

## P E N D R A G O N

Vol. 2 No. 3.

September 1967

### A VERY LARGE "THANK YOU" TO ALL

For six splendid weeks Cadbury was peopled by folks whose large and generous hearts ensured the success of the dig.

First, thank you to the Whittles at the Red Lion who, with the willing support of sons and daughter, not only provide the usual services of a pub but rise to every sort of emergency. Meals and snacks are produced miraculously, frantic messages are taken in, sorted out and somehow delivered, shelter is provided for those washed out of their tents, comforting words bestowed upon those under pressure; Pendragon cards and literature are sold and Pendragon funds stowed away in safe deposit. What should we do without them ?

Thanks to the hostesses who took us in, fed us royally, worked themselves to death and generally shared the fun. See you again next year, ladies -- we hope !

Thanks to all the local inhabitants who refrain from complaining about their villages being invaded but give us cheer "Good-mornings !" instead, put up with a crowded pub and give us help and advice on local matters.

Thanks to those who volunteered to work in the marquee without really knowing what they were letting themselves in for, and who helped to make it the happy Social Centre we hoped for --- in addition to earning money for expenses.

Thanks to all those who ferried people hither and yon whenever necessary. A special 'thank you' to Mr. Woodhead who, at an age when most men find it something of a strain even to grow cabbages, camped out for the whole six weeks in rain, sun, mud, storm or heat, drove the Camelot Landrover up and down the parlous lane without accident and still found time to keep our accounts under control. Marvellous !

Thanks to the several local ladies who rallied to our support . We hope their services will be available again next year.

Here's wishing everyone, "MANY HAPPY RETURNS !"

During the last week of the Cadbury dig Cardiff issued this report to all visitors:-

THE DEFENCES. This year a major cut was placed across the S<sub>n</sub> ramparts and ditches to reveal the general character and history of the defences.

The outer ramparts and ditches belong entirely to the Iron Age, the outer-most perhaps being added shortly before the Roman Conquest (45AD) when the site was sacked and its inhabitants re-settled at the foot of the hill. The inner-most rampart consists of a series of walls and ramparts superimposed one upon another to a height of 15 ft. above the natural slope of the hill, dating from early in the Iron Age (c.500 BC) to the time of Ethelred the Unready (1010 AD): some of the mortared Saxon wall has been left exposed.

Beneath the Saxon wall, and above the latest Iron Age rampart lies a bank of inter-laced stones and earth which almost certainly dates from the 6th century.

INTERIOR. Excavation has shown that relatively small settlements were sited in the interior during the Neolithic period (c. 3000 BC) and in the later Bronze Age (c. 900 BC). Throughout the pre-Roman Iron Age (700 BC to the Roman Conquest -AD45) the site was intensely occupied. Large numbers of holes for holding the posts of houses and pits for the storage of food have been discovered. An enigmatic cruciform ditch dating sometime after the Roman Conquest has also been discovered.

FINDS The principal finds were large quantities of pottery and bone. The main bulk of the pottery belongs to the Iron Age and includes decorated pieces similar to types found at Glastonbury Lake Village. Less pottery of later date has been found but fragments of wine jars and fine table wares of the 6th century AD (the Arthurian period) occurred. Among the metal objects several Iron Age and Roman coins have been found, and of great interest is a small Saxon gilt bronze brooch of the early 6th century AD.

Members will know by now that a 3 inch gold bar was also found at Cadbury on Aug. 17th, but about this Pendragons know no more than anyone else who has been reading the national Press.

REPORT FROM THE MARQUEE by Michael Darling.

"The most swinging dig in Britain" is how some American paper is said to have described the Cadbury excavations this year. Perhaps the reporter got the idea from the far-flung telephone wires that were slung across the hilltop so that the Director could be kept in touch by Field Telephone with his widely-separated minions working on projects situated on different sections of the ramparts while he conducted operations on the summit.

