



'MONET TO MATISSE, LANDSCAPE PAINTING IN FRANCE 1874-1914' AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF SCOTLAND

● However close may be the links between landscape painting and the living landscape, *looking* at the two are very different processes. This is particularly the case when a great variety of paintings is gathered in a major exhibiton. We review here "Monet to Matisse, Landscape Painting in France, 1874-1914" at the National Gallery of Scotland, coinciding with the 1994 Edinburgh Festival. To begin with, it is rarely that we actually stop and stand before a lived landscape with the intent of analysing its forms and patterns, the balance of its colours, its perspective, its harmonies. Fraser does it in "The Living Landscape" (1986) awfully well, but when most of us stop to analyse what we see, we are standing in front of a painting.

● These were the thoughts drifting through my mind on the A74, driving from Lancashire to Edinburgh. Much of our time in the lived landscape is spent on the move; if our view is framed it is by the car, bus, train or occasionally by the aeroplane window. From a moving vehicle there is a three-dimensionality to the ever-changing scheme, something impossible in a painting whatever the skill of the artist. On the ground, we are always at the centre of our world: in a painting the point of origin is chosen by the artist and the world we view is someone else's. And then, to a depressing extent, so much of our mind in the real world landscape is given over to survival, especially on the A74.

To view an exhibition like this, one needs to be at least three people. First, the epicure: how delightful to go to an exhibition for the pure sensuousness of it all. You could step right onto the mauvey-pinky-speckled-blue path in Gauguin's "Martinique Landscape". Henri Martin's "The Harvest", three times as wide as it is tall, you could wrap yourself in it. You would feel the chill of the twilight air in Charles Dulac's fauvist "Avignon Sunset", and as for Seurat's "The Channel of Gravelines", well its empty spaces would make your teeth ache.

One's second person would go without Sin: to enjoy

these celebrations of bourgeois escapism; to feel no guilt in the visually delightful paintings of the privileged suburbs of Paris as in Signac's "Quai de Clichy", an essay in pink and blue pointillism; to delight in the well-proportioned, well-heeled *ladies* in Henri-Edmund Cross's "Beach at St. Clair" and to revel in Signac's chrysanthemum curls of smoke flowering from the factory chimneys beside the Seine. Oh, to have no social conscience.

And third would be to go as John Berger. Peel back every layer of social stratum, decode every icon, expose every hegemonic trick. But it is this third person in the form of a beleaguered Richard Thompson, the Museum's Director and author of the catalogue that accompanies the exhibit who has gathered substantial critical reproach. Andrew Graham-Dixon, art critic of *The Independent* is an epicure firmly in control of his social conscience. He speaks of "the intellectual Puritanism that lies behind Thompson's attitude to pictures" and "the notion that they are not things to be enjoyed but things to be understood" (*The Independent*, 16-August 94). Worst of all, Thompson is branded a late Twentieth Century *academic*. Now, living in the late Twentieth Century is a complex affair, but live in it we do and the deconstructions of living and painted landscapes have been written and whether they despoil or enrich the experience of landscape, Graham-Dixon cannot wish them away.

As for the exhibition itself, it achieves what Thompson intended, for it displays the great variety in painters' responses to the modernisation that was taking place particularly in the 1880s and 90s. Moreover we get a glimpse of the precursors of many of the concerns that occupy landscape painters, conservationists, academics and landscape architects today.

The clearest expression of apprehension at burgeoning modernisation is F.A. Bartholdi's. The title of the painting (included in the catalogue but not in the exhibition) speaks for itself: "Fauns and Nymphs Frightened by a Train", the allegorical inspiration for Leo Marx's "The Machine in the Garden". Bartholdi may have had no answers but could certainly put a finger on the problem. Gauguin's response to urbanisation was to erase it. The "Martinique Landscape" mentioned above shows the volcano, Mont Pelee but hardly any of the town of St. Pierre that sat below it. Gauguin painted the bucolic aspects of the scene he loved but in Thompson's words St. Pierre was "edited out". In 1902 of course the volcano completed Gauguin's task for him. Today

one needs only look at the increasingly popular magazine "This England" to see the same process at work: if a car appears in its pages, it's got running boards.

Some painters in some paintings celebrated the forces of urbanisation and industrialisation, as in Monet's "Gare St.Lazare" series and in Signac's factory chimneys. Others with immense skill, accomplished integration. Cezanne's "The Sea at L'Estaque" is an archetypal Cezanne scene with rocks and trees in the foreground and an azure sea in the distance but the centre of the scene treats house and factory roofs and factory chimneys in Mt Saint Victoire colours. What an excellent Director of the Countryside Commission he would make.

