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THE
PREHISTORIC CHAMBER TOMBS
OF ENGLAND AND WALES

BY

GLYN E. DANIEL

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University of Cambridge*

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To
THE MEMORY OF MY FATHER
JOHN DANIEL
(1885–1948)

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PREFACE

THIS book embodies the results of research undertaken during the years 1935–40 as Allen Scholar of the University, as Strathcona Student and Research Fellow of St John's College, and with the assistance of grants from the Worts and Anthony Wilkin Funds. Some of the preliminary results have already been published in papers in *Antiquity*, the *Antiquaries Journal*, and the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, but the war has precluded full publication before now, and even now it has not been possible to include the results of excavations undertaken during the war and hitherto unpublished.

My first thanks are to those University and College authorities who made this research financially possible. The work involved a field survey, during 1933–7, of all the known and alleged burial chambers in southern Britain, an examination of the material excavated from them now in the various national and local museums, and the study of comparable monuments and material in other parts of western Europe. For help of various kinds during this work my thanks are due to Miss Chitty, Mrs Clifford, Mr Rainbird Clarke, Miss V. C. C. Collum, Mrs M. E. Cunnington, the Rev. Ellis Davies, Professor Estyn Evans, Miss C. I. Fell, Professor H. J. Fleure, F.R.S., Mr L. V. Grinsell, Mr and Mrs B. R. S. Megaw, Mrs C. F. C. Hawkes, Dr H. O'Neill Hencken, Professor O. T. Jones, F.R.S., Professor R. A. S. Macalister, Mr B. H. St J. O'Neil, Mr C. W. Phillips, Miss Marion Jennings, the late M. Zacharie le Rouzic, Sir W. Lindsay Scott, the late Canon Doble, Mr E. G. Williams Bassett, Major S. Carey Curtis, the late Colonel C. de Putron, and Mrs Hutton; and to the Directors and Keepers of the British Museum, the Ashmolean Museum, the National Museum of Wales, the Musée National at St Germain-en-Laye, the Manx Museum, the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Cambridge, and the Maidstone, Devizes, Taunton, Truro, Cheltenham and Stow-on-the-Wold Museums. I am indebted to Mrs E. M. Clifford, to Major Dorrien Smith, Lord Proprietor of the Isles of Scilly, and to Mr Hazzledine Warren who allowed me to study finds in their private collections, and to the Librarians of the British Museum, the Bodleian, the National Library of Wales, the University Library at Cambridge, the Lukis and Island Museum at St Peter Port, Guernsey, and to Mr Alexander Keiller who allowed me to study manuscripts and plans in their possession. My especial thanks are due to Mrs Clifford and to Mr W. J. Hemp who allowed me to assist in their excavations at Notgrove, Nympsfield, Rodmarton, and Bryn yr Hen Bobl, and to the Director-General of the Ordnance Survey, its Archaeological Officer, and the

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PREFACE

Secretary of the Research Committee on Rude Stone Monuments of the British Association for permitting me every facility to consult the records of their Megalithic Surveys. I owe a special debt of gratitude to Mr W. F. Grimes who placed at my disposal his unrivalled knowledge of the Welsh megaliths at a time prior to the publication of his invaluable maps and papers, and to Mr T. G. E. Powell who similarly gave me access to his unpublished researches on the Irish burial chambers, and with whom discussions on megaliths have been most profitable in the writing of this book.

Professor Stuart Piggott and Dr J. G. D. Clark have read through this book in manuscript, and I am grateful to them for their advice and criticism. For assistance in the writing and preparation of this book I have to thank Mr M. C. Burkitt and the late Professor H. M. Chadwick, F.B.A., and the following for loan of illustrations and permission to reproduce them: the Anglesey Antiquarian Society (Pl. III, bottom), the Ashmolean Museum (Pl. IX), the Bodleian Library and the Oxford University Press (Pl. III, top), Mr Brazier (Pl. I, top and Pl. II), the British Museum (Pl. XI), the Cambrian Archaeological Association (Pl. IV, top), the Central Office of Information (Pl. VII), Mrs Clifford (Pls. XIII–XVI), Mr J. Gibson (Pl. V, top), Mr W. J. Hemp (Pl. VI), the Ministry of Works (Pl. VIII), the National Library of Wales (Pl. IV, bottom), and the Prehistoric Society and Professor Piggott (Pl. X). My special thanks are due to Miss L. E. Thomas and my wife for the correction of the proofs, and to my wife for the preparation of the index.