Such an important dig was obviously going to stir public interest and for the benefit of diggers, visitors and all concerned it seemed essential to provide a marquee which could be a Social Centre at all times and a place of refuge when storms and driving rain would be sure to assail us. Preparations were made accordingly. The Camelot Research Committee produced post cards depicting the finds of the previous year's dig, publicity leaflets and off-prints of Mr. Alcock's report which had been published in the Antiquaries Journal. The Pendragon Society produced post cards from aerial photographs, soft drinks for the thirsty, a booklist of Arthurian literature normally available from public libraries, and samples of Celtic jewellery as souvenirs of a memorable pilgrimage to Camelot.

Over a period of three or four years a total of not less than £15,000 will be needed to carry on this investigation. This year £400 was spent on such things as buckets and spades alone including such items as trays etc which are needed for the proper collection of finds. Every volunteer was paying for his or her lodgings and only experienced diggers were given a rebate by the Director of 10/- per day. For those Pendragons who had volunteered to serve in the marquee no funds were available for any such rebate on expenses, nor for the heavy petrol bills that were inevitable but it was hoped that sale of cards and jewellery would enable some recompense to be made to our salesmen and sales-women.

The weeks prior to the start of the dig were spent busily sorting and mounting jewellery, making posters, collecting equipment and organising the ferrying to and fro of innumerable helpers and diggers so that a steady supply of both could be provided weekly throughout the six-week period. It was like a military operation.

Finally the great day arrived and a convoy of cars left Bristol to wend its way through the sleepy lanes of Somerset. Our Landrover, after a somewhat perilous ascent of the lane, was

safely off-loaded at the top where we found that the marquee had been pitched already and that Dr. Harte, friend and colleague of the Director, was already installed within in charge of a small exhibition of the previous year's finds. We set up our stalls --- both for ourselves and for the Camelot Research Committee --- and awaited the onslaught.

As it turned out the marquee, though costing £95, proved to be an excellent investment. Dr. Harte and his team of Guides-Around-the-Site were always welcoming and voluntary donations from visitors must, by the end of the dig, have produced a very considerable sum. Business at our end of the marquee was always brisk (except on occasions of really inclement weather) news, views and communications about other projects were discussed and enjoyed, old friends re-united for a time. Signatures in the two Visitors' Books showed that people had come to us from all over the world and it was estimated that at least 5,000 visitors found their way to Cadbury this summer.

#### REPORT FROM THE FIELD By Major Eric Harding.

The scene is one hundred steep feet up and more than 20 centuries back in time. The convex, grassy hill-top was marked out in geometrically accurate squares and ovals enclosed by wooden picket fences. Dozens of earth-stained, half-naked, long-haired figures busily engaged digging and scratching at the ground. Centrally, at the apex, the green, grassy skin was peeled away exposing a large square of rocky earth in which neat, straight trenches and holes appeared, each with its attendant squatting figures enlarging, deepening, trimming. No sundry heaps of loose earth and stones or jagged untidiness. The main spoil-heap straight off the drawing-board. The reddish brown of small oval wooden huts and off-white small tents neatly sited impressed the visitor with an air of efficient purpose.

Towards the rampart-encircled reverse slopes to the South and West other satellite bodies were similarly engaged, working outwards through the rampart walls beyond which could be seen miles of meadows and fields far below in the brilliant sunlight, and in the distance other grassy, lumpy hills. The vari-coloured clothes of male and female were much alike except that the men's revealed torsos and covered legs while the womens' covered torsos and revealed legs, all equally brown. Monstrous flying creatures circled low in the blue sky, warily watching man preparing the foundations of settlement in what had previously been their own private domain. History seemed to be repeating itself in reverse.

Volunteers all, mostly young, students and school-children, gave their holidays, their week-ends or whatever time they could spare and felt themselves privileged to be able to do so. The project appealed to the imagination and they all thought highly of the Director.

A deep section was laid across the topmost rampart by a mechanical excavator. Subsequently a hand-dug cut was laid down over all the rampart layers to the foot. From its configuration this site was termed the 'Stony Bank'. A length of Saxon burh wall was trowelled out along the top rampart along the inner footing of which appeared another layer and then an ash layer. Many bones, metal slag, some tufa and fragments of Samian ware appeared here but the main interest lay in the construction. Occasionally, heralded by grampus-like noises, a white helmeted figure ~~figure~~ appeared over the edge of the rampart, having hauled himself (or herself) up a 60% slope on fixed ropes from the cut to the hill fort, rather like someone rising from another world.

