

Secretary's Report 1982 Our activities during the last year have been, as usual, many and varied. We shall have had - after Mr.Mackey's talk tonight - eight lectures on various aspects of both British and international archaeology. We must congratulate Peter Armstrong and Peter Halkon for the high standard of the various lectures.

The coffee before the lectures has been ably organised by Mrs.Mary Hanby who, although retiring from the Committee this year, has generously agreed to continue this vital office.

Eighty members attended a very enjoyable annual dinner at Hull University and were entertained by a stimulating talk by Mr.Peter Addyman, the director of the York Archaeological Trust.

The Society has been very fortunate in having two first-class excursions this year, the first being in May when members of the Society joined with members of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society's Prehistoric Section to visit a large number of prehistoric sites in the area. I understand the trip was very enjoyable, even though the coach broke down on more than one occasion! The second excursion was organised by our next Chairman, Mr.Keith Simcock. Forty Society members visited the open field system at Laxton, Southwell Minster and Newstead Abbey. The day was rounded off with high tea at Lincoln and a trip back over the Humber Bridge.

In the field we have been more active than we have been for a number of years. Peter Halkon and the Field Study Group have carried out a highly successful site survey in the Holme-on-Spalding Moor area, the results of which are to be summarised in the next E.R.A.S. journal. Peter Armstrong and a team of members are currently

undertaking an important excavation at Dyer Lane, Beverley. More support for both these projects is still needed. Peter Jackson, assisted by Ray Ketch and John Leonard, undertook the excavation of a nineteenth century well in the centre of Howden. This excavation caused a lot of excitement in the local press and appeared to stimulate interest in local archaeology and history.

Dr. Ben Whitwell, the Society's Honorary Editor, has been very busy on the Society's behalf editing articles for the next journal which will be at the printers in the next couple of months.

And finally it saddens me to announce that attendance at Society lectures and excavations in the last year has been very poor. The Society's membership has now dropped to a record low of 140 for the year ending December 1981. This is something the Committee finds very worrying and is urgently investigating. If any members have any ideas or suggestions, I would be pleased if they would contact me.

Peter Wilkinson,
53 Hotham Road North,
Hull.

Changes at the top Members not present at the A.G.M. (Oh yes, why not?!) might like to know the new composition of Society officers and committee. 1982 is very much a year of change with the end of Jean Dawes' constitutional term of office as Chairman and John Hicks' many long years as Hon. Treasurer. Our thanks are extended to them both for their work on the Society's behalf. The Chairmanship has passed now to Keith Simcock, with Peter Halkon elected as Vice-chairman. The office of Hon. Treasurer is now occupied by a professional in these matters, Robert Edwards, and we look forward to a long and happy association between him and our Hon. Secretary, Peter Wilkinson, who has been diligent in his care and promotion of Society affairs these twelve months past. The committee has emerged as an even balance of amateur and professional in

the business of archaeology, comprising in the former category Rosemary Major, Ray Ketch, Peter Cottingham and Derek Brooks; and in the latter Dr. Ben Whitwell (H.A.U.), Tim Schadla-Hall (Hull Museums), Susan Jackson (H.A.U.) and Peter Armstrong (H.A.U.). Meet all these and more at the first meeting in the 1982/3 lecture programme on September 15th at the Ferens Art Gallery. Your enclosed membership card for the year gives all the details of an excellent programme over the next eight months.

The death of Dyer Lane Excavations at Dyer Lane, Beverley, were cut short early in July by the Beverley Borough Council at a crucial stage when the earliest occupational levels were beginning to emerge but before they could be examined and recorded carefully. In the event this has proved all the more galling in that there has been a complete and utter absence of development progress on the site since the Unit vacated it! The rescue excavation had had a chequered career up to this point, having itself already been rescued through the good offices of the E.R.A.S. in May when the first legalistic and administrative elbow was nudged firmly into its ribs!

