BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

N E W S L E T T E R Number 84 August 1984

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	Sat 29 Sept	Annual Conference and AGM, Hampshire Field Club
	Sat 6 Oct	Day Conference and AGM, Local History Section of Hampshire Field Club
*	Thurs 11 Oct	ROMAN GLASS by Denise Allen, 7.30 Chute House
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*	Thurs 8 Nov	THE FIRST 6,000 YEARS OF METALLURGY by Paul T. Craddock, 7.30 Chute House
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*	Sat 8 Dec	MEMBERS' EVENING Church Cottage
*	Thurs 13 Dec	THE SECOND STAGE OF THE HAMVIC EXCAVATIONS AT SOUTHAMPTON by Mark Brisbane, Chute House 7.30
*	Thurs 10 Jan	THE ORIGINAL "ODIHAM SOCIETY" by Derek Sprúce, Chute House, 7.30
*	Thurs 14 Feb	READING WATERFRONT EXCAVATIONS by Peter Fasham, Chute House, 7.30
*	Thurs 14 March	To be announced
*	Thurs 11 April	NEW DISCOVERIES FOR ROMAN WINCHESTER by Ken Qualmann, Chute House, 7.30
*	Thurs 9 May	GEORGE WILLIS by Arthur Attwood (probably at the Carnival Hall) 7.30

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A reminder that subscriptions for 1984-5 were due on 1st May:

£6 per individual member
£8 for family membership
£3 for OAPs and students

If the front page of this Newsletter is marked with a X it means that we have not yet received your subscription and that, regrettably, this is the last Newsletter that can be sent until it is paid. Our Treasurer will be glad to receive subscriptions at the next meeting or by post: Mrs Sarah Duckworth, 177 Pack Lane, Kempshott, Basingstoke

VICTORIAN FASHIONABLE DRESS
Lecture by Caroline Goldthorpe, 7.30 pm, Thursday 13th September

We begin our new lecture season (NB on the second Thursday of the month, in the downstairs Jackson Room at Chute House) with a historical theme. Our speaker is the Curator of the Willis Museum, Caroline Goldthorpe, who came to the County Museum Service as Keeper of Costume and Textiles from the Department of Textiles and Dress at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's AGM, held on 5th July, was attended by about 25 members. Presenting her report for 1983-4, the Chairman, Betty Waters, concluded that the Society had enjoyed another successful year with a well-attended programme of interesting lectures. She expressed some disappointment at the fact that the Winter Social had attracted comparatively few "Romans" and that lack of support had led to the cancellation of the Barn Dance. However, the annual outing (to the Museum of London) had been a success. Other events of note during the year were the training dig in March and the evening visit to the excavations at Silchester in July.

In the absence of other nominations, the Society's officers were re-elected as follows: Chairman, Betty Waters; Secretary, Sue Headley and Treasurer, Sarah Duckworth; and the 1983-4 committee was re-appointed: Barbara Applin, Andrew Duckworth, Peter Heath, Barbara Lovell, Jean Mellor, Joy Needham and Mary Oliver.

The Treasurer reported that the Society's financial position was sound. The meeting accepted the committee's proposal that, in the unlikely event of the Society ceasing to exist, the Publications Fund should be transferred to the Hampshire Field Club on the understanding that it should be used to finance publications of archaeological or historical interest, preferably those with strong local connections. A special vote of thanks was conveyed to Bob Applin for his efforts in boosting the excavations fund by the sale of produce from his garden.

It was reported that there was continuing interest in Anne Hawker's book "Voices of Basingstoke 1400-1600". Members were alerted to

the forthcoming display in Basingstoke Library and were asked to do what they could to ensure extra publicity.

The business session having been completed in record time, members were able to have a leisurely cup of coffee before listening to Anne Hawker's excellent account of her researches for "Voices" and marvelling at the model house which she had made to illustrate the costumes and furnishings of the period. There was also time to see Peter Heath's slides of his recent trip to sites of interest in Wales.

