

THE NEWSLETTER OF
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Dig This!



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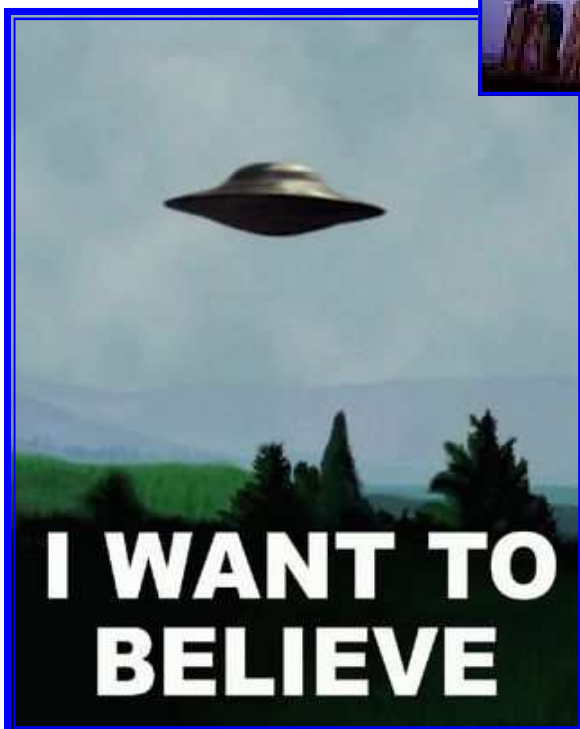
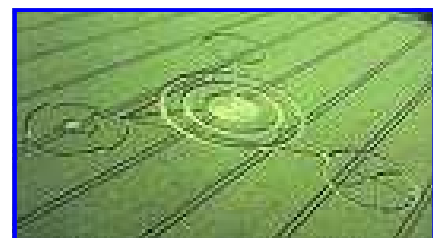
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It is a well known fact that the Editor is a self confessed Star Trek geek ... so what better way to indulge herself than to introduce some space archaeology! Page 6 has an article by P J Capelotti who is a senior lecturer in anthropology and American studies at Penn State University Abington College, Abington, USA. He is the author of *Sea Drift: Rafting Adventures in the Wake of Kon-Tiki*, *By Airship to the North Pole: An Archaeology of Human Exploration* and *The Exploring Animal: An Introduction to Archaeology from Seafarers to Spacefarers*.

(Some possible theories of alien intervention on our planet are illustrated below!)



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The Halifax Coiners *by Elizabeth Newby*



Bell House Farm,
Cragg Vale

In 1765, Halifax, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, had the same reputation as Chicago, USA in the early twenties of the Twentieth Century. The Al Capone of his day was David Hartley ~ 'King David' ~ leader of the coiners and clippers of Halifax.

A worker in iron, Hartley served his apprenticeship in the Midlands where it was probable that he began his career as a coiner. 'Bromingham' (old name for Birmingham) was well known at this time for circulating base and counterfeit coin. He left the Midlands with his wife for his old home, Bell House Farm, above Cragg Vale, six miles from Halifax at the edge of Bell Hob, twelve thousand feet above the valley. The moor was a bleak place, its remoteness ideal for the coiners who lived in scattered farms and cottages in the remote area of Mytholmroyd and Hebden Bridge.

Hartley joined his father, William Hartley and his two brothers; Isaac ~ later known as 'Duke of York' and William Junior, 'Duke of Edinburgh'. It was a lawless area at the best of times. Halifax had only two Constables, two Deputy Constables and a nightly watch. The nearest magistrate was in Bradford, fourteen miles from Bell House.

Defacement of the King's coins had carried on since the use of coins. As long ago as 1499, two men had begged sanctuary from justice for coining ~ both from Halifax.

Upon Hartley's return, he organised the individual coiners into an efficient gang. Portuguese and Spanish coins were in circulation at this time as golden guineas. Not easily recognisable, these coins were borrowed from anyone who could be persuaded to lend their gold and silver coins for 'attention'. If they refused, they were 'dealt' with by the gang's 'bully boys'; waylaid and beaten. To those lending their coins, (including local gentry who considered it a 'sport') half the value of the clippings was returned with the reduced coins. The clippings retained by the coiners were then melted down and recast. The counterfeits were then circulated by agents or by the coiners themselves, with a suitable profit.

