



GLYN EDMUND DANIEL
1914–1986

Glyn Daniel, Disney Professor of Archaeology at Cambridge University from 1974 to 1981 and editor of *Antiquity* from 1958 to 1986, died at his home in Cambridge, England on December 13, 1986. One of the few British prehistorians whose work was widely known in the Americas, Daniel

American *Antiquity*, 54(2), 1989, pp. 234–239.
Copyright © 1989 by the Society for American Archaeology

was the founder of archaeological historiography, a respected specialist in the archaeology of European megalithic monuments, and a peerless popularizer and interpreter of archaeology for the lay public.

His early life in the Vale of Glamorgan, South Wales, is recalled in his entertaining and circumspect autobiography, *Some Small Harvest* (1986). After a year studying geology and playing the organ at University College, Cardiff, (where he was made a fellow half a century later), Daniel moved on to St. John's College at Cambridge University in 1932, and remained there for the rest of his life. He was awarded a First Class with Distinction in his B.A. final examinations in 1935, and in 1938 was awarded the Ph.D. for a dissertation on the megalithic chambered tombs of England and Wales. This also gained him a research fellowship at St. John's.

Between 1940 and 1945 Glyn Daniel served in the Royal Air Force in India, where from 1942 on he was in charge of aerial photograph interpretation for that theater and rose to the rank of Wing Commander. He also met his future wife, Ruth Langhorne, whom he married after the war.

Returning to Cambridge as assistant lecturer in archaeology in 1945, he was promoted to lecturer, with tenure, in 1948 and held that rank until he succeeded Grahame Clark as Disney Professor in 1974, a position he held until his retirement in 1981. His archaeological career consisted of several interwoven strands of passionate interest that are best understood by considering them sequentially.

His first passion was for megaliths. In *Some Small Harvest*, Daniel (1986:300) noted that at Carnac in 1934 he knew "that these megalithic monuments of Western Europe would exercise an irresistible fascination for me for ever. . . . The past was alive. . . something real which everyone could try to understand. . . something which was the beginning of their own cultural past." His first paper on the subject appeared in *Antiquity* in 1937, with another in 1938 on northern European monuments, and one in 1939 on the French gallery graves. This work culminated in an important synthesis on "The Dual Nature of the Megalithic Colonisation of Prehistoric Europe" (Daniel 1941), his last publication on the subject until 1949. His dissertation was published belatedly in 1950 (Daniel, *The Prehistoric Chamber Tombs of England and Wales*, 1950), and in 1952–1953 he excavated the megalithic tomb of Barclodiad y Gawres in Anglesey with Terence Powell (Powell and Daniel 1956). A broad synthesis, *The Megalith Builders of Western Europe* (1958), and a series of papers on French sites were followed by his second regional survey, *The Prehistoric Chamber Tombs of France* (1960).

Daniel became concerned with the chronology of the tombs as well as their typology and architecture (1958, 1961, 1963), and in 1964 he presented the results of the first major series of radiocarbon dates from Western European sites in a lecture to the Society of Antiquaries. It became clear that the Breton tombs in particular, but also numerous others from the British Isles to Iberia, were centuries earlier than their supposed precursors in the eastern Mediterranean. The implications of these early radiocarbon dates, which became still earlier when calibrated against the bristlecone pine curve, were explored extensively by Daniel's pupil Colin Renfrew (e.g., *Before Civilization: The Radiocarbon Revolution and Prehistoric Europe*, Cape, 1973), and by Daniel himself (1967, 1970, 1973).

