

# Antiquity

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## Editorial

FRONTISPIECE & BACKPIECE

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I have been interested in the archaeology of Wiltshire since my early teens, and bought Stukeley's Abury and Stonehenge and books by Colt-Hoare, The Cunningtons and so on, whenever I found them in second-hand bookshops since my twenties. I was delighted to be given the opportunity to include in a window some of the more evident archaeological features of this much-loved area.

J.P.



*Cartoon by John Piper for the Devizes Museum stained glass window*



*Henry VIII's warship, 'Mary Rose', lost off Portsmouth in action against the French in 1545, as depicted in the sixteenth-century Anthony Roll in the Pepys Library, Magdalene College, Cambridge. (See Editorial, p. 2)*

*By kind permission of the Master & Fellows of Magdalene College, Cambridge*

We reproduce as our Frontispiece, by kind permission of the artist, and of the Devizes Museum which owns it, the cartoon painted by John Piper which was then realized as a stained-glass window by Patrick Reyntiens, and now is in the Devizes Museum—a most notable addition to the many treasures in that great collection. John Piper has always had a keen and sympathetic interest in antiquities and we reproduce (p. 1), again by his permission and that of the Devizes Museum, his letter to the Museum. We also remember his impressive painting of the Pentre Ifan megalithic monument in *To illustrate the monuments: essays presented to Stuart Piggott* (London, 1976).

And as our Backpiece we print Henry VIII's warship, the *Mary Rose*, as depicted in the Anthony Roll. This is an illustrated armament roll of the navy of Henry VIII made for him c. 1546 by Anthony Anthony, one of the officers of the Ordnance. There were three rolls: 1. Ships; 2. Galliasses; 3. Pinnaces and Row-Barges. Charles II gave rolls 1 and 3 to Samuel Pepys (roll 2 is in the British Museum). Pepys cut up the rolls ship by ship, mounted them on vellum and made them into a magnificent and superbly bound book which now rests with the other 2,999 books of his collection in the Pepys Library of Magdalene College, Cambridge. We reproduce this illustration by kind permission of the Master and Fellows of Magdalene.

No reader of ANTIQUITY, and no schoolboy or schoolgirl, can by now fail to know that the *Mary Rose*, Flagship of Henry VIII's fleet, sank off Portsmouth in action against the French on the warm and sunny early afternoon of Sunday 19 July 1545, with the loss of most of her complement of 700 men. The modern attempt to raise the *Mary Rose* began in 1965, when a project called Solent Ships was started by Alexander McKee of Hayling, a journalist and amateur diver, who invited a group of divers from the southern branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club to join him in discovering and surveying known wrecks in the Solent. Margaret Rule was invited to join the team as non-diving archaeologist. She was with McKee when the site of the wreck was discovered, and with him formed the *Mary Rose* Committee in 1967, 'to find, excavate, raise and preserve such remains of the ship *Mary Rose* as may be of historical and archaeological interest'. In 1979 the *Mary Rose* Trust was formed to control and finance all future

work, with Prince Charles as President. We have all followed the work of the last few years and were able to share the final excitement when on 11 October 1982—a nerve-wracking but great day for British archaeology—the *Mary Rose* surfaced to a welcome that literally shivered her timbers. We must all join in our congratulations on this magnificent achievement for underwater archaeology.

Margaret Rule, archaeological director of the Trust, has now published an account of the whole exciting affair. It is *The Mary Rose: the excavation and raising of Henry VIII's flagship* (London: Conway Maritime Press, 1982. 224 pp., with more than 200 photographs, many in colour. £12.50, hardback. Reissued in paperback by Windward (Leicester: W. H. Smith Distributors), 1982. £4.95).

Prince Charles, who is Patron of the Trust, and who dived on several occasions to see the *Mary Rose* before her resurrection, has written a preface to Margaret Rule's book in which he says: 'The only real way of understanding and coping with the present is, I believe, through an adequate knowledge and interpretation of the past'—a statement which is a curiously pleasant reminder of what Charles I said, namely, that 'the study of antiquities is by good experience said to be very serviceable and useful to the general good of the State and Commonwealth'.

A second book, by Ernle Bradford, *The story of the Mary Rose*, admirably illustrated, was published in August 1982 in association with the *Mary Rose* Trust (London: Hamish Hamilton, 208 pp. £9.95).

