

A GUIDE TO ARCHIVES ON SOMERSET GEOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE DAWKINS AND JACKSON PAPERS AT BUXTON MUSEUM

by

M. J. BISHOP

ABSTRACT

Buxton Museum holds the largest surviving group of original papers of Sir William Boyd Dawkins (1837-1929) and nearly the entire body of papers of his student Dr J. Wilfrid Jackson (1880-1978). Both scientists specialized in the study of Quaternary mammalian remains, especially from cave sites, and made many important and fundamental contributions in these fields in Somerset. Dawkins's very first excavations were in Mendip caves, and he also made important contributions early in his career to the geology and palaeontology of the Rhaetic of Somerset. This paper provides a brief outline of the scope and content of the original letters, manuscripts, annotated proofs, drawings and photographs relating to Somerset geology and archaeology held in Buxton Museum.

This note is to bring to the attention of researchers and students the important archival materials relating to Sir William Boyd Dawkins and Dr J. Wilfrid Jackson housed in Buxton Museum, in particular those papers which relate to Somerset geology and archaeology. Both Dawkins and Jackson were attached to the Manchester Museum of Manchester University for most of their working careers, yet Dawkins bequeathed most of his library and papers to Buxton museum (in 1929), and following this precedent Dr. Jackson's daughter donated her father's papers, library and geological specimens between 1982 and 1985. That Buxton should have benefited in this way is partly explained by the fact that Dawkins opened Buxton Museum on its present site in 1928, this being the last public duty he performed in his lifetime, and he had considerable sympathy with a Museum whose collections and displays concentrated heavily upon archaeological remains from caves. Jackson's links with Buxton were even closer, for he retired to the town in 1945 and became Honorary Curator to Buxton Museum, giving advice to the Librarian actually in charge of the then Borough Museum and Library.

As a tribute to Dawkins and Jackson, the Museum set up a permanent display in the form of a period study room of c. 1900, incorporating associated articles of these two men including pictures, books, furniture, etc., and designated the 'Boyd Dawkins Room'. This was opened in 1982 by Derek Roe, and was accompanied by an exhibition drawing upon the archives and by a publication covering their biographies (Bishop, 1982).

The value and scope of the Dawkins and Jackson papers is very considerable. The whole archive comprises about 40,000 items of correspondence, manuscript notes, photographs, drawings and printed matter, covering mainly the period 1860-1970. Its content covers much Quaternary geology and prehistory of Britain and Europe, as well as other periods of geology and archaeology worldwide (see also Bishop, 1985). There are also papers on history (natural and local), conchology, museums, scientific biography, and a broad range of photographs (especially in the Jackson Collection). Perhaps the greatest value of the archives, and of special relevance to this Society, is that successively both Dawkins and Jackson specialized in studying animal remains from caves, and their papers provide in themselves a seminal primary

source of the history and development of this branch of cave science between 1860 and 1970. Many familiar names are encountered in the correspondence in the archives including Lyell, Darwin, Falconer, Pengelly, Prestwich, E. T. Newton, A. S. Woodward, A. S. Kennard, S. H. Warren, H. E. Balch, T. M. Hughes, H. Breuil, S. H. Reynolds and A. Bulleid, to name but a few.

Of the material relevant to Somerset the most important items in the Dawkins Collection (TABLE I) are probably the manuscripts relating to his work at the Hyaena Den, Wookey Hole, in the early 1860s (a photocopy of the catalogue of Mammalian remains has been deposited at Wells Museum) and the various notes and other items that he prepared for the *British Pleistocene Mammalia* monographs with Sanford (Dawkins and Sanford, 1866-72). The latter were largely concerned with Pleistocene lion remains from Mendip caves which he studied in various museum collections (especially Taunton). Common to both the Dawkins and Jackson Collection are groups of papers on Glastonbury Lake Village, for both men jointly contributed to Bulleid and Gray's classic work of 1917. Jackson's close work and liaison under Dawkins can be identified elsewhere in Jackson's own papers which include many items (notes, working copies of papers, proofs, etc.) transferred to him by Dawkins.