Coins from the time of Charles II had been milled and edged with words, '*Decus et tutamen*' honour and protection. Later these words were left out so all the coiners had to do after clipping was to file a milled edge back on to the reduced coins. Coins had been in circulation for many years and become very worn so this acted as a bonus for the coiners whose counterfeits often went unnoticed.

At this time, gold and silver was higher than the face value of gold and silver coins. Clipping began to cause hardship in the area with the withdrawals of old coins for newly minted, as the Royal Mint only paid out according to weight. A clipped coin might only realise sixteen or seventeen shillings instead of twenty one shillings, (a guinea). Due to sparse policing, this was the day of the informer. Indignant meetings began calling for military help to deal with coiners but the authorities turned a 'deaf ear'. The Royal Mint at this time took little interest in Yorkshire and especially the remotest parts of the West Riding.

Bradford magistrate, Samuel Lister, and Leeds barrister, John Stanhope, tried to rouse authorities against the coiners. They approached two Halifax men, James Crabtree and William Hailey, to infiltrate the gang and inform ultimately to produce prosecutions. These men reported witnessing over one hundred guineas a day being clipped at Bell House.

Sadly, fate soon took a hand when Lister and Stanhope died within days of each other and they seemed to have taken their secret investigations to the grave. Soon, Hartley found out that Crabtree and Hailey were paid informers. To save 'his own skin', he informed against Crabtree who was arrested and charged with being a coiner. Help was at hand by a John Hustler and another S Lister of Leeds who knew of the arrangement. Crabtree was released and Hailey cleared.



Who invented

the pen?

The Inkas !!!



'If they refused, they were 'dealt with' by the gang's 'bully boys'; waylaid and beaten ...'



Continued ...

Police opinion was beginning to be roused against the coiners as too many people were losing money and going bankrupt due to the coiners' activities in the neighbourhood. By June 1769, a Government enquiry decided that the clipping and counterfeiting in the West Riding did not warrant the expense of taking any real action.

The coiners held such sway that there was wholesale voluntary or threatened participation from all walks of life, including the local gentry and well to do tradesmen who were not averse to making more money from lending their coins for clipping. Even unscrupulous law officers were part of the gang; Joseph Hanson, Deputy Constable of Halifax was arrested but escaped. The gang threatened those who refused their demands, waylaying others by night and beating them up as punishment for non-cooperation. There were many instances of tavern keepers preferring to serve drinks free rather than refuse the clipped and counterfeited coin tendered by Hartley's men.

Two men were responsible for the fall of the Crag Vale coiners; William Deighton, Supervisor of Excise, and Robert Parker, a small town solicitor. Parker was very well thought of as a solicitor, he was a man of honour and integrity. He became the agent of some of the most considerable estates in the country and Crown Prosecuting Solicitor at York Assizes. Deighton's job in Halifax was to collect taxes where he discovered that the counterfeited and defaced coinage was causing great hardship in the area.

Although it was not Deighton's job to discover and arrest coiners, he was concerned by the financial hardship caused in the area so he joined forces with Parker who could use his influence with the local authorities in processing claims for support from the law officers.

Deighton and Parker needed an informer. The coiners lived in such isolated areas on the moors that anyone approaching within half a mile was spotted. One of the gang, James Broadbent, dissatisfied with his treat-

ment by the coiners, became their informer and helped Deighton with arrests and convictions. Hartley became furiously angry with Deighton's interference and it was in October 1769 that the coiners decided that Deighton must be 'dealt with'. Parker warned Deighton of the danger he was running but Deighton continued his surprise visits to lonely farmhouses, alone, in the hopes of catching the coiners in action.

The coiners knew that their safety was imperilled more than ever and so they held a meeting at Bell House; they decided that Deighton should die. At a Seventeenth Century posting inn, 'Old Cock', Hartley was arrested, in the presence of Deighton and Parker, by the local bailiff and accused of clipping and defacing the King's coinage. He was then sent to York with another of his gang, James Jagger, to await trial.

