

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.

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## 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 These can then be combined with published literature and unpublished archives to enhance our understanding of twentieth-century archaeology.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

If you don't know who this is.....



come to the

2008

Personal/oral histories of human origins research.

Leslie Aiello, Meave Leakey, David Pilbeam, Chris Stringer, Rob Foley and Marta Mirazón Lahr remember their lives and through those recollections reconstruct a history of human evolutionary research.

Adam Kuper will chair.

Monday, 3 November 2008, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge. Tea at 3pm. Discussion from 4 to 6pm. Wine reception after at the Centre. Free admission. For information contact Pamela, pjs1011@cam.ac.uk

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\*Picture: Chris Stringer, 1971, Yugoslavia. "By the time I had gone through Italy and southern France those clothes had been stolen."

◀ Poster advertising the November 2008 panel discussion.

▼ Young TAG archaeologists in the 1970s, left to right, Duncan Brown, Clive Gamble, Andrew Fleming, Tim Darvill, Colin Renfrew and Richard Bradley.

**Personal Histories of TAG**  
**'Find the Speaker'**

'an exercise and experiment in the oral history of archaeology'. Richard Bradley then made a salient point. He reminded the audience that when he came to archaeology as a law student in the 1970s, there were no venues in Britain to meet 'one's own contemporaries, engage in theoretical debate, try out new ideas before a live audience'. Inspired by American social and intellectual influences and the Society of American Archaeology's meetings and by Lewis Binford and Kent Flannery's work, Colin Renfrew and Andrew Fleming started TAG as a meeting place at which 'all speakers in a session could attend on equal terms rather employed, unemployed, new comers or ancestors to discuss new ideas'. Bradley concluded that 'TAG has succeeded in Britain by bringing together those two strands, the professional and the amateur/student, all interested in theoretical debate'. The film of this discussion is being edited by Emily Walker from UCLA and Sam Wakeford from Cambridge University. Once approved by the narrators, it will be available on the TAG web site: <http://antiquity.ac.uk/tag/index.html>.

AND, you are invited to several future events. Stephen Shennan, Director of the Institute of Archaeology at University College London, and I are organising an oral-historical retrospective of the Institute. This discussion will be held at the Institute in London on 11 November 2009. The panellists will include two 95 year olds, Beatrice de Cardi and Rachel Maxwell-Hyslop, who worked with Tessa and Mortimer Wheeler as they created the Institute during the 1930s. Peter Gathercole and John Alexander, graduate students during the early 1950s, Ian Hodder, one of the first undergraduates from the late 1960s, and three Directors, John Evans, David Harris and Stephen Shennan who will contribute their memories. The resulting film will be used during orientation for new students and as a reference source on the Institute's web site. It will augment Lydia Carr's research on the Wheelers.

AND, Sir David Attenborough has accepted our invitation to speak about his experiences as Commissioning Editor during the early 1950s of 'Animal, Vegetable, Mineral', the most influential and pioneering television archaeology show in British history. Sir David writes 'I have many vivid memories of Glyn Daniel, Mortimer Wheeler and many others as well as having something to do with Buried Treasure, Chronicle and the Sidbury Hill excavation. It would be a pleasure to talk about this'. Apparently, no one had ever asked him to do this!

Lastly, 'memories of excavating' is planned for late 2009 with the Editor of *Antiquity*, Martin Carver, speaking on his life in the Army and at Sutton Hoo. Mike Pitts, Editor of *British Archaeology*, will discuss his restaurant at Stonehenge and will also act as Chair. I would be grateful for further suggestions from the readers of the *Bulletin*.

If you wish copies of any of these films or if you wish to attend, please contact me at [pjs1011@cam.ac.uk](mailto:pjs1011@cam.ac.uk).

The project is supported by volunteers from many universities and a generous financial grant from the Africanist, Thurstan Shaw.

## A Wrap-up of the AREA Project

These notes (which derive from an AREA publication edited by Nathan Schlanger, Jana Marikova and Sonia Levina reporting on the AREA conference *Sites of Memory* held in 2006) were submitted to the *BHA* by **Nathan Schlanger**. In his words they represent 'something of a rounding up' of the whole AREA project, the full details of which can be found at: <http://www.area-archives.org/publ.html>.

This has been a long-running project of the first importance to the history of European archaeology and I welcome this communication as testimony to what the participants have achieved.

## Archives of Memory

A note on the Archives of European Archaeology (AREA) network and its scientific seminars (1998–