

MISCELLANY

George Wharton Ian Hodgson

Ian Hodgson, known earlier to his many friends in the north of England as George, was born in Whitley Bay in 1929, and died in September 1986 while on a fishing trip in Northumberland. Ian left school at 16 to work as a laboratory assistant in the chemical industry, and the following year entered King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, then part of the University of Durham. He graduated with a General Degree with Honours in Science in 1949, and this training in biology provided a firm basis for his later work in archaeozoology. This work was, however, only one aspect of a very varied career, for Ian was successively a school master and college lecturer and his osteological work was always carried on alongside numerous other commitments. Outside these academic activities he was involved in musical affairs. He had been a Director of Northern Opera Ltd (Newcastle)

Front cover: Multivariate data, the bread, butter and bane of environmental archaeology.

since 1979 and during his time in Dundee he was an enthusiastic member of the choir of the Episcopal Cathedral and it was there that a memorial service for him was held on 25th October 1986, with an address by The Primus.

After obtaining the Diploma in Education in 1950, Ian held a Regular Commission in the Royal Air Force in the Education and Administrative Branches, which marked the start of a varied and successful teaching career. He was a schoolmaster from 1953 to 1964 at Tynemouth Higher, Blyth Grammar, and at Rutherford Grammar, Newcastle, where he was Head of Biology. From 1970 to 1973 he was Head of Kenton Lower School where during three hectic years he had the opportunity to put into practice some of his own ideas on education. Earlier, he had been very involved in the introduction of Nuffield Biology Schemes in Tyneside.

Between 1964 and 1966 he was Lecturer in Science at Sunderland College of Education, and from 1966 to 1970 Senior Lecturer in Applied Science at Northern Counties College of Education at Newcastle. Appointed Senior Lecturer in Applied Science at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art in Dundee in 1973 he was responsible for the development of a wide range of science courses in the College.

Ian had an unending enthusiasm for education in its broadest sense and was equally at home in school classrooms, college laboratories, research seminars, and extra-mural classes. He served on bodies as diverse as School Certificate Examinations Boards, and Area Training Organisation Boards. He persuaded, encouraged and cajoled his students to further efforts, and nothing gave him greater pleasure than when they, and younger colleagues from his earlier days, were successful in obtaining further qualifications and enjoyed their studies as much as he did. He was disappointed, and could never quite understand when colleagues failed to share his enthusiasm for education and his tireless attempts to provide better and fuller programmes for students of all sorts. His involvement with the Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau, of which he became Chairman in 1979, was a further example of his wide-ranging involvement in education in the broadest sense and in community affairs. Ian's interests also extended from teaching practice and education administration to education theory and these were reflected in his being awarded an M.Ed. by Newcastle University in 1973 for work in these areas and for a thesis on 'The History of Teacher Training in Northumberland'.

Education and the teaching of applied science, however, were only a part of Ian's career. In 1958 a Roman well was discovered during building works along the West Road, Newcastle, and pottery fragments were recovered. Ian, who worked opposite the site, was interested in the considerable number of animal bones which were left and he collected these for safe-keeping. His formal study of this material was begun in 1964 under Professor Eric Birley, and myself. His studies soon expanded and by 1967 he had completed an M.Sc. thesis for the University of Durham on the comparative analysis of faunal remains from a number of Roman and Native Sites in Northern England. Concurrently he had established a type collection of animal bones, through a wide variety of contacts ranging from landowners and gamekeepers to butchers and workers in a local glue factory.

Through the early 1970s a series of reports on animal remains from sites in northern England appeared in Archaeologia Aeliana. The Animals of Vindolanda was published in 1976 and a more detailed account, in 1977, in Vindolanda II. Reports were completed on material from Holy Island, from Oxfordshire, from Colchester and, beyond the Roman world, from Navan in Northern Ireland. His move to Scotland and subsequent financial support for a sequence of research assistants from the Scottish Development Department, were marked by

an expansion in output and reports were prepared on the large collections of medieval animal remains found on recent excavations in Scottish burghs, and it was on this material that Ian spoke at the AEA Symposium on Site, Environment and Economy held at St Andrews in 1980.

