

At Hole House in the Devonshire village of Branscombe, Tom began the most controversial phase of his career. Here he pursued his study of the old gods of England and began experimenting with dowsing. By using a pendulum as a tool for divination, he developed a theory: every inanimate object had the ability to store information, and somehow capture its history within itself. By using the pendulum as an instrument of detection, he believed he could unlock information ‘recorded’ within any given object. His explanation of ghosts and ghouls was based on a similar theory, in that rooms, places or atmospheres, could, in the right given conditions, somehow ‘record’ events onto the ether. For these ‘recordings’ to be replayed, it would of course, require the right person and appropriate conditions to be present. His enquiry into occult phenomenon continued up until his untimely death in September 1971. During his time in Devon, he produced eight remarkable books documenting his ongoing experiments concerning ghost and ghoulish phenomenon, dreams, ESP and evolution.

Tom was a natural writer and his books are best perceived collectively, for they demonstrate the workings of an enquiring mind unhindered by dogma, or preconceived ideas. Colin Wilson once remarked:

I have heard his books criticised on the grounds that they are repetitive and inconclusive. But this is necessarily so. They are a kind of working journal into which he poured his fresh discoveries and insights year by year; if they are chaotic, they share that fault with the notebooks of Leonardo and the daily journals of every important discoverer.

Wilson also remarks on Tom’s personal qualities that are crucial to his writing: ‘...kindliness, a child-like humour, and a mind that bubbled with ideas like a glass of champagne’. In fact he went as far as likening his style to that of G. K. Chesterton and recognised him a classic, not just of parapsychology, but also of English literature.

There are many who judge Tom Lethbridge by the furore that resulted from the Gogmagog affair, or heap criticism on him for his later studies in occult phenomenon. There were however, many strings to Tom Lethbridge’s bow and that is why I considered it pertinent to write his biography, in the hope that a reappraisal of his work will enable scholars to put aside preconceived prejudices and embrace his unique contribution to British history.

**Note from Pamela Jane Smith:** Mina Lethbridge and I were successful in getting a portion of Tom’s autobiography published in *Antiquity* Vol 71:273, 1997 pp. 721–728 – T. C. Lethbridge – “The Mildenhall Treasure: a first-hand account”. Other portions will soon be published in the *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* once I edit it. If anyone would like a copy of the unpublished version, they can contact me at [pjs1011@cam.ac.uk](mailto:pjs1011@cam.ac.uk).

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## IV. Publications suggested by subscribers

From **Daniel Schavelzon**:

D. G. Roberts and D. G. Orr (eds) 2007. *Witness to the Past: The Life and Works of John L. Cotter*, Society of American Archaeology.

López Luján, L. 2008. ‘El Tajín en el siglo XVIII: dos exploraciones pioneras en Veracruz’. *Arqueología mexicana*. México: INAH/Editorial Raíces, vol. XV, nr. 90, pp. 74–81.

Fauvet-Berthelolt, M.-F., López Luján, L. y S. Guimarães, 2007. ‘Six personnages en quête d’objets: histoire de la collection archéologique de la Real Expedición Anticuaria en Nouvelle Espagne’. *Gradhiva, Revue d’anthropologie et de muséologie*. Paris: Musée du quai Branly, n. 6, 2007, pp. 104–126.

Fontán, M. 2005. *Oswald Menghin, ciencia y nazismo: el antisemitismo como imperativo moral*. Buenos Aires: Nuestra Memoria.

Galvez Mora, C. 2005. Richard Paul Schaedel (1920–2005), *Sian* nr. 16, pp. 2–3, Trujillo, Peru.

Galvez Mora, C. and M. A. Runcio, 2007. Huaca Sacachique, Valle de Moche: analisis de una fotografia de 1895, *Arkinka* 138, pp. 80–84, Lima.

## V. Publications by subscribers

**Pamela Jane Smith** advises that the pod-cast of the 2007 personal-histories panel, with Meg Conkey, Henrietta Moore, Ruth Tringham and Alison Wylie remembering their lives during the late 1970s and early 1980s as they pioneered new post-processual, gendered approaches, is available at <http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/podcast/personal-histories-retrospect-2007.mp3> or from me at [pjs1011@cam.ac.uk](mailto:pjs1011@cam.ac.uk) and that the video of the first 2006 life-histories panel is still at <http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/personal-histories/video.html>.

Silas Michalakas, from Goldsmith's, has finished producing the film of the 2007 personal-histories discussion with Meg Conkey, Henrietta Moore, Ruth Tringham and Alison Wylie. Meg Conkey has loaded this onto YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYQSanfJgPg>, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yli3XBx9tz4>, [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKZ1o8\\_1QJ4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKZ1o8_1QJ4). James Doeser, from the Institute of Archaeology, UCL, is also loading the film onto an additional YouTube site. And, David Redhouse and Alan Macfarlane, from Cambridge University, have a version on <http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/personal-histories/video.html>.

The iPod is still available at <http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/podcast/personal-histories-retrospect-2007.mp3>.

**Smoke Pfeiffer** advises that 1982 Master's Thesis on 'Clay Tobacco Pipes and the Fur Trade of the Pacific Northwest and Northern Plains' has been published at <http://www.claypipes.com/spotlight.html>.

Byron Sudbury, J. (ed). 2006. *Clay Tobacco Pipes and the Fur Trade of the Pacific Northwest and Northern Plains*. Historic Clay Tobacco Pipe Studies Research Monograph 1. Ponca City, Oklahoma, USA: Phytolith Press.

## VI. Book notices

Your attention is drawn to the following recently published books:

Hurel, Arnand, 2007. *La France préhistorienne de 1789 à 1941*. Paris: CNRS Editions.

Moro Abadía, Oscar, 2007. *Arqueología prehistórica e historia de la ciencia. Hacia una historia crítica de la arqueología*. Barcelona: Bellaterra arqueología.

Díaz-Andreu, Margarita, 2007. *A World History of Nineteenth-Century Archaeology. Nationalism, Colonialism and the Past*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Benedikte Jakobsen, Tove, 2007. *Birth of a World Museum*. Oxford: Wiley/Blackwell.

O'Connor, Anne, 2007. *Finding Time in the Old Stone Age. A History of Palaeolithic Archaeology and*