Glyn Daniel's next major field of interest was the history of archaeology, in which he was a pioneer of great influence. As he noted in *Some Small Harvest* (1986:216), Daniel was demurring from "the complacency of establishment archaeology" (which apparently saw little interest in the topic), when he wrote a short book, *The Three Ages: An Essay on Archaeological Method* (1943), which is the first serious attempt to examine the intellectual development of the discipline: A Leverhulme Fellowship from 1948 to 1950 allowed him to produce his major work in this field, *A Hundred Years of Archaeology* (1950), a synthesis focusing on the development of Western European prehistory and Mediterranean and Near Eastern archaeology from the late eighteenth century to the end of the nineteenth. Some of the themes were distilled into *The Idea of Prehistory* (1962), and the sources into *The Origins and Growth of Archaeology* (1967), while from 1958 onward Daniel used his editorials in *Antiquity* to illuminate individual personalities or ideas in the ethopœia of archaeology. He also launched a series of scholarly but well-illustrated studies of the history of archaeology published by Thames and Hudson, including volumes on the Americas generally (G. R. Willey and J. A. Sabloff, *A History of American Archaeology*, 1974), on Mexico (I. Bernal, *A*

History of Mexican Archaeology, 1980), and Scandinavia (O. Klindt-Jensen, *A History of Scandinavian Archaeology*, 1975), and produced a popular version, in the same format, of his 1950 work (Daniel 1981). Together with Klindt-Jensen he organized the first international conference on the history of archaeology, held in Aarhus in 1978, and edited the subsequent proceedings (Daniel 1981). That archaeologists now have “a back-looking curiosity” (a phrase from the sixteenth-century antiquary William Camden that Daniel was fond of quoting) about the origins of their discipline is due in large part to Glyn Daniel.

A third strand in Daniel’s interests was the communication of archaeology to the public; not merely the facts about exciting discoveries, but the philosophy underlying the precepts and practices of the subject. Immediately after the war he discovered the audience for intelligent talks on the radio (reprinted in the BBC’s magazine *The Listener*) and held forth on a variety of topics while also seeking to persuade his colleagues of the importance of the medium (Daniel 1948).

The growth of television in postwar Britain brought an entirely new opportunity that Daniel seized with characteristic panache: an archaeological quiz game, *Animal, Vegetable, Mineral?* (similar to the *What in the World?* program put out from the University Museum in Philadelphia in the days of Froelich Rainey). Glyn Daniel chaired a panel of experts that included Sir Mortimer Wheeler, V. Gordon Childe, Geoffrey Bushnell, and others. The show ran for six and a half years from 1952, and in 1954 and 1955 Wheeler and Daniel successively won the accolade of “Television Personality of the Year.” Daniel and the program’s producer, Paul Johnstone, went on to create *Buried Treasure*, a series of serious programs dealing with topics from Paleolithic art to archaeological science. When commercial television broke the BBC monopoly in the late 1950s, Daniel joined the new regional franchise, Anglia Television, as a member of the board of directors from 1959 to 1981, and stimulated Anglia into producing some highly acclaimed archaeology programs.

His interest in what he called “haute vulgarisation”—the intelligent translation of archaeology into nontechnical terms without simplifying its problems—had begun with a series of entries for the new edition of *Chambers’s Encyclopaedia* published in George Newnes, London, in 1950, ranging from the African Neolithic to the *nuraghi* of Sardinia by way of Mohenjodaro and Carnac, and with *A Picture Book of Ancient British Art*, written in collaboration with his lifelong friend Stuart Piggott (1951). *Lascaux and Carnac* (1955), reissued later as *The Hungry Archaeologist in France: A Travelling Guide to Caves, Graves and Good Living in the Dordogne and Brittany* (1963), and *The Megalith Builders of Western Europe* (1958), are other fine examples of this commitment.

In 1956 he was able to expand it enormously. Walter Neurath, founder of the Thames and Hudson publishing house, invited him to start a new series of serious popular archaeology books. The *Ancient Peoples and Places* series (published by Praeger in the United States) began with Geoffrey Bushnell’s *Peru* in 1957, included Daniel’s collaboration with Séan Ó Riordáin on the Boyne tombs as its fortieth volume, and celebrated its century with *A Short History of Archaeology* (1981). While Daniel also became archaeological advisor to Penguin Books, he retained his loyalty to Thames and Hudson and turned his 1966–1967 BBC series on “Archaeology and the Origins of Civilization” into *The First Civilizations: The Archaeology of Their Origins* (1968), with a subsequent Penguin paperback edition in 1971.