Sue Headley

A PITT RIVERS DAY

Our new members may not know that the Society subscribes to the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society, and has two members on the Committee of the Archaeological section of that body. We benefit by receiving a copy of the annual Proceedings, which is lodged with our librarian, Bob Mulla, and members are eligible to participate in the various outings and conferences organised by the Field Club. Apart from the Archaeological Section, there are sections covering Local History, Historic Buildings, Geology and the New Forest. In a county as rich as Hampshire, these sections cover a wide range of antiquarian interests.

This weekend (July 15th) Sarah and I rose a little earlier than usual on a Sunday morning and drove to Winchester to catch the coach booked to take a party from the Archaeological section to see some of the sites excavated by General Pitt Rivers in Cranborne Chase. In the period between 1880, when he inherited the large estate of Rushmore House, and realised that it lay in the centre of a great fossilised landscape of great archaeological interest (very little disturbed, as it was a mediaeval deer forest) and his death in 1900, he never stopped excavating. He had already studied excavation techniques in Yorkshire, and had done some work in Sussex, but, becoming a wealthy land-owner overnight, he was able to turn a somewhat dilettante interest into what was for the period a very thorough scientific study. His work in Cranborne Chase has been supplemented by many distinguished archaeologists in the present century, such as Professors Christopher Hawkes and Stuart Piggott, and more recently Dr Geoffrey Wainwright, but all of them pay tribute to his careful and meticulous scientific approach to the problems he faced in interpreting the finds he made. The life and work of this outstanding man has now been recognised by the opening of a complete gallery in Salisbury Museum, and our outing finished appropriately in that gallery.

The weather could not have been better. The Wessex landscape, with its great wheatfields and rolling downs, has little shade, and the cumulo-nimbus cloud combined with a pleasant breeze created almost perfect weather for such an excursion.

At one moment in the day, we stood on Warborrow Neolithic Long Barrow, excavated to ground level by Pitt Rivers and then turned into an amphitheatre; difficult of access, on private land, and therefore a nature sanctuary of great beauty, with hare-bells and spotted orchids distracting us from our guide's description of the excavation. We looked across the valley to one of the largest and

richest barrow cemeteries in Wessex, intersected by the line of Ackling Dyke, the Roman road from Old Sarum to Badbury, which stands in places several feet above the down; and to the strange Cursus lines of older settlements. An England of ageless beauty, full of the mystery of the ancient peoples who left their imprint on the landscape. And all around us, in contrast, were the most ephemeral of creatures, dark green Fritillary, Small Heath, Chalk Hill Blue and Marbled White butterflies, feeding from the many flowers on the great chalk banks.

It was difficult to believe that among such beauty the Romans decapitated 19 natives, cut off their feet and threw them into the barrow ditch, but easy to imagine a quick raid from the ridge onto the exposed road below, and immediate retribution for the Roman dead on the unfortunate captives. For here we are in the vicinity of Bokerly Dyke, which marks the boundary of the great Roman farms which supplied wheat to the Legions, and there must have been many well-stocked granaries across the Dyke.

Other sites we visited were South Lodge Camp, a rectangular Bronze Age camp with an associated field system and barrow cemetery, in the grounds of Rushmore House, and the great Romano-British complex of Woodcote, with its long entrance way between banks into a banked enclosure, with smaller enclosures looped onto the bank outside, and two deep wells. Here we ate our sandwiches and absorbed the great size of the farmstead. Comparing it with Ructstalls and Viables is a little like comparing Stratfield Saye with Buckskin Farm!

Our outing finished at the still only partly excavated Roman site at Woodyates, believed by Pitt Rivers to be Vinogladia, a station in Antonine's Itinerary located at the point where Bokerly Dyke meets the Roman road, but time was running out, and we had to return to Salisbury, making a mental note to return one day for a longer visit.

Our guide was Claire Conybeare, responsible for the Pitt Rivers Gallery; and if this report is only a brief outline of what we saw and heard, this is because we persuaded her to lecture to us in the not too distant future, so our members will have the opportunity of hearing a most articulate and talented archaeologist, an enthusiast on General Pitt Rivers and his great contribution to Wessex archaeology.