At the time of his death he had prepared some thirty papers on animal remains from sites, many of the later reports being authored jointly by Ian and his research assistants, Angela Jones and Catherine Smith. The detailed comparative study of the Scottish medieval material and of material from selected Roman sites in northern England formed the basis of his Ph.D. Thesis awarded by the University of Dundee in 1981. In the thesis and subsequent papers he provided a substantial amount of new data and in a unique and highly competent manner discussed the osteological data in relation to other evidence. Of special importance has been his discussion of the economy of medieval Scottish burghs in relation to the archaeological evidence and their legal status. In such analysis he demonstrated a combination of careful science and critical historical scholarship thereby adding a new dimension to archaeozoological studies.

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AEA Conference and AGM: 'The Beginnings of Agriculture'

University College, Cardiff, 18th-21st September 1987

These conferences simply get better and better. Those AEA members who opted out of the 1987 Conference because it was 'another early domestication talking shop and not my subject anyway' missed eighteen diverse papers of a high academic standard overall, some lively discussion of new data and ideas, and field excursions which met the essential criteria of being informative and fun. On the other hand, they also missed the Aberdare Hall catering, which had served further to bond the conference in a spirit of shared adversity.

David Harris launched the meeting on Friday evening by describing his own initial misgivings about the conference theme, then surveyed the various theories and models for the emergence of agriculture on which the archaeological data have, often tenuously, been hung. Two topics were introduced which recurred throughout the meeting; the relative merits of gradualism as against the concept of a 'Neolithic revolution', and the project which Harris and various colleagues are basing on material from Tel Abu Hureyrah.

Alert wakefulness was at a premium on Saturday morning. Ken Thomas assured us that he didn't "... want to get sidetracked into discussing what reality is at nine o'clock on a Saturday morning", but clearly felt no compunction about discussing various complex theoretical ecological models as bases for explaining why and at what rate agriculture was adopted. In a stimulating half-hour, we were introduced to a hierarchical model of interacting sub-systems. Barbara Noddle subsequently summed up the feelings of many with her remark "I always thought a holon was a subatomic particle before I came here". From models to data, and accounts of current thoughts on the domestication of caprines and cereals were given by Tony Legge and Gordon Hillman, both of them using data from Abu Hureyrah. The next three papers gradually coaxed the conference nearer to home, by way of

Sebastian Payne's lucid account of his work at Franchthi Cave, Greece, Paul Halstead's creative use of ethnography to provide a model for the spread of farming onto the Central European loess, and John Evans' description of his recent work locating early Neolithic land surfaces and valley fills in North Wiltshire. Evans' paper was a late addition to the programme, having been compiled at a mere two days' notice, following the non-arrival of a promised contribution. The haste didn't show, and it was good to see snails intruding amongst the goats and grains.

A homicidally-spiced lasagne for lunch failed to dampen either the enthusiasm or the quality of the Saturday afternoon papers. Vertebrates were variously discussed by Caroline Grigson and Simon Davis (whose use of the educational cartoon is definitely to be encouraged), and two German colleagues then shed light on some recent palaeobotanical work in Central Europe. Hansjörg Küster has been investigating pollen sequences from the Northern fringe of the Alps, where the onset of agriculture is clearly marked in the pollen data, though virtually absent from the archaeological record. Angela Kreuz drew murmurs of sympathy when she admitted to having identified 10 000 pieces of charcoal from a Linearbandkeramic settlement. Analyses of the spatial distribution of the taxa, and comparison with associated pollen sequences have shown a remarkably sophisticated selection and use of different timbers. Keeping to the resource exploitation theme, David Robinson rounded off a very full day of lectures by describing his and Peter Rasmussen's work on botanical remains from the lake-village at Weier, in Switzerland.

Saturday evening's AGM will have been formally reported in the AEA Newsletter, and needs little comment here. The meeting was held in the oak-panelled common room of Aberdare Hall, with portraits of former Wardens of this, one of Britain's first Halls of Residence exclusively for ladies, gazing blue-stockingedly down. All of this was clearly lost on Nick Balaam, whose enthusiastic discussion of any and every point, on or off the Agenda, ensured a lively meeting.