At the same time as he was expanding the popular market for an interest in archaeology through trade publishing, Daniel was broadening the minds of his professional colleagues in *Antiquity*. Founded by O. G. S. Crawford in 1927, and edited by him until his death 30 years later, it was an idiosyncratic journal that combined eclecticism with accessibility. Glyn Daniel was the obvious choice as editor, and with Ruth as his formidable production editor maintained *Antiquity*’s high standards of literacy and controversy until his final issue, which appeared a few weeks before his death. In each number he wrote an urbane and discursive editorial, in which news of discoveries such as those by the Leakeys in East Africa would be followed by wry commentary on the transoceanic or extraterrestrial claims of the lunatic fringe, by brief accounts of early figures in the history of archaeology whom he had come across in his reading, by book notes and by current gossip about the activities of the profession. It was the section that everybody read first.

Glyn Daniel’s ability as a popularizer may have told against him in the austere world of British academe, where to be multifaceted tends to elicit the time-worn aphorism “Jack of all trades, master

of none.” He was not elected to the British Academy until he retired (by which time several of his former pupils were already fellows), and he did not receive the public recognition and honors normally given to professors of distinction, although in Denmark he had been made a Knight (First Class) of the Dannebrog (1961) and a Fellow of the Royal Danish Academy of Science and Letters (1984).

In Daniel’s case, more than most, the catalog of a career does not encompass the man we knew—the attachment to France (where he and Ruth maintained a second home for many years) and its food and wine; the exercise of that expertise as Steward of St. John’s (1946–1955), and in the entertainment of the corporate clan of former pupils that became known as “the Johnian Connexion,” and which came to monopolize most of the senior positions in British academic archaeology. His festschrift, *Antiquity and Man* (Thames and Hudson, 1981), was edited by three of them, Colin Renfrew, Barry Cunliffe and John Evans, the professors of Archaeology at Cambridge and Oxford and the director of the Institute of Archaeology at London University. Yet another talent, initially hidden under a pseudonym, was for the writing of detective novels. *The Cambridge Murders*, with a protagonist transparently based on Mortimer Wheeler, appeared in 1945, followed in 1954 by *Welcome Death*. He also put together small privately printed volumes as Christmas presents for his friends, of which *The Pen of My Aunt* (1961) and *Oxford Chicken Pie* (1965) were notable for their unacademic humor.

Glyn Daniel was a major figure in the development of the history of archaeology as a field of enquiry, and in the advancement of archaeology in public interest. He was an editor of distinction, a prehistorian of repute, and an astute academic politician with strong college loyalties who advanced the careers of his pupils to good effect. He had a Trollopian appreciation of the discreet exercise of power and a Proustian taste for gossip which entertained his colleagues and friends (they were, with few exceptions, the same) immensely. He was that rarity, an holistic generalist who regarded the human past, everywhere and at any period, as part of a single intellectual discipline.

NORMAN HAMMOND

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF GLYN DANIEL

This is based on “Glyn Daniel: a Bibliography” by B. Barratt and R. Daniel, in *Antiquity and Man*, (J. D. Evans, B. W. Cunliffe, and A. C. Renfrew, editors, pp. 247–252, Thames and Hudson, London, 1981), which excludes, however, items after 1981 and book reviews.

- 1936 Two Polished Stone Axe-heads from Carmarthenshire. *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 91:306–309.
- 1937 The ‘Dolmens’ of Southern Britain. *Antiquity* 11:183–200.
The Chambered Barrow in Parc le Breos Cwm, South Wales. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 3: 71–86.
- 1938 The Megalithic Tombs of Northern Europe. *Antiquity* 12:297–310.
- 1939 On Two Long Barrows Near Rodez in the South of France. *Antiquaries Journal* 19:157–165.
The Transepted Gallery Graves of Western France. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 5:143–165.
- 1940 The Rodmarton and Avening Portholes (with E. M. Clifford). *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 6: 133–165.
- 1941 The Dual Nature of the Megalithic Colonisation of Prehistoric Europe. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 7:1–49.
- 1943 *The Three Ages: An Essay in Archaeological Method*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England.
- 1945 *The Cambridge Murders* (under the pseudonym Dilwyn Rees). Gollancz, London.
- 1948 Archaeology and Broadcasting. *Archaeological News Letter* 1(2):1–2.
- 1949 The Distribution and Date of the Passage-graves of the British Isles (with T. G. E. Powell). *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 15:169–187.
- 1950 *A Hundred Years of Archaeology*. Duckworth, London.
The Prehistoric Chamber Tombs of England and Wales. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England.
- 1951 *A Picture Book of Ancient British Art* (with S. Piggott). Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England.
The Chronological Framework of Prehistoric Barbarian Europe. *Man* 51:34–37.
- 1952 Les monuments mégalithiques et la forme des tumuli en France et en Angleterre (with J. Arnal). *Bulletin de la Société Préhistorique Française* 49:39–53.
- 1954 *Welcome Death*. Gollancz, London.