Another excellent book is Alexander McKee's, *How we found the Mary Rose* (London: The Souvenir Press, 1982. 144 pp., copiously illustrated with photographs and diagrams. £8.95, hard-back; £5.95, paper). His preface is dated, 'Hayling Island, June, 1982' and he ends with the words: 'In September or October this year it is hoped that the *Mary Rose* will be raised . . . a floating crane will transfer the hull underwater to a cradle fixed to a pontoon placed on the seabed. Bearing the *Mary Rose*, the pontoon will be lifted to the surface, carrying the ship on her last journey back to Portsmouth dockyard where she was built, 472 years ago.'

This is what happened. These books will be read by every schoolboy and every other schoolgirl now, and for years to come. How nice of *The Sunday Telegraph* to describe McKee's book as 'the perfect

adventure story', and McKee as a man who had 'all the elements of the hero out of boys' comics'. We talk of the romance of archaeology and of popular archaeology. Here it was, in southern England on 11 October: a moment in the history of archaeology to set beside Schliemann at Mycenae, Howard Carter at Thebes, Woolley at Ur, Wheeler at Arikamedu, and Arthur Evans at Knossos.

Meanwhile Sean McGrail, of the National Maritime Museum, politely and rightly takes us to task for describing the *Mary Rose* as a scheduled ancient monument. She is, he points out (*in lit.*, 18 August 1982), a 'monument for the purpose of grant aid from Ancient Monuments funds as defined in the 1979 Act. She was designated a historic wreck in 1974 under the Protection of Wrecks Act, 1973.'

Finally, lest our readers should think that all is now over bar the shouting, we should remind all interested in the preservation of our heritage that the battle is not yet won. The *Mary Rose* coffers are still widely open to receive aid to provide the *Mary Rose* with a fitting home. Information on how you may help, in however small a way, is available from *The Mary Rose Trust, The Old Bond Store, Warblington Street, Portsmouth, PO1 2ET. Telephone Portsmouth (0705) 750521.*

¶ The illegal trade in antiquities is something we have often commented on in these pages: most people will have read Karl Meyer's *The plundered past* (1973) which we have discussed (XLVIII, 2-3; L, 4). We recommend Constance Holden's article, 'Curbing the antiquities trade', in *Science*, CCXVII, 24 September 1982, pp. 1230-1, to which Professor Norman Hammond draws our attention. In her article Constance Holden deals particularly with the case of David Bernstein, a 34-year-old New York art dealer, who arrived at Dulles International Airport from Lima in January 1981 with four suitcases bulging with 154 pre-Columbian artifacts, including a rare feather poncho that alone would have fetched \$100,000 on the market—Bernstein had declared the total value of his goods at \$1,785. Customs later raided Bernstein's apartment and came away with 700 pre-Columbian artifacts valued at over \$1.5 million.

Nineteen months later the Bernstein collection, the largest illicit pre-Columbian art shipment on record, was formally returned to Peru at a ceremony at the Peruvian Embassy in Washington. This is good news: it is, as Constance Holden says,

'a signal of a gradual move toward an orderly public policy with regard to international traffic in plundered antiquities'. What, you may ask, happened to David Bernstein? He was allowed to plead guilty to a misdemeanour for 'misdeclaring' his shipment, was given a one-year suspended sentence, fined \$1,000, and made to do 200 hours of community service consulting with a Latin American art museum in New York.

¶ The carved wooden figure called the Afo-A-Kom has always been regarded as an important religious and political symbol by the Kom people of Cameroun. In 1973 it was stolen, smuggled out of Africa, and eventually offered for sale by a New York art dealer. Then, a group of Americans, headed by Warren Robbins, Curator of the Museum of African Art in Washington, got together many thousands of dollars, bought the figure, and paid for its return to Cameroun.

But these success stories are only one side of the coin. What has happened to the Nigerian sculpture known as the female figure of Jebba island shown in our PL. 1? It is a cire-perdue bronze casting, standing 45½ in (115 cm), one of the largest from sub-Saharan Africa. She stood for centuries with her partner, a bowman, on the island in the Niger in the territory of the Nupe tribe. During the Nigerian Civil War she vanished, then turned up for sale in Ghana. The Director of Antiquities in Nigeria was unable to purchase her because of the Nigerian laws limiting the amount of currency that can be sent out of the country. She has vanished again. Does anyone know where the Jebba lady is now?

