

Antiquity

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Editorial Notes

WITH this number ANTIQUITY completes its first year. The steady increase in circulation assures us that our venture is appreciated. On our side we shall maintain the present standard, both of matter and illustration. We have the satisfaction of knowing that our Review has made a place of its own among the journals of the day, and that the frankness of opinion which is one of its features is approved. It will be our endeavour in the coming years to justify the promises we have made. We take this opportunity of thanking, once and for all, our direct subscribers—the rock upon which ANTIQUITY is founded. Their direct support is essential for purely financial reasons, and it enables us to maintain an absolutely independent attitude.

A title-page, contents and index to the volume are included in this number. Subscribers who wish to have binding cases will be supplied by the printer, John Bellows, to whom application should be made. Further particulars will be found on the inner page of the cover.

This opportunity is also taken to remind readers that subscriptions to ANTIQUITY for 1928 will be due next March, when a form of renewal will be issued.

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Our readers have responded with most gratifying liberality to the appeal inserted in the last number on behalf of the excavations at UR. Contributions amounting to nearly £300 have been received towards the British Museum share of the costs of the Joint Expedition and sufficient funds are now in sight to ensure a full season's work. Those who have contributed to this most important undertaking may feel assured that their help has been deeply appreciated both by the Director and Trustees of the British Museum, and by members of the excavating staff at Ur, who can now carry out this season's programme unhampered by financial worry. We shall keep our readers fully informed of the results, as soon as these become available.



The first stage of the STONEHENGE campaign has been completed, and the land on which the aerodrome stands has been acquired by the National Trust. The work of demolition has already begun, and the contractors have undertaken to remove the eyesore within a year. The next stage, however, has opened with a renewed appeal to complete the purchase of the threatened land. That the threat is no imaginary one is shown by several facts. One is the existence of the odious café. Another is the revelation that, had not one of the options been secured when it was (by the public-spirited action of an individual), the land would have been acquired for a *factory*! The Avenue field, immediately opposite Stonehenge, still remains outside the fold of the National Trust, and the time is getting short. Subscriptions are urgently needed (National Trust, 7 Buckingham Palace Gardens, S.W. 1). We assure our readers that we should not ask for their support if the need were not really urgent, and, speaking with full knowledge of what is being done, we can tell them that it is, and that every shilling will be acceptable.



The excavation of WOODHENGE has been completed by Captain and Mrs Cunnington, who read a paper at the British Association Meeting at Leeds (6 September). It was published in full in the *Wiltshire Gazette* (Devizes, 8 September), illustrated by a large plan. The conclusions reached with regard to the exact date of Woodhenge were based on the pottery found, but, after seeing the pottery, we

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cannot possibly accept the date assigned to it by Mrs Cunnington. The result will be published in book form, so that an opportunity of criticism will arise later.



Perhaps an apology may be needed for referring again to GLOZEL. We do so, however, for the benefit of those who may not see the European papers. Since our last number appeared there has been quite a storm. It began with a report delivered by M. Dussaud to a meeting of the Academy at Paris, held behind closed doors. M. Dussaud made accusations of forgery, based upon his study of the inscribed clay tablets. The gist of his report was published, however, in the press; and a newspaper controversy developed. The affair assumed such proportions that the Government intervened and sequestered the site and the 'finds'. Monsieur Herriot appointed a Commission to investigate, and no further work may be carried out except by them or under their supervision. Just before this, another Commission had been appointed by the International Institute of Anthropology and Archaeology. This International Commission is digging at Glozel as we go to press; Miss Garrod is the British representative.



For the benefit of the daily press, both here and abroad, we state the relative order of certain events. GLOZEL was first publicly denounced as a forgery in the March and June numbers of ANTIQUITY. In July M. Vayson de Pradenne published the indictment referred to in our last number (p. 260); and on 16 September M. Dussaud entered the lists with his Academy report. In being actually the first to warn our readers and the rest of the world of this mare's nest, we may claim to have even exceeded the undertaking we gave in our first number. Although the paper by M. Vayson de Pradenne appeared soon after our own, he formed his opinion quite independently; neither of us was aware of the other's writings or existence until the end of July last. M. Dussaud's opinions have recently been published in the form of a pamphlet. ('Autour des Inscriptions de Glozel,' par René Dussaud, Librairie Armand Colin, 103 Boulevard S. Michel, Paris. Pp. 57). This should be read in conjunction with M. Vayson's articles in 'Les tablettes d'Avignon' (1 October) and in the *Bulletin de la Soc. Préh. française* (September).

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AIR-PHOTOGRAPHY continues to provide sensational discoveries. The remarkable circles near Dorchester (Oxon), reproduced on the plates accompanying the note in this number (p. 469), were spotted by the pilot and observer who were taking some practice photographs there. Although outside the area to be covered, they went out of their way to include the circles, suspecting that they would be of archaeological interest. The results fully justified their enterprise; they are the first-fruits of the instructions issued recently by the Air Council, encouraging the selection of archaeological sites for photographic exercises. This concession was made to a deputation received by the Colonial Secretary and the Air Minister, which included the Presidents of the Royal Geographical Society and of the Society of Antiquaries of London. All archaeologists will be grateful to the Minister for sanctioning such an arrangement as this, which will most certainly yield important new discoveries without involving additional expenditure of any kind whatever. All that is required now is for a few more enthusiasts to do what no one on the ground can do—that is, look out for, and photograph some more of these sites revealed by crops. This can best be done in May and June. The Thames valley between Oxford and Wallingford, especially the middle portion near Dorchester, is certain to contain many more; they were even observed on the ground by the late Professor Haverfield. Another dry year like 1921 is due again about 1930 or 1931 and should produce a bumper harvest of ‘crop-sites’—if not of crops!



The new arrangement applies abroad as well as at home. That again is excellent, for in no part of the world is there more scope for archaeological air-photography than in the Middle East, where the new art was first put into practice. As we write these words a letter comes from Squadron-Leader Insall, v.c., the discoverer of Woodhenge, who is now stationed in Iraq. There in the desert he has been making discoveries which our readers will hear about—and see—in the next number of ANTIQUITY. He has visited and photographed the ‘Works of the Old Men’ in the basalt country, described by Flight-Lieutenant Maitland in our June number; and at the time of writing was hoping for an opportunity of further research and photography in Iraq itself.