With Hartley's arrest, the coiners closed ranks and held a meeting to decide when and what to do with Deighton who was ruining their business. Hartley's arrest had shaken the coiners and at the meeting, chaired by Isaac, they voted that Deighton must be murdered as soon as possible. A 'hit man' was to be hired but the coiners, made rich with their trade, were loathe to part with their money ~ typical Yorkshiremen! The names of Matthew Normington and Robert Thomas were put forward as the local 'bully boys'. Thomas Spencer of Mytholmroyd was sent round the district to collect money to pay the would-be assassins and he was to provide the guns and gunpowder. One hundred guineas was collected, the men were approached and they agreed to murder Deighton.

Their first attempts were on 30 and 31 October 1769 but no luck! However, on 9 November, hiding out near Deighton's house in Bull Close Lane, they encountered him returning late at night from a meeting with an attorney; Thomas Sayer. The murderers fired on Deighton as he neared his house. Normington's aim was true and he hit his quarry with his weapon crammed with lead slugs. Thomas' gun misfired.



"This is amazing! Roughly translated, it says 'King Tut was here o.k.'"



'Thomas kicked him viciously and then butt-ended him with his gun, then jumped on his chest and face ...'

*Continued ...*

Deighton went down and his assailants went to look at his body. Thomas kicked him viciously and then butt-ended him with his gun, then jumped on his chest and face. A neighbour, Gledhill, fetched by Deighton's daughter and a maidservant after hearing the shot, discovered the body fifteen minutes later which was still warm and bleeding. Deighton died a few minutes later.

The marks of Thomas' boots on the body's coat and breast led to their arrest. The brutal murder roused the neighbourhood, having adverse effects from what the coiners expected. Instead of ending any further interference from the authorities, it sparked off Government aides to take action.

Parker, took up Deighton's torch for justice to wipe out the Cragg Vale coiners and put an end to disruption of business in the area, bankruptcies and personal tragedies caused by 'knavery' and brutality of the gang. The authorities then published a list of clippers and coiners which was given to the press and posted all over the West Riding. Informers were paid £40 reward under the Highwayman's Act of 1692. Fifty persons were on the list including Isaac Hartley. A further £100 reward was offered by the 'Gentlemen and Merchants of the Town and Parish of Halifax'. Seven or eight of the gang were arrested a few days after the proclamation was published in the London Gazette on 4 November 1769.

The Marquis of Rockingham, former Whig Prime Minister, left London for his home in Yorkshire ~ Wentworth Woodhouse, to rouse the neighbourhood and represent the then Tory Government against the gang. On 28 November 1769, at a meeting chaired by Rockingham at the Talbot Inn, the widow of William Deighton was recommended as an 'object of His majesty's Royal Bounty'. She was granted £50 per annum and a sum to pay for apprenticeships for her two youngest children. Rockingham gave her £50 out of his own pocket.

Four men were arrested for the murder, James Broadbent, Matthew Normington, Robert Thomas and William Folds. Evidence was scanty as there were no eye-

witnesses and the accused were all trying to sell each other out. At the Spring Assizes in York, 6 April 1770, David Hartley was tried and sentenced to death, to be executed at Tyburn near York on Saturday 28 April for 'coining and diminishing gold coin'. The body was claimed by his widow and buried at Heptonstall Church of St Thomas à Beckett on 1 May 1770.

At the Autumn Assizes, York on 4 August 1770, Thomas, Normington and Folds were tried for the murder of William Deighton; Broadbent, who had turned King's evidence, was freed. Later, the case against Folds was dismissed as the evidence was considered too weak to stand. The whole case against the murderers began to fall apart. The evidence was poor and there were no eyewitnesses. The list of informers hoping to collect grew and grew, lies abounded ~ in modern parlance, 'it was a right cock up'. Normington and Thomas were acquitted.

The coiners carried on but without Hartley to organise them, the business began to fail. People were no longer willing to provide coins for clipping. The gentry, especially who had treated coining as a 'game', now disassociated themselves from any coining activities.

Thomas Clayton was arrested for coining in April 1774. He then began to give evidence against Normington and Thomas for the murder of Deighton although they could not be tried again for the same murder. As with Al Capone nearly two hundred years later, the Elliott Ness of the day had to charge them with a related crime ~ the robbery of Deighton's body. So Thomas was found guilty of 'Highway Robbery' and sentenced to death on 25 July, 1774. Clayton and another, Thomas Spencer were acquitted due to lack of evidence. Robert Thomas was sentenced to be hanged and then left hanging in chains at Beacon Hill near Halifax. The evening before he died, he confessed to the murder of Deighton. Normington was given bail but when called to attend the York Spring Assizes, he did not surrender to his bail.

