

Obituary

Thomas Wyatt Bagshawe F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S., F.M.A.

Archaeologists and others concerned with the past, and the present and the future of Bedfordshire will long have cause to remember the life and work of Thomas Wyatt Bagshawe who died on 28 January 1976. He was then in his seventy-sixth year. Educated at Rugby and Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, he did not remain for sufficient terms beyond matriculation to take a degree. His initial studies were in geology, with a strong interest in zoology. The practical streak in a man who was the second son of Arthur Bagshawe, founder of Bagshawe and Co Ltd, mechanical handling engineers of Dunstable was always strong. In 1920, he joined an expedition to Graham Land in the Falkland Island Dependencies, and remained for two years, enduring a winter with one companion, the two of them living in an upturned boat. From this period came some of his most fruitful scholarship including one of the earliest studies of the habits of that engaging bird, the penguin. From it came also his one full-length book, *Two Men in the Antarctic*, upon which his personal copy bears the date 25 August 1940. Earlier in the same year, on 23 March 1940, the first of two projected children's books, *Pompey was a Penguin*, appeared; the Second World War intervened to prevent the publication of the second, *Wuffy was a Whale*.

Bagshawe was more, however, than a dilettante. His contribution to geographical, and particularly to polar, research was recognised by the Fellowship of the Royal Geographical Society in 1923. His interests here also were recognised by election as a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London and as a Fellow of the Geological Society. The recognition was made more signal by the naming of the "Bagshawe Glacier" in 1958. Upon his return from the Antarctic, he immediately began to take a keen interest in antiquities, an interest recognised by William Austin, Luton's historian, who was especially grateful for his assistance with the recovery of the finds from the Saxon cemetery on Argyle Avenue, Luton. Austin noted:

Mr Thomas Wyatt Bagshawe of Dunstable, an enthusiastic young antiquary, came to my assistance by superintending the excavations

and ensuring the preservation of any articles that might be found.

It was with Bagshawe's 'Notes on the Excavations' that Austin's summary of the site was published. On 12 January 1928 the Society of Antiquaries of London elected Bagshawe to its fellowship, perhaps of all the honours he received that of which he was the most proud. Five years later he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

Even before 1928, Bagshawe, with the assistance of James Saunders and William Austin in Luton, and more single-handedly in Dunstable, had taken steps to begin the foundation not of one museum but of two. Dunstable Museum was opened in 1924, Luton Museum in 1927. Of Luton Museum, Bagshawe served first as honorary curator and later as honorary director from 1927 to 1947. To the task of founding a museum he brought an able mind, used to the affairs of business: from 1925 to 1947 he was a director of the family firm. His connections with the business world were deeper: he was a liveryman of the Curriers' Company from 1936 and its Past Master in 1966-67. For almost twenty years, not a continuous period for he served in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in the Second World War, he combined business with museum work. He was made an Associate of the Museum's Association in 1933, and became one of the earliest to be elected to the rank of Fellow. As a man who gave his services voluntarily, the recognition is possibly unique.

He was wide-ranging in his interests. Archaeology did not hold for him, as it does for some an enduring fascination. He moved easily into what he saw as social history, particularly on the small-scale and spent much of the latter years of his life, from 1947 onwards collecting material for a work on the folklife of Bedfordshire.

In part of this, he saw social history as British Ethnography. The Royal Anthropological Institute, of which he was a Fellow from 1948 and a Vice-President 1952-55, was encouraged to think about a Museum of English Rural Life. The opening of the Moot Hall at Elstow as a collection of seven-

teenth-century life had his fullest support. He was an honorary advisor from 1952 to 1958 and contributed to its guide.

Although he lived outside the county from 1947, first in Cambridge and then in Sussex, he returned to live in Bedford in 1973.

The county remained his spiritual home. He collected much. The collections of Luton Museum owe much to his assiduous talent for acquisition. Much was given; the Borough of Luton purchased the remainder. But it was more than objects: the finds from Luton's Saxon cemetery, the evidence for rural crafts. There are also the books. More than one paper has been possible because of the books which Thomas Wyatt Bagshawe collected. Books on every conceivable subject, from copies of rare works of foreign scholarship of the nineteenth century on the palaeolithic through a whole

gambade to Victorian reminiscences on the Coaching Age, fill the shelves of Luton Museum and are well-used. But the man collected more than a single library. In latter years he built up a second collection: the Bagshawe Library now in the Local History Collection of Bedfordshire County Library at County Hall.

For these two superb benefactions — their weight can only be measured in the use which is made of them — and equally initially for the bringing into being of Luton Museum, the "man who was lonelier than Adam" who was one of the last of those who tried to do all things rather than concentrate on a narrow spectrum deserves recognition as one who has set in motion the means whereby wide-ranging scholarship might be written.