- Archaeology and Television. *Antiquity* 28:201–205.
Who are the Welsh? *Proceedings of the British Academy* 40:145–167.
- 1955 *Lascaux and Carnac*. Lutterworth Press, London.
The Brá Cauldron and the Danish Early Iron Age. *Antiquity* 29:137–140.
Prehistory and Protohistory in France. *Antiquity* 29:209–214.
The *allées couvertes* of France. *Archaeological Journal* 112:1–19.
- 1956 *Barclodiad y Gawres: the Excavation of a Megalithic Chamber Tomb in Anglesey, 1952–1953* (with T. G. E. Powell). Liverpool University Press, Liverpool, England.
- 1958 *The Megalith Builders of Western Europe*. Hutchinson, London.
The Minnesota Petroglyph. *Antiquity* 32:264–267.
Les monuments mégalithiques et leurs relations avec le Rhône. *Cahiers Rhodaniens* 5:22–26.
The Chronology of the French Collective Tombs. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 24:1–23.
- 1959 The Idea of Man's Antiquity. *Scientific American* 201(5):167–176.
- 1960 *The Prehistory Chamber Tombs of France: A Geographical, Morphological and Chronological Survey*. Thames and Hudson, London.
- 1961 *The Pen of My Aunt*. Rampant Lions Press, Cambridge, England.
The Chronology of the French Megalithic Tombs. In *Bericht über den V. internationalen Kongress für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, Hamburg, 24–30 August 1958*, edited by G. Bersu, pp. 220–223. Verlag Gebrüder Mann, Berlin.
- 1962 *The Idea of Prehistory*. C. A. Watts, London.
The Megalith Builders. In *The Prehistoric Peoples of Scotland*, edited by S. Piggott, pp. 39–72. Routledge and Kegan Paul, London.
- 1963 *The Hungry Archaeologist in France: A Travelling Guide to Caves, Graves and Good Living in the Dordogne and Brittany*. Faber and Faber, London.
The Collective Tomb-builders of Iberia: Indigenes or Colonists? In *A Pedro Bosch-Gimpera en el septuagésimo aniversario de su nacimiento*, pp. 103–110. Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico City.
The Personality of Wales. In *Culture and Environment: Essays in Honour of Sir Cyril Fox*, edited by I. Ll. Foster and L. Alcock, pp. 7–23. Routledge and Kegan Paul, London.
Problèmes relatif à la diffusion des mégalithes. In *Les civilisations atlantiques du Néolithique à l'Age du Fer*, edited by P.-R. Giot, pp. 15–18. Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Préhistorique, Rennes, France.
Long Barrows of the Cotswolds. *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* 82:5–17.
- 1964 *New Grange and the Bend of the Boyne* (with S. P. Ó Riordáin). Thames and Hudson, London.
- 1965 *Oxford Chicken Pie*. Rampant Lions Press, Cambridge, England.
Prehistoric and Early Wales (edited with I. Ll. Foster). Routledge and Kegan Paul, London.
- 1966 *Man Discovers His Past*. Duckworth, London.
The Megalith Builders of the SOM. *Palaeohistoria* 12:199–208.
- 1967 *The Origins and Growth of Archaeology*. Penguin Books, Harmondsworth.
The Western Mediterranean (with J. D. Evans). Cambridge Ancient History Vol. 2, Chapter 37, Fascicle 57. Rev. ed. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England.
Northmen and Southmen. *Antiquity* 41:313–317.
Edward Lhwyd: Antiquary and Archaeologist. *Welsh Historical Review* 4:345–359.
- 1968 *The First Civilizations: The Archaeology of Their Origins*. Thames and Hudson, London.
One Hundred Years of Old World Prehistory. In *One Hundred Years of Anthropology*, edited by J. O. Brew, pp. 57–93. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- 1970 *Archaeology and the History of Art*. University of Hull, Hull, England.
Carbon 14 Dates and the Chronology of European Megaliths. In *Actes du VII Congrès International des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques, Prague, 21–27 August 1966*, edited by J. Filip, pp. 536–539. Académie Tchecoslovaque des Sciences, Prague.
Megalithic Answers. *Antiquity* 44:260–269.
- 1971 Osbert Guy Stanhope Crawford. In *Dictionary of National Biography 1951–1960*, edited by E. T. Williams and H. M. Palmer, pp. 268–270. Oxford University Press, Oxford, England.
From Worsaae to Childe: the Models of Prehistory. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 37:140–153.
- 1972 *Megaliths in History*. Thames and Hudson, London.
The Origin of the Megalithic Tombs of the British Isles. In *Die Anfänge des Neolithikums vom Orient bis Nordeuropa*, edited by H. Schwabedissen, pp. 233–247. *Westliches Mittelmeergebiet und Britische Inseln*, vol. 7. Böhlau Verlag, Cologne and Vienna.
The Second American. *Antiquity* 46:288–292.
The Origins of Boucher de Perthes' Archéogéologie. *Antiquity* 46:317–320.
- 1973 *Megalithic Graves and Ritual: Papers Presented at the III Atlantic Colloquium, Moesgård 1969* (with P. Kjaerum). Jutland Archaeological Society, Copenhagen.
Spain and the Problem of European Megalithic Origins. In *Estudios dedicados al Profesor Dr. Luis Pericot*, pp. 209–214. Universidad de Barcelona Instituto de Arqueología y Prehistoria, Barcelona.

