

GB 0762 MSS 2516-21, 2540

**Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History
Society**

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DAVID THOMSON (d.1996)

David Thomson who died on the 20th June 1996 was a very keen amateur archaeologist who had a special interest in all things relating to Sir Richard Colt Hoare and his contemporary antiquaries, particularly in Wiltshire.

As a teenager, David became interested in history and archaeology. Whenever he could he attended various excavations all around the country. He went to Cambridge to Christ's where he initially studied to become a Barrister and was President of the Law Society whilst he was at Cambridge. He qualified as a Barrister but decided he would not make enough money to fund his all consuming passion so entered the City and became a Stock Broker. He continued to devote his spare time and funds to all things archaeological.

His mother moved to Lewes in Sussex in 1955 and David discovered several sites of importance. During his year out he lectured on Archaeology at Sussex University. He funded a number of excavations in Sussex, at Selmeston and Seaford - Rookery Hill. It was through his guidance that Martin Bell amongst others got his start. He also funded an excavation at Cliffe in Kent and another at Clerkenwell, London in the 70's. For the last ten years of his life he suffered increasing ill health and was forced to give up active participation on excavations.

David was an ardent fan of Sir Richard Colt Hoare and indeed his greatest regret was that he never obtained a Colt Hoare marker ! However, he more than made up for this deficiency in collecting anything else related to CH and his contemporary antiquarians.

He was Treasurer of the Prehistoric Society for many years until his death. He also funded his own Trust - The David Thomson Charitable Trust which had as one of its Trustees, Dr Ian Kinnes, keeper at the British Museum. (He and Dr Kinnes worked on a number of excavations both here and in France). The Trust provided funds for keen archaeologists to study and to travel. If they were students, they used to come and stay at Raybourne House in Islip where they could make use of the library./ he also sponsored the Colt Hoare Book Award, the purpose of which was to encourage people to write books on archaeology which were primarily directed at young people.

LIBRARY OF THE WANHS

David Thomson Collection

1. 33 letters from Sir RCH to John Britton 1804-1833 and undated, relating to book publication and collection.
1804-1833 MSS 2519 Box 321

2. 13 letters from Sir RCH to various clients and booksellers in London relating to his publications
1795-1823 MSS 2518 Box 321

- 6 letters on archaeological excavations and collections to Rev T R O'Flahertie, Dr Bailey and others from Beale Poste, Charles Roach Smith and Sir John Maclean with notes on buckles and sketches of jewellery in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford by an unknown modern hand. (Entries under the 3)
1881-1887 MSS 2520 Box 321

3. & 9 letters on archaeological excavation and features, some from Sir RCH and
4. Beale Poste, to Rev. Joseph Hunter, E M Pleydell, Mrs Elsie Clifford, Sir RCH and Rev J Hunter, pen and ink drawings of St Cuthbert's cross and a runic pillar, and a drawing by Sir RCH of how he thought Stonehenge had been
5. built; notes on the contents of the tumuli and a list of arch. Illustration with the
6. location of the original artefacts.
 MSS 2521 Box 321

7. Estates Act - printed copy of the 1882 Act to give the trustees of the will of Sir RCH to sell property.
1882 MSS 2517 Box 321

- Photocopies of letters in the Wedgwood archive at Etruria between Sir RCH and Josiah Wedgwood.
1808-1811 MSS 2540 Box 321

11. Notes by William Stukely on the Druids and British Coins, with description of some coins.
 MSS 2516 Box 321

Rev. W C Lukis

14. Pencil and greywash, Hawk Stone nr. Chadlington Oxon 1840 initialled
Pencil and greywash, The Five Knights Rollwright Oxon 1840 initialled
Drawing/wash, Unidentified megalith c. 1840 } no indication
Drawing, Unidentified coastal view c. 1840 } as to artist
Pen and ink colourwash, Megalith tomb Clatford Bottom 1845

By Unidentified Artists

18. Pencil drawing, Standing Stone Avebury 1849

19. Pen and ink colourwash, Silbury Hill early 20th century

20. Watercolour, The Milton Farm Barrow Group nr. Pewsey 19th century
27. Watercolour, Stanton Drew (Som) stone circle 1852
28. Oil on board, Unidentified megalith tomb 19th century
29. Pen and ink, St Cuthbert's cross and runic pillar at Bewcastle (Cumberland) one sheet 19th century
30. 8 drawings of megaliths and barrows
 - Copper engraving, unidentified megalith c. 1840
 - Pencil drawing, Barrow nr. Longy, Alderney
 - Pencil drawing, Barrow Guernsey 1873 ?
 - Pencil sketch, Iron horseshoe found in King Orry's grave and King Orry's grave Laxley (Isle of Man)
 - Pen and ink drawing, Cromlech Five Wells Buxton
 - Pen and ink wash, The obelisk at Burroughbridge, York
 - Ink/Watercolour, Barrow Gospel Hillock, High Cliffs, Cowdale
 - Pencil sketch, Arbor Lowe, Derbyshire 1853