The judge, Mr Justice J Gould sentenced Normington to death in his absence. Normington was later caught and arrested. He was also sentenced to be hanged and then left hanging in chains with his fellow murderer. He too confessed to Deighton's murder before his execution.

Due to new legislation and the issue of the first crown pieces of George III, the use of tokens and promissory notes, the coiners ~ those who were left, faded out of business.



On 13 May, 1775, the young Marquis of Rockingham, attained his majority and had upwards of ten thousand guests at the celebrations at his Yorkshire home.



In March 1835, concealed in the wall of a house in the neighbourhood of Hebden Bridge, was found a complete set of dies for Portuguese gold Moidores used in Great Britain.



The Ninth Legion Return To Help The City Of York *by Robert Morgan* *(Adapted from the Times article on the incident)*



Some time between the years AD117 and AD 120 the Ninth Legion which was stationed at Eboracum, which it had founded in AD 71 and where the modern day City of York now stands, marched north out of the city. Their orders were to deal with the tribes in Caledonia, who had for some time caused the Roman Army trouble with uprisings against the occupation of their land.

Most of the Ninth Legion along with Auxiliary Infantry and Cavalry with civilian support, a force that may have totalled 10,000 men, were never heard of again, for the entire force just disappeared. Not one soldier returned and no remains were ever found.

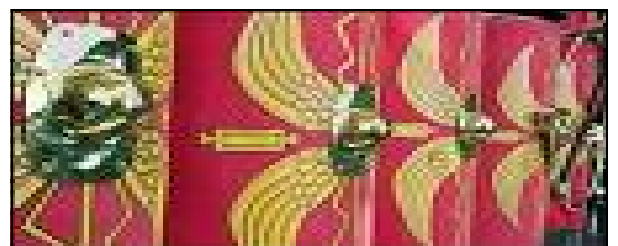
During a break in the festivities at York's, Roman Festival Weekend, three Brigantes attempted to steal the lead from one of the city's municipal buildings, namely the library. Unfortunately for them they were spotted by the eagle eyes of Centurion Maximus Gluteus, otherwise known as Keith Mulhearn to his friends.

"I just looked up and said: 'I don't believe this, there are guys on the roof'" Mr Mulhearn said. "One was on the apex and he was tugging at something. I realised there was lead all the way up there and shouted to one of the lads to phone the police"

Centurion Maximus Gluteus then summoned his two Centurion colleagues and with a platoon of heavily armed soldiers, surrounded the library before joining the police in a search for the thieves. Unfortunately the Brigantes had made their escape empty handed.

A spokesman for the present day city council said: *"We are extremely grateful to those who helped prevent the theft of items from City of York council property."*

It is said the price of plumbum is on the up and is quoted at around 60 denarii's per Libra on the internal metal exchange. In modern terms that could be as much as 63 pence per pound.





Space: The Final Archaeological Frontier *by P J Capelotti*



Science fiction? Not any longer. The notion of archaeological research and heritage management in space is an idea whose time has already arrived.

It has been more than twenty years since USA Brown University archaeologist Richard Gould proposed that aircraft wrecks might yield important data, laying the foundation for systematic archaeological studies of sites from the history of human flight. In 1993, University of Hawaii anthropologist Ben Finney, whom for much of his career has explored the technology and techniques used by Polynesians to colonize islands in the Pacific, suggested that it would not be premature to begin thinking about the archaeology of Russian and American aerospace sites on the Moon and Mars. Finney pointed out that just as today's scholars use the archaeological record to investigate how Polynesians diverged culturally as they explored the Pacific, archaeologists will someday study off-earth sites to trace the development of humans in space. He was certainly clear-eyed about the improbability of anyone being able to conduct fieldwork anytime soon, but he was equally convinced that one day such work would be done.



There is a growing awareness, however, that it won't be long before both corporate adventurers and space tourists reach the Moon and Mars. The Russians already carry very-high-paying tourists to the International Space Station, and the recent launch by the private company, Scaled Composites, of the three-passenger *SpaceShipOne* has shown that corporate space travel will soon be feasible. There's a wealth of important archaeological sites from the history of space exploration on the Moon and Mars and protective cultural heritage regimes need to be in place before these people get there.