ANDREW DUCKWORTH

OUR ROMAN ROAD

Location

This road, west of Basingstoke, joins Silchester (Calleva Atrebatum) with Winchester (Venta Belgarum). Much of it survives as a modern road, or a lane, a bridle way or a footpath. Its line is nearly straight over its length of 22 English miles (22½ Roman miles). The direction is mainly north 30° east with four slight changes in direction; these keep its northern 8½ miles almost parallel with its southern 9 miles.

Five miles or so west and south-west of Basingstoke the road rises to high ground, 400 feet to 500 feet above sea level (Basingstoke is at or below 300 feet a.s.l.). This section of the road was later to be the western boundary of Basingstoke Hundred (4½ miles), the western boundary of Basingstoke parish (3½ miles) and the eastern boundary of Worting parish (3 miles).

For 4½ miles south of Calleva, the underlying ground is the tertiaries of the London basin, mainly clays and gravel. The rest of the road is on the upper chalk with a patchy overcover of clay with flints.

The name Calleva means "place in the woods" and was "formed by the addition of a suffix to the British word which is the ancestor of Modern Welsh 'celli' - grove" (Gelling). Boon is satisfied that Calleva was not a Roman foundation. The conclusion rests on finds of rare coins and pottery, though apparently little of structural significance was found by his excavations. The polygonal shape of the place is taken as un-Roman (Boon and Johnston), perhaps determined by early dykes south west of the site. Michael Fulford confirms the existence of "a substantial settlement" here at the time of the Roman conquest (Fulford 1981). Boon states that the Forum, Baths, three temples and some houses had been built, followed by a regular street pattern by AD 90-120. Margary considers the site "a road centre of great importance as a kind of western base from London for all traffic on that side". D. E. Johnston writes that it "marks the beginning of the carefully planned Wessex network of major roads".

Venta - Winchester - was a settlement in pre-Roman times. The name is included in a list of Romano-British place names which are "unsolved mysteries", and "may belong to a layer of place-names older than the use of Celtic speech in Britain" (Gelling). Biddle states that it had "a defended enclosure of 18.6 ha on the sloping spur which forms the western side of the valley. Occupation ceased some time in the second half of the first century BC and there seems to have been an interval of about a century before intensive settlement recommenced, not on the hillside, but in the valley bottom close to the river outside the limits of the earlier settlement". A Roman town with "a chess-board street pattern, public buildings and defences had emerged by the end of the first century AD".

These are the two places which our road connects. They had been the centres respectively of the Atrebates - Calleva - and of the Belgae - Venta - and so had tribal importance (Johnston). Nothing is known about tribal relations, friendly or otherwise, between these two centres before the Roman intrusion.

The straight line between Calleva and Venta crosses strategically important high ground, five miles or so west and south west of Basingstoke, as mentioned earlier. Here, in the area 597503 we now know was a large settlement; air photographs do not reveal whether it was pre-Roman but this seems likely. Whether it had any inhabitants in the early first century AD we do not yet know. This site is worth remark and investigation. The Iron Age hillfort of Winklebury is two miles further north and between them is the prehistoric east-west trackway we call Harrow Way.

The foregoing is necessary relevant background for an account of our road; its sufficiency is limited.

Military background

The construction of our road was later than the south-east stage of the Claudian invasion of AD 43. The extent of Roman military activity immediately afterwards, in the area west of a line through, say, Chichester and north to the Thames, and thereafter south and west into Wessex is obscure. For example, in our own area of what is now north Hampshire, east Wiltshire and south Berkshire, the degree of cooperation or even mere acceptance of Roman intrusion by the local tribes people remains speculative, though no evidence of any fighting has been found or recorded.

The Legion concerned was the Second Augusta, previously stationed on the Upper Rhine at Strasbourg and commanded by Vespasian (Emperor AD 69-79). For an account of their operations we have to depend entirely on secondary sources (Richmond). The known facts are meagre: the unconditional surrender of the Isle of Wight (Vectis) was obtained and over twenty native fortresses (oppida) apparently in Wiltshire and Dorset capitulated, some after stiff resistance. Johnston, taking Cunliffe's archaeological evidence, considers that Danebury might well be one of the twenty that Suetonius tells us were captured in the campaign.

