

# 50 Editions of Camertonionia

## The Camertonionia Archive, Some More Early Days

### Owen Dicker

To celebrate the 50th edition of Camertonionia, a retrospective on the origins of the Society would seem to be appropriate.

In 1963 Bill Wedlake was also taking a retrospective view, when he wrote *'I recall, not without some pride, the evening of November 21st 1948, when after a hard day's digging on the Camerton site, we retired to the stables at Camerton Court where Mrs Maconochie had kindly placed the Saddle Room at our disposal for the storage of finds. It was in this room with light provided by a hurricane lamp and after sustaining ourselves with a meal of bread and cheese that less than a dozen volunteers on the Camerton Site decided to form the Camerton Excavation Club.'*

After tributes to the first President, Abbot Ethelbert Horne of Downside Abbey, he continues *'It was obvious from the day when the Club was formed that our work would expand, and indeed our Rules provide for "The stimulation and encouragement of archaeological interest by means of lectures, discussions, excursions etc. and by the regular publication of Camertonionia. The centre of all activities ... shall be the City of Bath" '.*

After the publication of the first edition of Camertonionia in 1950, finances were obviously stretched. *'The Committee much regret the delay in presenting the second number of "Camertonionia". It is now issued in the form originally proposed so that the Club's records may be complete. Unfortunately due to the high cost of printing and other expenses this number is not so ambitious as the first but it is felt that the essential details of the Club's activities are recorded in this number.*

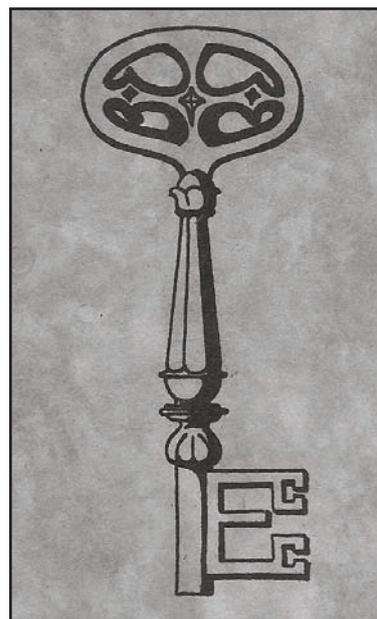
*The Committee have also for some time been concerned with the cost of this Publication and have reached the conclusion that in order to keep the Members informed more regularly of its activities, a news sheet will be published at least twice a year.*

- (a) In the Spring giving details of future outings and any Club news
- (b) In the Late Summer, giving details of Lectures and Club news.

*The Committee also feel that members would like to retain these News Letters and it is proposed to issue with the first copy, a cover for Number 3 of Camertonionia in which Members can file the year's News Letters. Covers will follow yearly for these News Letters. The first news sheet will be shortly forthcoming and will give details of Winter lectures, and up-to-date news of the Club's activities. It is felt that by including the usual notification of Lectures and Outings and at the same time, keeping Members up to date, a distinct economy will be made in the Club's finances'.*

Has the Society (the name changed in 1963) lived up to the aspirations of that little group gathered in the Saddle Room at Camerton Court? BACAS now has in excess of 250 members, with a Committee of ten. Energetic sub-Committees arrange the winter programme of 6 lectures which are held in the prestigious surroundings of the Bath Literary and Scientific Institute in Queens Square, Bath. They also organise the 6 summer excursions covering all aspects of history and archaeology in Bath and the surrounding areas. Since 1995 the Society has not only continued to excavate, but has held annual student training digs which cover all aspects of archaeological investigation.

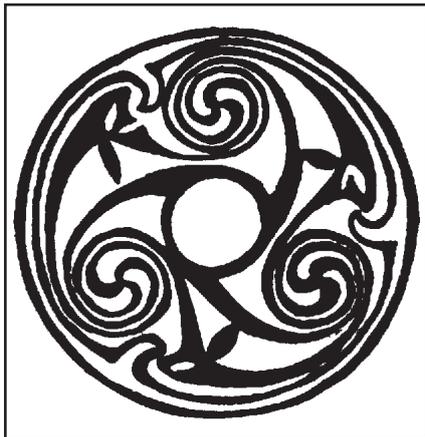
Geophysics however has expanded the Society's horizon from the "City of Bath" to include surveys from the adjoining counties of Dorset, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire, and from Stanton Drew to the Shetland Islands. Sites at Homefield and Blacklands have been featured on television in Time Flyers, Time Team, Escape to the Country and most recently BBC Breakfast News.



**Figure 1**  
The first logo used for Camertonionia from 1950 was a key with the Club initials CEC forming the head.

The present logo first appears on *Camerton* in December 1963 and has been used on every *Camerton* since then. It is a bronze escutcheon from the Saxon Cemetery at Camerton and was used on the cover of the Report on the Excavations at Camerton, published in 1958. It is now in Bristol City Museum. *Camerton* has been printed in A4 sized format since 1999, with the introduction of colour in Issue 47 (2009).