In addition to all the visitors with cameras the dig was visited by Pathé News Cameramen, BBC Television, West German Television. N.B.C., and Warner Brothers who were making a television film, or so the story went, as a 'trailer' for the film "Camelot" when it is released.

A sudden weather change presented problems, bringing heavy clouds, pelting rain and howling gales. An efficient, pre-fabricated, tubular, building-type scaffolding had been erected with some difficulty on the edge of the rampart top, the establishment of it being superintended by big Terry of the Pendragons. With some further difficulty the framework of a screen was anchored to this and gave the impression of a wildly-flapping sail. Standing on this scaffolding, hanging on to slippery wet iron poles with slippery muddy hands, gave a most realistic impression of hanging on to the mast of a ship off Cape Horn in a nine-force gale. Once erected no one gave the structure more than half-an-hour to remain in position, but it lasted all right and the weather improved the following day. Pendragons were quite prominent on this site and certainly had their share of 'finds'.

At the bottom of the Stony Bank, almost at ground level, a deep cut had to be trimmed and chased ready for a lecture by Mr. Alcock and a group of photographers, and in due course this took place. The Director congratulated the small party, saying that they had produced "a magnificent section." Three of the party were Pendragons and the other an enthusiastic free-lance. All felt duly gratified.



1967 BECKERY EXCAVATION Glastonbury By P.L. Malc

Under the patronage of the Chalice Well Trust and the University of Birmingham and directed by Philip Rahtz, this year's dig commenced on Aug. 3rd and closed Aug. 31st.

During the very dry summer of 1887, sun parched grass outlined a building on a ridge running from Woaryall Hill westward to the sea, which in earlier days lapped the slopes of the Hill, passing behind the present day Morlands factory. Also a tree was unearthed about the same time, revealing some Doubling Stone.

Mr. John Morland, an amateur archaeologist, immediately uncovered the foundations of buildings which later proved to be a Medieval Church. During this excavation several very large iron door nails, roof tiles, medieval glass and oddments of pottery were found. For the period, this excavation was very well organized and recorded.

As the Chalice Well Trust decided that enough was known of the Tor, Mr. Rahtz was prevailed upon to carry out further excavations at Beckery.

A long, cross trench was first dug across the top of the site running North/South and East/West. The outline of the building was then entirely uncovered and found to be slightly to the south of the top of the ridge. The building was 15ft X 40ft with walls of approx. 2ft wide and only 4" under the surface. The S. wall of the church was found to have been moved from its original position, and the foundations robbed to natural.

Inside the Medieval Church was found an older, smaller Norman Church, little of which remained. Inside this was found a third outline of a still older church building. In the west half of this Church a series of post holes were discovered, and these, coupled with the discovery of a timber slot outside the N. wall of the Medieval building, points to the possible site of a still older wattle and daub Church.

In all, during the excavations, remains of 35 skeletons came to light, some in communal graves, and not all complete. Most were found outside the N. wall of the Med. Church, in what was probably a Saxon/Norman cemetery. Also three were found in the N. wall trench. Special attention should be drawn to a skeleton found inside the W. end of the building near the N. wall. His grave was cut into the natural rock, and he was 6'6" in height which in those days (Norman) was very much above average.

The skeletons were not in very good condition as they were mostly in shallow graves. All were buried East/West suggesting Christian interment; all were male, and many were stricken with syphilis, which shows as a growth on the bones after death, and even long interment.

Two coins, iron objects, large remains of Medieval pottery and a brooch pin were discovered. Near the end of the dig a mechanical excavator was used to extend the N. and E. trenches. In each of these a deep ditch was discovered and the wall of another building in the N. trench. The Church was probably built originally as a thanksgiving offering from a wrecked mariner, as it was then the nearest land to the sea, joined to the Isle of Avalon. Later it was probably taken over by the Abbey of Glastonbury as a Chantry Chapel.

The Medieval Church can be fairly accurately dated c 1350 by the shape of the corner buttresses. The skeletons are probably remains of monks who served at the Chapel.