The second day of lectures started gently, with Barbara Noddle casting a vet's eye over the material remains of early domestic and wild ruminants from Britain, and introducing her pet mouflon along the way. Royston Clark chose a more theoretical framework for arguing that the whole process from Palaeolithic hunting through to sedentary cultivation can be viewed as a series of risk-management exercises, stages within one continuous process rather than discrete cultural events. It was during Clark's lecture that the only projector jam of the conference occurred. Within seconds, a back-up machine was in position and normal service was resumed: well done Neville! Keeping a spare projector to hand is risk-management of the most sensible kind.

Risks were further to the fore when Annie Grant presented her own and Roy Entwistle's somewhat iconoclastic thoughts on the development of agriculture through the British Neolithic and Bronze Age. It was a challenging thesis, replacing the sedentary, cereal-based, plough-using Neolithic which we have grown to accept with a system of hoe-based horticulture and stock-rearing, in which cattle may have had a largely symbolic, even ritual role. It was a brave thesis to present to an audience which included John Evans and Tony Legge, and in the heated discussion which ensued, an onslaught of data left it looking rather battered and bruised. None the less, it was good to see a sceptical eye being turned on received wisdom.

As blood pressures around the hall stabilised, Kevin Edwards reviewed the potential and difficulties of studying the sparse pre-Ulmus decline records of cereal pollen. Frank Chambers was more positive ("Good morning ladies and gentlemen, and anyone else that's crawled in ...") in his examination of the evidence for the early exploitation of rye in North-West Europe. Chambers stressed a couple of important points: the versatility of rye as a crop on poor soils, and the problems it would present to a community accustomed to non-free-threshing cereals. The final lecture ought perhaps to have been the first, as Susan Limbrey explored possible connections between soil types and the options which they presented to early farming communities, drawing particular attention to the potential value of self-mulching vertisols. Finally, Willy Groenman gave a very positive summing-up, detailing areas where studies can go forward, and anticipating another such conference in ten years' time.

The Sunday afternoon outings were by way of gentle relief. A charabanc outing set off for the excellent Welsh Folk Museum, just outside Cardiff, where reconstructed buildings from all over Wales are set in a park landscape, and a variety of crafts and industries are carried on. There can't be many water-powered spinning frames still operating in Britain. Neither are there many Chinese dinosaurs, so a second party formed a neat crocodile and were taken to the National Museum of Wales to see this internationally-important exhibition. Sunday evening rounded off the conference in great style. Over thirty people engaged in a hugely enjoyable skittles match in a local pub, in which the Animals narrowly but convincingly defeated the Plants (naturally!). Given that conferences are at least in part social occasions, booking the skittles alley was a brilliant stroke of inspiration.

Monday's field trips were blessed with mild weather, which was just as well. One party travelled down the road to Newport to inspect the land surfaces and trackways which are being exposed and eroded along the Welsh side of the Severn Estuary. What effect might the proposed barrier have, one wonders? Meanwhile, a somewhat larger group toured Mid-Glamorgan and neighbouring bits of Powys in search of glacial landforms and deposits. Traeth Mawr, near Brecon, provided a hands-on and feet-in mire experience which will not quickly be forgotten.

The 1987 AEA Conference thus managed to be stimulating, informative and enjoyable. The necessary planning had clearly been done well in advance, and in sufficient detail to ensure the smooth running of a packed schedule. When the proceedings are published, the papers will provide a valuable digest of current thoughts and progress in this fascinating area of research. The conference was organised by Annie Milles and Di Williams, with the aid of a seemingly endless supply of willing colleagues, and all those involved deserve to be congratulated for producing one of the best AEA Conferences to date.