Amongst the rest of the Jackson papers relevant to Somerset of special importance is the extensive Bulleid correspondence and related Burtle Beds work (TABLE II), the Balch letters (TABLES II and III), and Jackson's many notes and measurements of animal remains from various Mendip Caves (TABLE III). The Jackson Collection is by far the larger of the two archives, and it should be noted that this present paper only refers to Somerset material identified within Jackson's own filing system, i.e. under such headings as 'caves', 'Somerset', 'bone reports', 'Burtle Beds', etc. There remains to be studied a miscellaneous correspondence of many thousand letters which may yet prove to contain passing information on Somerset subjects.

Although much of the data in both groups of archives was published, researchers have found much additional information by inspecting these papers at first hand, and of course a wealth of historical information relevant to Quaternary geology and prehistory is contained in the correspondence. There are substantial numbers of original papers in both archives covering the caves of Devon, Wales, the north of England and Ireland which it is hoped may be brought to the notice of researchers in a future paper. The Buxton collections also contain author's 'working copies' of all the publications by Dawkins and Jackson (see bibliographies), and the Museum has begun to computer catalogue both archives in the eventual hope of producing full indexes of names, subjects and related data.

Abbreviations used in tables

AP:	annotated proof	n.d.:	undated
B.S.A.:	British Speleological Association	P:	photograph
C:	correspondence	p:	pages
D:	drawing	TS:	typescript
MS:	manuscript	V.C.H.:	Victoria County History

TABLE I—*List of correspondence, manuscripts, drawings, photographs and printed proofs relating to Somerset geology and archaeology in the Dawkins papers*

<i>Author</i>	<i>General subject</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>No. items/ pages</i>	<i>Date</i>
Balch, H. E.	Mendip archaeology	C + P	3 + 4	1906–10
Bidgood, W.	Illustrations for <i>Cave Hunting</i>	C + AP	1 + 2	1873
Bolton, H.	Prehistoric axes in Bristol Museum	C + TS	1 + 6p	1902
Bush, T.	Bronze Age celts nr. Bristol	C	1	1901
Dawkins, W. B.	Notes on Pleistocene (<i>pars</i> Wookey Hole)	MS	19p	1861
Dawkins, W. B.	On a Hyaena Den at Wookey Hole	AP + MS	10p + 1p	1862
Dawkins, W. B.	On a Hyaena Den at Wookey Hole	AP + D + P	14p + 5 + 1	1863
Dawkins, W. B.	On <i>Rhinoceros tichorhinus</i>	AP + D + P	12p + 3 + 1	1862–63
Dawkins, W. B.	Catalogue Mammals, Wookey Hole	MS + D	142p	1863
Dawkins, W. B.	Pleistocene Mammalia (<i>pars</i> Somerset)	MS notebooks	7 vols	1863–66
Dawkins, W. B.	Rhaetic of Western & Central Somerset	MS + AP	57p + 16p	1864–65
Dawkins, W. B.	On <i>Hypsiprymnopsis rhaeticus</i>	MS	32p	1864
Dawkins, W. B.	Pleistocene mammalia (Wookey Hole)	P	22	1866
Dawkins, W. B.	Measurements Felidae (Bleadon Cavern)	MS	24p	n.d.
Dawkins, W. B.	<i>Cave Hunting</i> (<i>pars</i> Somerset)	AP + D	—	1873
Dawkins, W. B.	<i>Early Man in Britain</i> (<i>pars</i> Somerset)	MS + AP	—	1879–80
Dawkins, W. B.	Notes on Bath archaeology	MS	16p	1892
Dawkins, W. B.	Worlebury Camp	MS + D	16p + 3	1895?
Dawkins, W. B.	Bronze Age—Iron Age Somerset	MS	16p	n.d.
Dawkins, W. B.	Mendip caves & topography	P	12	n.d.
Dawkins, W. B.	Early Man. Somerset (V.C.H.)	AP	37p (2 copies)	1906
Dawkins, W. B.	List bronze implements, Taunton Museum	MS	3p	n.d.
Dawkins, W. B.	Address to Somerset Arch. Nat. Hist. Soc.	MS	7p	1912
Dawkins, W. B.	Wookey Hole Cave & artefacts	P	21	1914?
Dawkins, W. B.	<i>British Pleistocene Mammalia (Felidae)</i>	AP	6 parts	1866–72
Dawkins, W. B.	<i>British Pleistocene Mammalia (Felidae)</i>	Proof Plates	80	1866–72
Dawkins, W. B.	Glastonbury Lake Village	MS + TS	c. 100p	1914–17
Dawkins, W. B.	Glastonbury Lake Village	P + D	31 + 2	1914–17
Ling, S.	St. Cuthberts Lead Works	C	1	1906

