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## Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society Volume C (PCAS 100)

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This issue is the 100th Volume of the *Proceedings*. Our publications have been issued since the *Report presented to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society at its first General meeting* of 1841, and from our earliest days publication has been an important aspect of the Society's activities. In the 1840s and for long afterwards printing, paper, and labour were comparatively cheap, and *Communications* developed into the *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* from 1890, a quarto series (1840 to 1849 and 1908 to 1951) and octavo series (1851 to 1942) besides 'extra' and 'occasional' books. In some periods the output was decidedly thin (e.g. the early 1950s), yet the *Proceedings* were maintained even during the two world wars. They remain the public face of the Society beyond Cambridge and are exchanged annually with the publications of scores of learned bodies at home and round the world. By their quality, CAS will be widely judged.

Laws in the report of the 1841 AGM note the Society's aims: to encourage the study of the history and antiquities of the university, county and town of Cambridge. The Council at that time was dominated by clergymen, and the *Communications* were part of the subscription (an expensive ten shillings each term). By 1894, the 18 council members included only two clergymen and incorporated the University Librarian, three professors (two were Fellows of the Royal Society), two LLDs, one ScD, one LittD and only two entitled simply 'Esq'. At this time women were admitted as members of the Society and soon brought distinction to it, most notably Mary Bateson, the medieval historian. For all except the last two years of the past half century a succession of able women editors, beginning with Mary Cra'ster, has edited *PCAS*, seven have been Presidents, and women have occupied the office of Secretary for over 55 years.

MW Thompson, in *The Cambridge Antiquarian Society 1840–1990* (1990) notes that the rule restricting activities to those connected with the county, town and university was later relaxed. Over the years, the journal has included an eclectic mix, often addressing topics far removed from Cambridge, although of late we have tended to concentrate on town and county. Anthropological subjects, genealogy, and substantial

primary sources have been diverted into more specialised journals or publications by other societies, and Cambridgeshire Records Society, which has just issued its twentieth volume, was founded and for some time supported financially by CAS in order to publish detailed historical records. In recent years an important concern has been to balance excavation reports and local history. The two tend to have different audiences, and one is currently better funded.

The range of topics addressed in *PCAS* runs from the 'Lament of Eleanor Cobham Duchess of Gloucester when convicted of sorcery' edited by the Rev C Hardwick in Volume I, to 'The Morning Star Ceremony of the Pawnee' by Alfred Cort Haddon, FRS (the notable anthropologist, ethnologist, biologist and pioneer of the study of anthropology at Cambridge University for whom the Faculty library is named) in VI of the New Series (1906–1907), and from 'On an early Runic calendar found in Lapland in 1862' (E Magnusson in IV (1876–1877)) to 'Recent excavations in the Market Place, Cambridge' by Professor Hughes in the New Series IV (1898–1903). Hughes' inspections of excavations for construction of public lavatories were a forerunner of modern archaeological watching briefs. Thomas McKenny Hughes (d.1917), who held the chair of geology for over forty years, was an officer or Council member of the CAS for much of that time. Dozens of his papers were published and he gave as much time and expertise to local excavations as to his own subject. A 'British point of view' was the basis of a communication 'On the Ancient Earthworks between the mouth of the Tyne and the Solway' by Hughes in 1887. The New Series II (1894), by now '*The Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society with communications made to the Society*' included two reports from Professor Hughes, one 'On the Castle Hill, Cambridge', the other 'Exhibition of a Welsh wooden half-penny'.

Although the first communications were unadorned, illustrations appeared in 1859, and a striking set of 12 colour plates illustrating beads, urns, bucket fittings, amber and glass accompanied the 'Account of the excavation of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Barrington Cambridgeshire' communicated

by Walter K Foster Esq FSA (V 1880–1881). Colour returned to the cover and inside of *PCAS* in 2004. The wide geographical scope of those earlier issues is also illustrated by Volume I of the New Series (1893) which includes a contribution, 'On a Roman refuse pit in Alderney', by Baron Anatole von Hügel, Curator of the Museum which was established by the gift of the CAS collections to Cambridge University in 1884. In the volume for 1900–1901, Dr Haddon reported on 'Stone implements from Sarawak'. Communications from notable archaeologists include Flinders Petrie's 'Recent excavations in Sinai' (New Series V).

