

Secretaries' Report,

MARCH 1968 TO JANUARY 1969

Because this Jubilee issue of *Proceedings* had to go to press in January 1969 this report does not cover a full year.

The most notable achievement of the period has been the publication of "*The Caves of Northwest Clare, Ireland*" by David and Charles (Newton Abbot). This is a book written entirely by members of this society. Many have taken part in the work that leads to its production. It runs to over 250 pages, 32 pages of plates and 55 figures, which include area maps and 21 surveys of caves. There is a complete bibliography. The price is £5 5s. od.

Meetings

Five sessional meetings were again arranged for the session. One had to be cancelled at short notice because of illness. The others were well attended.

Caving

A large and successful expedition to Ireland was made in July 1968. A new cave, Poll-Ballynahown, was discovered, explored and surveyed for 2,100 ft. (p. 117). Another 2,000 ft. of the passages discovered by earlier parties were surveyed in the Doolin Cave. Echo Pot in Doolin was descended and from the bottom a further 400 ft. were surveyed to a sump. From the top of the pot a flat out crawl of 900 ft. leads away and apparently nearly back to the surface. All the water tracing tests gave negative results perhaps because of the extremely low water conditions at the time. They will all have to be repeated in 1969.

On Mendip the flood of July 10th 1968 substantially altered G. B. Cave (p. 123) and seriously disturbed our efforts at Manor Farm, where a large new shaft developed (p. 83).

Archaeology

Work was continued steadily at Stokeleigh Camp, Leigh Woods. Three levels of occupation can be distinguished at site D. All are of Iron Age date though the uppermost may extend the dating into Roman times. Postholes and stake holes have been found. They do not all,

however, belong to the same period, as some of them post-date the earliest phase of the occupation. In cutting J the corner of a dry-stone walled building was exposed. The corner is a right angle. The wall is set in a bedding trench and is not yet dated save that it is not modern. Rain has seriously hampered work.

At the Hyaena Den, Wookey Hole, most of the work has been the clearing of material that has fallen since Boyd Dawkins dug at the site in 1860. The wet conditions have made this site unworkable on many weekends through the year.

Museum

A set of coloured transparencies of some of the principal objects in the museum have been prepared. They can be purchased from the curator. An "open evening" was held during the meeting in Bristol of the Prehistoric Society in September 1968. The majority of the 150 members visited the museum in groups.

Library

This year we would like to thank Cmdr. T. R. Shaw most sincerely for his magnificent gift of books including a number of valuable volumes of the works of E. A. Martel. A few more books have been added by gift and purchase. We would like to add more but there are just not the funds available.

Proceedings

Sales have been maintained and is hoped that they will increase still further. A notable feature of the year was the sale of considerable numbers of offprints to members of the Prehistoric Society and to members of an Extra-Mural Department conference on Limestone. Many offprints were sold out.

Acknowledgements

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Joint Hon. Secretaries