There must have been some reason why the Church was not built on the top of the ridge, but this, and many other things, we hope to be able to explain next year during further excavations.

#### GLASTONBURY TOR MAZE

Members who are interested in Mr. Russell's Maze project will be glad to hear that this is going ahead well. He has just presented a dossier to the Royal Institute of Great Britain. The dossier has a foreword or introduction written by Prof. Mary Williams who is a famous Arthurian scholar. Mr. Russell's paper also has a supporting letter from Mr. Rhatz who suggests that another Tor excavation should be carried out to show the true nature of the terraces and to find out if their pattern "is close enough to that of 'classical' maze patterns to be more than coincidental." Professor Mary William's introduction adds: "Scholars have long linked this legend (of the Grail) with Glastonbury. If Mr. Russell's contention is correct (and this would appear most probable) it would strengthen very considerably the theory held by many scholars and others, that the Grail story is one of initiation into a mystery in which, according to Mr. Russell, the Tor played a great part."

A resume of Mr. Russell's dossier follows:

#### CAER SIDI OR SPIRAL CASTLE

The general name of the sanctuary where the Celtic mysticries were celebrated was Caer Sidi or Spiral Castle. It was into the sacred mound that the Sun-king went at death and from which he emerged on resurrection. Here also the Cauldron of Cerdwion was housed: recurrent references are extant in poems under the name of Taliesin which show acquaintance with Ovid's METAMORPHOSES, Pythagorean doctrines and reflections of Greek, Roman and Jewish history.

In Britain the tradition of Spiral Castle survives in the Easter Maze dance, the mazes being called Troy Town in England and, in Wales, Caer-droia. That the maze had a part in initiations generally has been stated earlier. Other authorities state that initiates to the Eleusinian mysteries were required to tread the maze. In Welsh legend (Welsh Arch, vol 1. p.166) Ceridwen was the same as Ceres, of the Eleusian mysteries, or Isis although she is represented by Taliesin as a giantess.

According to Edward Davies (about 160 years ago) Caer Sidi embraced "the ark in which the patriarch and his family were enclosed; secondly the circle of the zodiac, in which their luminous emblems, the sun, moon and planets revolved; thirdly, the sanctuary of the British Ceres, which represented both the ark and the zodiac". (Myth. Druid. p.516)

In the poem Kadair Teyrn On, (Welsh Arch. vol 1. p.65) we are told that there are four grand sanctuaries in the British dominions. In one of the Triads, however, (Meyric. Cardig. Introd.) the Bard says, "there are three principle Choirs in Britain" and names them as follows: The Knight Illtuds Bangor in Caer Worgorn, the Choir of Emrys in Caer Caradac and Bangor Wydrin in the apple island (Avalon or Glastonbury.) G. Oliver DD equates these with the three great labours of the Britains.

Mr. Russell has been in correspondence with Robert Graves who has recently written as follows: "Yes, it is pretty obvious, as soon as one stumbles on it ! It is not of course certain that the Tor is the only Caer Sidi in the Island; but it is likely to have been the most important."

## LUNG MEI. A British Dragon Line at Glastonbury.

By John Michell.

(John Michell arrived at Cadbury during the dig and interested us all in his project which is outlined here. His book on this subject will appear in October from Sedgwick & Jackson, Price 25/-.)

To men of the 18th Century, such as Dr. Stukeley the great antiquarian and Arch Druid, Britain was the holy land, the place of vision containing the vessel of enlightenment, the Holy Grail. As Blake said: "All things begin and end in Albion's Ancient Druid Rocky Shore." Somewhere enfolded in the landscape itself lay the key to mysteries known in the past and destined to be revealed in the future. Stukeley was the first to see the ancient monuments of Britain not only individually but as part of a great pattern, truly meaningful only when viewed panoramically as a whole. Etched into the very face of the country could be found a system of signs and symbols revealing to its initiates the true spirit of the past and the path to the future.

