

attending the opening of the new rooms. He often reminisced about caving and was once heard to say that he had devoted so much time to caving that he was somewhat surprised that he had managed to pass his finals. Modern cavers may not wear ties anymore, but has anything else changed? One can only hope that the cavers of the 1990's go on to lead such eventful and enjoyable lives.

C.S.C. Martyn

For further details of Tom Hewer's career see also obituaries in *The Independent*, 19 March 1994; *The Guardian*, 22 March 1994; *The Times*, 23 March 1994; and *The Linnean*, in preparation.

GEORGE COUNSELL BOON, B.A., F.S.A.

1927-1994

It is with deep regret that we record the death in Penarth on 31st August of George Boon, some three weeks before his 67th birthday and some 47 years since he joined the Society. George began his career as an archaeologist while still a Bristol schoolboy, by recording Roman finds made in the course of building development at Sea Mills. At the University he studied in the Classics Department, notably with Dr Momigliano, and his interest in archaeology, encouraged by our Vice-President, Dr Dina Dobson, brought him to the Society, where he rapidly became one of the small group of younger members who revived archaeological work by the Society in the post-war years. He was a member of the committee in 1948-49 and 1949-50 and took an active part in the work on the archaeological collections prior to the re-establishment of our museum following its war-time destruction. In 1948 he directed the first excavation, that on the Romano-British field system at Charterhouse-on-Mendip. He also directed rescue excavations on the Roman villa at King's Weston.

His appointment in 1950 as archaeological assistant in Reading Museum, took him away from Bristol, but he always retained a lively interest in the archaeology of the area and was a valued member of the group of archaeologists working in and around Bristol in the 50's. In Reading, his meticulous scholarship, his untiring industry and his enthusiastic devotion to his work, soon won him the golden opinions of his superiors. His ordering of the vast store of remains dug up from the Roman town of Silchester early in the century led to his undertaking new excavations there in 1954-56, which with the later work under the leadership of Michael Fulford, made Silchester the best understood Roman town north of the Alps. His work was made accessible to the general reader in a way unparalleled at the time, by his book *Roman Silchester* (1957), later followed by his *Silchester: the Roman town of Calleva* (1974).

From Reading he went in 1957 to the National Museum of Wales, where he speedily became devoted to the *Amgueddfa* and to the Roman archaeology of Wales, rising to become Keeper of Archaeology in 1976, in succession to Dr. H.N. Savory, and Senior Keeper and Curator in 1987. His sterling work there, notably on the Roman legionary fort of *Isca* at

Caerleon, and in the field of numismatics, both Roman and later, is chronicled elsewhere. Unsurprisingly, when in April 1989 a surprise lunch and presentation were held for him at Caerleon following his early retirement from the National Museum at a time of injurious cost-cutting, a large and distinguished company from across Wales and England, assembled - much to his surprise and delight - to pay richly deserved tribute to a life-time's devotion to archaeology.

In the period from 1951 to 1979 around a dozen papers by George appeared in *Proceedings*, mostly on Roman finds or coins, including those from the temple on Brean Down (1965), where he showed that the tiny 'minim' coins, previously thought to be coinage of 5th century sub-Roman Britain, were contemporary copies made in the AD 350's at a time of coin scarcity, and the counterfeit Roman coins from White Woman's Hole (1972). In 1976 he discussed reasons why Clement of Alexandria in the 3rd century should choose to cite the 'clashing of cymbals' in Wookey Hole as an example of mysterious and apparently supernatural noises truly explicable by natural causes. His last contribution was on the finds from the Roman cemetery in Wookey Hole (1979).

Following Trat's death George ceased to be a member, feeling that U.B.S.S. was no longer doing archaeological work to which he could contribute, but despite this rallied round enthusiastically when in June 1991 the future of the Society's museum and collections seemed threatened. The memory of the day we spent in Bristol negotiating safe storage and future possibilities is vivid, particularly of the University's excellent Bursar saying 'he would agree to any solution, provided it was reasonable'. Happily, George was present at the opening of the new museum in March 1993.

Early in August this year, after months of increasing ill-health, George went into hospital but, sadly, final tests revealed his condition to be inoperable and he returned home. He faced the inevitable conclusion with stoic courage aided by wry humour, knowing that he had discharged his responsibilities for publication of his work. He was delighted that the *Festschrift* in his honour was well advanced and had even, appropriately and characteristically, written a chapter for it. To the end he was sustained by the care, love and affection of his wife, Diana, whom he met on the excavation at Silchester in 1954, and of their children, grandchildren and families. The eloquent and moving tribute paid to his memory in the address given by Prof. Bill Manning at his funeral service in All Saints church, Penarth, brought out the magnitude of our and archaeology's grievous loss.

A.M. ApSimon