D.H.K.

Thomas Wyatt Bagshawe: a Bibliography

Compiled by DAVID H. KENNETT

INTRODUCTION

Thomas Wyatt Bagshawe wrote on a wide range of topics, including much that is beyond archaeological interest. However, a man's writings are best listed as a whole. This bibliography attempts to provide as complete a list as possible of the contribution of T.W. Bagshawe to scholarly literature, whatever the field within which the item falls. Thus the geological and natural history interests of the Antarctic years finds a place as readily as items on museums and on Saxon archaeology.

In preparing this bibliography, the compiler has received much help from the staffs of Luton Museum and the Local History Collection of Bedfordshire County Library. To all he extends his warmest thanks for searching out some of the less immediately obvious pieces.

ABBREVIATIONS

Most periodical titles have been given in full: T.W.B. contributed perhaps only once to them. However, some periodicals and all newspapers have been given in the list in summary form.

Ant. J. *Antiquaries Journal* (London, 1920 to date).
Bed.s.Mag. *Bedfordshire Magazine* (Luton, 1947 to date).

BTS *Bedfordshire Times and Bedfordshire Standard* (Bedford, 1939 to date).
DBG *Dunstable Borough Gazette* (Dunstable, 1865 to date).
J.B.A.A. *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* (London, 1843 to date).
LN *Luton News* (Luton, 1891 to date).
Mus.J. *Museums Journal*, (London, 1901 to date).

1923

'Report of the Expedition to Graham Land', *Geographical Journal* 62, 174-194.

1924

'*Dumno's Originals*: the identity of the author'.
DBG 27 August, 3 September, 10 September 1924.
'Dunstable', in *Dunstable: official guide and directory*.

1925

An Early Iron Age Spear found near Dunstable (Dunstable Museum publication).

1926

Dunstable Library and Museum: First Annual Report, 1925-1926.

1927

- Dunstable Library and Museum: Second Annual Report, 1926-1927.*
'Totternhoe Castle', *J.B.A.A.*, 33, 215-218.
(with A.R. Martin), 'The Dominican Priory of Dunstable, with an account of some recent excavations on the site', *J.B.A.A.*, 33, 321-342; T.W.B. contributed 'Part II: An Account of the Recent Excavations', *ibid.*, 335-342.
Guide to the Priory Church of St Peter, Dunstable,

1928

- Dunstable Library and Museum: Third Annual Report, 1927-1928.*
What to see in Luton Museum.
(with W. Austin), 'A Saxon Cemetery at Luton, Beds.', *Ant. J.*, 8, 177-192; T.W.B. contributed 'Notes on the Excavations', *ibid.*, 179-192.
'Early Iron Age Objects from Harpenden', *Ant. J.* 8, 520-522.

1929

- Dunstable Library and Museum: Fourth Annual Report, 1928-1929.*

1930

- Guide to the Priory Church of St Peter, Dunstable* (second edition).
Dunstable Library and Museum: Fifth Annual Report 1929-1930.

1931

- Dunstable Library and Museum: Sixth Annual Report, 1930-1931.*
'A Saxon Burial at [Dallow Road] Luton', *Ant. J.*, 11, 282-284.

1932

- Dunstable Library and Museum: Seventh Annual Report, 1931-1932.*
'Two Inscribed Stones in St Peter's Church, Dunstable', *Ant. J.*, 12, 175-177.

1933

- 'Disappearing Bedfordshire', *LN* 2 March 1933.
(with C.E. Freeman), *The Romance of the Straw Hat: being a history of the industry and a guide to the collection* (Luton Museum).

1934

- 'Some Bedfordshire Worthies: Lecture to the Dunstable Literary and Scientific Society', *LN* 8 February 1934.

1935

- 'Bone Objects made by Prisoners-of-War during the Republican and Napoleonic Wars, 1793-1815: Part I', *Apollo*, 21, no. 123, 146-150.
'Old Oak in Buckingham Gate', *Apollo*, 21, no. 126, 372-373.
'Bone Objects made by Prisoners-of-War during the Republican and Napoleonic Wars, 1793-1815: Part II', *Apollo*, 22, no. 127, 29-31.
'Papier Mache Cigar Cases', *Apollo*, 22, no. 128, 95-96.
'Straw Marquetry: Part I', *Apollo*, 22, no. 121 283, 286.
Fourth Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 1935 (Luton Museum).

