

Antiquity

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Editorial Notes

ANTIQUITY has readers in every country in the World, from China to Peru, inclusive ; but the present number will be read perhaps for the first time by some who have come to London from distant lands to attend the International Congress of Prehistoric Archaeology ; and it is a suitable occasion therefore for setting down in plain words what ANTIQUITY stands for.



ANTIQUITY is primarily an archaeological journal, though we have always reserved the right to publish articles of a historical nature, if we think fit. We are, however, more closely concerned with prehistoric man and his environment ; within these wide limits we admit of no restrictions of time or space. We stand for the broadest conception of our subject ; we have attempted, often we know with success, to bridge the gulf between the specialist and the reader who is not a specialist in archaeological matters. (It is often forgotten that the specialist in one branch of science is usually a ' general reader ' in all such others as he may be interested in). During the 5½ years of our existence we have published such a wide range of articles that some of them are bound to be of interest to every reader of these words ; and if anyone decides, on reading, to become a subscriber here and now, as we hope, it is certain that he or she will not be disappointed so long as ANTIQUITY lasts.

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We believe most firmly in the need of studying man not in isolation but in relation to his environment ; that, for instance, you cannot understand the life of man in England during the Long Barrow (late Neolithic) period until first you have plotted his remains upon a map and then reconstructed, so far as possible, the vegetation by which he was surrounded. We believe in studying him on the sites where he dwelt, with fork and shovel (the old-fashioned method with pick and spade is now discouraged here) ; not merely in museums and libraries with note-books. We like also to show our readers what can be seen and discovered by air-photography. Finally, as good disciples of Tylor and Pitt-Rivers and their pioneer colleagues, we try to give life to dead bones by presenting pictures of primitive conditions today in out-of-the-way places. We could quote from back numbers of ANTIQUITY articles which illustrate each one of these principles.



But we cast our net wide in time as well as in space. In the present number we publish a Chronological Table of Prehistory covering the Old World from the Persian Gulf to the Atlantic and from the Arctic to the Sahara. Much labour has been spent upon it, yet still it is bound to fall short of the ideal. It will be superseded ; but it is, we know, a definite advance on anything of the kind yet published. It represents the considered opinion of scholars who command respect throughout the archaeological world. It does not pretend to take the place of the recognized text-books. It is not a text-book, but an indispensable supplement to such. It is intended to enable the reader to visualize the cultures or civilizations there mentioned in organic relationship with those which preceded and followed them. It is a pedigree of early human culture, as complete as can be in the present state of knowledge. Large regions of the world are necessarily omitted, because we still cannot correlate them with others ; but that is a defect of knowledge which is already being remedied in India, China and Africa.



This Chronological Table is an attempt, not the first of course, to visualize as a whole the main currents of human history. The geographical subdivisions adopted are necessarily, and for convenience, national ; but, as the Table itself shows, nations are ephemeral phenomena. It is a truism that Science is international ; it is one which

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is particularly applicable to that branch of Science which is concerned with the origins of humanity. What does it matter to us whether a skull is found in England, France, or China? We are interested in Man, not merely in Englishmen or Chinamen. This universal aspect of Science is generally admitted, even by those who are blind to its political implications. It is, indeed, exemplified by scientific journals (including *ANTIQUITY*) which are read by students in every land, so far as the barrier of language permits.



The basis of scientific organization is indeed becoming increasingly international. Archaeological books and articles in Scandinavia and the Far East are published in English, or with English summaries and underlines; German and French are used in Central Europe. Here, too, if we may be allowed to prolong the paean of self-praise (for which there is ample journalistic precedent), *ANTIQUITY* plays its part. Our contributors during the past years have been obtained from many different nations. In the present number we print, in English, a review of a book written in German by a Dutchman, contributed by a reviewer of Austrian birth holding an official position in Ireland. Archaeologically we have no racial or national prejudices; and we try to exclude them rigidly from our pages. We have only one standard—that of intrinsic scientific value.



In recent numbers of *ANTIQUITY* there have been published several provocative criticisms of contemporary affairs. For some we are personally responsible; all are in our opinion 'fair comment upon matters of public interest' in the archaeological world. They certainly represent the private opinion of more than one qualified critic. But they are not the sort of fare usually served up at scientific meetings nowadays. In the good old days it was otherwise; now however there is a real danger of suffocation by platitudes. In a free-lance journal like *ANTIQUITY* such matters can be ventilated without malice and with more freedom than elsewhere; and if these occasional draughts of fresh air cause some people to catch cold we sincerely regret their inconvenience, but maintain that the atmosphere is improved, and the majority benefited thereby. Science has nothing to gain from polite humbug which no one really believes.

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The International Congress will begin in London on 1 August, and it will last until the 6th. Members will then disperse on excursions to all parts of the country for visits to places of archaeological interest. Membership of the Congress costs one pound and is open to all without restriction. The promoters hope that it will be well supported by all who are interested in prehistoric archaeology and they are anxious to receive applications for membership *now*: these should be sent to the Secretary, International Congress of Prehistoric Archaeology, Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W. 1. We cordially support this invitation. The Congress is the first of a new series, and it rests with us in Great Britain to do everything we can to ensure its success.



In connexion with the Congress an exhibition illustrating recent field-work in Britain is being arranged at the London Museum, Lancaster House, St. James's. Included in this will be a display of air-photographs and maps organized by the Director-General of the Ordnance Survey in cooperation with the Keeper of the London Museum. The air-photographs have been enlarged to the maximum size possible and are from negatives made, in the ordinary routine of training, by officers and men of the Royal Air Force, together with some of those published in *Wessex from the Air*. A descriptive catalogue is being prepared for sale at the exhibition. The photographs themselves may be purchased by the public after the exhibition closes; but all rights of reproduction are reserved by the Crown. There will also be stalls for the display of archaeological books, pamphlets, periodicals and maps.



The maps displayed will show, in a concrete practical way, the great progress that has been made in England during the last decade in the geographical study of archaeology. They will indicate the present state of the great survey of megalithic monuments being carried out, sheet by sheet, by the Archaeological Department of the Ordnance Survey. For the benefit of our foreign guests there will be a selection of typical Ordnance Maps showing archaeological features. It is not generally known that Great Britain is the only country which marks all antiquities upon the published Government maps of all scales. The Congress and Exhibition should not be missed by readers of ANTIQUITY.