Morland, J.	Brean Down	C	2	1878
Munro, R.	Glastonbury Lake Village	C	1	1908
Murchison, R. I.	Rhaetic of Somerset	C	1	1864
Savory, J. H.	Wookey Hole photographs	C + P	1 + 12	1913
Woodward, H. B.	Geology. Somerset (<i>V.C.H.</i>)	AP	33p	1906

TABLE II—*List of correspondence, manuscripts, drawings, photographs, and printed proofs relating to Somerset geology and prehistory in the Jackson papers*

<i>Author</i>	<i>General subject</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>No. items/ pages</i>	<i>Date</i>
Anthony, E. I.	Poston Hill Fort	C	3	1953
Balch, H. E.	Somerset (esp. Burtle Beds, Glastonbury)	C	15	1937–54
Bate, D. M. A.	Burtle Beds	C	3	1930–38
Bulleid, Annie	General (biographical)	C	9	1931–53
Bulleid, Arthur	Somerset (esp. Burtle Beds, Glastonbury)	C	66	1914–49
Bulleid, Arthur	Burtle Beds	MS	23p	1938
Bulleid, Arthur (& Jackson)	Burtle Beds (mollusca)	TS	2p	1931
Bulleid, Arthur (& Jackson)	Burtle Beds	TS + P + D	21p + 14 + 3	1938
Bulleid, Arthur (& Jackson)	Burtle Beds	TS	8p	1941
Chapman, J. B. W.	Somerset prehistory	C	1	1939
Clark, J. E.	Burtle Beds	C	1	1927
Corder, H.	Burtle Beds	C	1	1927
Cox, L. R.	Burtle Beds	C	1	1927
Dever, H. S.	Burtle Beds	C	1	1942
Dixon, E.	Burtle Beds	C	2	1938
Gill, W. M.	Somerset prehistory (Meare)	C	1	1940
Godwin, H.	Somerset levels (Puriton)	C	5	1941–42
Goodall, H. G.	General (biographical)	C	1	1954
Gray, H. St. G.	Somerset (esp. Glastonbury, Burtle Beds)	C	1	1914–45
Horne, Rev. E.	Prehistoric site nr. Downside Abbey	C	4	1935–36
Jackson, J. W.	Glastonbury Lake Village (animals)	MS	125p	1913–14
Jackson, J. W.	Glastonbury Lake Village (animals)	AP	32p	1917
Jackson, J. W.	Prehistoric site nr. Downside Abbey	MS + TS	20p + 2p	1935
Jackson, J. W.	Burtle Beds (mollusca)	MS	30p	1938
Jackson, J. W.	Burtle Beds (mollusca)	MS	100p	1938
Jackson, J. W.	Somerset levels (Puriton)	MS + TS	3p + 1p	1942
Jackson, J. W.	Copy letters to correspondents	C(TS)	24	1934–45
Keith, A.	Burtle Beds	C	1	1930
Kennard, A. S.	Burtle Beds (mollusca)	C + MS	5 + 3p	1941
North, F. J.	Burtle Beds	C	1	1938
Oakley, K. P.	Burtle Beds	C	2	1934–38
Read, C. H.	Somerset prehistory	C	1	1917
Wallis, F. S.	Burtle Beds	C	1	1938

TABLE III—*List of correspondence, manuscripts, drawings and photographs relating to Mendip caves in the Jackson papers*