As long ago as 1970 Unesco enacted a Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, but this Convention has been ratified, with the exception of Canada, by the victims, rather than the beneficiaries, of the world antiquities trade. There is before Congress at present a measure which, in various forms, has been before it for ten years. This bill, S. 1723, is designed to implement major portions of the Unesco 1970 Convention: it has been opposed by dealers but has wide support from archaeological, anthropological and historical museums and societies. The passing of this US legislation will, we hope, spur other importing nations to ratify the Unesco Convention. Antiquities dealers argue that if the United States, which has the reputation

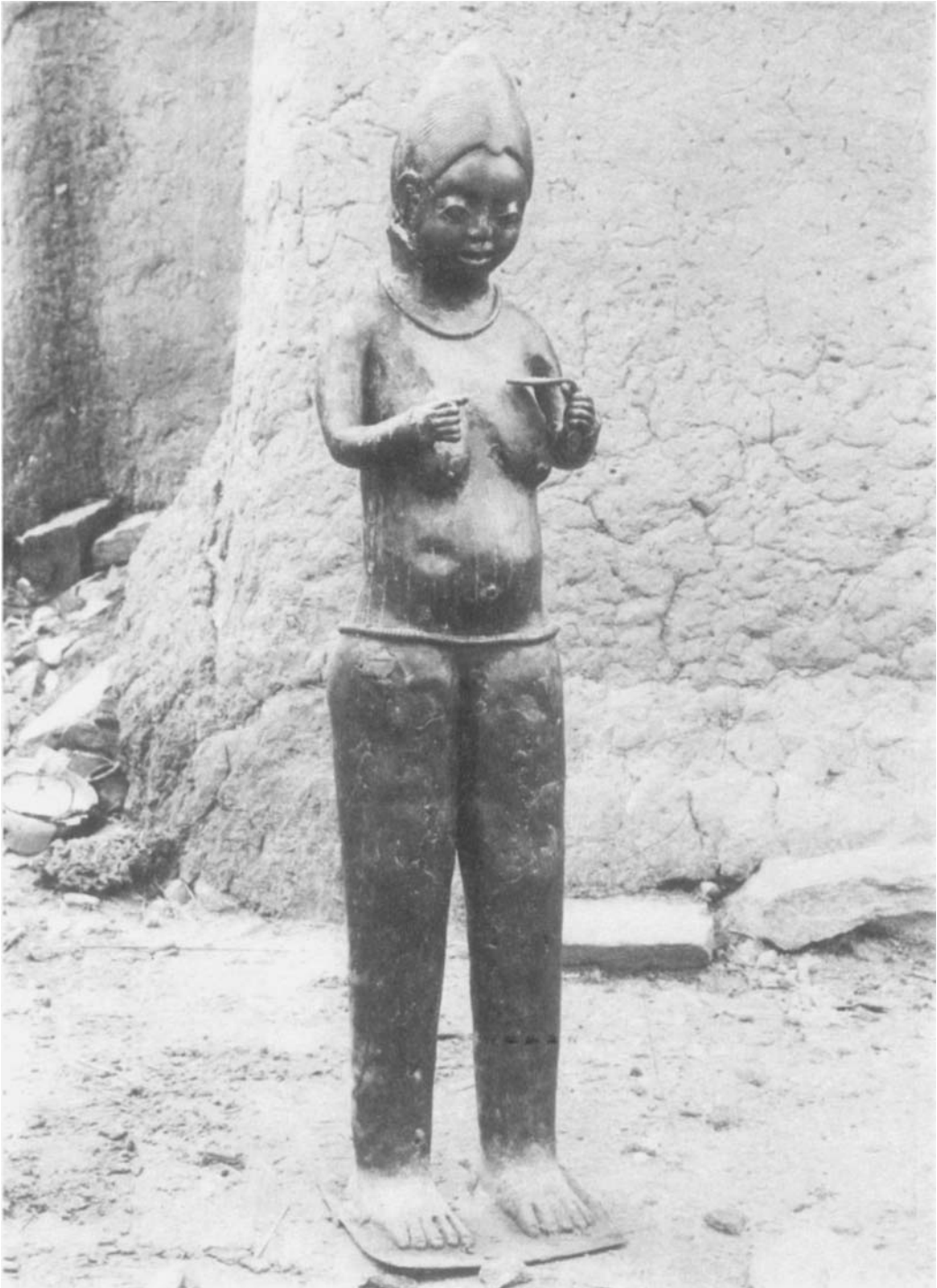


PLATE I: EDITORIAL

*The stolen figure from Jebba island, Nigeria. 45.5 in (1,155 mm) high*

*See p. 3*

*Photo: Frank Willett*

of the 'great depredator' (to quote Clemency Coggins of Harvard) in these matters acts unilaterally, the illicit trade will be driven elsewhere, and Zurich and London will gain where New York loses.

Professor Dr W. G. Mook, of the Laboratorium voor Algemene Natuurkunde Rijksuniversiteit at Groningen in the Netherlands, takes us to task for our use of ad/bc for uncalibrated dates and AD/BC for calibrated dates, and is particularly annoyed at the Editor's strictures (*Antiquity*, 1981, 235) on Elizabeth Shee-Twohig's treatment of C14 dating in her *The megalithic art of Western Europe*. We said: '... she prints all her uncalibrated dates as BC which enormously detracts from the value of the book. Surely, surely, we are all now using the Clark ANTIQUITY 1975 curve, and are all quoting C14 dates when uncalibrated as bc and only giving them as BC when calibrated to calendar years?' Mook says that she has adopted 'the officially correct use of C14 dates', that 'in Europe (outside Britain) the archaeologists still widely use AD/BC for uncalibrated ages, whether we like that or not, and a wealth of data have appeared already in literature using this convention', and states, 'I never use AD/BC for conventional dates any more' (*in lit*, Richard Burleigh and ourselves, 15 April 1982). Incidentally, if Mook never uses conventional dates any more, how would he have us refer to those well-known dates in British history, 55 BC, 43 AD, and 1066 AD? And, parenthetically, who did start the use of lower-case letters for uncalibrated dates and upper case for calibrated dates? Mook attributes what he calls 'a new, but questionable convention' to the Editor of ANTIQUITY (1973, 265), but we were then endorsing and recommending what seemed to us at the time, and still seems to us, a good and sensible convention. We asked many people for their views, and Dr Roy Switsur wrote to us as follows (10 July, 1981):

