

Antiquity

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Editorial

TWO matters referred to briefly in our last Editorial come up for discussion again in this number: both in articles by Professor Christopher Hawkes. In his 'The British Museum and British Antiquities' (p. 248), he discusses, with his unrivalled knowledge of the problem inside and outside that Museum, the real and ideal role of the Department of British and Medieval Antiquities. As we go to press we learn of a new British Museum Bill shortly to be introduced into Parliament, proposing sweeping changes in the constitution and organisation of the Museum.

The second matter is the work of the Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey which is warmly and very rightly praised in Professor Hawkes's review of the *Early Iron Age* map (p. 293). We commend to the attention of the Treasury Working Party, whose mean and niggling criticism (ANTIQUITY, 1962, 165, and 210) has aroused widespread fury among archaeologists and the map-buying public, the opening words of his review, namely: 'In archaeological mapping . . . the British Ordnance Survey leads the world'. We hope that no one in the Ordnance Survey or in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (of which, such are the strange quirks of British bureaucracy, the Ordnance Survey is a Department) is thinking of implementing the suggestion that there should be a reduction in the intensity of the archaeological work carried out by the Survey.

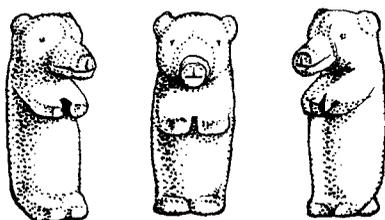


1962 has certainly been a year of conferences. We have already published (ANTIQUITY, 1962, 212) an account of the Prehistoric Society's conference on the British Neolithic, and we publish in this issue a short account of the VIth International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences held in the heat of Rome between 29 August and 3 September (p. 300). In our next issue we shall publish reports of the Congress on Under Water Activities and the Congress of Editors held in London this autumn, Dr Van der Vaals's report on the Carbon 14 Congress held in Cambridge, England, in July of this year and a report by Dr G. H. S. Bushnell on the Congress of Americanists in Mexico in August.

The Rome Congress provided one outstanding example of excellent archaeological co-operation transcending the unfortunate political barriers of the present day. Although there were only few Russian archaeologists present in the Congress the Institute of Archaeology of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences had prepared sixteen papers in English and French entitled *Les rapports et les informations des archéologues de l'URSS* which were distributed to all the *congressistes*. If these remarkable papers are not being printed in their entirety in the *Comptes rendus* of the Congress they should be published as a separate

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book immediately. They contain, to mention, invidiously, only a few, Masson on 'The Neolithic Farmers of Central Asia', Brussov on Indo-Europeans and Handaxes, Artsikhovskiy on the Varangians, Kolchin on Dendrochronology, Madame Passek on relations between East and West Europe in the Neolithic, Bader on Palaeolithic Paintings in the Urals (with a fine colour picture of the Mammouth from Choulgan-Tache), and Okladnikov on the traditions of Palaeolithic art in the Neolithic of Siberia. Okladnikov included a photograph and drawing of the enchanting bear from the Neolithic grave of Samus and we cannot refrain from including below drawings of this sweet but slightly puzzled person, surely the original Mr Teddy Bear.



We are delighted to learn that the VIIIth Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences will be held in Prague in four years time. Meanwhile, the more the barriers are broken down archaeologically between east and west the better for archaeologists and the world. Mr Jeffery May, Staff Tutor in Archaeology in the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of the University of Nottingham, writes to us as follows: 'You might like to know about the summer school held by this department during the first two weeks in August in Prague. 44 adult students, the majority from the east Midlands area, chose to join seminars in politics, economics, art and architecture, or archaeology. The archaeology course consisted of tutorials in mainly central European prehistory and supervised private study in the National Museum of Prague, together with visits to sites (Bylany, Březno, Sarka), museums (Slany, Sarka), and the Archaeological Institute in Prague. The Czech archaeologists we met on these visits (Dr N. Mašek, Dr V. Moucha, Dr and Mrs R. Pleiner, Dr B. Soudský and Dr J. Zeman) were all extremely friendly and went to great lengths to help us. Despite obvious language difficulties, the course was most successful and is certainly worth repeating in the future'. This is fine news and the Nottingham Department of Extra-Mural Studies is to be congratulated. Mr May adds his regrets that there are so few easily readable books in English on the archaeology of Eastern Europe. There is *Czechoslovakia* by the Neustupnys (ANTIQUITY, 1962, 235) and Mongait's *Archaeology in the U.S.S.R.* (ANTIQUITY, 1962, 151). Filip's excellent book on the Celts (ANTIQUITY, 1960, 294) is at present being translated into English, and there are forthcoming in the next few years books in English by Dr Gimbutas on *The Balts*, by Professor Jadrewski on *Poland*, by Professor Dimiter Dimitrov on *The Thracians*, Dr Parducz and Madame Bognár-Kutzián on *Hungary*, and Professor Berciu on *Prehistoric Rumania*.