<i>Author</i>	<i>General subject</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>No. items/ pages</i>	<i>Date</i>
Balch, H. E.	Mendip caves & fauna	C	31	1926–52
Balch, H. E.	Milton Hill	C + D	15	1936–37
Bramwell, D.	Soldier's Hole	C + TS	5 + 7p	1958–59
Donovan, D. T.	Mendip cave faunas	C	1	1947
Hodgkinson, G. W.	Soldier's Hole	C	1	1932
Jackson, J. W.	Read's Cavern	MS	10p	1924
Jackson, J. W.	Chelm's Comb	MS	27p	1927
Jackson, J. W.	Bridged Pot	MS + TS	27p + 7p	1928
Jackson, J. W.	Soldier's Hole	MS + TS	28p + 6p	1928–30
Jackson, J. W.	Sun Hole	MS	27p	1927–55
Jackson, J. W.	Cooper's Hole	MS + TS	6p + 4p	1932
Jackson, J. W.	Milton Hill	MS + P	15p + 1	1936
Jackson, J. W.	Aveline's Hole	MS	15p	1930's
Jackson, J. W.	Gough's Cave	MS	15p	1930's
Jackson, J. W.	Mendip caves (various)	MS + P	c. 100p + 20	1930's
Jackson, J. W.	B.S.A. Schedule Cave Finds (<i>pars</i> Somerset)	MS	c. 100p	1936
Jackson, J. W.	Copy letters to correspondents	C (TS)	8	1936–66
Jackson, J. W.	Contribn. to <i>British Caving</i> (Cullingford)	MS + TS	c. 200p	1952–62
Jeffries, J. I.	Soldier's Hole	C	2	1959
King, R. P.	Soldier's Hole	C	1	1932
Newton, E. T.	Chelm's Comb	C	5	1926
Parry, R. F.	Soldier's Hole	C	16	1930–32
Tetley, H.	Mendip cave faunas	C	6	1938
Tratman, E. K.	Mendip caves (Backwell, Sun Hole)	C	3	1937–55
Wallis, F. S.	B.S.A. Schedule Cave Finds	C	3	1936

BIBLIOGRAPHY: W. BOYD DAWKINS (SOMERSET SUBJECTS)

This bibliography and the one for J. W. Jackson which follows are expanded and revised from earlier ones given in Bishop (1982). All listed works are held in the Dawkins and Jackson archives, most as printers proofs as well as working author's copies. Short communications, e.g. newspapers and newsletters are not included.

1862

On a Hyaena-Den at Wookey-Hole, near Wells. *Q. J. Geol. Soc.*, **18**, 115–125.

1863

On a Hyaena-Den at Wookey Hole, near Wells. No. II. *Q. J. Geol. Soc.*, **19**, 260–274.

Wookey Hole Hyaena Den. *Proc. Somerset Arch. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, **11** for 1861–62, 197–219.

On the molar series of *Rhinoceros tichorhinus*. *Nat. Hist. Rev.*, **3**, 525–538.

1864

On the Rhaetic and White Lias of western and central Somerset. *Q. J. Geol. Soc.*, **20**, 396–412.

1865

- Wookey Hole. *Proc. Somerset Arch. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, **12** [pt. i] for 1863-64, 53-55.
 Note on the palaeontology of the Rhaetic beds in western and central Somerset.
Geol. Mag., **2**, 481-484.
 On the dentition of *Hyaena spelaea*, and its varieties, with notes on recent species.
Nat. Hist. Rev., **5**, 80-96.
 On the caverns of Burrington Combe. *Proc. Somerset Arch. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, **12**
 [pt. ii], 161-176.
 On the Newer Pliocene fauna of the caverns and river-deposits of Somersetshire.
Rep. Brit. Assoc. for 1864. Trans. Sect., 53.
 On the Mammalia of the Newer Pliocene age, in the caverns and river-deposits of
 Somersetshire. *Geol. Mag.*, **2**, 43-44.

1866

- Bone caverns and River Deposits. *Geol. Mag.*, **3**, 183-4.
 On the habits and condition of the two earliest races of men. *Q. J. Sci.*, **3**, 333-346.

1866-72

- (with SANFORD, W. A.) *The British Pleistocene mammalia*. Part 1 (1866) Introduction,
 i-1, British Pleistocene Felidae, 1-28; Part 2. (1868) 29-124; Part 3 (1869) 125-176;
 Part 4 (1872) 177-194. Palaeontographical Soc.

1868

- The former range of the reindeer in Europe. *Pop. Sci. Rev.*, **7**, 34-45.

1869

- On the distribution of the British Postglacial mammals. *Q. J. Geol. Soc.*, **25**, 192-217.

1870

- Cave Hunting, I. The Somerset caves. *Macmillan's Mag.*, **22** (6), 452-460.

1872

- A monograph of the British Pleistocene mammalia*. Pt. V. British Pleistocene Ovidae,
Ovibos moschatus Blainville. Palaeontographical Soc. (Freshford pp. 19-20).

1874

- Cave hunting*. London. Macmillan.

1876

- Die Höhlen und die Ureinwohner Europas*. Leipzig & Heidelberg. (Translation of
Cave Hunting by J. W. Spengel).