Militarily one speculates whether the formidable line of pre-Roman forts along the northern Ridgeway were defended and if so, how and when dealt with. They include unfinished Ladle Hill and its neighbours Beacon Hill and Walbury (375617); also Tidbury (463429), Fosbury (320565), Chisbury (279660) and more interesting of all, Old Sarum at which roads from Calleva and Venta meet. A few details give a vivid insight into Roman economic aims. By AD 49, lead, the only source of the silver which was the regular money of Roman account was being produced in the Mendip Hills under Imperial control. An ingot found at Stockbridge (Hants) is slightly later, dating to AD 60 (Richmond and Scullard). Doubtless the corn from East Anglia was similarly important.

Construction

The detailed construction of our road will now be considered. The road terms used by Margary and followed here must be understood. By "agger" is meant the embankment upon which the road is built. It varied both in width and height and was often wider than the effective (paved) road width. He suggests the latter as 30 feet maximum on important roads and says 24 feet is often found and 15 to 18 feet common.

For our road Margary quotes a 20 foot width of flints on a bed of blue clay near Latchmere Green (634600) and notes that east of Park Prewett "the agger is well preserved - at first as a flattened ridge 30 feet wide but becoming a raised chalk agger 2 to 3 feet high (still recognisable in 1984) before it crosses the Basingstoke-Kingsclere road". The use of flint and chalk, both plentiful local materials, is hardly surprising. However, in 1968 the present writer found pieces of ferruginous sandstone on the line of the road, further south at 597488. The bridleway, as it now is, did not then have a tarpaved surface, and it was not possible to say whether that type of stone was part of the agger or pavement. Such stone, with iron pyrites nodules, occurs in the "clay with flint" over the chalk, but is not plentiful in this area. A piece of this ferruginous sandstone taken from this spot at the time is still in the writer's possession. It weighs 2 lb 2 oz. Personal circumstances then

prevented further investigation.

Many cross-sections of particular or typical Roman roads are available. Margary provides a double page of cross-sections as excavated, which is helpful. However, all such sections show roads which were maintained (eg by re-surfacing) systematically at appropriate intervals for less than two centuries and then neglected, robbed of stone, eroded by weather and overgrown for more than 1500 years. Therefore to produce a specification for any road as initially constructed requires care. Three important details are provided by Margary who notes a cross-section of the Silchester-Old Sarum road at a point about seven miles east of Old Sarum. There the main foundation course was hand-laid large flints; there were kerbs (size unspecified) and the total width of the road zone between centre lines of side ditches was 84 ft 6 in.

Fortunately, three principles of road construction were recognised by the Romans, followed (more or less) by the English Turnpike builders and find a place in motorway construction. These are: ensure good drainage, lay a foundation appropriate to underlying ground conditions and to the loads to be borne and then provide an appropriate wearing surface.

As more than 80% of the length of our road is on the chalk, it is reasonable, as a first approximation, to assume a uniform construction for the whole length. The centre-line and side limits of the road would be marked out in advance by a military engineer-survey unit, and necessary tree felling, main clearing, grubbing up tree-roots etc within this area would be done.

Following this work, the basic operations needed may reasonably be specified in general terms as:

(a) Excavate surface soil 3-7 inches deep over a width of 35 ft; spread soil outside side limits
(b) Base course: collect and spread hard chalk and flint rubble, reasonably free from roots and vegetation to a finished thickness of 6-8 inches over an average width of 30 ft
(c) Foundation: collect and hand lay large flints (or similar), 4-6 inches final thickness over a width of 25 ft
(d) Wearing surface: collect and spread small flints, hard chalk, gravel and similar stone 2-4 inches thick filling voids in foundation course, 20 ft width cambered from centre to sides
(e) Kerb: provide, lay and bed large flints (or similar) to form kerbs
(f) Side drainage: excavate to falls side ditches, V shaped, 18 inches deep by 18 inches wide at top; 80 ft centre to centre

The construction thus represents considerable effort of which not the least is obtaining suitable stone. Some would be turned up in items (a) and (f), but pits or small quarries close to the line would be a main source. Skilled work on actual road construction, particularly items (c), (d) and (e), would be done by military men; legionaries were trained in construction work, but auxiliary troops (if available) may also have been used.