There were many other avenues taken but the last one we will mention here was the *paysage historique*, continuing the neo-classical forms and formulations of Claude and Poussin and the reinvention of the pastoral ideal as in Corot's "Pastorale: Souvenir d'Italie". The *paysage historique* was one form of the *paysage compose*, scenes composed not to rigid formulae but to a general set of classical rules that respect the 'simplicity, purity and logic' of classical philosophy. Enter, Prince Charles, his paintings, his "Vision of Britain".

Back on the A74, under a heavy puce stratus-sky and a strong setting sun close to the horizon the viridian green of the Forestry Commission's blocks of sitkas could have been applied in a single brushstroke. The hard edge of the plantations come hard up against another block of homogenous colour, the nitrogen-green of upland pasture. The great thing about this moving landscape-viewpoint is that the *paysage* constantly re-composes itself at 75mph, and one has only to wait for the moment when a massive bank of motorway verge rose-bay willowherb positions itself against the sky and -bang! - you've got it, a pure fauve landscape of three seconds' duration. Back between the cones I'm passed by a Scottish milk tanker painted in the big jigsaw black and whites of a Frisian cow: a Magritte truck! Just one field of poppies and that opening paragraph would have required a major rethink.

Bob Webster

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GIANTS CAUSEWAY, WOW!

In the last issue we carried a short piece by W.H.Hudson who bemoaned what he called the booming of beauty spots and the destructive effect of the camera - what we would now call excessive media exposure. And so it came as a surprise when I visited the Giant's Causeway last week to find that this much boomed site was part of a truly magnificent landscape. It has been given a lot of exposure over the years figuring in photographs since the time of the Victorians and perhaps in topographic writing from earlier than that. I remember seeing it in that well loved geology text book

Principles of Physical Geology by Holmes, and in some other text to demonstrate cliffs of dark lava overlying chalk in the same coastal section of north Londonderry.

I had to be encouraged to go: I was hungry and I dislike beauty spots as a matter of principle but I was being shown the sights by a company and it would have been discourteous to refuse. The first time we hadn't got past the interpretation centre and gift shop and at this I smiled wryly, but the second time there was no hesitation, it was late, time for the evening meal, and my hosts led me past the closed shop and down the road. The September light was a joy; the sea was a wonderful opaline blue and as we rounded a corner there were mountains on the skyline miles away that they said was Hebridean Islay, Scotland. A gentle surge on otherwise unruffled water boiled over submerged rocks as if a school of porpoises were there at play (such was my romantic mood) but it was only rock. At the roadside a whole lesson in weathered lava flows was displayed, geology made manifest, and words like *bole* and *chlorite* came to mind and I will have to check why (and so dear reader will you).

This though is no ordinary beauty spot; it is at a magnificent scale much of which is unapproachably steep or rough with vegetation. The so-often photographed columns of basalt are a small though impressive item of foreground in this marvellous scene and are repeated high up in distant cliffs, both within other layers of basalts (organ pipes) and as freestanding monuments (see 'monument valley Utah') The scene as the sun headed down towards the sea had colour: greens of vegetation and the blacks browns and strong reds of weathered rock against the opal colours of the sea; an impressive stillness and clarity of the air emphasised the grand feeling of the view. The sea by contrast slop-slopped gently between the rocks and onto the stony shore.

I have seen some impressive landscapes around the world and this one made me 'wow' with delight. *Landscape in the sense of wow isn't that beautiful!: a distinct category*; the stuff of tourism; but not often encountered in the work I do.

Bud Young

ORCHARDS IN WALES

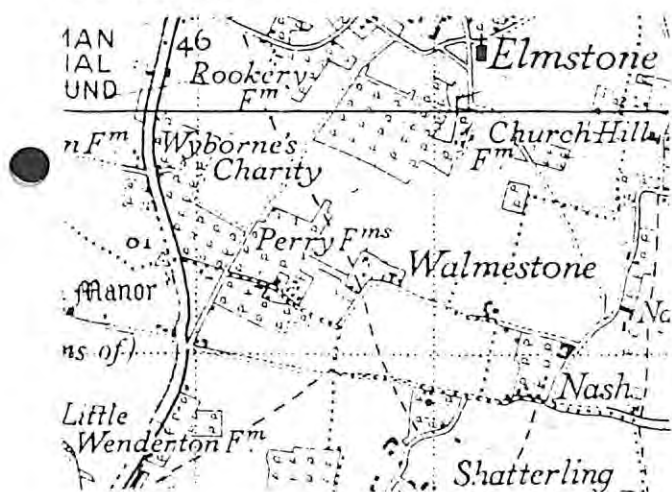
In July 1993 the Countryside Council for Wales commissioned TACP Environmental Consultants to undertake a study of traditional orchards in Wales. The consultants were required to undertake an assessment of the landscape and nature conservation values of orchards and to make recommendations regarding their future management.