In 1999, a company called Lunacorp proposed a robotic lunar rover mission beginning at the site of Tranquility Base and rumbling across the Moon from one archaeological site to another, from the wreck of the *Ranger 8* probe and a *Surveyor* spacecraft to *Apollo 17's* landing site and a lost Soviet *Lunakhod* rover. The mission, which would leave more than six hundred miles of tread marks at some of the most famous sites from the history of exploration, was promoted as a form of theme-park entertainment. In addition to the threat from profit-seeking corporations, scholars cite other potentially destructive forces such as wanton souvenir hunting as well as uncontrolled or unmonitored scientific sampling, like that which has occurred in explorations of remote polar regions.



According to the vaguely worded United Nations Outer Space Treaty of 1967, what it terms "space junk" remains the property of the country that sent the craft or probe into space. However, the treaty does not explicitly address protection of sites like Tranquility Base and equating the remains of human exploration of the heavens with "space junk" leaves them vulnerable to scavengers. Another problem arises through other treaties that proclaim that land in space cannot be owned by any country or individual. This presents some interesting dilemmas for the aspiring manager of extraterrestrial cultural resources. If the U.S owns the archaeological remains of *Apollo 11* but not the ground underneath it, how to protect the former without disturbing the latter? Does America own Neil Armstrong's famous first footprints on the Moon but not the lunar dust in which they were recorded? Surely those footprints are as important in the story of human development as those left by hominids at Laetoli, Tanzania. But unlike the Laetoli prints, which have survived for 3.5 million years encased in cement like ash, those at Tranquility Base could be swept away with a casual brush of a space tourist's hand.



In what may be the first instance of funded space archaeology research, a team led by Beth O'Leary, a New Mexico State University archaeologist, is studying legal ownership of artefacts and structures in space, and how one might go about documenting and preserving them. O'Leary's group argues that even though the United States cannot, by treaty, own the land on which the lunar module *Eagle's* descent stage rests, U.S. federal preservation laws and regulations nonetheless apply to the objects left there. They see the base as a natural candidate for the National Register of Historic Places, as a National Historic Landmark, and, potentially, as the first extraterrestrial site on UNESCO's World Heritage List.



Continued ...

Unless procedures and protocols are developed for evaluating and registering sites and artefacts, "there will be uncontrolled sampling and even outright treasure hunting," says John Campbell, an archaeologist at James Cook University in Queensland, Australia, who has been responsible for organizing recent international seminars on the subject of preserving space heritage. Federal cultural resource management legislation, he notes, has the potential to lift aerospace archaeology away from the profiteers and souvenir hunters and into its proper bailiwick within the discipline of historical archaeology.

As a first step in that direction and with funding from the New Mexico Space Grant Consortium, O'Leary's group of archaeologists, curators, and physicists have researched and documented an archaeological assemblage of dozens of artefacts and features at Tranquility Base alone. Using this data, they have drawn up a preliminary site plan, one that, thanks to the Moon's lack of atmosphere, will doubtless remain unchanged for centuries, provided looters leave the site untouched.

The challenges of surveying and preserving old spacecraft discarded on the surface of Mars will be greater. Dust storms could damage landers or even bury them beneath the red Martian soil. Since Mars has no protective ozone layer, ultraviolet energy from the Sun could damage the spacecraft. It may be necessary to deploy shields over such sites to protect them from the continual abrasion and decay caused by extreme temperatures, radiation, wind, and dust.

Yet it is one thing for a few archaeologists to realize the almost unlimited potential of archaeological studies in space, and quite another to do something about it. When O'Leary and her team approached various federal agencies responsible, such as NASA, to discuss legal issues related to space and national historic place designations, they were rebuffed by terse bureaucratise: "Placing Tranquility Base under protection might imply that the U.S. intended to exert sovereignty over the Moon." "Our office does not have jurisdiction." "Our office does not have the inclination." Similar problems cropped up with regard to the use of UNESCO's World Heritage List, since Tranquility Base can be seen as not so much a global cultural achievement as another battle in the Cold War.

O'Leary believes it may be time to look to new kinds of worldwide treaties for the preservation of old structures on the new frontier that would bypass the cultural baggage associated with UNESCO's World Heritage List and the vague, contradictory possession clauses of the UN's space treaty. She points out that an archaeologist on Earth needs a permit from a relevant authority prior to conducting any intrusive research. If no authority can own property in space, what authority would issue such permits for the extraterrestrial archaeologist? The problem requires the creation of new international administrative structures unlike anything archaeologists have to contend with on Earth.