GLYN E. DANIEL

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE*September 1949*

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED

| | |
|---------------|---|
| <i>AA</i> | <i>American Anthropologist.</i> |
| <i>AAel</i> | <i>Archaeologia Aeliana.</i> |
| <i>Aarb</i> | <i>Aarbøger for nordisk Oldkyndighed og Historie.</i> |
| <i>ABME</i> | L. V. Grinsell, <i>The Ancient Burial Mounds of England</i> , 1936. |
| <i>AC</i> | <i>Archaeologia Cambrensis.</i> |
| <i>ACant</i> | <i>Archaeologia Cantiana.</i> |
| <i>ACIſ</i> | J. Hawkes, <i>The Archaeology of Jersey</i> , 1939. |
| <i>ACS</i> | Hencken, <i>The Archaeology of Cornwall and Scilly</i> , 1932. |
| <i>AG</i> | T. D. Kendrick, <i>The Archaeology of Guernsey</i> , 1928. |
| <i>AHG</i> | Witts, <i>Archaeological Handbook of the County of Gloucester, and Archaeological Map of Gloucestershire</i> , 1883. |
| <i>Aſ</i> | <i>Archaeological Journal.</i> |
| <i>AK</i> | Jessup, <i>The Archaeology of Kent</i> , 1930. |
| <i>Ant</i> | <i>Antiquity.</i> |
| <i>Anth</i> | <i>L'Anthropologie.</i> |
| <i>Ant ſ</i> | <i>The Antiquaries Journal.</i> |
| <i>Arch</i> | <i>Archaeologia.</i> |
| <i>ASom</i> | Mrs Dobson, <i>The Archaeology of Somerset</i> , 1931. |
| <i>AW</i> | Colt Hoare, <i>Ancient Wiltshire.</i> |
| <i>BAſ</i> | <i>Berkshire Archaeological Journal.</i> |
| <i>BB</i> | Greenwell, <i>British Barrows</i> , 1877. |
| <i>BBCS</i> | <i>Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies.</i> |
| <i>BGAS</i> | <i>Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society.</i> |
| <i>BICD</i> | Hencken, <i>The Bronze and Early Iron Ages in Cornwall and Devon</i> , 1929. (Cambridge University Ph.D. Dissertations, University Library, no. 343.) |
| <i>BUSS</i> | <i>Proceedings of the Bristol University Spelaeological Society.</i> |
| <i>CB</i> | W. C. Lukis, <i>Chambered Barrows</i> . Two MS. volumes in the Lukis and Island Museum, Guernsey. |
| <i>CIAAP</i> | <i>Comptes rendus des Congrès internationaux d'anthropologie et d'archéologie pré-historique.</i> |
| <i>CNFC</i> | <i>Proceedings of the Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club.</i> |
| <i>CPPS</i> | <i>Comptes rendus of the Congresses of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences.</i> |
| <i>CTP</i> | Burkitt and Childe, 'Chronological Table of Prehistory', <i>Antiquity</i> , June, 1932. |
| <i>CW</i> | <i>Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmoreland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society.</i> |
| <i>DA</i> | <i>Transactions of the Devon Association for the Advancement of Science, Literature and Art.</i> |
| <i>DFC</i> | <i>Transactions of the Dorset Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club.</i> |
| <i>DI</i> | W. C. Borlase, <i>The Dolmens of Ireland</i> , 1897. |
| <i>DNHAS</i> | <i>Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society.</i> |
| <i>FRSM</i> | Fergusson, <i>Rude Stone Monuments in all Countries</i> , 1872. |
| <i>HFC</i> | <i>Proceedings and Papers of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society.</i> |
| <i>IMNHAS</i> | <i>Proceedings of the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society.</i> |
| <i>INſ</i> | <i>Irish Naturalists Journal.</i> |
| <i>IPEK</i> | <i>Fahrbuch für Prähistorische und Ethnographische Kunst.</i> |
| <i>ſAI</i> | <i>Journal of the Anthropological Institute.</i> |

- JBAA* *Journal of the British Archaeological Association.*
JES *Journal of the Ethnological Society.*
JKAS *Journal of the Kilkenny and South-East Ireland Archaeological Society.*
JRAI *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute.*
JRSAI *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.*
LB Thurnam, 'On Ancient British Barrows. . . Part One, Long Barrows', *Arch*, 42 (1), 161–244.
LBC Crawford, *Long Barrows of the Cotswolds*, 1925.
M Déchelette, *Manuel d'Archéologie préhistorique, celtique et Gallo-Romaine.*
Manx M B. R. S. Megaw, 'Manx Megaliths and their Ancestry', *IMNHAS*, new ser., 4, 209 ff.
MCNE C. A. Nordman, 'The Megalithic Culture of Northern Europe', *Suomen Muinaismuistoyhdistyksen Aikakauskirja*, 29, no. 3. Helsingfors, 1935.
MM *Memoirs and Proceedings of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society.*
MMW W. F. Grimes, 'The Megalithic Monuments of Wales', *PPS* (1936), pp. 106–39.
MRA E. Neil Baynes, 'The Megalithic Remains of Anglesey', *Trans. Hon. Soc. Cymrodorion* (vol. for 1910–11), pp. 3 ff.
MS Publications of the Megalithic Survey of the Ordnance Survey:
 I. The Cotswolds and the Welsh Marches, O.S. Prof. Paper, no. 6, 1922.
 II. South-eastern England. O.S. Prof. Paper, no. 8, 1924.
 III. Neolithic Wessex, 1932.
 IV. The Trent Basin, 1933.
 V. South Wales, 1936.
NP Piggott, 'The Neolithic Pottery of the British Isles', *AJ* (1931), pp. 67–158.
OE Montelius, 'Orienten och Europa', *Antiquarisk Tidskrift for Sverige*, 13 (1905).
PDA *Proceedings of the Devon Association.*
PLBP George Rolleston, 'On the People of the Long Barrow Period', *JAI*, 5 (1876), pp. 120 ff.
PPS *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society.*
PPSEA *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia.*
PRIA *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy.*
PRRD Ellis Davies, *The Prehistoric and Roman Remains of Denbighshire*, 1929.
PRW R. E. M. Wheeler, *Prehistoric and Roman Wales*, 1925.
PS Childe, *The Prehistory of Scotland*, 1935.
PSAL *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London.*
PSAS *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.*
PSomAS *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society.*
PSMC W. C. Lukis, *Prehistoric Stone Monuments: Cornwall*, 1885.
PWK M. E. Cunnington, *The Pottery from the Long Barrows at West Kennet, Wilts*, 1927.
R *The Reliquary.*
R and IA *The Reliquary and Illustrated Archaeologist.*
RA *Revue archéologique.*
RCAM *Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments.*
SPT Joseph Anderson, *Scotland in Pagan Times*, 1 (1883), 11 (1885).
TGAS *Transactions of the Glasgow Archaeological Society.*
TLCAS *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society.*
VCH *Victoria County History.*
WAM *Wiltshire Natural History and Archaeological Magazine.*
YAJ *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal.*