The site provided an intriguing pattern of industrial usage from the 12th century AD in the shape of bowl hearths and wicker-lined drains, throwing considerable light on Beverley's woollen clothworking processes. For, not surprisingly perhaps, environmental sampling has proven the presence of dyeworkers - or more strictly speaking the presence of the dye plant, weld, also known as Dyers' Rocket, (Reseda luteola). A great deal more needs to be done on this aspect of seed recovery to fill out the picture. It is only much to be regretted that the full story will always remain incomplete.

However, looking on the bright side, we are happy to report that the excavation brought together into the field many E.R.A.S. members,

friends and allies to share in the Unit's work, which is always a good thing. The achievements that were so obviously made in the progress of the excavation were the greater for this help, making it possible to maintain momentum by running the site at the weekends as well as throughout the week with the full-time staff. And so, invidious as it may be to single out individuals, special thanks are extended to Peter Jackson, Ray Ketch, Peter Wilkinson, Ian Wright, Rosemary Major, Phil Hempel, Robert Travis, Susan Gibson and John Knowles for their assiduous efforts.

Watkin on Vikings Your intrepid correspondent has recently visited York to see the "Vikings in England" (Yorkshire Museum, York: 3 April - 30 September 1982. Admission: adults £1.50, children 75p, OAP's 75p), and, as ever, he is willing to share his experience. So now read on ...

There was a time in 1980, "The Year of the Vikings", when these Dark Age desperadoes seemed ubiquitous in the Sunday supplements, on TV, and in the bookshops. Fortunately this high-pressure salesmanship has largely subsided, and the current exhibition in York is in many senses a post-script to those heady days. "The Vikings in England" is nevertheless an exhibition of some size and replaces most of the exhibitions usually found in the Yorkshire Museum.

As displayed at York "The Vikings in England" is organised into twelve sections, following a broadly chronological sequence with the earliest Viking attacks on England in the 8th century and effectively ending with the establishment of the short-lived Anglo-Scandinavian North Sea empire of Cnut the Great in the 11th century. Within the loose chronological framework a more thematic approach is adopted, considering various aspects of Viking culture. The titles of the various sections give some idea of the themes explored: The Vikings Strike; From a Danish Homeland; The Look of the English; The Attackers return; From Sword to Plough; The Hammer and the Cross; Markets

of the Danelaw; The Viking Capital of York; Growth of a Danish King; Danegeld and Cnut; The English in Denmark; The End in England. The bulk of the exhibits within these sections are small (often incomplete) artefacts derived from archaeological excavations or found by chance, but photographs, artists reconstructions, models, maps, and plans broaden the nature of the displays and convey some idea of Viking period churches, settlements and fortresses. A number of lengthy notices and some apposite quotes from contemporary sources (especially the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle), as well as labels related to individual objects, help explain and interpret the exhibition. An annoying feature of some of the labels - especially those outside the display cases - is that they cannot always be swiftly connected with the items they describe. Some of the displays also include items less familiar in other museums, notably a full-size reconstruction of one of the houses excavated at the Coppergate site in York. As displayed the latter contains an incomplete Torksey-type spouted pitcher, the top half of a rotary quern, and scattered bones and sea shells - obviously this particular household would not win any good housekeeping awards!

For members of the E.R.A.S. the section on the Viking Capital of York is perhaps likely to be particularly interesting, both on the grounds of local interest and content. This section includes not only finds recovered before the 1970's but also a selection of the better items recovered by the York Archaeological Trust in its well-publicised excavations over the past decade. The deep and damp stratification at York offers ideal conditions rare elsewhere for preserving organic materials, and this is reflected in the leatherwork and fragments of silk and textiles on display. Although not always visually striking the rarity of finds of this kind gives them a particular fascination. Other small finds from York of metal, bone, and pot are also on display. Finds of these materials are quite well-known from other Viking period sites, but the quantity and

quality of the York finds is particularly impressive and is evocative of the nature and intensity of the Anglo-Scandinavian occupation. Another group of material with particularly northern connotations is the carved stonework utilised in a number of the sections, particularly that on The Hammer and the Cross. All the major types of stonework encountered during the Viking period - crosses, hogbacks, decorated slabs - are represented, most coming from northern England, including several from Yorkshire. This is a rare opportunity to see a wide cross-section of this material gathered together in one exhibition. Yorkshire patriots will also be pleased to see on display most of the other important finds from the county, including the Goldsborough hoard, the grave finds from Wensley churchyard, and some of the finds from the Viking period settlement recently excavated at Ribbleshead.