1880

- Early man in Britain*. London, Macmillan

1893

- The place of the lake dwellings at Glastonbury in British archaeology. *Nat. Sci.*, **3**,
 344-6.

1906

- Early man. Pp. 167-204 in PAGE, W. (ed.). *The Victoria History of the county of
 Somerset*, **1**. London.

1912

- On some points in the prehistoric archaeology of Somerset. *Proc. Somerset Arch.
 Nat. Hist. Soc.*, **58**, 13-25.

1914

- Preface. Pp. 1-12 in H. E. BALCH. *Wookey Hole: its caves and cave dwellers*.
 London, O.U.P.

1917

- The inhabitants of the lake village; and (with JACKSON, J. W.) The wild animals; the
 domestic animals. Pp. 673-680, 641-672 in BULLEID, A. and GRAY, H. St. G. *The
 Glastonbury lake village*. **2**, Glastonbury Antiquarian Soc.

1920

Cave hunting in Somerset. *Proc. Univ. Bristol Spelaeol. Soc.*, **1** (1), 33-5.

1922

The ethnology of Somerset from the Neolithic Age to the close of the Roman dominion. *Proc. Somerset Arch. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, **68**, 1-7.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: J. WILFRID JACKSON (SOMERSET SUBJECTS)

1917

(with DAWKINS, W. B.) The wild animals; the domestic animals. Pp. 641-672 in: BULLEID, A. and GRAY, H. St. G. *The Glastonbury lake village*. **2**, Glastonbury Antiquarian Soc.

1924

Report on the animal remains found in Read's Cavern, near Burrington Combe, Somerset. *Proc. Univ. Bristol Spelaeol. Soc.*, **2** (1) for 1922-23, 55-58.

1927

Chelm's Combe Shelter. The vertebrate and molluscan fauna. *Proc. Somerset Arch. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, **72** pt. 2, 115-23.

1928

Report on the vertebrate fauna from Bridged Pot Shelter, Ebbor, Somerset. *Rep. Wells Nat. Hist. Archaeol. Soc.*, **40** for 1928, 27-31.

1930

The animal remains found at Kingsdown Camp, Somerset. *Archaeologia*, **80**, 95-97.

1931

The vertebrate and molluscan fauna of Soldier's Hole, Cheddar. *Proc. Somerset Arch. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, **76**, 58-62.

1932

The vertebrate fauna of Bridged Pot Cave, Ebbor Gorge, Somerset. *Rep. Wells Nat. Hist. Archaeol. Soc.*, **44** for 1932, 47-51.

1935

Notes on animal remains from Hayes Wood Enclosure, Freshford, Somerset. *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, **91**, 146.

1937

Report on animal remains from the Iron Age site at Camerton. *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, **83**, 163-5.

Schedule of cave finds. *Caves and Caving*. **1** (1), 18-21; (2) 48-51.

1938

Schedule of cave finds. *Caves and Caving*, **1** (3), 89-92.

(with BULLEID, A.) The Burtle Sand Beds of Somerset. *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, **83**, 171-195.

(with TRATMAN, E. K.) The excavation of Backwell Cave, Somerset. *Proc. Univ. Bristol Spelaeol. Soc.*, **5** (1), 57-74.

1942

(with BULLEID, A.) Further notes on the Burtle Beds of Somerset. *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, **87**, 111-116.

1953

Archaeology and palaeontology. Somerset. Pp. 175-176, 196-203 in CULLINGFORD, C. H. D. (ed.) *British caving*. London, Routledge & Kegan Paul.

1955

The Pleistocene vertebrate fauna of Sun Hole, Cheddar. *Proc. Univ. Bristol Spelaeol. Soc.*, 7 (2), 73-75.

1962

Archaeology and palaeontology, Somerset. Pp. 257-258, 278-285, 321-324 in CULLINGFORD, C. H. D. (ed.) *British caving* (2nd. edn). London, Routledge & Kegan Paul.

REFERENCES

BISHOP, M. J. 1982. *The cave hunters*. Derbyshire Museum Service, 48 pp.

BISHOP, M. J. 1985. The Dawkins-Jackson archive at Buxton Museum. Pp. 70-76 in BRIGGS, D. J. *et al.* *Peak District & Northern Dukeries Field Guide*. Quaternary Research Assoc.

Dr M. J. BISHOP, Buxton Museum, Terrace Road, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6DJ, U.K.