

OBITUARIES

Eric Stuart Wood, 1912–1996

With the death of Eric Wood this Society and archaeology in general has lost a person whose erudition, integrity and wisdom combined over the years to make a significant contribution to the discipline he deeply cared for. Eric joined the Society in 1948, became a member of Council in 1951, Secretary 1958–66, and President 1980–4. He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1958, and became widely known and respected as the author of Collins' *Field guide to archaeology in Britain*, first published in 1963.

Eric was a quiet man with deep convictions and great intellectual strength and a dedication to the widest concepts of archaeology. There is said to be a 'time and tide in the affairs of men', and his perception of the opportunities presented by the developing scene led him, by example, to enthuse others, greatly to the benefit of what is now described as the 'heritage'. The post-war years ushered in an unprecedented spate of land use with a technology that could destroy in hours what had survived for millennia. National concern at the loss of archaeological evidence arose coincidentally with Eric's service on the Society's Excavation Committee, which he joined in the late 1950s, becoming its Secretary and then Chairman from 1968 to 1975.

Over this period he guided and encouraged and his support of new technology gave the lie to the idea that civil servants were out of touch. The writer well remembers the excitement of the late 60s and early 70s: the concerns, the hopes, the failures, the achievements and, because our London offices were close together, the lunch-time discussions. To exchange views with those sharp eyes under bushy brows was a privilege not easily forgotten. For those who are accustomed to professional involvement it is sometimes difficult to appreciate the sea-change that came about during this period, largely due to Eric's — and others' — dedication.

The catalyst in Surrey was the advent of motorways, although as early as 1968 representations had been made to Surrey County Council about the need to identify proposed development. With Eric's support, a rescue excavation scheme and the purchase of a copy of the OS archaeological index laid important foundations, culminating in 1972 with professional observation of motorway construction and the appointment of an archaeological officer for Surrey. This was unique in that the post, funded jointly by the County and the Department of the Environment, was under the aegis of this Society. In parallel to these events Eric became Chairman of the Southwark Archaeological Excavations Committee in 1967 — he remained in this position until 1981 — and early in 1972 the Committee was able to employ a full-time field officer. The advent of professional archaeologists where amateurs once reigned could have caused ill-feeling, but the rescue excavation liaison meetings chaired initially by Eric did much to identify a common purpose and engender goodwill between the two groups.

In 1971 the issue of industrial archaeology was raised in the Society, initially under the Conservation Committee, and it is here that Eric's role as a polymath may be clearly seen, for in 1975 an Industrial Archaeology Committee was formed under his chairmanship, later developing into an independent group associated with the Society. As President of the Society he set the seal on many of these events, but he should not be thought of as just a committee man. His fieldwork extended from the 1940s to excavations of medieval and later glass works in Surrey in the 1960s, and continued until recent times in the support of his publications.

Eric followed the great British tradition of gifted amateurs, and it is no slur on his achievements to use this term: rather is it a compliment to a man who on one hand had the responsibilities of a senior civil servant, and on the other achieved a status in the discipline of archaeology of which any professional could be proud. This Society and archaeology in general has benefited from his presence; his last work, *Historical Britain*, published in the year before his death, will stand as a monument to his achievements. We are the poorer with his passing.

JOHN HAMPTON

Dr A J Clark, 1930–1997

Tony Clark, who had an international reputation for the successful application of geophysical techniques to archaeological problems, died of cancer on 3 June 1997. Tony was educated at the Royal Grammar School Guildford but left at the age of sixteen to enter the publishing trade. As a young member of the Surrey Archaeological Society he excavated the Romano-British pottery kilns at Overwey, Tilford. He then did National Service in the Photographic Interpretation School of the Royal Air Force before joining the Research and Development Department of Distillers Company Limited (later BP) at Epsom. He stayed at Distillers for sixteen years and became head of the micro-assembly laboratory of the instrumentation section. During this period he studied chemistry, physics and mathematics at Birkbeck College and pursued his archaeological interests by undertaking excavations at Wansdyke and Cunetio. In particular at Cunetio he used the first transistorized resistivity meter for detecting walls. He had developed this instrument with a colleague, John Martin, and it evolved into the Martin-Clark resistivity meter which was first produced commercially in 1960. Tony was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1961.

I first met Tony Clark in 1967 at a SyAS symposium in Guildford. He had recently joined the Ancient Monuments Laboratory of the then Ministry of Public Buildings and Works to start the geophysics section and was based at Lambeth Bridge House. I was working nearby in the Physics Department of the University of Surrey which was planning its move from Battersea to Guildford. It was natural for us to discuss collaborative projects and these started to come to fruition when the University moved. Tony became a Visiting Fellow and later a Visiting Senior Lecturer in the Physics Department. He became involved in the supervision of a wide range of student projects on, for example, neutron activation analysis of soils, electron probe microanalysis of medieval glass, archaeomagnetic dating of pottery kilns, trace element analysis of individual tree rings, the development of a spinner magnetometer, writing software for computer processing the results of geophysical surveys and computer-assisted tomography of cremation urns. The Physics Department electronics workshop also took over the manufacture of the Martin-Clark resistivity meter. Tony gave lectures in archaeometry in the department and also helped to organize adult education evening classes at the University. In addition he kept a close eye on the excavation which the relatively inexperienced University Archaeological Society undertook at Guildford Park Manor in the early 1970s.

Gradually I personally became more involved in industrial archaeology but found that Tony could also be helpful in this area. For example, he had become secretary of the Royal Archaeological Institute and therefore involved in publicizing the Lloyds Bank instruments awards and he encouraged successful bids from the Surrey Industrial History Group and the Godalming Water Turbine Trust for expensive pieces of equipment. He represented SyAS on the GWTT and guided SIHG in proposing the Chilworth gunpowder site for scheduling as an ancient monument.

My last contact with Tony was about six weeks before he died, when I was due to chair an Institute of Physics lecture on geophysical prospection given by him at the University. Unfortunately Tony was too ill to deliver the lecture but had been able to provide a colleague with enough detailed information to present it on his behalf. However we were all delighted that Tony was able to sit in the audience, take an active part in the discussion and sign copies of the revised edition of his book *Seeing beneath the soil*, which had recently been published.

Much of the above is a very personal account of a few of Tony Clark's many contributions to archaeology in Surrey and elsewhere. I hope however that it illustrates Tony's willingness to assist colleagues, all of whom became friends, to pursue their projects. He will be greatly missed but the research to which he was devoted will continue, especially through the work of the Clark Laboratory of the Museum of London Archaeology Service which opened in January 1996.