

## IV. Publications by subscribers

Pamela Jane Smith 2009. *A 'Splendid Idiosyncrasy': Prehistory at Cambridge 1915–1950*. BAR International Series: 485. Oxbow Books.

Christopher Evans, a member of our Editorial Board, recommends two new Cambridge Archaeological Unit Landscape Archives Series: *New Archaeologies of the Cambridge Region* and *Historiography and Fieldwork*.

Readers are also advised about the publication of:

*Borderlands: The Archaeology of Addenbrooke's Environs, South Cambridge* by Christopher Evans with Duncan Mackay and Leo Webley.

*Fengate Revisited: Further Fen-edge Excavations, Bronze-Age Fieldsystems and Settlement and the Wyman Abbott / Leeds Archive* by Christopher Evans with Emma Bedsmoore, Matt Brudenell and Gavin Lucas.

Both are available through Oxbow Books.

doi:10.5334/bha.19206

## V. Book review

**Michael Thompson 2009. *Darwin's Pupil. The Place of Sir John Lubbock, Lord Avebury (1834–1913) in Late Victorian and Edwardian England*. Melrose Books, Ely, Cambridgeshire. ISBN 978 1 906561 44 4. Hard cover xii+148pp. 15 figures. £12.99.**

Reviewed by **Tim Murray**

Readers will be well aware of the flood of books related to Charles Darwin that have appeared over recent years. Productivity in the 'Darwin publication industry' has never been particularly low, but archaeologists have not really participated in it – with the exception of theoretical discussions about the role of Darwinism in archaeology.

This was partially redressed in a recent issue of *Antiquity* 83 (320) 2009, where three papers presented different images of Darwinism in archaeology in the years following the publication of *The Origin* that each drew on a growing body of research into the 'condition' of archaeology during those years. New works on John Evans and John Lubbock were an important part of that increasing texture.

Nonetheless there is always room for more and we are fortunate that Michael Thompson, who has already written about Pitt-Rivers, Colt Hoare, and the Cambridge Antiquarian Society 1840-1890, given us the product of years of learning and research on Sir John Lubbock, one of the great ancestral beings of prehistoric archaeology. Thompson is not particularly concerned with high theory, or with contemporary debates about historiography in archaeology. The book is also not firmly based on much recent research into the history of nineteenth century archaeology. Thus it has a somewhat disconnected feel to it, speaking little to most of the issues that concern those of us actively engaged in this field. But there are compensations. Thompson knows a great deal about his subject (Lubbock) and has delved deep into the primary sources (particularly the Darwin-Lubbock-Darwin correspondence and Lubbock's diaries). There are fascinating details about Lubbock's family life, the sociology of Victorian and Edwardian banking, and a life of work and well spent leisure.

Collectively they add light and shade to what has already been published about him. There is nothing earth-shatteringly new or counter-intuitive, rather more there is an emphasis on the personal elements of Lubbock's story.

Thompson takes the reader through the high points of Lubbock's life and career – the importance of a personal attachment to Charles Darwin, the great books (with a useful discussion of *The Origin of Civilization*), the 'other' scientific careers among bugs and other denizens of the natural world, and still other careers as politician and writer of 'improving' essays. It's a conventional and pretty well worn pathway leading to much the same conclusions, concerning Lubbock's polymathy, drawn by other writers. One very welcome addition though is canvassed in the last chapter – for someone as famous as Lubbock at the time of his death (1913) why was his fame so fleeting?

The core text is expanded through five appendixes covering his books, the major figures in the Lubbock 'story', the legislation he introduced into the House of Commons 1871–1908; the original schedule of the Ancient Monuments Protection Act (1882), the last chapter of *Prehistoric Times* (1865), the list of one hundred greatest books compiled by Lubbock, and three of the essays drawn from Lubbock's *Peace and Happiness* (1909). It's all a bit eclectic but for those whose knowledge of Lubbock is not great, they help to reinforce just how spectacularly broad and deep his knowledge was.

## VI. Conference report

### The Edward Lhuyd International Conference 30th June - 3rd July 2009

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This conference was convened by the School of Welsh and Celtic Studies (CAWACS), Aberystwyth, and held at the University, to celebrate the life of the Welsh Renaissance polymath Edward Lhuyd (1659/1660–1709). It was intended to coincide with the tercentenary of his death on 30th June 1709. Packed with lectures in English and Welsh, it was accompanied by an exhibition at the National Library of Wales, bringing together relevant biographical and scientific manuscripts and rare printed material, some of which had never previously left the National Library of Scotland, and the Bodleian and British Libraries.

#### Edward Lhuyd: Naturalist, Antiquary and Celtic Linguafiler

Born probably in 1659/1660 in Loppington, Shropshire, Edward Lhuyd was brought up by his father, Edward Lloyd, in Llanforda, Oswestry, Shropshire. Lloyd the elder was a colourful character, a well-informed man who employed a professional gardener. However, he was ill-tempered, not always financially stable and never married Edward's mother, Bridget Pryse of Glan-ffraid, whose family was a branch of the Prysyes of Gogerddan, Cardiganshire.

In boyhood, Lhuyd was no doubt, influenced by his father's gardener, Edward Morgan, a well-respected botanist. Probably formally educated at Oswestry Grammar School, he went up to Jesus College, Oxford, in 1682 and in Oxford he was to spend the rest of his life. Encouraged by Robert Plot, Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, he succeeded as holder of that post in 1691. Around 1688 he adopted the Welsh form of his surname, which he normally wrote as Lhwyd, though on occasion he used Lhuyd.

As a scholar, Lhuyd's early concerns were with the natural sciences, and to this end initially he collected