

Editorial

This edition of *Buried History* has papers about most of Australia's first archaeologists, many of whom were women. All were active in the field by 1955 and were trained within the British archaeological system, which itself is the subject of some discussion in one paper.

We were sad to hear about the passing of Emeritus Professor Basil Hennessy on Sunday 27 October 2013. His daughter, Linda, has written a tribute to him, for which we are grateful. She has also provided many fascinating images. It is this writer's view that Basil has been the most influential figure in Australian archaeology. We will greatly miss his inclusive and statesman-like presence.

Of the ten women who assisted Mortimer and Tessa Wheeler supervise the excavation of Maiden Castle, Dorset, three were Australian. The first woman to venture overseas in 1932 to dig with the Wheelers and study with Dorothy Garrod was Nancy Champion de Crespigny from Adelaide. Nancy married Hallam Movius. In 1932 he had dug with Dorothy Garrod and later he became a professor at Harvard. We are delighted that her son Geoffrey Movius, who recently published a collection of his poems entitled *Transit* (New York: Pressed Wafer 2012), has provided a paper describing his mother's lifetime of archaeological activity, before and after her marriage.

Another largely forgotten Australian woman is Veronica Seton-Williams. She travelled from Melbourne to England with Nancy in 1934 to work at Maiden Castle, study at the Institute of Archaeology and later to dig with Petrie and Garstang. Robert Merrillees, another early archaeologist, has provided a paper recounting his memories of her. Robert studied archaeology at Sydney University under Professor James Stewart, and while Basil Hennessy completed a PhD in Oxford, Robert did likewise in London at the Institute of Archaeology. Dr Merrillees then went on to a distinguished career in the Australian diplomatic service, while simultaneously managing to produce a continuous stream of scholarly archaeological papers. He has retired to France where he lives with his wife, Helen.

The third woman was Margaret (Kim) Collingridge of Sydney. In 1935 she travelled to England to dig at Maiden Castle and complete a degree at the Institute of Archaeology. In 1945 she married Mortimer Wheeler subsequently becoming Lady Wheeler. Kathryn Eriksson, a doctoral student of Professor Basil Hennessy at Sydney University, is researching Lady Wheeler and hopes to offer a paper for the next issue of *Buried History*.

Two very able 1920s archaeologists were Gertrude Caton Thompson and Dorothy Garrod, but they were not trained by Mortimer Wheeler. Dr Phillip Edwards explores the origins of their advanced archaeological techniques. Phillip studied under Basil Hennessy at Sydney University and is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Archaeology, Environment and Community Planning, La Trobe

University. The American Schools of Oriental Research recently awarded Dr Edwards the G. Ernest Wright prize for the best archaeological publication for calendar year 2013 for his publication *Wadi Hammeh 27: an Early Natufian settlement at Pella in Jordan* (Leiden: Brill).

A chance meeting late one night in 1951 between Basil Hennessy and George Roy Haslam (Mick) Wright aboard the P&O liner SS *Orontes* bound for England, led to an enduring friendship and Mick's lifetime in archaeology. Mick recently left his papers and library to the Australian Institute of Archaeology. He is arguably the most prolifically published Australian archaeologist yet the Australian archaeologists familiar with his work could be counted on one hand. He is now not well, but he has shared many of his fading memories for use in this paper.

Wayne Horowitz, Professor of Assyriology, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, the Institute's 2013 Petrie lecturer, and Luis Siddell, Macquarie University, have provided a brief communication describing a project to publish all cuneiform material in Australia.

Dr Judith Powell's recent book, *Love's Obsession: The lives and archaeology of Jim and Eve Stewart*, (Wakefield 2013) has been kindly reviewed by Graeme F. Bourke, University of New England, NSW. The book narrates how an Australian, James Rivers Barrington Stewart, became the first archaeological lecturer in Australia and how his legacy was preserved by his second wife, Eve. Many of the people already mentioned pass through its pages. From 1935 Stewart was involved with Walter Beasley, who was a prime mover in Stewart's return to Australia in 1947 to begin archaeology at Sydney University. This is the subject of a paper by myself entitled, James Stewart and Walter Beasley: Australia, Cyprus and the Australian Institute of Archaeology in A.B. Knapp, J.M. Webb and A. McCarthy (eds) 2013, *J.R.B. Stewart: An Archaeological Legacy* (Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology Volume 139), Uppsala: Åströms Förlag 169-178.

The review of Lydia Carr's biography of Tessa Wheeler picks up many of the names and themes covered by other contributions in this edition. We are also grateful to Anne Gardner for her review of Martin Goodman's *Rome and Jerusalem* and to Merrill Kitchen for the review of Craig Evans' *Jesus and His World*.

Professor David Gill, who is on our Editorial Board, is acknowledged for overseeing the review of my paper about Mick Wright. Dr Rachael Sparks, Lecturer and Keeper of Collections, Institute of Archaeology London, assisted us greatly with images. We would also like to recognise the National Library of Australia's TROVE system, which has facilitated much of the research about the women Australian archaeologists.

Christopher J Davey