The exit route from the exhibition takes the visitor past an area devoted to souvenirs, in the best York tradition. A wide variety of items related to the Vikings is available, including T-shirts, caps, badges, jewellery, posters, cups, ashtrays, pencils, model ships, etc., as well as various books including a catalogue especially produced for the exhibition. This, The Vikings in England, is quite closely integrated with the exhibition, including a detailed catalogue of most of the items on display, and represents good value at £3.50.

"The Vikings in England" exhibition naturally invites comparison with that on "The Vikings" staged at the British Museum in 1980 (see John Rumsby's review of that in ERAS News, No.4, 1980). Perhaps surprisingly there is less duplication of content between these two exhibitions than might be feared. That at the B.M. derived its material from all the Scandinavian countries, Germany, Britain and Ireland, while that at York is drawn almost entirely from England and Denmark. The narrower scope of the York exhibition means

that many of the artistic high points of Viking culture seen in the B.M. are missing, but gives the exhibition a greater homogeneity with the focus firmly on England. Moreover, the large quantity of domestic material from York means that "The Vikings in England" conveys a clearer picture of everyday life in Viking times, rather than concentrating on the Vikings as creators of works of art as tended to be the case with "The Vikings". On balance then the York exhibition is probably worth a visit, even at £1.50, if you did not get to the B.M. in 1980; if you did get to the B.M., then the merits of a visit to York are more problematical - I suppose it depends how you feel about the Vikings!

P.S. Those who do not like children in bulk beware visits on weekdays during school time. While I was there parties of schoolchildren were surging through at half-hourly intervals - so be warned!

Jeff Watkin.

Lecture summaries

17th March - Recent Archaeological Work in

 Lincoln. Mick Jones

Mr. Jones, director of the Lincoln Archaeological Trust, gave members an extensive review of the Trust's recent work in the Cathedral town, a town comparable to York in many ways, although smaller. The Cathedral and Castle occupy the southern part of the Roman legionary fortress of Lindum. The Roman colonia lies further south again, a settlement which declined as a result of the silting up of the River Witham on the one hand and the rise of the port of Boston on the other. Much of the historic centre of Lincoln was put under threat by the redevelopment plan of 1971.

Lincoln occupies the strategic position on the north/south Jurassic ridge where it is cut by the River Witham. Here too lay a natural lake, Brayford (= broad ford), and Iron Age occupation

is in evidence; ("lin" is cognate with the Old Welsh word for lake). On epigraphic evidence a Roman military base was established on the site by AD 50, although the actual location is uncertain. The later legionary fortress was built in AD 71, and excavations on the defences have demonstrated it to be of timber. At St. Paul in the Bail in 1978 the principia area of the fortress was excavated and post pits here revealed part of an aisled hall ground plan with a verandah set around a courtyard, representing the north-west corner of the principia. Together with a possible equestrian statue base, late 1st century paving over the principia gives an indication of the establishment of a forum or temple precinct on the site. Further remodelling in the second quarter of the 2nd century took place. A finds plot of discoveries made in the 19th century of tessellated pavements, bath houses, etc., demonstrates the extent of urbanisation by this time. At the east end of the 1978 excavation was a 2nd century courtyard and wall, and the 1979 season added further detail in the shapes of several rooms, a well, a portico and courtyard. Even above ground today stands 25 feet of Roman walling, known as the Mint Wall, which is part of this complex. A comparable plan occurs at Augusta Raurica in Roman Gaul, indicating how Lincoln's 2nd century civic centre conforms more to the Gallo-Roman style of forum than to the Romano-British.