The Cold War, which provided so much of the backdrop to the race for the Moon, is replete with failures that may never be examined until archaeology takes them up. The site where the Soviet *Luna 5* probe crash-landed onto the surface of the Moon on 9 May 1965, may one day provide excellent archaeological opportunities for the study of the secretive *Luna* series of unmanned probes launched in an era of intense super-power competition for priority on the Moon. The questions that could be asked of such a site are almost limitless. Does its location correspond with archival records of its guidance and trajectory? Does the composition of the craft match its specifications? Is there any instrumentation or technology on board ~ Cold War or otherwise ~ that was never announced, recorded, or used on Earth?

Dozens of sites exist on the Moon where operational spacecraft have been discarded, whether by mission requirements, accident, or obsolescence. The *Apollo* program alone left six lunar module descent stages fixed at base camps and another six ascent stages were deliberately discarded and impacted on the lunar surface after they had delivered their crews back to the mission's command module. (The exact impact sites of two of these wrecks, *Apollo 11's Eagle* and *Apollo 16's Orion*, have never been located.)





Continued ...



The moon landings were really a hoax!!! However, the first sighting of a clanger was in 1967.

If one accepts the idea of archaeological research on sites from the history of human exploration in space, it is hardly a giant leap to consider the potential for archaeological fieldwork on the evidence of extraterrestrial civilizations. The late biochemist and science fiction writer Isaac Asimov once speculated that the galaxy may contain three hundred and twenty five million planets with traces of civilizations in ruins. Perhaps our astronomers are hearing only static through their radio telescopes because they are, in effect, listening for a message from the extraterrestrial equivalent of the ancient Maya or the Sumerians ~ dead civilizations that can speak to us now only through archaeology. Potentially, there is a lot of fieldwork to do "out there."

The Moon, with its wealth of sites, will surely be the first destination of archaeologists trained to work in space. But any young scholars hoping to claim the mantle of history's first lunar archaeologist will be disappointed. That distinction is already taken.

On 19 November 1969, astronauts Charles "Pete" Conrad and Alan Bean made a difficult manual landing of the *Apollo 12* lunar module in the Moon's Ocean of Storms, just a few hundred feet from an unmanned probe, *Surveyor 3*, that had soft-landed in a crater on 19 April 1967. Unrecognized at the time, this was an important moment in the history of science. Bean and Conrad were about to conduct the first archaeological studies on the Moon.

After the obligatory planting of the American flag and some geological sampling, Conrad and Bean made their way to the artefact. They observed that *Surveyor 3* had bounced after touchdown and carefully photographed the impressions made by its footpads. Conrad noted the artefact's brownish tint and learned from Mission Control engineers in Houston that the probe had been white when it was launched. The photographic system's mirror was warped and the whole spacecraft covered in dust, perhaps kicked up by the landing.

Conrad and Bean used a cutting tool to remove the probe's television camera, remote sampling arm and pieces of tubing. The astronaut-archaeologists bagged and labelled these artefacts, stowed them on board their lunar module, and returned them to Earth. The Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas and the Hughes Air and Space Corporation in El Segundo, California, later analyzed the changes in these aerospace artefacts left on the Moon for more than two years.

Published by NASA in 1972 as *Analysis of Surveyor 3 Material and Photographs Returned by Apollo 12* (NASA SP-284, 1972), this sophisticated multidisciplinary investigation of the *Surveyor 3* artefacts focused on the ways the retrieved components had been changed by the craft's voyage through the vacuum of space. As such, the mission of *Apollo 12* provided the first example of aerospace archaeology, extraterrestrial archaeology and, perhaps more significant for the history of the discipline, formational archaeology, the study of environmental and cultural forces upon the life history of human artefacts in space.

A piece of the television camera, subjected to a microbiological examination, revealed evidence of the bacteria *Streptococcus mitis*. For a moment it was thought Conrad and Bean had discovered evidence for life on the Moon. As all other competing hypotheses were systematically eliminated, the origin of the seemingly extraterrestrial life became apparent. While the camera was being readied for launch, someone had sneezed on it. The resulting virus had travelled to the Moon, remained in an alternating freezing/boiling vacuum for two and a half years and returned promptly to life upon reaching the safety of a petri dish back on Earth.

