
Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society

(incorporating the Cambs and Hunts Archaeological Society)

Volume XCV
for 2006



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Editor Alison Taylor

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Obituaries

This past year CAS lost four long-standing supporters. All were eminent scholars and contributed, amongst other claims to fame, to church history and architecture on both the local and the international stage.

David Wilson

We are sorry to report that David Wilson died this August. David, a past president of CAS (1988–90) was an eminent Romanist and aerial photographer. He joined the Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography in 1965, and was Curator there from 1980 until his retirement. A full obituary will appear in the next *Proceedings*.

William Frend TD, MA, DPhil, DD, FSA 1916–2005

The Rev Prof William Hugh Cecil Frend's career began with a first in history at Oxford, followed by a scholarship to study the Early Church at Berlin and to explore antiquities in Tunisia and Algeria. In this time he became involved with French archaeologists in excavation of early Christian remains, leading to his first book *The Donatist Church: a movement in protest in Roman North Africa* (1952 and still, he was proud to say, in print). These travels were a good background for joining the War Office when war broke out, and his collection of photographs of North African dams and bridges were greeted as 'gold dust'. Later in the War he worked in psychological warfare, spending time in Italy where his job was to fabricate two rumours a day for inclusion in reports intended to be intercepted by the Germans. He gave radio broadcasts in Italy, and claimed that he was the first Allied officer to enter the Vatican in 1943. Some years later he helped draft the Tunisian constitution: he liked to quip that he was Father of the Tunisian Republic.

After the War, William was a research fellow at Nottingham and then at Gonville and Caius, before becoming a lecturer in divinity. As director of studies, he took Prince Charles and other undergraduates out on Sunday afternoons to excavate a Roman villa at Godmanchester (PCAS 61, 1968 and 73, 1978). Other rescue excavations at this time included rich Roman burials at Arbury (PCAS 49, 1955). As Professor of Ecclesiastical History and Dean of Divinity at Glasgow, he published several works, including *Martyrdom and Persecution in the Early Church* (1965), *The Rise of the Monophysite Movement* (1972), and *The Rise of Christianity* (1984). This last book covered the first six centuries of the Church and remains the most substantial work of its kind written by a British scholar for more than half a century. *The Archaeology of Early Christianity* came out in 1996. Archaeological work while at Glasgow included field work with the University of Michigan, at Carthage, where he helped to prevent an early baptistery from disappearing beneath a car park. He also excavated at Kasr Ibrim in Upper Egypt, with Jack Plumley. Going off on his own one day he investigated rubbish dumps outside the town walls, finding, amongst other treasures, the Latin text of part of an unknown 1st century BC poem by Cornelius Gallus, assumed to have been lost by a serving soldier.

Despite being a self-proclaimed heretic, after retirement he was ordained and for six years served as priest-in-charge at Barnwell, Northamptonshire, where he used the introduction this gave him to local landowners to discover and excavate a series of Roman sites, causing some trepidation amongst professional archaeologists. He later moved to Cambridgeshire where, throughout his late seventies and eighties, he kept up similar practices. He was a popular stand-in priest at Little Wilbraham, he befriended local metal detectors and thus recorded important new finds, and he dug many intriguing sites. These included Roman kilns at Penfold Farm, Milton (PCAS 86, 1997), and many years' work at Rookery Farm, Great Wilbraham (PCAS 81, 1992 for initial work), where there were significant finds of Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Anglo-Saxon dates as well as his beloved Romans. Much of this work was in co-operation with the Cambridge Archaeology Field Group, for whom he was a long-standing Vice Chair, as well as with the County Council Archaeology Field Unit. Artefacts that he identified at this time included Roman Christian pieces, and this lasting interest resulted in the chapter he wrote on Roman Christianity for *An Atlas of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire History* (T Kirby & S Oosthuizen 2000). He was always keen to publish his results, and those still outstanding will be prepared for future *Proceedings*. He was always a cheerful, amusing and very welcome friend to other local archaeologists, and is much missed from CAS activities.

Norman Pounds MA, PhD, FSA 1912-2006

Norman John Greville Pounds graduated with a first in history and geography at Fitzwilliam College, where GC Coulton was a favourite teacher and mentor, exciting a permanent interest in local history and parish churches. He became a master at Falmouth grammar school, acting as a firewatcher during the war, and wrote his PhD on the historical geography of Cornwall. A research fellowship at the London School of Economics followed. The LSE was evacuated to Cambridge, and in 1944 Norman returned to Fitzwilliam as a tutor; at the invitation of HC Darby he also composed the volume on Greece in the series of Admiralty handbooks for the allies' invading forces.