- 1974 *France Before the Romans* (with S. Piggott and C. McBurney). Thames and Hudson, London.
Archaeology. In *Macropaedia*, pp. 1078–1082. Encyclopaedia Britannica, vol. 1. 15th ed. Encyclopaedia Britannica, Chicago.
- 1975 *A Hundred and Fifty Years of Archaeology*. Rev. ed. Duckworth, London, and Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- 1976 *Cambridge and the Back-Looking Curiosity: An Inaugural Lecture*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England.
In Memoriam. In *In Memoriam Pedro Bosch-Gimpera, 1891–1974*, edited by J. Comas, pp. 61–64. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City.
Stone, Bronze and Iron. In *To Illustrate the Monuments: Essays on Archaeology Presented to Stuart Piggott on the Occasion of his Sixty-Fifth Birthday*, edited by J. V. S. Megaw, pp. 35–42. Thames and Hudson, London.
Megaliths Galore. *Antiquity* 50:187–189.
- 1979 The Forgotten Milestones and Blind Alleys of the Past. *RAIN* 33:3–6.
- 1981 *A Short History of Archaeology*. Thames and Hudson, London.
Towards a History of Archaeology: Being the Papers Read at the First Conference on the History of Archaeology in Aarhus, 29 August–2 September 1978 (editor). Thames and Hudson, London.
- 1986 *Some Small Harvest*. Thames and Hudson, London.
C. W. Phillips 1901–1985 (with R. C. A. Edge). *Antiquity* 60:53–54.
Pitldown and Professor Hewitt. *Antiquity* 60:59–60.
The British contribution to the French Neolithic. In *Le Néolithique de La France: Hommage à G. Bailloud*, edited by J.-P. Demoule and J. Guilaine, pp. 15–19. Picard, Paris.

NOTE

¹ Much of the personal detail in this obituary comes from Daniel's autobiography (*Some Small Harvest*, 1986), with additional material from published obituaries and memorials. The portrait is by courtesy of Ruth Daniel.