

## EDITORIAL

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On this occasion we begin our Editorial not by launching into the content of the current Issue, but by harking back, briefly, to the appreciation of Trevor Shaw that appeared in Volume 45(1). First of all we are pleased to report that Trevor was surprised and delighted by the unexpected 90<sup>th</sup> birthday present, and the underlying significance of the sincere tributes provided by a spectrum of colleagues and collaborators. The appreciation had been assembled during more than a year of clandestine communication between the contributors and, amazingly in this age of almost constant on-line information exchange, secrecy was maintained right through to (and beyond) the day of publication. A minor downside was that, because Trevor could not be approached to check information, either as supplied or as compiled, two minor errors found their way into the finished appreciation. One item that Trevor (had he been consulted) would have put right immediately was the venue of his earliest caving trip. Rather than visiting the Cheddar Gorge as reported, Trevor and his friends cycled the shorter distance from Exeter to Chudleigh in Devon, where they explored Pixie's Hole. The second incorrect item, which was a typographical error, relates to the date of Trevor's first visit to the Karst Research Institute in Postojna. This took place during 1974, rather than in 1984 as was mis-typed and then overlooked in the published feature.

With Volume 45(2) we move from a celebration of a cave historian to an issue made-up – entirely coincidentally – almost completely of contributions that might be considered, broadly speaking, to be historical. Perhaps the most astonishing of these is a relatively short and even now only interim and incomplete presentation of just some of the zoological findings of the 1975 British expedition to Papua New Guinea (PNG). The author, Petar Beron, has toiled for more than 40 years to ensure that the specimens collected are studied, described and given new names (where necessary), but such was the astonishing success of the expedition that even now the study is incomplete.

A tenuous link exists between the above report and a paper by Tony Waltham and Harry Long, discussing the potential that a Trans-Craven Cave System might one day become a reality. Whereas the original suggestion of such a system was presented some 47 years ago by Dave (D C) Brook of the Bradford Pothole Club, his thinking was triggered by the idea of the *Three-Counties System* that had been launched three years earlier by Dave (D B) Brook of the University of Leeds Speleological Association, who was also the Leader of the 1975 PNG Expedition. Cave explorations across Craven during the past 50 years have made many new underground connections and pointed towards the potential for others, but some possibilities remain at best highly tenuous.

Perhaps archaeology is more obviously historical, and a short paper by Don McFarlane, Joyce Lundberg and Alan Gray looks at fossilized horse remains from Upper Canada Cave in the western Mendip Hills, confirmed by radiocarbon dating to be 8kyr younger than the previous youngest known occurrence in Britain. In the same paper the authors revisit the conundrum of “The Lost Cave of Hutton”, with interesting conclusions.

Historical aspects of hydrological (and related) research within the BCRA and its linked or forerunner organizations are discussed in a highly personal view provided by John Wilcock. The work and influence of several of the more prominent researchers are discussed, alongside considerations of general facets and trends of how and when such aspects have been pursued within these organizations, ending with the recurring question of why the BCRA has never maintained a Hydrology Special Interest Group (SIG).

The final major contribution in this Issue is perhaps the only one not to be “historical”, except perhaps in terms of its included considerations of geological history and the history of landform development. Both of these aspects are among those examined by Eko Haryono and his colleagues in a paper describing ongoing studies of the morpho-chronology of the karst of the Blambangan Peninsula in East Java.

Perhaps predictably, but again fortuitously, the Forum section of the Issue contains a short communication from the speleo-historian Stephen Craven speculating about the karst interests (or disinterest) of Adam Sedgwick, one of Britain's founding fathers of modern geological understanding, who was born in Dentdale (Cumbria) in 1785. The remainder of Forum is equally historical, in the form of three book reviews. Unusually for *Cave and Karst Science*, two separate reviews describe the same biographical study, which covers some of the activities of the celebrated 19<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> century archaeologist and geologist William Boyd Dawkins. Finally, as if to square the circle in this Editorial, the third review looks at Trevor Shaw's latest (speleo-history!) book “*Škocjanske jame 1920–1940*”.