The Rome Congress had one thing in common with all other Congresses and Conferences we have attended recently—the far too frequent bad standard of lecturing by *congressistes*. This is infuriating because the rules of lecturing are so simple; they are:—

1. *Audibility*. Do not begin to speak or go on speaking unless you can be heard by all your audience, and check your audibility after a third and two-thirds of your lecture by thinking about it and lifting your voice.

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2. *Brevity.* If you have been asked to speak for an hour prepare a script for fifty minutes. If you have been allotted a half hour in an international conference prepare a paper of twenty minutes. Fast—too fast—talking is 120 words to a minute. Lecturers with slides rarely achieve more than 80 to 100 words. An hour's lecture should be no more than a spoken script of 5000 to 5500 words. An international congress talk of twenty minutes must be restricted to a spoken script of under 2000 words.
3. *Economy.* Start your lecture with what you want to say, say it and then stop. There is no time for preludes and postludes. Cut, and cut again.
4. *Control.* Never apologize to your audience. The lecturers who say, 'I am sorry I did not have time to get a slide made of this', or 'I'm afraid my drawing of this is very bad' should be shot; and probably will be one day.
5. *Modesty.* You are not being honoured by performing; you are lucky to be asked to give a talk, and if you don't feel this way and observe the rules you won't get asked again.

The trouble is that so few people are ever told how to speak in public to an educated audience. It is quite scandalous, for example, that our British Universities do not run every summer a course for potential or appointed new University teachers on how to teach and how to lecture. It is assumed that public speaking is something everyone can naturally do: yet it is not assumed that one can naturally talk or read or write.

The five rules we have set out are counsels of perfection, perhaps, but then we want in Congresses and public places more people achieving these standards. There are of course good excuses which must be respected. The lecturer whose excuse was that his slides were impounded by Customs officials because they thought they were obscene would be sympathetically received by an archaeological audience, as was the undergraduate who rushed distraught to his tutor carrying frayed sheets of paper saying 'Sir, during the night my essay has been partly eaten by marauding mice'. The interference of customs officials and mice in our affairs is fortunately rare. The average lecturer can concentrate on achieving audibility, brevity, economy, control and modesty in the sure hope that his sixth slide is not going to be that of a bearded but naked woman portrayed upsidedown on a large mushroom. This happened to an acquaintance of ours recently as the result of a bold undergraduate prank. It says much for the skill of this lecturer that, unperturbed, he looked at the slide and then said coolly, 'I think this must be the wrong way up'; and, when it had been adjusted, looked at it with equal coldness and, turning to his audience, said 'Ladies and gentlemen, I beg your pardon. This illustration should not have been shown to you. It has strayed in from the slides that properly belong to another lecture course of mine, Next please'.



We returned from the Rome conference via Roanne to make a sentimental pilgrimage to the old Déchelette house, now the city's Museum and Library, because it is the centenary of the birth of this greatest of all French archaeologists. Joseph Déchelette was born a hundred years ago, on 8 January, 1862. A group of French archaeologists has been planning since early in 1958 to celebrate this centenary. The project was supported by his widow, who died suddenly later in 1958, and by the municipality of Roanne, to whom Déchelette left his house, his library and his collections. The prime mover in this act of family piety and archaeological pride was his nephew François Déchelette, the present curator of the Musée de Roanne, who has edited the *Livre d'Or de Joseph Déchelette: Centenaire 1862-1962*.

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(printed by the Imprimerie Sully at Roanne, 1962, limited edition, no price, but obtainable through booksellers).

Déchelette came of a silk-weaving family and after his schooldays—his formal education ended with his *baccalaureat* at the age of 17—he went into the family business. His uncle, Gabriel Bulliot, interested him in his excavations at Mont Beauvray (Bibracte), and he later took charge of this work, publishing in 1904, after his uncle's death, *Les Fouilles du Mont Beauvray de 1897 à 1901*. Five years before this, at the age of 37, he had given up his business career to devote himself to archaeology. In 1904—the very same year as the Bibracte book—he published his definitive work on Gallo-Roman pottery—*Les Vases Céramiques Ornés de la Gaule Romaine*—a three volume work with 1700 illustrations. Bibracte made him interested in other Celtic *oppida*. He read the work of Pic on the Hradischt of Stradonitz in Bohemia and in 1906 published a French translation of this Czech work, and in that same year—such was his versatility—he published with Gabriel Brassart, *Les peintures murales du Moyen Age et de la Renaissance en Forez*.

In the previous year the French publisher August Picard (and we can never pass his shop at 82, Rue Bonaparte in the VIIème between the Luxembourg Gardens and St. Sulpice without thinking of J.D.) asked Salomon Reinach to get him someone to write a textbook on archaeology. Reinach advised Déchelette: Ricard accepted the advice: Déchelette accepted the invitation and worked relentlessly on the task for the next nine years. The result was the *Manuel d'archéologie préhistorique, celtique et gallo-romaine*. The first volumes appeared in 1908. The Hallstatt volume was out in 1912, and by June, 1914, the La Tène volume was published.

