

Collectively they add light and shade to what has already been published about him. There is nothing earth-shatteringly new or counter-intuitive, rather more there is an emphasis on the personal elements of Lubbock's story.

Thompson takes the reader through the high points of Lubbock's life and career – the importance of a personal attachment to Charles Darwin, the great books (with a useful discussion of *The Origin of Civilization*), the 'other' scientific careers among bugs and other denizens of the natural world, and still other careers as politician and writer of 'improving' essays. It's a conventional and pretty well worn pathway leading to much the same conclusions, concerning Lubbock's polymathy, drawn by other writers. One very welcome addition though is canvassed in the last chapter – for someone as famous as Lubbock at the time of his death (1913) why was his fame so fleeting?

The core text is expanded through five appendixes covering his books, the major figures in the Lubbock 'story', the legislation he introduced into the House of Commons 1871–1908; the original schedule of the Ancient Monuments Protection Act (1882), the last chapter of *Prehistoric Times* (1865), the list of one hundred greatest books compiled by Lubbock, and three of the essays drawn from Lubbock's *Peace and Happiness* (1909). It's all a bit eclectic but for those whose knowledge of Lubbock is not great, they help to reinforce just how spectacularly broad and deep his knowledge was.

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## VI. Conference report

### The Edward Lhuyd International Conference 30th June - 3rd July 2009

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This conference was convened by the School of Welsh and Celtic Studies (CAWACS), Aberystwyth, and held at the University, to celebrate the life of the Welsh Renaissance polymath Edward Lhuyd (1659/1660–1709). It was intended to coincide with the tercentenary of his death on 30th June 1709. Packed with lectures in English and Welsh, it was accompanied by an exhibition at the National Library of Wales, bringing together relevant biographical and scientific manuscripts and rare printed material, some of which had never previously left the National Library of Scotland, and the Bodleian and British Libraries.

#### Edward Lhuyd: Naturalist, Antiquary and Celtic Linguafiler

Born probably in 1659/1660 in Loppington, Shropshire, Edward Lhuyd was brought up by his father, Edward Lloyd, in Llanforda, Oswestry, Shropshire. Lloyd the elder was a colourful character, a well-informed man who employed a professional gardener. However, he was ill-tempered, not always financially stable and never married Edward's mother, Bridget Pryse of Glan-ffraid, whose family was a branch of the Prysyes of Gogerddan, Cardiganshire.

In boyhood, Lhuyd was no doubt, influenced by his father's gardener, Edward Morgan, a well-respected botanist. Probably formally educated at Oswestry Grammar School, he went up to Jesus College, Oxford, in 1682 and in Oxford he was to spend the rest of his life. Encouraged by Robert Plot, Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, he succeeded as holder of that post in 1691. Around 1688 he adopted the Welsh form of his surname, which he normally wrote as Lhwyd, though on occasion he used Lhuyd.

As a scholar, Lhuyd's early concerns were with the natural sciences, and to this end initially he collected

fossils, shells and plants. During the early 1690s, however, he was asked to revise Camden's descriptions of the Welsh counties for Bishop Edmund Gibson's new English edition of the *Britannia* of 1695. Before writing, in 1693 he toured the Principality and established a network of correspondents to inform the task. A further important part of his investigative method was to distribute questionnaires to the local clergy of all parishes in Wales – his 'Parochial Queries'. Not the first to do this, he was particularly thorough in eliciting details of antiquities and traditions, natural history and topography, as well as on contemporary life.

After the *Britannia* revisions, he planned a much more ambitious project on the natural and human history of Wales to be entitled the *Archaeologia Britannica*. Besides already having important data from the returns on his Parochial Queries, he visited Wales again in 1696, this time spending five months collecting more data towards this visionary investigation. The following year he took further tours in Wales and among the 'Celtic' speaking peoples of Scotland, Ireland, Cornwall and Brittany. On these he was accompanied by helpers, who, from 1697 to 1701, assisted with the surveying of monuments, and in collecting manuscripts as well as archaeological, botanical and geological specimens. During these investigations he was becoming particularly concerned with linguistic matters, the outcome of which was publication of only the first volume of the intended great work – *Archaeologia Britannica* of 1707. This was entirely devoted to the Celtic languages and remains a remarkable record of contemporary grammar and vocabulary. Further volumes intended to cover ethnography and archaeological questions were to come next, but after 1700 Lhuyd's health was slowly deteriorating.

