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THE CAVE HUNTERS

Biographical sketches of the lives of Sir William Boyd Dawkins (1837-1929) and Dr. J. Wilfred Jackson (1880-1978) Edited by M. J. BISHOP. Published by the Derbyshire Museum Service, March 1982, 48 pages, £1.50.

This publication was produced to accompany an exhibition that has been running for the last year and a half at the Buxton Museum, Derbyshire but it stands on its own as a very useful work for anyone interested in the history of Cave Archaeology. Buxton Museum (whose curator is presently M. J. Bishop) was chosen by Boyd Dawkins as the repository of his library and papers. These were given on his death in 1929, and when Wilfred Jackson died in 1978 at the age of 98 his papers were added to the collection which make it, almost certainly, the most important cave archaeology collection in the country.

Bishop by republishing the biographical sketch of Boyd Dawkins (with a few small additions) that Wilfred Jackson wrote for The Journal of Cave Science in 1966 and adding to it his own short biography of Wilfred Jackson. that he has produced from Jackson's notes and papers and with the help of Jackson's daughter, has produced a very interesting book which gives a good insight into two very different characters who both shared the same interest spanning the period from 1859 when Boyd Dawkins started work on Hyaena Den (Wookey Hole) whilst still an undergraduate at Oxford, to Jackson's death in 1978. (Tratman last wrote to Jackson in 1976 regarding Rhinoceros hole).

The two bibliographies appended are of great use but represent only a glimpse of the archive that there is at Buxton, and it is hoped that more publications will follow of the manuscript material at the museum and a catalogue of the collection much of which is of great interest to the caving world.

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