Those who rely on the arbitrary values of modern science with its disregard for the purpose of knowledge and of true wisdom have naturally rejected the belief that a great tradition has been preserved for our use to-day, or that any native alchemical system ever existed of the sort that has been preserved more openly in the East. And it has been fashionable to belittle its last guardians the Druids who inherited their knowledge of the holy places and centres and lines of power in the country from their predecessors, the great native astronomers, who divided the country according to the laws of geomancy and laid out instruments of precision such as the wonderful stone computer, Stonehenge.

The recent revelations by Hawkins and Hawley of the true meaning and barely conceivable delicacy of this monument should now have opened our eyes to something of the mystery contained within the landscape, the secrets towards which the scholars of the 18th century were groping before the rise of myopic sciences such as that of modern archaeology. Recently several clues have come to light. The first is the discovery of the British dragon lines, called by the Chinese Lung Mei.

The Chinese knew the dragon as a bright light moving across the night sky, the same phenomenon as gives rise to the legend of the flying saucers to-day. They regarded the

dragon as a benevolent power, the spirit of life, the source of all good. The Lung Mei, the lines along which it was seen to move, were mapped out and so revered that the land along their courses was reserved for the exclusive use of the Imperial Family. Even at the beginning of this century no one else might live or be buried along those lines.

The charting of the sites in Britain connected with the dragon legend, the hills or mounds said to be the place of a killing or of the appearance of a dragon, has revealed that at least three Lung Mei run across the face of this country, linking up most of these sites with three straight lines. One such line runs from Farne Island off the tip of Northumberland and passes just east of Taunton. The other, intersecting it at Longwitten in Northumberland, runs from east of Linton in Roxburghshire to St. Osyth's in Essex, leaving England at Pegwell Bay, the scene of Dyce's great visionary picture in the Tate. A third, the most clearly identifiable of these lines, passes over Glastonbury Tor on its way from St. Michael's Mount in Cornwall to the coast on the borders of Norfolk and Suffolk. The cult of the dragon that flourished along that line is remembered in the numerous St. Michael and St. George dedications of the churches along its route, built on the high places which marked its route, for those saints were chosen by the Christian Church to confirm the suppression of the dragon cult which preceded it. North Brentor, Burrow Bridge Mump, the Tor and Silbury Hill are some of the siting points on its way, and its direction can be checked at certain centres of alignment such as the aptly named Eye in Suffolk where the relative positions of mound, church and abbey point its course.

Glastonbury, the prime centre of the cult of the dragon and of the pre-Christian astronomical religion as well as, by an adaptation of its legend, of the Christian Church itself, was the place from which the line was chiefly assessed. Like the great hill outside Peking from which every year the Emperor rehewed the sacred alignments, the Tor may have been surrounded by an astronomical garden, a feature which one might see in the Zodiacal Giants, first defined on paper by Mrs. Maltwood and refined by the great contemporary geomancer Ken Knight. The

ragon line itself follows exactly the alignment of the ridge of the Tor. Two stone pillars, erected one on the summit and one on the lower peak towards the western end of the ridge and just visible from the base of the present tower, gave the line of the great dragon of southern England. Its rediscovery and our progress towards fuller knowledge of its implications mark a stage towards the ending of the Enchantment of Britain, the achievement of the Grail, the reinvocation of King Arthur, the sleeping king who will awaken to restore the true spirit of Britain.

(Editor's note: In a foreword to the Keith Baines rendition of *Le Morte d'Arthur*, published by Harrap in 1962, Robert Graves refers to the red silk dragon which was also a windsock, adds: "This dragon, now the national emblem of Wales, had been brought to Britain all the way from China by way of the Byzantine Empire.)

#### NOTICE BOARD

We hope to hold the A.G.M. and Party on Nov. 11th or Nov. 18th. Arrangements are being made to hold the party in an old barn so that it may be of the rustic variety. Any member who would like to find bed-and-breakfast accommodation in Bristol for that week-end should get in touch with Mrs. Foster. Date and full particulars will then be sent.

Newly-designed Christmas cards with a Celtic design in black and white will be available in due course. Costs have not yet been worked out but will not be more than 1/- each.

Information about churches dedicated to St. Michael will be welcome, whatever area they come from.

We still have some Celtic jewellery in hand, prices mostly from 7/6 to 15/- for anyone who wants to buy a Christmas present. Such presents are light on postage.