This amazing achievement did not prevent Déchelette carrying out other work: his catalogues of La Collection Millon were published in 1913. He was working on the beginnings of the Gallo-Roman volumes (subsequently completed by the late A. Grenier) when war broke out. Although 52, he insisted on being in the front line. He was animated by an intense patriotism, but also by a curiosity, 'la curiosité de voir' as Sébastien Mulsant says in his pamphlet, *Joseph Déchelette* (Picard, Paris, 1919), 'Lui qui avait écrit l'histoire, comment elle se faisant'. In a letter to Camille Jullian dated 20 September, 1914, he wrote, 'Le passé est inseparable du présent. Je ne doute pas que cette bataille de la Marne, livrée sur l'emplacement de grandes necropoles gauloises, ne vous ait donne, comme à moi, une patriotique et reconfortante vision. Epée de la Tène ou fusil modèle 1886, c'est toujours la meme lutte de l'âme celte contre la brutale agression des Germains. Les compagnons des guerriers de Somme-Bionne et de la Gorge Meillet ont vu passer nos troupes victorieuses. Heureux les jeunes qui prennent part à ces luttes formidable! Les pauvres territoriaux comme moi se resignent, pour le moment, au rôle d'instructeurs. J'ai pu reprendre le commandement de ma compagnie. Nous esperons bien qu'on nous donnera bientôt un rôle plus actif'.

A few days later his pious wish was granted. On 3 October at Vingré in the Aisne he was killed by a shell. Déchelette was 52. Buried first at Vingré his body was transferred on 27 April, 1932, to the Bois Robert Cemetery near Soissons; this should become a place of pilgrimage for all archaeologists. Many honours were showered on him. He was a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, a Corresponding Member of the Institut, and of many academies outside France. He was awarded the *Croix de Guerre avec étoile de vermeil*, and in 1915 posthumously the *Prix Lambert* of the French Academy. A group of friends had a bronze plaque struck in his memory; it had on it the sabre of a French army officer crossed with a La Tène sword, both surrounded with a laurel wreath, and this legend

GALLIAE RELIQUIAS ILLUSTRAVIT PRO GALLIA MILES CECIDIT.

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Joseph Déchelette deserves far more than a passing sentimental thought at this moment of the centenary of his birth. He was an amateur who succeeded in producing the only authoritative text-book of European archaeology—one which after forty years is still consulted and can now as then be described as a highly professional job. He was a Frenchman who travelled extensively outside France, became fluent in English, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Czech, and maintained a vigorous correspondence with colleagues in many countries. He was a specialist on Gallo-Roman pottery who wrote with a breadth of knowledge, enthusiasm and more than competence on subjects ranging from the Neolithic to Romanesque art. He was of the great mainstream of European archaeologists in time between Worsaae and Childe, and we may never see his like again.

It is strange that France which produced Déchelette at the beginning of this century (and through him work far ahead of anything this country did or could have done) and which is now moving hopefully ahead into a new era of archaeology, should have lapsed into such a backward state of archaeology in the inter-war years—a state often commented on in the pages of this journal. Strange: but there are many reasons. The first was the carnage of the 1914–18 war. On 15 October, 1927, Joseph Déchelette's name was inscribed in the Pantheon as one of the 560 writers killed in the war. How many unknown, unheralded, unsung Déchelettes were *poilus* killed in that war? The second was finance. Déchelette was a wealthy man who could travel as he wanted, and who employed many archaeological secretaries. His private library, which can and should be visited in Roanne, is the size of a public or departmental library.

But Déchelette was *sui generis*: the absence of wars, and the provision of funds, does not necessarily produce a Déchelette. He was a man of genius—no other word is possible for a man whose record is what it was from 1897 when he retired from business, to 1914 when he was killed. A similar genius may burgeon again among the young French archaeologists at the present day. Meanwhile all homage to Joseph Déchelette who, in the words of Heran de Villefosse placed under Champion's bust of him in the Musée des Antiquités Nationales at St-Germain-en-Laye: *Galliae antiquae laborem dedit, vitam novae.*



All readers of ANTIQUITY will join us in congratulating Sir Cyril Fox when he attains his eightieth birthday on 16 December, and in wishing him many happy returns of the day. Sir Cyril has been a regular contributor to ANTIQUITY and wrote as recently as September, 1960, on the Celtic Mirror from Great Chesterford (ANTIQUITY, 1960, 207). The variety of subjects on which he has written for us—from currency bars and ritual barrows to dykes, loam terrains, sleds, and peasant crofts—reflect the catholicity of his interests, and the sureness of his grasp of so many aspects of archaeology. Now that Gordon Childe and O. G. S. Crawford are dead he remains one of the two or three giants of British archaeology who revitalized and revolutionized that discipline after the 1914–18 war. It is nice to know that Routledge & Kegan Paul will publish early in 1963, under the title of *Culture and Environment* a book of essays offered in homage to him. The present Editor of ANTIQUITY may be allowed to recollect with pride that Cyril Fox's first steps on the ladder of archaeological fame were firmly set by those great and generous Cambridge figures, Hector Munro Chadwick and Louis Clarke, and to remember privately how as a schoolboy interested in archaeology and visiting the National Museum of Wales he used to stop excitedly as the great man, exuding as he always does energy and enthusiasm and dedication, passed along the galleries.