Like many contemporary scientific inquirers, Lhuyd was a Fellow of the Royal Society, and through that body he published a handful of letters that, together with the esteem he gained from personal correspondents, helped established him as a polymath arguably of European standing. He had an ambivalent relationship with the University in Oxford, where it was felt (perhaps unfairly) that he neglected museum duties in favour of pursuits that were more distant both geographically and intellectually. Such disfavour, or more perhaps a lack of recognition for his achievements or vision, to understand his radical agenda, was to prove unfortunate for the completion or continuance of his investigations post-mortem. This was because the University and Museum refused to purchase and house his extensive collection of manuscript researches. In consequence, they were sold to help pay his outstanding debts. Unfortunately, their initial dissipation into appreciative and responsible private possession failed to give them an enduring future, and in consequence a great number, including many of those relating to his archaeological fieldwork, were to be destroyed in fires in the eighteenth and early-nineteenth century.

## **The Conference**

Like so many of the genre, this conference was crammed full of contributions - sixty-four in all. An organisational structure compressing them into three and a half days' sessions made it quite impossible to attend more than a third, and as some titles were delivered without circulated abstracts, it was difficult to discover their subject matter. About a third were of direct interest to Lhuyd's work and perhaps a third more were indirectly associated with his influence and circle, followers or biographers. The rest was a fascinating collection of culturally 'Celtic' or regionally Welsh archaeological, art-historical, bardic and linguistic themes.

## **Papers Relevant to the History of Archaeology**

Sectional meetings were given in Welsh and in English, with simultaneous translation facilities provided for those of the seven principal speakers whose contributions were delivered in Welsh. These celebrity presentations generally reflected the most up-to-date research and summarised Lhuyd's varied contributions to science and linguistic studies. Those of more immediate concern to the history of archaeology were:

'Edward Lhuyd – an Archaeologist's View' by Nancy Edwards (Bangor University); 'Edward

Lhuyd: the Premier Welsh Antiquary' by Graham Parry (formerly University of York) and 'Edward Lhuyd, Museum Keeper: the Ashmolean Years' by Arthur MacGregor (formerly of the Ashmolean Museum).

Papers of related interest in English by Michael Bassett (formerly of the National Museum of Wales) on 'Lhuyd as Naturalist', and in Welsh by Dyfed Elis-Gruffydd (independent researcher) on 'Lhuyd the Geologist', were all complemented by Brynley F. Roberts, President of the Conference and doyen of Lhuyd scholarship (sometime National Librarian and Professor of Welsh, Aberystwyth and Swansea Universities), to whom fell the task of summarising Lhuyd's polymathic legacy. All the plenary papers should be appearing in a bespoke volume of the *Welsh History Review* dedicated to Lhuyd's legacy.

Beyond these authoritative introductory papers, several session papers were also of interest. Two were of direct relevance to the history of archaeology. One, by the present writer, addressed the title: 'Prolific Correspondent and Fieldworker, Scholar and Visionary: Was Edward Lhuyd Britain's First Archaeologist?' shared common ground with both Nancy Edwards, and David McGuinness (independent researcher, Liverpool), who in his session paper addressed 'Edward Lhuyd's Idea of Prehistory'.

It is only possible to summarise briefly a few of the points made in these papers, but all were united in promoting a measure of curiosity and debate on the origins of, for example: the idea of prehistory, the early development of survey method and of ethnography; the depiction of early monuments and artefacts, and even the development of Celtic nationalism (which was an underlying theme of some other papers). There was general agreement that Glyn Daniel had been quite right in claiming Lhuyd as perhaps the first real archaeologist in Britain and Ireland, but much more detail of his achievements was brought out in both papers and the discussion that followed. What really emerged from all the contributions was a great enthusiasm for Lhuyd's legacy of written and graphic records of prehistoric, Roman and later monuments.

