wheeler's appointment to the London Museum, after such a short spell as Director in Cardiff, left a gap at the National Museum. Cyril Fox was appointed Director, and Victor E. Nash-Williams, one of Wheeler's former students at Cardiff—in Latin—who had excavated with him at Segontium (Hawkes 1982: 89; Randall 1956), was appointed as Keeper of Archaeology; Grimes, due to graduate that summer, was made his assistant. It is said that Grimes went straight from the graduation ceremony—he had been awarded a first class honours in Latin—to the National Museum to take up his new position. One of the tasks assigned to Grimes was to sort out and publish material from the Roman pottery works at Holt in north Wales. By 1930 this study was completed and Grimes was awarded his M.A. from the University of Wales; his dissertation was published by the Society of Cymmrodorion as *Holt, Denbighshire: The Works Depot of the Twentieth Legion at Castle Lyons* (Grimes 1930a). His knowledge of Roman material was to be used in the publication of the excavations at Caerwent, a Roman town in south Wales, excavated most recently from 1923 to 1925 by Nash-Williams (Grimes 1931a), as well as a discussion of Caerleon (Grimes 1935).

In spite of this more formal work on Roman Wales, Grimes' fieldwork was closely focussed on prehistory. Reports on his work on prehistoric burials at Stormy Down at Pyle (Grimes 1928a), Ludchurch in Pembrokeshire (Grimes 1928b), Corston Beacon (Fox and Grimes 1928), and Llanboidy (Grimes 1929) were published in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, the journal of the Cambrian Archaeological Association. Grimes' work in the National Museum meant that he received notification of small finds from across Wales, and this was summarised in an article for *Archaeologia Cambrensis* in 1930 (Grimes 1930b). Such finds led him to make a study of the sources for flint around Solva in southwest Wales (Grimes 1932b).

Grimes was gaining wider recognition for his work in prehistory, and in 1932 he published the first in a series of surveys of the prehistory of Wales in the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia* (Grimes 1932a). This covered the period from the publication of Wheeler's volume (Wheeler 1925). This was the first in a series of annual reports by Grimes, initially with J. Grahame D. Clark of Cambridge, England, and V. Gordon Childe, Abercromby Professor in the University of Edinburgh (Green 1981), for Scotland (Clark *et al.* 1933: 270-71), and then with H.G. Leask and Estyn Evans for Eire ('Irish Free State') and Northern Ireland (Clark *et al.* 1934). In 1934 Childe, Clark and Stuart Piggott were elected to the committee to the Society of Prehistory of East Anglia, and in 1935 Childe was appointed President and the Prehistoric Society was created (Green 1981: 93-94). The report of archaeo-

logical activity in the British Isles was transferred to the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, which first appeared in 1935; Grimes continued to make these reports while he remained in Wales (Clark *et al.*; 1935: 144-46; 1936: 226-28; 1937; Leask *et al.* 1938; 1939). Further recognition of Grimes himself was given when he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1934.

Grimes' fieldwork on and study of the prehistory of Wales continued apace with regular reports appearing in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* (1933; 1936b; 1936c; 1937a; 1937b; Grimes and Cowley 1935; see also Grimes 1936a; 1938; 1939b). He also seems to have become increasingly aware of the need for archaeology to extract environmental information, as revealed in his paper on work at Radyr (Grimes and Hyde 1935). All this work was to culminate in his *Guide to the Collection Illustrating the Prehistory of Wales* for the National Museum of Wales (Grimes 1939a). In 1949 Grimes was awarded the G.T. Clark prize for research on the archaeology of Wales and the Marches for this study; Professor V. Gordon Childe, by then Director of the Institute of Archaeology in London, was the assessor for the prehistory section. The volume was to be republished in 1951, with a second edition in 1959, as *The Prehistory of Wales* (Grimes 1959). By the late 1930s Grimes was becoming a public figure, writing in the *Listener* on the subject of "Does Stonehenge belong to Wales" (Grimes 1938)?