The number of men who can be directly employed at the work face is limited by the working width. On the other hand, construction is concerned only with alignment and not also with precise levelling. It follows therefore that to expedite progress the overall length

could be divided into sections based perhaps on convenient locations for work camps and/or local settlements.

Forde-Johnston, writing on the construction of Hadrian's Wall, quotes evidence of a century of 80 men building a length of 45 yards - each length being marked by centurial stones. An alternative (or additional) suggestion is that construction work on the Wall was allocated in approximately 5 mile lengths, each legion taking responsibility for one block at a time and taking responsibility for everything, wall, milecastles, turrets etc in their length. This was later, in AD 124, but work there does appear to have begun at several points simultaneously. The choice of approximately 5 mile lengths is curious. Along our road the Wheatsheaf (Popham) area is about 11 miles from each end; there was a settlement here (Johnston). At roughly equal intervals along our road, sites of "substantial buildings" are shown on the OS Map of Roman Britain. These are 5 miles south of Calleva (2 sites); at Popham (2 sites), another 5½ miles (Wheatsheaf roughly) and at Micheldever, 5½ miles north of Venta.

Curiously, on the north side of the Ermin Way 5 miles north west of Corinium(Cirencester) towards Glevum (Gloucester) there is also a "site of substantial building" shown on the OS Map of Roman Britain. There is still a pub there aptly named "Five Mile House" (979090). Odd! Our road and the Ermin Way are both roads listed in the (later) Antonine Itinerary. The dates and uses of these "substantial buildings" would be interesting. They may, of course, be post road-construction in date.

Returning to the actual labour of construction of our road (excluding survey, marking out, site clearing, supervision and support services, etc) an analysis of the work suggests that the total manhours per 100 yards of road would be between 2700 and 3500. The quarter length of 5½ (English) miles thus represents a minimum of say 260,000 and maximum of 340,000 manhours in round figures. Allocating two centuries each of 80 men (effective) gives construction times of 1630 hours and 2120 hours respectively. With this labour force simultaneously on each 5½ mile length, the whole road could be constructed within these orders of time. Allowing 14 hours per day average April-September gives about 2200 working hours total. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that a cohort of six centuries could be expected to complete the road in one campaigning season. No apology is offered for the suggestion that a cohort would do what these calculations require to be work for eight centuries.

The calculation is necessarily an approximation. The military staff teaching would probably be against creating odd temporary "groups" by splitting traditional units for a purpose such as road construction, as distinct from fighting. Nor do we know whether local levies could be pressed into service.

Date

Concerning the date of construction, Margary states that "it is very likely that military requirements for forces operating from the south coast harbours at Southampton and Poole may have caused very early construction of roads leading inland through Winchester". This includes our road (by him numbered 42a), presumably. It certainly includes the now less well-defined nine miles of road from Bitterne to Winchester numbered 42b. However, Margary describes these roads going from north (Calleva) to south (Clausentum) which

is consistent with his and Johnston's remarks quoted earlier about the importance of Calleva as a road centre.

An alternative (or perhaps complementary) theory about the date of construction of our road is that it was of political rather than primarily military importance and hence did not share the immediate urgency of the military campaign in the west. This seems consistent with the dating of permanent development at Venta and Calleva by Biddle and Boon quoted earlier.

If our road was indeed constructed in the consolidating phase rather than the active military phase, a difference of perhaps two or three years, local levies may have been available for unskilled work.

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F B MAYO

MARSH COURT, EDWIN LUTYENS AND GERTRUDE JEKYLL

On what was undoubtedly the hottest day of the year, five members of the Society attended the one-day Conference arranged by the Historic Buildings Section of the Hampshire Field Club on July 7th at Marsh Court, Stockbridge.