1936

- 'Loan Exhibition of Furniture of the Gothic and Early Tudor Periods: Part I', *Apollo*, 23, no. 135, 164-167.
'Loan Exhibition of Furniture of the Gothic and Early Tudor Periods: Part II', *Apollo*, 23, no. 137, 272-275.
'Straw Marquetry: Part II', *Apollo*, 23, no. 138, 332-335.
'A Group of Early European Sculpture', *Apollo*, 24, no. 144, 342-347.
Catalogue of Loan Exhibition of Furniture of the Gothic and Early Tudor Periods (Luton Museum).
Fifth Annual Report for Year ended 31 March 1936 (Luton Museum).
'Miss Hannah', *The Hatters' Gazette*, 60, no. 717, 446-448.
'Samplers', *Leisure*, 5 May 1936, 65 and 84.
'Old, Patched and Perfect', *Leisure*, 11 August, 1936, 32, 33, and 61.

1937

- 'Open Cupboards', *Apollo*, 25, no. 148, 204-209.
'Earthenware and Porcelain with Royal Associations', *Apollo*, 25, no. 149, 271-277.
'Loan Exhibition of Furniture at Luton Public Museum', *Apollo*, 26, no. 151, 24-28.
'Baby-Cages', *Apollo*, 26, no. 156, 325-327.
Sixth Annual Report for year ended 31 March 1937 (Luton Museum).
'Souvenirs of Tight-Lacing', *The Antique Collector*, 8, 322-323.

1938

- 'Engraved Horn Mugs', *Apollo*, 27, no. 161, 254-257.

- 'Why Provincial Museums fail in their appeal', *Town and County Councillor*, 3, no. 3, 17-24.
- 'Our Tradition of Simplicity as revealed in English furniture of the early eighteenth century', *The Antique Collector*, 8, 235-238.
- Seventh Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 1938*, (Luton Museum).
- Review: J.N. Loring, *The Anatomy of English Chair Types*, (1937), *Mus. J.*, 37, 528.
- 'Notes on the habits of Gentoo and Ringed or Antarctic Penguin', *Transactions of the Zoological Society of London*, 24, pt. 3, 185-306.

1939

- 'Wood-Carving Associated with Catherine of Aragon', *Apollo*, 29, no. 172, 179-181.
- 'A Year amongst Whales and Penguins', *Journal of the Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire*, 36, 30-36.
- Letter: 'The Markham Report: Some Comments and Suggestions', *Mus. J.*, 38, 558-560.
- Review: W.G. Menzies, *Period Furniture for Everyman: a Handbook for the Amateur*, (1939), *Mus. J.*, 39, 374.
- Annual Report of the Luton Public Museum for 1938-39*.

1940

- Annual Report of Luton Public Museum for 1939-40*.
- Two Men in the Antarctic*, (Cambridge University Press; xii + 292pp).
- Pompey was a Penguin*, (Oxford University Press: 64pp; a children's book).
- [volume not issued] *Wuffy was a Whale*, (a children's book).

1942

- 'An Appreciation of Jannion Steele Elliott', *BTS* 2 April 1942.

1944

- Luton Museum: A Temporary Guide*.

1948

- 'Fans and Fan Makers', *The Antique Collector*, 19, 111-116.

1949

- 'A Scheme for the Development of a Museum of English Life and Traditions', *Man*, 49, 41-43.

- Review: A.S. Wiltlin, *The Museum: Its History and Its Tasks in Education*, *Man*, 49, 45-46, art. 54.

- Review: F.W. Robins, *The Story of the Bridge*, *Man*, 49, 92, art. 123.

- Communication: 'The Folk Museum', *Man*, 49, 129-130, art. 167.

- 'Am Fasga Oh Highland Folk Museum, Kingussie, Invernessshire', *Folklore*, 60, 388-391.

- 'Romano-British Hoes and Rakes', *Ant. J.*, 29, 86-87.

1950

- Correspondence: 'A Thatching Implement?', *Man*, 50, 84, art. 131.

- 'Halifax Museums (Dives House Barn, near Huddersfield)', *Folklore*, 61, 54-55.

- 'Pancake Bell, Toddington, Bedfordshire', *Folklore*, 61, 167.

- Comment: 'Folk Museum', Bishop Hooper's Lodging, Westgate Street, Gloucester', *Folklore*, 61, 223-224.

- 'A Plea for a Museum of English Life and Traditions', *The Advancement of Science*, 7, no. 25, 21-24.

- (Edited and Sponsored), *Suggestions concerning Classification, Storage and Labelling of Objects illustrating English Life and Traditions*, (Royal Anthropological Institute: British Ethnography Committee).

1951

- Review: H.J. Fleure, *A Natural History of Man in Britain*, *Man*, 51, 175, art. 297.

- Review: L. Twiston-Davies and H.J. Lloyd-Jones, *Welsh Furniture: An Introduction*, *Man*, 51, 175-176, art. 298.

- 'Fulling stocks at Keighley', *Folklore*, 62, 413.