There were six phases in the development of the defences of Roman Lincoln, tabulated as follows:

AD 55-67	Legionary fortress 1
AD 71-78	Legionary fortress 2
Early 2nd cent.	<u>Colonia</u> wall circuit
Mid-late 2nd cent.	Addition of towers
Early 3rd cent.	Wall heightened
4th cent.	Wall heightened and thickened.

The stone wall cores are always found to be a mixture of oolite and non-oolitic stone, and

oolitic limestone as a facing stone is not used until the later stages of wall construction. Beyond the defences a group of four 3rd to 4th century houses of strip plan have been excavated fronting Ermine Street and are seen as traders' premises. One of these was found to be aisled and contained an oven. Suburban growth of this type is compatible with Lincoln's status as the capital of Flavia Caesariensis, one of four 4th century provinces of Britain.

Lincoln has produced intriguing possibilities of early Christianity in Britain. In the excavation of St. Paul in the Bail a church with an apsidal end and chancel screen was found over the courtyard in the forum area. The walls of the church were robbed out. The Venerable Bede records that in AD 628 Paulinus came to Lincoln and built a stone church, which is tentatively identified with this one. Indeed, a grave robbed out in antiquity, suggesting perhaps the rehousing of relics, was found in front of the chancel screen. In spite of the removal of the human remains, fragments of a 7th century bronze hanging bowl with bird-shaped escutcheons, enamel, tinning and millefiori decoration survived in the grave pit. Later churches were built on the site giving a four phase development of the 7th, 10th (?), 11th and 11th/12th centuries. However, radiocarbon dates of human bones from the vicinity of the church have been established of the late 4th to the early 7th century, which, if correct, may provide evidence of an earlier Christian community than anticipated and may even suggest a Roman date for the initially supposed 7th century church. Similarly the second church may prove to be of 8th century, not 10th century date, the later phases of church building taking the sequence up to 1301.

Danish settlement in the 9th century heralds an increase in activity in Lincoln, and the medieval town respects the Roman plan with the addition of the walled suburb of Newport on the north side. 166 houses were cleared for the erection of the Norman Castle.

A major excavation in Flaxengate has revealed timber houses of pre-Conquest date, and pottery found includes sherds of Syrian origin and stone-ware from China. Industry is represented by bone and antler working, copper or bronze smithing, and glass working. The analysis of 50,000 animal bone fragments shows marked changes in species percentages in the 10th and 11th centuries. Lincoln's prosperity developing out of the wool trade in the 11th and 12th centuries is reflected in the archaeological record.

Current work by the Trust was a fabric survey and excavation within a standing Norman building which from the 13th century was St. Mary's Guildhall.

28th April - The Cusichaca Project, Peru. Rodney Mackey

Mr.Mackey provided members with a visually stimulating account of his recent involvement in the continuing Anglo-Peruvian Cusichaca Project, jointly organised by the National Cultural Institute in Lima and the Archaeological Institute in London. The 1981 season's work was undertaken by a team of 60 people, and Mr.Mackey's role was as site supervisor and joint project photographer.

Peru lies on the west coast of South America south of the equator, a country of high terrain where the principal route of communication is the Amazon River. The archaeological focus of the Cusichaca Project is the Inca civilisation of the 15th century AD, of which standing buildings abound to this day. The town of Cusco was the centre of the Inca Empire and is still considered by the natives of Peru to be their capital, not Lima. At its zenith the Inca Empire was geographically vast stretching from modern day Santiago in Chile to Quito in Ecuador.

At Cusco there are remarkable Inca buildings in stone characterised by irregular masonry of enormous proportion with close fitting joints.

Some individual stones weigh as much as 300 tons. The native rock in some instances has been chipped away in such a way as to create ledges for bulding purposes. But it was in the Macchu Picchu area in the Cusichaca Valley where archaeological investigation was concentrated.