Now a preparatory school, Marsh Court was built between 1901 and 1905, with an addition in 1926, and is an interesting example of the architectural and landscaping partnership of Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll. An unusual feature of the house is that it is mostly built of blocks of "clunch" or hard chalk, which had not been used in domestic architecture for over 150 years. The garden was one of Gertrude Jekyll's smaller, more intimate creations. The four lectures covered The Building of Marsh Court and its Architect, The Gardens of Gertrude Jekyll, The Restoration of Marsh Court and its Gardens and The Ornamental Buildings of Hampshire's Country Gardens, and were held in what had been the ball-room of the house when it was in private ownership.

For all of us it was a memorable day. The disciplines of architecture and garden design may not seem to have much relevance to archaeology, and the period of the house is too recent to be embraced by our local history interest; but the story of the building of the house, of the great friendship which developed between architect and client

in the process, and the "rags to riches to rags" life of that client, who spared no expense to create a house which reflected the rich ostentation of the Edwardian era, yet who finally went bankrupt in the '30s, was a fascinating chapter of contemporary history. For those who argue that there is nothing new in history, this story could well have repeated the building of a great Roman villa in the Test valley before the raiders came to our shores.

The lectures were well prepared and presented, and there was much of interest in all four, particularly the last lecture, with its references to Hackwood, Herriard, Basing, Tylney Hall, Bramshill and Highclere, emphasising the wealth of landscape design and ornamentation which surrounds us in this part of Hampshire. We picnicked in the gardens among lavender swarming with bees, overlooking the water gardens below the parapet on which we sat, and with the Test valley below us, a composition of silver, green and greys, the old peat workings forming a natural lake to complete the landscape. The house sits on a chalk bluff on the east bank of the Test, high above the valley, and it is worth looking for when descending the hill into Stockbridge from the west, for it shines like a white ghost in the woods high above the valley on the right of the village. The positioning of a house was of great importance to Lutyens, Daneshill House in Basingstoke being a very good example of the choice of a site facing south and commanding a fine view.

We are fortunate in having two of his houses in the Basingstoke area, Daneshill and Berrydowne. The latter, enclosed by a rendered wall with a central gateway, is on the left hand side of the B3400 about one mile east of Overton. It was the first of the two houses to be designed, in 1897. It was built for Mr and Mrs Archibald Grove, who were close friends of the Lutyens. The latter often stayed at the house with their children, and it was here that Sir Edwin first met J M Barrie, the author of "Peter Pan", a meeting which was to blossom into a long friendship. The screen wall enclosure gives the house a very attractive Breton look, but the best elevation is the one facing south. Daneshill was designed in 1903. The outstanding quality of its brickwork and tilework marked a new level of excellence in his use of these materials. The client, Walter Hoare, had started the Old Basing brickfield with a view to producing hand-made bricks with the colour and texture of Tudor bricks, which at that time could only be obtained from Holland. The little show-room of the brick-works, which uses many of the special shapes produced, still stands, a small factory office, in Bilton Road, and it is a pleasant thought, without a shred of evidence, that Lutyens may have sketched it out on the back of an envelope, as he was in the habit of doing when an idea struck him, so creating a little folly below the house.

Another pleasant little Basingstoke thought came to me as I listened to the last lecturer, Krysia Bilikowski, Historic Landscape Assistant for the Hampshire County Council. In describing the great gardens of Hampshire, she mentioned Warbrook House at Eversley, the retirement home of John James (1672-1746), one of the first great landscape gardeners, who is stated by Miles Hadfield in "Great Gardeners" to have been the son of the Rev John James, Master of the Holy Ghost School in Basingstoke (although this is disputed in the Dictionary of National Biography). In the warmth of the darkened ballroom, I could be forgiven if my mind wandered from the lecture to speculate whether this great gardener, whose translation of "The Theory and Practice of Gardening" by A J Dezalier d'Argenville in 1712 was a major contribution to the literature of gardening at the time, and brought him many commissions, might possibly have been invited back

to his home town to design the gardens which we now know from Dave Allen's recent excavations were laid out in Basing House at the end of the 17th century.

It was a long day, full of good lecturing, interesting slides and pleasant companionship. As we drove home I realised how little I knew about this great architect of the prosperous Edwardian era, whose last work was to design a Roman Catholic Cathedral for Liverpool, never built above the crypt and completed by Sir Frederick Gibberd in a totally different style, and I am now reading the biography written by his daughter, which I found on our shelves.