New Series XVII for 1920–1921 (pre-dating his seminal and pivotal work) includes 'Anglo-Saxon monumental Sculpture in the Cambridge District' by (Sir) Cyril Fox. Fox served briefly as the Society's Director of Excavations before moving to the National Museum of Wales and national distinction. He is best remembered here for taking the first of the new-fangled Cambridge PhD degrees in archaeology and transforming it into the classic *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region* (1923), which exemplifies his study of landscape and settlement. Another writer on the archaeology of the region was Tom (TC) Lethbridge, who appears in 1922–23 (age 22) as the joint author of a paper on an Upper Palaeolithic site near Fen Ditton. This was the first of many papers or reports, including three quarto volumes, which increased when he succeeded Fox as Director of Excavations. He was an important figure in the archaeology of the region for many years.

Some papers had originally been presented at meetings of the Society. Volume XXIX, 1926–1927, records that Gordon Childe, professor of archaeology at Edinburgh, noted for his promotion of the concepts of the 'Neolithic Revolution' and the 'Urban Revolution', had spoken on 'The Development of Bronze Age art in Hungary'. Other meetings that year included OGS Crawford, a pioneer in the use of aerial landscape photography, speaking on 'Air Photographs and Archaeology', and J Reid Moir on 'Ancient Man at Hoxne, Suffolk. JGD Clark (later Sir Grahame Clark, Disney professor from 1952–1974, editor of the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* and well known for his excavation at Star Carr), then still only a BA, provided a paper on 'A Stone Age site of Swaffham Prior' in XXXII, 1930–1931. Issues in the 1930s recorded the work of the Fenland Research Committee.

The 1940s saw reports of contributions by well known names such as Dorothy Garrod (Disney professor of archaeology at Cambridge, the first woman to hold a chair at Oxford or Cambridge) who 'communicated' in 1940 on 'The Cave paintings of Lascaux'. In 1946 Glyn Daniel (later Disney professor and broadcaster, chair of the TV programme *Animal, Vegetable and Mineral*) had spoken on 'The Long Barrow in Western Europe', Stuart Piggott (professor of archaeology at Edinburgh and one of the excavators at Sutton Hoo) communicated on 'Prehistoric India and the West' and 'Seal hunting in the Stone Age', and Mortimer Wheeler, archaeologist and broadcaster, populariser of archaeology and excavator of

Verulamium and Maiden Castle, reported on excavations at Verulamium.

As already noted, the journal reflected a decline in activity, or even interest, in the late 1940s and the 1950s, but the Society's incorporation of the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archaeological Society, a breakaway body with its own *Transactions* from 1900 to 1950, marks a gradual resurgence in contributions and some changes in their nature.

The journal includes early contributions of those still active in studies of the archaeology and the landscape of the region, such as Christopher Evans, David Hall, Sue Oosthuizen, Francis Pryor, Alison Taylor (County Archaeologist from 1974 to 1997) and Christopher Taylor (whose first contribution was over 30 years ago). The 1970s and 1980s in particular reflect the appliance of science in archaeology, and papers were published with titles incorporating terms such as 'radiocarbon' and 'resistivity'. The re-emergence and importance of the 'amateur' archaeologist, always a lively part of archaeology in Cambridgeshire, was marked more than 30 years ago with articles relating to the Cambridge Archaeology Field Group (which is still very active).

Changes in technology and the way in which information is accessed impacted on how the journal is prepared ('cut and paste' of manuscripts is now executed with a computer rather than scissors and glue) and will no doubt affect how it is published in future. It is now clear that some societies like ours intend to digitise their past publications and so put thousands of pages on the internet for easy reference. Thanks to camera-ready hard copy or machine-readable documents and 'pdf' formats, both paper and electronic versions of material *should* be as cheap (in relative terms) as they were in Victorian days and that long era of moveable metal type that ended a generation ago. But this should not threaten a well-designed printed version. If the printed *Proceedings* cost a large part of the Society's resources in future, it is surely proper that they do. May our successors have in the second hundred volumes of *PCAS* the same confidence and pleasure that we have in looking at the first.