- 'The Gallery of English Costume, Platt Hall, Manchester', *Folklore*, 62, 415.

- Comment: 'Artificial Lighting', *Folklore*, 62, 478-479.

1952

- 'The Benton Fletcher Collection of Musical Instruments', *Folklore*, 63, 62.

- 'Buckland Abbey as a Drake Museum', *Folklore*, 63, 62.

- 'Castle Museum, York', *Folklore*, 63, 63-64.

- 'Cotswold Tradition: an exhibition at Cirencester', *Folklore*, 63, 126-127.

- 'Cambridge and County Museum', *Folklore*, 63, 127-128.

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1953

- 'Elstow (Bedfordshire) May Festival, 1953', *Folklore*, 63, 341-342.
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 Review: G.E. Fussell, *The Farmer's Tools, Man*, 53, 79, art. 117.
 Review: E.C. Curwen and G. Hatt, *Plough and Pasture: The Early History of Farming, Man*, 53, 137-138, art. 213.

1954

- Review: G.H. Riviere and S. Tardieu, *Objets domestiques des Provinces de France dans la Vie Familiale et les Arts Menagers, Man*, 54, 32, art. 31.
 Review: F.W. Robins, *The Smith: Traditions and Lore of an Ancient Craft, Man*, 54, 50, art. 68.

1955

- 'Museum of Costume, Erridge Castle, Tunbridge Wells', *Folklore*, 66, 254-255.
 'Ulster Folk Museum, Belfast', *Folklore*, 66, 255.
 'How "Runners" got a living from the land by picking flints for farmers on the hills from Burtham, Sussex', *Folklore*, 66, 415-416.
 'A Stable Churn from [Dixies Farm, Ashwell, Hertfordshire]', *Folklore*, 66, 416-417.
 Review: Sir Cyril Fox and Lord Raglan, *Monmouthshire Houses: A Study of Building Techniques and Smaller House Plans in the Fifteenth to Seventeenth Centuries: Part III, Renaissance Houses, c. 1590-1714, Man*, 55, 78, art. 97.

1956

- 'Rake and Scythe Handle Making in Bedfordshire and Suffolk', *Gwerin*, 1, 34-36.

1961

- 'The Itinerants: I The Salesmen', *Beds. Mag.*, 8, 91-100.
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1962

- 'The Itinerants: II The Craftsmen', *Beds. Mag.*,

8, 136-143.

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Review: H.J. Hine, *Dictionary of Agricultural Engineering, Man*, 62, 41, art. 58.

1963

'Holidays and Souvenirs', *Beds. Mag.*, 8, 311-318. (with R.W. Bagshawe), 'An Early Antiquary and His Friends', *Beds. Mag.*, 9, 59-60.

Review: J.G. Jenkins, *Agricultural Transport in Wales, Man*, 63, 200, art. 263.

1964

'The Passing of the Country Baker', *Beds. Mag.*, 9, 166-170 and 209-213.

'Dunstable Flints for the Potteries', *Beds. Mag.*, 9, 221-222.

'Gypsies in Bedfordshire', *Beds. Mag.*, 9, 268-275.

Review: J.W.Y. Higgs, *Folklife Collection and Classification, Man*, 64, 92-93, art. 108.

1965

'Appreciation: C.E. Freeman', *LN* 25 March 1965, reprinted *Beds. Mag.*, 10, 6.

'Mrs Beeton visits Dunstable', *Beds. Mag.*, 9, 309-310.

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1965-1966

'Memories of Three Dunstable Houses: I Grove House', *Beds. Mag.*, 10, 91-98, 133-137, 200-207, and 221-228.

1967

'Memories of Three Dunstable Houses: II The Grey House', *Beds. Mag.*, 11, 9-14.

'W.G.S.: A Man to Remember', *Beds. Mag.*, 11, 73-79.

1968

'Of Pebbles and Famous Geologists', *Beds. Mag.*,

11, 136-137.

'Memories of Three Dunstable Houses: II The Grey House (concluded)', *Beds. Mag.*, 11, 167-172.

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'How Dunstable gained – and lost – a museum', *DGB* 16 February 1968.

'Of Brewers – and a famous fire', *DBG* 14 June 1968.

'Memories of Dunstable's Railway', *DBG* 9 August 1968.

'The Totternhoe Caverns: The History of the Quarries', *DBG* 4 October and 11 October 1968.

1968-1969

'Memories of Three Dunstable Houses: III Kingsbury', *Beds. Mag.*, 11, 212-216, 237-243, and 353-358; with a contribution from J. Roberts, *ibid.*, 306-313.

1972

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The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is indebted to Luton Museum for a grant towards the cost of the publication of this bibliography.