Professor Stephen Aldhouse-Green was one of the founding members of the Lithic Studies Society. He served the Society as its first Secretary from 1979 until 1988. Lithic artefacts were a passion for Stephen and featured in his publications throughout his career.

Born in Bristol in 1945, Stephen became fascinated with archaeology during his childhood. He studied at Cardiff University where, after graduating with a First Class honours degree in archaeology, he went on to undertake a course of postgraduate study under Professor Richard Atkinson. He obtained his PhD with a thesis on a detailed typological and chronological analysis of the flint arrowheads of the British Isles. This study led to him visiting many museums across the country. The resulting book was *The Flint Arrowheads of the British Isles* (Green 1980). Aspects of his typology were summarised in a short paper published in *Lithics* (Green 1985).

Stephen’s professional career began with a post as lecturer in the University of Khartoum, Sudan. Here Stephen learnt Arabic, a language that featured in notes he sent to colleagues asking them to call in to see him. After Khartoum he returned to Britain to take up a post as a field archaeologist in the making of the new town of Milton Keynes. In 1976 he became Assistant Keeper of Archaeology in the National Museum of Wales, where he rose to the position of Keeper of Archaeology combined later with the post of Head of Education. It was during this period that Stephen moved his focus away from Neolithic arrowheads and towards Palaeolithic lithic artefacts and cave sites.

An account of the discovery of tools at Pontnewydd Cave, Denbighshire, by Thomas McKenny Hughes (Hughes & Thomas 1874), who also reported finding a very large human tooth, led to an exploratory excavation at the cave. This resulted in further finds of hand-axes and Levallois tools made of volcanic rocks, and in 1980 a large human molar. These discoveries resulted in a major international research project run over fourteen seasons between 1978 and 1995 and the recognition of Wales’s first Neanderthal fossils. The resulting monographs published in 1984 and 2012 are testament to Stephen’s meticulous work and analysis (Green 1984; Aldhouse-Green et al. 2012).

On leaving the Museum in 1996 Stephen joined his wife, Miranda, Professor of Celtic art, religion and ritual at the University of Wales, Newport. Stephen was appointed Professor of Human Origins and quickly set up a new project to undertake a first modern study of Paviland Cave, Gower, and its finds. The resulting publication included the results of his excavations in the cave in 1996, the first full study of the human remains of the skeleton of the ‘Red Lady’ of Paviland Cave and a

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detailed analysis and dating programme on the historic collections from the site (Aldhouse-Green 2000).

Stephen also reassessed many other Welsh sites dug in historic times. In 1995 he brought the late Professor Charles McBurney’s work at Coygan Cave, Laugharne, Carmarthenshire, to publication (Aldhouse-Green et al. 1995). His excavations in Hoyle’s Mouth and Little Hoyle Caves, Tenby, also produced a new stratigraphic sequence and the first elucidation of the important Late Upper Palaeolithic deposits in these caves. The final publication of this work is currently in preparation.

Stephen’s role in the Museum enabled him to keep in touch with other periods of prehistory through writing and giving evidence at Treasure Trove inquests and investigating the findspots of new artefacts. Amongst the most notable was his recognition of the importance of the archaeology of the Severn Estuary Levels with his recording and dating of Mesolithic human footprints at Uskmouth in 1986. Latterly Stephen worked at the Neolithic sites of Ogmore-by-Sea and Goldsland Wood Caves with Rick Peterson. A further key role throughout Stephen’s career was his encouragement of amateur flint collectors and his role recording new finds discovered across Wales. This work has led to the discovery and publication of many important new artefacts and prehistoric sites across Wales.

In 1999 Stephen was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease, which increasingly limited his activities during its progression. His determination to see his work through to publication resulted in some further major publications, including the final Pontnewydd monograph in 2012 (Aldhouse-Green et al. 2012). This work includes a very personal and biographical prologue in which he highlighted the role Pontnewydd had played in his life and his own reminiscences of being a student in the 1960s. This summary highlights how he was a polymath, able to talk on topics as diverse as Spanish guitar music, German literature, Bob Dylan, French wines, Burmese cats and European prehistory in equal measure. In the Museum it is a fact that at least one Administrative Assistant was appointed on the discovery during interview that they, like him, adored cats.

To members of the Lithic Studies Society Stephen was the man who brought the Welsh Palaeolithic to a wide audience during the later years of the twentieth century and was a key formative member of the Society. He organised the first Society conference held in Cardiff in 1986, which entailed guided tours of the key prehistoric sites of Gower. He spoke at the second Cardiff conference in 2000, presenting his first detailed analysis of the lithic artefacts of Pontnewydd Cave. For many years Stephen was a stalwart of the Society and a key influence in ensuring that it supported and encouraged the flint collector, the student and the professional archaeologist giving each an equal opportunity to present their work at meetings.

Stephen died on 21st February 2016 having lived with Parkinson’s disease and its effects for more than seventeen years. He will be remembered principally for his important legacy of a huge body of publications about Welsh prehistory, but also for his academic generosity, his warmth and his humour.

REFERENCES