Through his particular understanding of Lhuyd's portrayal of the Irish megalithic tombs through the Irish tour (1697–1701) McGuinness clearly demonstrated how Lhuyd's examination of Irish megaliths (as they appeared in his *Additions* to the 1695 Camden's *Britannia* and his surviving correspondence) led him to develop Aubrey's notion that they represented the funerary/religious monuments of the pre-Roman Celts.

During the second half of the twentieth century, Lhuyd's records of Early Christian inscriptions informed the basis of investigations into the Early Christian and Medieval monuments of Scotland, Ireland and Cornwall. Appreciation of the real value of the Welsh component is a more recent departure, one achieved largely through Nancy Edwards and a project team that has re-investigated all the Early Christian (or Early Medieval, pre-Norman) Welsh stones. Unsurprisingly, a well-illustrated demonstration of Lhuyd's importance to these studies was a focal point of her contribution, which otherwise ranged comprehensively across all aspects of his archaeological work.

This reviewer discussed some of Lhuyd's records of artefacts and pondered their varied fates. Some have survived at the Ashmolean. He also drew attention to Lhuyd's more neglected records of near-contemporary sixteenth and seventeenth centuries tombstones. Noting how a majority of Lhuyd's archaeological surveys were incorporated into Anstis's *post-mortem* compilation of ca. 1710 (now British Library Stowe MS 1023–4), a plea was made for the publication of the entire volume because of its potential value for an understanding of Lhuyd's working methods, for explaining how and where he travelled, and for offering insights into the erosion of the sites themselves.

As already noted, historians have not all been kind in their assessment of Lhuyd's incumbency at the Ashmolean. Some have suggested that he used the institution to serve his own interests. Having explained the University's side of this critical view in some detail, Arthur MacGregor took on the task of restoring to Lhuyd a reputation long denied: that of visionary collector and classifier of

natural and man-made objects who, had he lived longer, would have established the Museum as a grand research laboratory and powerhouse of knowledge deserving approbation, not only from the University, but also from the entire world of science and scholarship.

A further group of papers was less of concern to the history of archaeology, though had considerable importance to the development of antiquarian studies mainly in literary and linguistic fields. Among them was one by Jonathan Wooding (University of Lampeter) on 'Lhuyd's Antiquarian Tradition and the 'British' School of Hagiogeography', and another by Mary Burdett-Jones (Aberystwyth) 'Building the Palace': Dr Humphrey Foulkes's (1673–1737)', the man who attempted to continue Edward Lhuyd's work in Wales.

A fascinating group of contributions associated with the history of 'Celticity' rounds off this survey: two on the late eighteenth, early nineteenth centuries literary fabricator and Celticist Iolo Morgannwg by Leila Salisbury (Aberystwyth University) 'Gwynfyd Calon ag Enaid': Iolo Morganwg yn Llundain', the other, an entertaining delivery by Geraint H. Jenkins (former director CAWCS Aberystwyth) 'A miracle of ingenuity and labour': Lhuyd, Iolo and Chief Justice George Hardinge'. To these should be added Marion Löffler (CAWCS) with a paper entitled 'In the Footsteps of Edward Lhuyd? Thomas Stephens and Celticity'; Scott Lloyd (Aberystwyth University) on 'Edward Lhuyd and the Arthurian Legend', and David Stoker (Aberystwyth University) on 'Barbarous Imperfect Versions': Translating the Ancient Laws'.

The event was well attended, of truly international composition, and well served the purpose of bringing together enthusiastic specialists in different aspects of Lhuyd's polymathic intellect at a truly stimulating and enjoyable event.

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## **VII. Upcoming conference**

### **Shovel Ready – Archaeology and Roosevelt's New Deal For America: The 2010 Society for American Archaeology Biennial Gordon Willey Session in the History of Archaeology**

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In April 2010, the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) will celebrate its 75th anniversary in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, featuring presenters that reflect on the past and contemplate the future of American archaeology.

SAA shares an anniversary with a pivotal development in American history – one that transformed, and continues to have a significant impact on, the practice of archaeology across the USA. I am speaking of the Works Progress (later Projects) Administration, better known as the WPA. The