Concerning the use of lower-case notation for radiocarbon dates that you mentioned, the first that I remember about it was at the British Academy/Royal Society symposium on the impact of natural sciences on archaeology, where, following a paper—by Hans Suess I think—this notation was suggested by Derek Schove. I was covering this meeting for *Nature* and I had tape recordings of the proceedings. I believe that this was the original suggestion, and was acted upon by some of the many archaeologists present at the meeting.

We have discussed Mook's criticisms with several people and print some of the comments we have received. First, Dr Switsur again:

Dr Mook is quite correct in stating that the subject of the conventions for designation of dates has been discussed at length at International Radiocarbon Conferences. The resolution that was finally adopted deemed that in the definitive publication of conventional radiocarbon dates, i.e., those calculated from the Libby Half-Life of 5568 years for the <sup>14</sup>C isotope, and based on the zero year of 1950 AD of the Christian calendar, would be denoted by the upper-case letters BP, and in all subsequent publications citing the dates they should be quoted in this form together with the dating laboratory's reference. I would add that the reference to the paper in *Radiocarbon* should also be given so that interested workers could discover exactly what material was dated and its relationship to the site. After debate, the use of the lower-case letters bc and ad, referred to as the British Convention, was finally rejected for the definitive forms. There is, however, no reason why they should not be used in discussion publications if they are preferred by the author in order to make his meaning clear to readers. The proviso is that the symbols used should be clearly defined and related to the definitive form. This convention has allowed communication amongst archaeologists and others that eschew the BP notation, without bringing in too much confusion, and, beside *Antiquity*, has been used in the journals *Archaeometry*, *Nature*, and, on occasions, even in *Radiocarbon*.