During the late 1930s Grimes was to excavate increasingly with Mrs Audrey Williams (1902-1978), who shared an interest in the prehistory of Wales; they subsequently married. 1935 saw the centenary of the Royal Institution of South Wales in Swansea, and Grimes, as a member of the National Museum, was invited to help mount a special exhibition in the antiquities department. The Honorary Assistant of the Royal Institute of South Wales was Audrey Williams, who had read English at Somerville College, Oxford. She had been active in excavating a number of prehistoric sites on the Gower peninsula to the west of Swansea. Grimes and Williams were to work together on a number of excavations through the late 1930s, notably at the Dan-yr-Ogof caves at the head of the Swansea valley. In later life Grimes was always to describe Williams as the better excavator.

Grimes had become well known for his skill as a field archaeologist in Wales, and in 1938 he was appointed as an Assistant Archaeology Officer to the Ordnance Survey in Southampton, where he was to work with O.G.S. Crawford (see Grimes 1951). His early experience of dealing with wooden boats in Wales (Grimes 1931b) came in useful when Gawford and Grimes were called on to help excavate the Sutton Hoo ship burial in the early summer of 1939. A contemporary report noted that Grimes' "work in dissecting and removing the majority of the buried deposits was invaluable" (*Antiquaries Journal*, 1940: 192).

When war broke out, Grimes continued his fieldwork when he was seconded to the Ministry of Works to excavate sites in advance of the construction of defence sites such as airfields (Grimes 1960a). This took him round Britain, often working with Audrey Williams, in an intense programme of rescue excavation to the extent that hardly a week went by without him being active in the field (O'Neill 1948: 23). One of the most famous excavations of this period was of the Iron Age site under Heathrow (Grimes and Close-Brooks 1993).

Grimes, with his experience in the National Museum of Wales, started to develop plans for museums in post-war Britain and these were published in *Antiquity* (Grimes 1944). In 1945 Grimes was to be appointed Director of the London Museum, a post vacated by Wheeler on taking up his position as Director-General of Antiquities in India (Hawkes 1982: 227). The London Museum, based in Lancaster House, was also the base for the Director of Excavations, supported by the Society of Antiquaries since 1926 (Hawkes 1982: 112). London had suffered considerable damage during the Blitz, and this had opened up the possibility of deep excavations in the heart of the city before it was redeveloped. In 1946 Grimes was appointed Honorary Director of Excavations for the Roman and Mediaeval London Excava-

tion Council a role which was to take him away from prehistory (Grimes 1960b; 1968; Grimes and Knowles 1954). His excavating prowess was recognised by the granting of the Freedom of the City of London in 1952, and by the awarding of a CBE in 1955. Grimes received particular prominence when with Audrey Williams, then of the Verulamium Museum in St Albans, he excavated the remains of a Roman Mithraeum in the heart of the city of London (Shepherd 1998). He was also active in the excavation of bomb-damaged churches, notably St Bride's, Fleet Street (Milne 1997).

Wheeler had also vacated his honorary directorship of the Institute of Archaeology, then at St John's Lodge in Regent's Park (Hawkes 1982: 226). This position was to be filled by Childe who moved from Edinburgh to take up the appointment for the autumn of 1946 (Green 1981:105). Grimes was to be Childe's successor in 1956 (see Grimes 1955-6), though not without intense opposition from Sir Mortimer Wheeler (Hawkes 1982: 320-23), who had perhaps taken great offence at Grimes' critical review of his monograph on the Maiden Castle excavations (Grimes 1945).

Although based in London, Grimes continued his interest in the prehistory of Wales. This is reflected in the award of a D.Litt. from the University of Wales, based on a portfolio of published work on the archaeology of Wales with special reference to prehistoric burial monuments. He continued excavating in Wales notably on Caldey Island, off Tenby in Pembrokeshire (Grimes and Lacaille 1955;1961), Skomer Island in west Pembrokeshire (Grimes 1950-51), and at the burial chamber of Pentre Ifan on Cardigan Bay (Grimes 1948-49). Grimes retired from the Directorship of the Institute of Archaeology in 1973 (see Strong 1973) and moved to Swansea in south Wales. He remained a member of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments (Wales), retiring in 1978. He died at home in Swansea on Christmas Day 1988.

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