In the 2011 *Camerton* the Chairman, Bob Whitaker, wrote of the '*continuing success...of the Society*' and of the '*high level of fieldwork and research that Society members undertake and their enthusiasm and commitment to publish the results*'. Hopefully we can be assured that the aims of Bill Wedlake and his contemporaries are still being addressed and achieved.



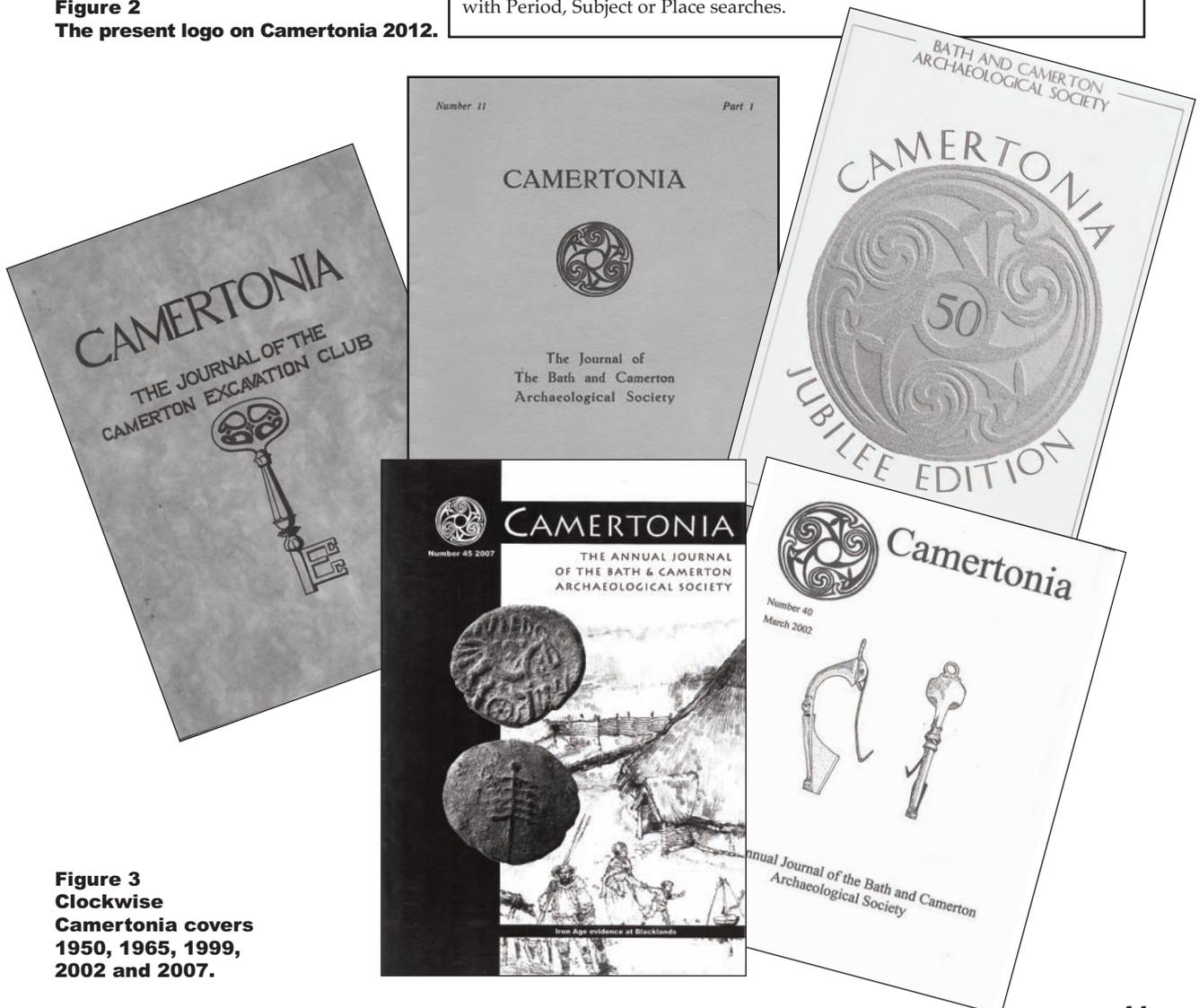
**Figure 2**  
The present logo on *Camerton* 2012.

#### CAMERTONIA ARCHIVE

The *Camerton* Archive will be available to be used from the time this edition is published. It contains an abstract of all of the articles that have appeared in *Camerton* since its first appearance as the Camerton Excavation Club Newsletter in 1949. In addition some articles will be available as pdfs.

To see a list of all the publications simply click on the new menu item in the index of the BACAS Web Site ([www.bacas.org.uk](http://www.bacas.org.uk)). Then simply click on any of the editions to see a list of the abstracts and their authors.

At the top of the page there is a Search button, which enables you to search all of the archive by Period, Subject or Place. You can also search for authors or words which are contained in the abstract. This can be used in conjunction with Period, Subject or Place searches.



**Figure 3**  
Clockwise  
*Camerton* covers  
1950, 1965, 1999,  
2002 and 2007.