In 1950 he moved to a professorship at Indiana University, where he remained until retirement in 1977. Rapidly promoted, he was given the coveted title of 'distinguished professor' in 1959, and a year later was voted 'the most popular professor' on campus. He retained a house in Cambridge, where he returned each summer, and permanently on his retirement. During his long life Norman wrote more than thirty works on the history and geography of Europe from ancient times to the present. When told at 87 that he had leukaemia, he exclaimed: 'But I can't die yet: I've got another book to write.' In fact, he published three more and was working on another, still speeding through the University Library in his electric wheelchair. He was also teaching classes in the University of the Third Age and leading trips to survey churches.

One of his finest books was *A History of the English Parish* (2000), which revealed the Anglo-Saxon origins of the parish. In 2004 he explored the same themes in a local context in *Cambridgeshire: A History of Church and Parish*.

He served on CAS Council 1991/3, was a popular President 1992-4, and Vice President 1994-6.

Tony Baggs MA, FSA 1934-2006

Anthony Paget Baggs became enthusiastic about archaeological fieldwork as a schoolboy, and it was Grahame Clark who spotted his potential and helped him obtain admission to Peterhouse. During National Service he trained for the Royal Engineers and was sent to Malaya, where he acquired invaluable experience of surveying techniques. Returning to civilian life, Tony undertook a management course, but happily soon secured a post at Norwich Museum. His job was to curate technological collections, but he often recalled archaeological rescue situations where he was the one called out to cope. In 1963, he was appointed to the Cambridge office of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments for England. Both the ethos and the practice of the Commission, as they were then, appealed to him. The way it recorded England, parish by parish, was founded on topography, indeed on his beloved map references; its fundamental philosophy combined archaeology with art history in a manner unusual even in 2006 in presenting an holistic view of the physical aspect of every community in the land. During his years with RCHME, Tony worked on the two volumes devoted to Cambridgeshire, West Cambridgeshire and North East Cambridgeshire, and also on the fieldwork for the Stamford volume, working particularly closely with the head of the Cambridge office, Denys Spittle.

In 1971 Tony transferred to the twin pillar of traditional recording, the Victoria County History, where he stayed for 27 years. Like RCHME, the VCH had evolved a closely prescribed format for its parish histories and a style which preferred objective description to individual emphasis. The brevity of the final text of Tony's accounts of buildings, perhaps just four or five lines, often concealed months of research. He also excelled in the patient analysis of complex sites. He was the first person, for instance, to establish the layout and surviving fabric of the medieval precinct of St Werburgh's Abbey, Chester (now the Cathedral). On the office side of things, Tony was a reluctant visitor to London but developed a warm rapport with the county editors, so forming a valuable link between the centre and the work out in the field.

After he married Mysia in 1973 Tony embraced with enthusiasm his wife's Polish connections and became one of the few English scholars of the time to appraise seriously Poland's post-medieval architectural history. Their house became a home from home for visiting scholars from Eastern Europe, something particularly valuable during the difficult years before the fall of the Wall.

After retirement he moved to Ely but set up the Cambridge Historic Buildings Group in the Department of Architecture, University of Cambridge, with Nicholas Ray. This involved a great amount of recording work in and around Cambridge, culminating shortly before his death with the complex task of analysing the chaos of the Robert Sayle site, comprising, according to Tony, over a hundred different roof structures. He also re-engaged vigorously with churches, becoming Diocesan Archaeologist for the Ely diocese and visiting at least a church a week. He continued to guide his Ramblers' Association walks at home and abroad, including both Greece and India.

Tony served on numerous councils and committees. He was Chair of the Society of Architectural History of Great Britain 1973-6, President of the Royal Archaeological Institute 1992, and long-serving member of the Ely Diocesan Advisory Committee and the Fabrics Committee for Peterborough Cathedral. He was closely involved with the work of Cambridge Preservation Society, particularly at Wandlebury, after being co-opted onto the CPS Council of Management in 1969, serving as Vice Chairman of the Society and Chair of Wandlebury Sub Committee.

Tony was a member of CAS Council and a distinguished President, 1976-8. He stayed involved in Society business and activities and was supportive in many ways, being especially invaluable as a reliable referee for all things related to buildings, for which your Editor is eternally grateful.

With thanks to obituaries published in the Telegraph, Guardian (Peter Searby), Independent (Thomas Cocke), SALON (Society of Antiquaries On-Line), and to John Alexander