Richard Burleigh (*in lit*, 2 April 1982) re-emphasizes that conventional <sup>14</sup>C ages should be expressed only as dates BP, that is in uncalibrated radiocarbon years before AD 1950, but says:

Nevertheless, I do not think that the bp/bc/ad notation followed by *Antiquity* need conflict seriously with this preferred scientific usage, and from the lower-case notation it is at once clear to archaeologists that uncalibrated dates are intended . . . for the purpose of the archaeologist and the historian I think the lower-case notation is useful and advantageous.

And a comment from an archaeologist—Professor Colin Renfrew writes (*in lit*, 1 June 1982):

Lower-case bc for uncalibrated dates and upper-case BC for calibrated dates is a most convenient innovation . . . and we hope that it *will* become internationally adopted. Dr Mook is right that in radiocarbon circles BP is used for conventional C14 ages,

but it is not realistic to expect archaeologists to speak of BP when they need and want to speak of BC.

Professor Mook also criticized not only what we now know is called the British Convention, but also our use of Clark's 1975 tables. On this matter Richard Burleigh wrote:

Certainly not everyone uses Clark's tables, though at the time of publication, in 1973, they were probably the best approximation and very convenient, since they gave some estimate of the spread involved and were easily accessible. In 1976 Hans Suess produced a calibration table (modified in 1979) based on nearly twice as many measurements as in Clark's analysis, all this from his La Jolla laboratory and extending from 700 to 7,000 years ago. (A calibration table for conventional radiocarbon dates in (ed.) R. Berger and H. E. Suess, *Radiocarbon dating*, 1979, 777–84.)

Now readers should turn to Dr Burleigh's account of the Seattle Conference of June 1982 which we are very happy to be able to print here (pp. 49–51), and pay particular attention to his account of the state of affairs of calibration of the radiocarbon time-scale. The papers of M. Stuiver and J. Klein *et al.* would now seem to be our Bible, to be 'the progenitors of a second generation of high-precision curves'. We are promised a third generation which may deal with possible regional geographical differences.

☞ We note with sadness the deaths of Claude Schaeffer, Claireve Grandjouan, Brian O'Kelly, Iorwerth Peate, Dorothy Whitelock, and Peter Hunter Blair. Schaeffer was born in 1898 at Strasbourg, then part of Germany, and during the First World War was called up into the German navy. When Alsace returned to France he became a passionate and patriotic Frenchman. In the Second World War he joined the Free French forces, was gazetted *capitaine de corvette*, and was part of the Allied intelligence unit at Bletchley. He worked first in Alsace, where he was Keeper of the Strasbourg Archaeological Museum, and then in 1929 began the direction of the excavation of Ras Shamra, the Canaanite late bronze-age town, Ugarit, and later worked at Enkomi in Cyprus. He used his spare time from Bletchley producing his *Stratigraphie comparée et chronologie de l'Asie Occidentale* (1948), a remarkable work, though everyone did not accept his use of evidence from

earthquakes to establish a geochronology of the ancient civilizations of the Near East. He was Professor in the Collège de France, a Member of the French Academy, a Gold Medallist of the Society of Antiquaries, and a Fellow of St John's College, Oxford. Five years ago, when he was 80, we asked him if he would contribute to our series *Archaeological Retrospect*, but he said he was still too young to look back at his own past!

Claireve Grandjouan was a Frenchwoman from Provence who became Professor of Archaeology at Hunter College, New York; and in addition to her university duties lectured widely on many aspects of archaeology with a wit and sympathy which captivated her increasingly large audiences. She served from 1962–8 as the first full-time General Secretary of the Archaeological Institute of America and during that period, and until her untimely death on 1 June 1982 at the early age of 52, made a most substantial contribution to the development of the Institute. In 1982 she was appointed General Editor of the Institute's Textbook Series on the archaeology of different parts of the world. On 13 November last the New York Society of the AIA held a symposium in her memory at Hunter College on 'Festivals and Festivities in Antiquity'. Claireve was herself a festive person—we have very happy memories of her in New York, from luncheon discussions with her students in Hunter College to her acting as our cicerone in Greenwich Village. We shall all miss her humour, good company, shrewd judgement, and dedication to archaeology.