ANDREW DUCKWORTH

BOOK REVIEW

Author Jean M Avel Publisher Coronet Books
Series "Earth's Children": Book 1 The Clan of the Cave Bear
Book 2 The Valley of Horses

I bought these books partly because I'm a sucker for bright covers, but once I started reading, I found great difficulty in putting them down, even for such important things as eating.

The Clan of the Cave Bear is the first in a projected series of 6 books which give a portrait of prehistoric times under the general title of Earth's Children. The story begins 35,000 years ago when the earth was a place of vast glaciers and moving land masses, and two species of man were locked in a battle for survival. Ayla, a young Cromagnon girl, is separated from her family by an earthquake and is adopted by a wandering clan of Neanderthals. Instrumental in finding their new cave-home, Ayla eventually becomes the Clan's medicine woman, having first borne a "half caste" child to Broud, the future leader of the clan. After years of suffering Broud's smouldering hatred, Ayla leaves both Clan and child in an attempt to search for her own people, who she knew were somewhere "out there". The area in which this story takes place is now known as the Crimea, Krasnadar and the Black Sea.

The Valley of the Horses is an account of Ayla's life after leaving the Clan, her life a constant battle for survival in another cave near the upper reaches of the Rivers Bug and Dneiper, Ukraine, where she lives amongst a herd of steppe horses and takes a young lion, from whom she rescues a young Cromagnon man. Jondalar and his brother have travelled the length of the great mother river, the Danube, and has lived with several river bank tribes before his meeting and partnership with Ayla, who feels that she has at last found her soul-mate.

This is the merest outline of a tale that has taken this talented author a total of some 1,140 pages to tell - but the purpose of this review is to say, from an archaeological point of view, what a wealth of genuine information is in these pages.

The archaeological background is really well researched. In an attempt to be authentic the author learned how to use a spear-thrower and has taken an active course in survival techniques, including the building of an ice cave. She has learned how to pressure-flake a flint tool, how bulrushes make sleeping mats, how to turn deer hide into soft leather and how to make a fire

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(primitive style). She has visited many Stone Age sites in Europe (and elsewhere, for that matter). Indeed one can't help but liken Creb, the holy man of the Cave Bear Clan to one of the Neanderthal burial remains found at Shanidar IV (Leakey, The Making of Mankind) or the home of the Clan to a Swiss cave, 8,000 feet up in the Alps, the "Dragon's Lair", where, in addition to Neanderthal burials, a stone box filled with bears' skulls was found and other bear bones were placed carefully around the walls (Roberts, The Ancient World). These finds all tend to confirm Jean Avel's story that the Neanderthals were thinking and caring people.

Certainly I found the books a great help in giving background pictures when I was studying the "O" level course in Archaeology - but apart from this, both books are very readable for their own sakes. I can't wait for the remaining four to be published.

NANCY WILLIAMS

"O" LEVEL IN ARCHAEOLOGY

Enrolment for the Monday evening "O" level classes in Archaeology at the Technical College will be on 10th and 11th September. Several of our members (including Nancy Williams, as she mentioned above) have enjoyed this course and the success rate is high. Of course, we think the fact that one of the lecturers is Mary Oliver has something to do with that!

REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS AT COWDERY'S DOWN, BASINGSTOKE

Martin Millet's report on his excavations at Cowdery's Down has now been published in Archaeological Journal, Vol 140, 1983.

HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB

The AGM and Annual Conference will be held at Cadland House on Saturday, 29th September (£4 members; £5 non-members) with lectures about Cadland House and its gardens, and aspects of the Solent. Details from Mrs J Irvine, 4 Clarence Rd, Lyndhurst (tel Lyndhurst 2124). The Local History Section will hold their AGM and day conference on Saturday 6th October (details to be announced)

Articles for the Newsletter, and letters for publication, will be welcomed by the Editor, Barbara Applin, 138 Old Kempshott Lane (tel: Basingstoke 65439)

Details of all except the March lecture for the forthcoming season are on the front page. Programme cards will be available at the September lecture and posted to any members who cannot come.