

Obituary



Robert Arthur (Bob) Rutland
(1951–2022)

Bob Rutland was born in Maidstone Kent and the family moved to Beckenham in 1951. As a teenager he played the piano with a jazz group and his love of listening to and playing a variety of music remained throughout his life. He studied ancient history and archaeology at Birmingham University before going on to do research at Keele. His first job was in the Grosvenor Museum in Chester where he developed a particular interest in coins. He moved to Reading in 1967 where he was involved in excavations.

Bob came to Leicester in 1972 to take up the post of Keeper of Antiquities for the City Museum Service. In 1974 museums transferred to the County Council. He was based at Newarke Houses Museum although he also had responsibility for Jewry Wall Museum and, after 1976, for the Archaeological Survey Team.

Bob was equally at home with the Social History and Archaeology collections. When it was decided to divide the Social History and Archaeology parts of the job Bob chose archaeology and moved to Jewry Wall Museum. Bob's desk was always impeccably tidy, and he kept detailed diaries. Field archaeology was now behind him – never seen by the present writer with a trowel in his hand and could never be tempted to join the Survey Team in fieldwalking.

His extensive knowledge of all sorts of archaeological material, however, were essential for the museum identification service. This brought him into fruitful contact with many metal detectorists building bridges that paved the way for the Portable Antiquities Scheme. He was involved in the training and mentoring of museum archaeologists around the country through the Museum Association of which he was a Fellow. His gazetteer of Anglo-Saxon sites in Leicestershire was published in 1975 as part of *Anglo-Saxon and Viking Leicestershire* (Clough, Dornier and Rutland 1975) still remains a useful source. In 2006 he wrote a history of the Society, marking its 150th anniversary.

When the City of Leicester became a unitary authority again in 1997, Bob stayed at Jewry Wall Museum, so his career both began and ended working for Leicester City Museums. Bob retired in 2000, but continued his archaeological interests in retirement, keeping up to date with the latest developments and being a regular attendee at lectures of both the LAHS and the Fieldworkers. He had not long relinquished the Presidency of the LAHS when he died after a short illness, aged 81 in April 2022.

Bob was a devoted and active member of the Church of England where his museum training and insistence on accurate record keeping enabled him to update the churchyard records. He is survived by his wife Sybil, daughter Charlotte and son Philip and their families.

He will be very sadly missed.

Peter Liddle

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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