Macchu Picchu itself was only discovered in 1911 and is a jewel of Inca civilisation. It is a masterpiece of town planning and architecture. At Patallacta typical Inca buildings survive, trapezoidal in elevation with trapezoidal doorways, windows and niches. Roofs were hipped and were made of flimsy timber and thatch. These collapse quickly on abandonment, leaving the more substantial stone walls standing to full height. Water supply was ducted by narrow canals. At Pulpituyoc, a checkpoint on an Inca route, Mr.Mackey was in charge of the archaeological survey, and the results were outlined. The buildings here were gabled. Occupation levels were encountered beneath the overlying roof collapse. Inca pottery found proved to be of a standard type, painted with oxides and burnished.

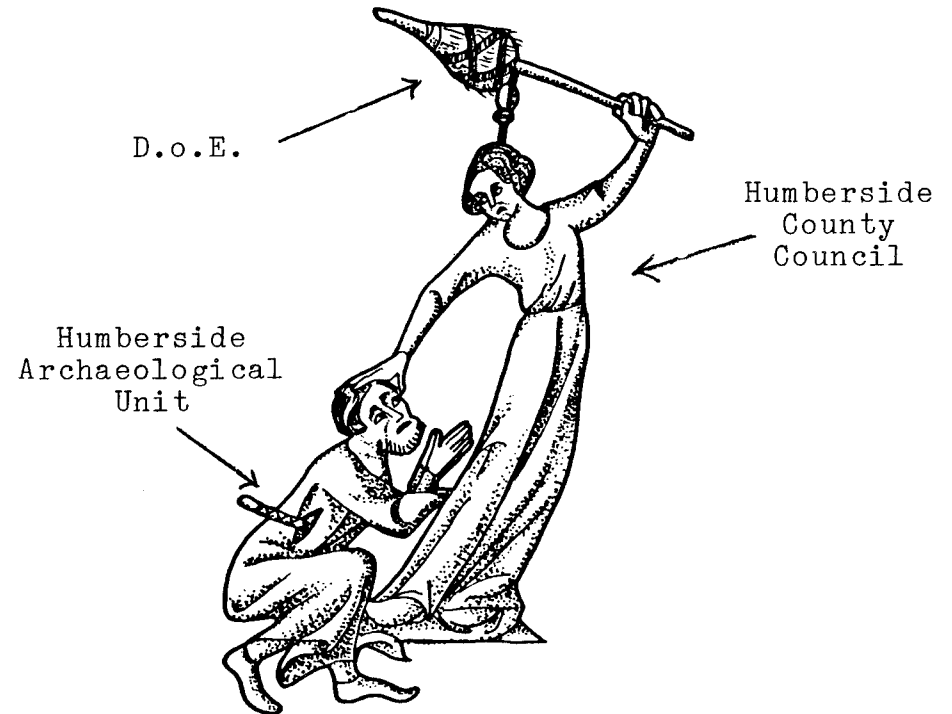
Reconnaissance excursions into the "outback" were an integral part of the archaeological research programme, allowing the survey and mapping of Inca roads, canals and buildings. Inca houses in fact have been found up to 16,000 feet, the snowline.

The reconstruction of the famous Inca canals, which rendered habitation and agriculture possible in otherwise impossible areas for settlement, is a major and well-publicised aspect of the Cusichaca Project, which is hoped may improve the lot of today's peasant farmers of Peru.

A Beverley book to buy An important new publication is now available, Beverley:An Archaeological and Architectural Study, published by H.M.S.O. for the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments. The work is the result of the collaborative efforts of Keith Miller,

John Robinson, Barbara English and Ivan Hall and incorporates a lot of new documentary research pertaining to the archaeology of this historic town, as well as providing a balanced and comprehensive survey of the town's medieval and post-medieval buildings, both sacred and secular. Two generously sized maps are included in a map pocket, one dealing with the archaeology and topography of the medieval town, the other (usefully colour-coded) showing the age of standing buildings. The book will be indispensable to local historians and archaeologists, and, one hopes also, to the local authority, giving as it does some sound words of advice on the handling of Beverley's hard-pressed archaeology. The book sells at £7.50 and is obtainable through bookshops.

An Allegory of the Archaeological Recession
(with apologies to the artist of the Luttrell Psalter)



Letters and contributions for inclusion in the newsletter should be addressed to :
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