T. P. O'Connor

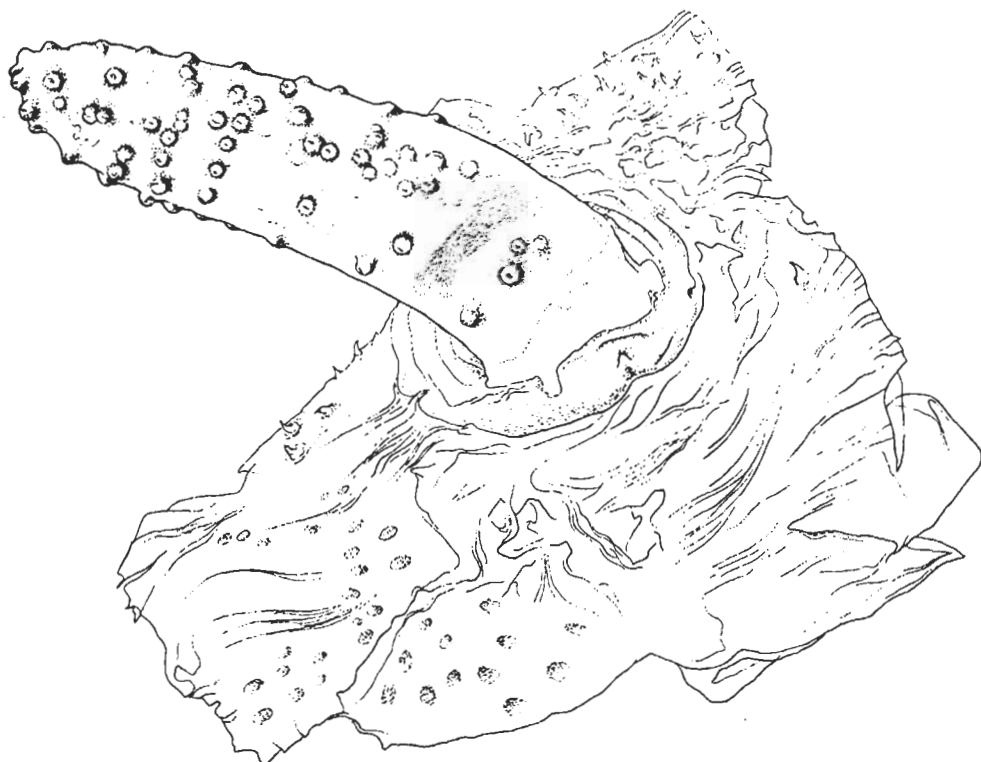
Mystery object identified

In Spring 1985, the cover of Circaea bore a drawing of 'a mystery object, presumed to be arthropod, often found in Viking Age deposits at York' (reproduced here). One of us (JP) had only just started work in entomoarchaeology and had no idea what it could be, nor did the entomologists at the Zoological Museum of Amsterdam. However, its status as a

well-defined unidentified object proved useful when a colleague, H. van Haaster, found similar, but not identical objects in material from cesspits in 14th century Lübeck. After a search of records extending from caterpillar appendages to tapeworm genitalia, the objects were put aside.

They were then found in material from a modern habitat - a pile of rotting seaweed - during investigations into the ecological requirements and structure of fly species found in archaeological deposits. The objects stood out like horns on top of a rat-tailed fly puparium.

These horns are the anterior respiratory organs of the pupae, often referred to as pupal spiracles, and are most conspicuous in some syrphid genera such as Eristalis. The anterior spiracles of the better-known larvae are much smaller, which explains the relative unfamiliarity of these objects. When the imago emerges the spiracles are shed together with the operculum of the puparium and, because the rest of the puparium does not survive as well as do, for instance, muscid puparia, they are likely to be the main source of information on these organisms. Use of the keys in Hartley (1961) and Dolezil (1971) will probably make possible the identification of many Eristalini and some other Syrphidae.



Eristaline pupal anterior respiratory process from Anglo-Scandinavian deposits at York.

The larvae of Eristalini all live in very wet places with decomposing organic material, where they feed by filtering bacteria. They differ in their preference for water type and degree of sewage contamination, from very wet manure to ponds with decaying vegetation.

This identification was mentioned by JP at the Birmingham meeting of the AEA in March 1987, where the work of TH was acknowledged.

References

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Hartley, J. C. (1961). A taxonomic account of the larvae of some British Syrphidae. Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London **136**, 505-73.

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