Lunar archaeology had made its first great discovery; Not even the vastness of space can stop humans from spreading a sore throat.



'...it is hardly a giant leap to consider the potential for archaeological fieldwork on the evidence of extraterrestrial civilizations...'



Picture courtesy of <http://www.scaled.com/projects/tierone/info.htm>





A Feline Serial , Part VI: Function *by Rachel Bithell*

There is evidence, both archaeological and in contemporary literature, to interpret the role of cats as being economically viable, be it for their fur, subsistence requirements and / or their capabilities for vermin control.

It has been stated that it is in the nature of fur trading and production to leave few direct and unequivocal traces of its existence in the archaeological record. However, some physical evidence may be found. The best evidence is in the form of cut marks that are the result of skinning, on the bones of species that are not usually eaten. In 1970, an excavation of medieval houses in the centre of Odense on Funen, Denmark took place. A pit was found which contained the remains of sixty-eight domesticated cats (*Felis catus* L.). Radiocarbon analysis gave the bones a date of 1070 ± 100 AD meaning that the pit was in use during the Viking Age. The size of the bones in comparison with the level of maturity identified the cats as domestic. The cut marks apparent on the snout of the animals gave indication to the fact that they were skinned. Of those determined, the majority of the bones belonged to juveniles and it has been suggested that a number of elder cats were allowed to live as breeding stock, presumably for the sake of production. The absence of skinning cut marks does not discount the process, as it is possible to skin a cat and leave no trace on the bones. Hence the phrase, 'There is more than one way to skin a cat.' Furthermore, if no marks survive on any cat bones, there may be an absence of evidence rather than evidence of absence. People who frequently use stone tools for butchery and processing often leave few cut marks on bones as hitting the bone damages the edge of the tool. In instances such as this, there may be other evidence to suggest fur removal. Unexpectedly large numbers of juvenile animals would indicate that the species was being exploited for its skin. This has been the interpretation from excavations at Kings Lynn where sixteen out of twenty five cats were juvenile. The bones of immature cats recovered from medieval Exeter have also been interpreted as the result of fur exploitation.

The butchering of the wild cat has been recorded from the Ertobølle culture settlement, the youngest phase of the Danish Mesolithic, at Tybrind Vig in Southwestern Denmark. Although of English origin, the partial skeletons of seventy-nine medieval cats were recovered from a well in Cambridge, England. The creatures' throats had been cut and they were subsequently skinned and dismembered for consumption by the town's inhabitants thus, fulfilling subsistence requirements. Eating the meat of cats was probably only practised during periods of dearth or food shortage. It is reasonable to presume that the pelts would also have been utilised although the Cam-

bridge cats are considerably smaller than that of the modern day domestic cat and as such, it is debateable as to what the fur could have been used for.

In 1127AD Archbishop Corbyl decreed that abbesses and nuns could only wear fur of lamb or wild cat and later in the Fourteenth Century, Richard II granted a charter to the Abbot of Peterborough to allow him to hunt and kill foxes and wild cats. It used to be supposed that only true wild cats were hunted however, the medieval chase term 'a clowder of cats' refers to a group and is more applicable to the hunting of ferals as opposed to the more solitary wild cat. The Franciscan friar, Bartholomew de Glanville wrote of the cat in circa 1240AD, "...is ofte for his fayre skynne ytake of the skynnere and yslyayne." There is documentation that categorically states that feline pelts were imported from Scandinavia and the Baltic to the British Isles for the manufacture of furs particularly during the Thirteenth Century. Cat skins were also traded in Scotland although it is unknown whether the skins were from domestic or wild cat. Fur was one of the most important commodities to be exported from Ireland during the medieval period. A murage grant for Youghal, which was granted by King Edward III in 1358AD, allowed a taxation of a halfpenny for every hundred cat pelts exported from the port. Cat culling has also been recorded at Fishamble St. Dublin and Waterford. It has been proposed that the animals would be allowed to grow to full size, then killed and skinned. There would have been a constant and easily available supply due to the short gestation period and relatively large litter size.