Professor Michael J. O'Kelly (he was always called Brian because this was his intended name, but his father, so he told us, forgot it on the way to the registry office), died suddenly on 14 October 1982, the day before the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society was giving him a special dinner to celebrate his retirement from the Chair of Archaeology at University College, Cork, and to remember his distinguished career in Irish archaeology, which began when he was appointed Curator of the Cork Museum in 1944. For nearly 40 years he worked in the field, and in the academic world of Irish archaeology, to its lasting benefit. A painstaking and brilliant excavator, he worked on a wide variety of sites from the Late Stone Age to Medieval times. He was a pioneer of experimental archaeology and showed that the Irish sites called *fulachta fiadhe* could have functioned as cooking-places. For 14 years he excavated Newgrange and



was able to date its construction to before 3000 BC. The report of this most important work was published a few weeks after his death, and will be reviewed by P.-R. Giot in our July issue. In the preparation of this book, and in all his work in the field and the study, he was most ably and devotedly helped by his wife, Claire, who herself made a special study of the monumental art of the Boyne tombs. We had for years urged him to summarize his unrivalled knowledge of Irish prehistory in an introductory textbook. This book he completed last summer, and it will be published this year. The last letter we wrote to him contained appreciative and critical comments on his manuscript, but alas, it arrived in Cork too late for any reply. Irish, and for that matter Welsh and Scottish, archaeologists are often, and most often unfairly, said by their lowland English and continental colleagues to be insular, parochial, and removed from the important centres of European archaeology. This could not be said of Brian O'Kelly who was internationally minded, went to all the main international conferences, and served for many years on the Executive Committee of the International Congress of Pre-historic and Protohistoric Sciences.

Dr Iorwerth C. Peate died in October 1982 at the age of 81. He had joined the staff of the archaeological department of the National Museum of Wales in 1927; was appointed Head of a new sub-Department of Folk Culture and Industries in 1932, Keeper of an enlarged and renamed Department of Folk Life in 1936, and in 1948 was appointed Curator of the Welsh Folk Museum at St Fagans. Until his retirement in 1971 he made St Fagans famous and a worthy counterpart to the folk museums of Scandinavia. His *The Welsh house* (1940) began the study of vernacular architecture in Britain, but he also wrote extensively on crafts, furniture, and folk museums, founded and edited the international journal *Gwerin*, and was himself a poet.

Both Dorothy Whitelock and Peter Hunter Blair were products of that high tradition of ancient British and Early English scholarship established in Cambridge by H. M. Chadwick and still affectionately referred to as Section B. Miss

Whitelock graduated in 1924, and after a distinguished career in Oxford where she was Fellow and Tutor and later Vice-Principal of St Hilda's College, and Lecturer in Old English in the University, she returned to Cambridge in 1957 as Elrington and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon. Her first book *Anglo-Saxon Wills* was published in 1930; her last book, *The Life of King Alfred*, will be published posthumously this year. Peter Hunter Blair graduated in 1935 and spent his life teaching and tutoring in Cambridge. He will be remembered as a great and inspiring teacher and for his books, notably his *Introduction to Anglo-Saxon England* (1956) and *The World of Bede* (1970).

The Memorial Service to Dorothy Whitelock in St Botolph's, Cambridge, on 30 October 1982 was carefully planned to have an Anglo-Saxon flavour. There was a passage from Alcuin's letter to Arno of Salzburg, the Blessing was from the *Book of Cerne*, and one of the prayers was that of Byrhtnoth at the Battle of Maldon, 991: 'O God, ruler of peoples, I thank you for all the joys I have experienced in the world.' At the service in Emmanuel College Chapel on 20 November for Peter Hunter Blair, Caedmon's hymn was read in Anglo-Saxon by Professor Peter Clemons, Professor Whitelock's successor in the chair.

☞ Finally, we have never had a formal rejection slip or letter to send out week after week to the many contributors who kindly send in notes or articles for consideration, and for whose work we sadly cannot or gladly do not want to find space, but we are encouraged to draft one, inspired by that used by the editors of a Chinese economics journal, and referred to in *The Times* Diary, 9 July 1982:

We have read your manuscript with boundless delight. If we were to publish your paper it would be impossible for us to publish any work of a lower standard. As it is unthinkable that, in the next thousand years, we shall see its equal, we are, to our regret, compelled to return your divine composition, and to beg you a thousand times to overlook our short sight and timidity.