In contrast, there is contemporary literature in the medieval period that views cats in the more practical sense of performing a ratting and mousing service. There is a Welsh legal document from 948AD called 'King Hywell Dda's Law'. These were laws enacted by Hywell the Good, Prince of South Wales who saw the cat as a working but highly valuable animal. Its value was gauged on size and usefulness. A kitten was worth a penny until it opened its eyes, then twopence until it caught its first mouse, when it was worth fourpence. If a cat guarding the corn in the royal barn was killed, compensation was calculated by holding the dead cat by its tail until its head touched the ground and then wheat was poured in a heap until the tip of the tail was covered.

In the medieval burgh of Scotland, the cat's value lay in its ability to keep the rodent population under manageable control. However, on death, these creatures were skinned thus utilising the animal to its full potential. There was actually a salaried feline for the purpose of vermin control at Exeter Cathedral from 1305 to 1467. A cat-hole is still to be found in the door in the North transept wall through which the paid cat could enter and egress while hunting the vermin.





This is the membership page ... if you would like letters, jokes, comments, book reviews, photographs, notices and even birthday dedications posted here, please send them by email to; pergamond@blueyonder.co.uk

Dates For Your Diary 2007

3D Meetings

15 August Speaker: David Starley, Science Officer, Royal Armouries, Leeds ~ 'The Knight and the Laboratory

19 September Speaker: George Chaplin ~ Britain's Larger Henge Complexes

17 October / 21 November / 19 December: Speakers TBA



3D Outings

19 August Visit: Castle Howard.

9 September Visit: Helmsley Archaeological Store. Tour and artefact handling. Also time to visit Helmsley Castle or look around the village.

30 September Visit: Discovery Centre and a guided tour of Kirkstall Abbey.

This is the list so far. More to be published when they have been booked.



Be patriotic at Harewood House ...

Last Night of the Proms spectacular with original WW2 spitfire display on 1 September 2007 (Gates 5pm, Starts 7:15pm, Ends 10:15pm)

Open- air picnic style classical concert featuring the English National Orchestra.



This performance gets off to a flying start with a breathtaking choreographed display to music by an original WW2 Spitfire, whilst conductor Jae Alexander leads the English National Orchestra through a programme of popular classics, film themes and all the favourites associated with "Last Night Of The Proms". The evening ends with a dramatic fireworks finale to accompany the flag-waving frenzy of Rule Britannia and Land of Hope & Glory.

The performance is open air please come prepared - the concert will go ahead whatever the weather unless the health & safety of performers and attendees are at risk. The audience should arrive at least half an hour prior to the performance starting and bring their own seating.

Ticket Prices

Up to and including August 31st; Adult £28, Child £16.

On the evening; Adult £30, Child £18.





And Finally, GCSE's

This is an indication of the wonderful future that awaits the UK.... the level of answers in GCSE exams!

This is a compilation of actual student GCSE answers...

1. Ancient Egypt was inhabited by mummies and they all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and traveled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere.
2. The Bible is full of interesting caricatures. In the first book of the Bible, Guinnessis, Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their children, Cain, asked, "Am I my brother's son?"
3. Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread made without any ingredients. Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments. He died before he ever reached Canada.
4. Solomom had three hundred wives and seven hundred porcupines.
5. The Greeks were a highly sculptured people and without them we wouldn't have history. The Greeks also had myths. A myth is a female moth.
6. Actually, Homer was not written by Homer but by another man of that name.
7. Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock. After his death, his career suffered a dramatic decline.
8. In the Olympic games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits, and threw the java.
9. Eventually, the Romans conquered the Greeks. History calls people Romans because they never stayed in one place for very long.
10. Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March murdered him because they thought he was going to be made king. Dying, he gasped out: "Tee hee, Brutus."
11. Nero was a cruel tyranny who would torture his subjects by playing the fiddle to them.
12. Joan of Arc was burnt to a steak and was canonized by Bernard Shaw. Finally Magna Carta provided that no man should be hanged twice for the same offense.
13. In midevil times most people were alliterate. The greatest writer of the futile ages was Chaucer, who wrote many poems and verses and also wrote literature.
17. The greatest writer of the Renaissance was William Shakespeare. He was born in the year 1564, supposedly on his birthday. He never made much money and is famous only because of his plays.

I hope you have enjoyed this August edition of 'Dig This!'. If you have any stories, articles, photographs, etc that you would like including in the next edition, (approximately November 2007), please forward them to me at:

pergamond@blueyonder.co.uk

RAY xxx