The study took the form of a consultation exercise with a wide range of organisations. In addition the study embraced a review of historical information concerning orchards. A more detailed assessment of the extent and condition of orchards was carried out in Gwent, Clwyd and West Glamorgan.

Literary references to orchards in the Welsh language suggest

a long association with agriculture and community life in Wales. Hywel Dda, a tenth century Welsh prince recorded the importance of orchards and his laws, recording that "every apple tree in an orchard has a legal value and that a sweet apple tree is worth three score pence". Cider making was popular in medieval Wales with the first reference to cider in the Welsh language found in the poetry of Iolo Goch writing in the fourteenth century.

The geographical distribution of orchards in Wales is limited by the physical and climate factors which condition the successful cultivation of fruit trees. Orchards are to be found throughout lowland Wales, however, their greatest concentration is in south-east counties of Monmouth, Brecon and Radnor, which in the late 1940's accounted for 70% of Welsh orchard cover.



The current situation was assessed through a pilot survey in three parts of Wales: - Gwent (the former Monmouthshire); Clwyd (part of the former counties of Denbigh and Flint); and West Glamorgan (the Gower peninsular). These areas were chosen because they are historically representative of the main orchard areas in Wales. The survey was carried out using orchard cover from the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey County Series (Second Series) Maps from the first half of the present century as baseline data. The field survey took the form of a number of specific transects across the pilot study areas. It took into account the delineation of current orchard sites, their status and condition, as well as their landscape and their nature conservation value. The results of the survey confirmed that, as with other fruit growing areas within Britain, there has been a significant loss of orchard cover within Wales over the past forty to fifty years. The figures for the three survey areas are as follows:-

- Gwent 86% loss
- Clwyd 92% loss
- West Glamorgan 90% loss

The study suggests a number of measures which might be undertaken to encourage the better management and planting of traditional orchards in Wales. These include

- *raising public awareness of the landscape, heritage and nature conservation value of traditional orchards.
- *providing technical advice to ensure that traditional skills and information about orchards and their management are not lost.

*offering selected grant aid to encourage the better management of traditional orchards.

*encouraging local authorities to adopt planning policies which will help protect traditional orchards.

*encouraging community participation to help record local orchards and the cultural, landscape and nature conservation interest associated with them.

It seems that awakening community participation in the conservation of orchards will be one of the keys to sustaining their future as important features in our landscapes. It is ironic that the report on Orchards in Wales has been followed by a European Union announcement in recent weeks that grant aid for grubbing orchards is to substantially increased.

Gareth Roberts

Countryside Council for Wales

ORCHARDS AND COMMON GROUND

Some readers will recall the promotional programme by Common Ground in 1989-90 to make people aware of the existence and value of orchards as part of the cultural landscape of their own areas. I have just been on the phone to Sue Clifford founder member of Common Ground who tells me the promotion achieved success in that there are now 150 Appleday events around the country; that the counties of Devon, Cornwall, Kent, Hereford and Worcester, Gwent and Gloucestershire give either grants or advice on traditional standard (non dwarfed orchards) and the Countryside Commission equally are able in some cases to give grant aid. As well as the research in Wales a study has been made in the northeast (From the Newcastle on Tyne regional office of the Countryside Commission).

More stimulating than all this useful information is the excitement that Common Ground brings to orchards as local cultural landscape that is worth holding on to. More than orchards, more than flowers for bees, more than a multi use productive area of land, Sue Clifford conveys something of the magic of place, traditional respect for fruit trees around the village and a traditional way of life that others more often express in rather squidgy nostalgic terms.

I am indebted to her for the photo by James Ravilious reproduced on page 20 which was taken specifically for the project.

ASHTAV

Not a kibbutz in Israel but the Association of Small Historic Towns and Villages in the United Kingdom. They recently held a conference "The Future of the Southern Shires" which considered growth in the south of England and its likely effect on historic settlements. There were a number of very well known speakers.

They may be reached via their Director **Peter Jones**, Dene Cottage, The Green, Pirbright Surrey GU24 0JE



SHOULD YOU READ?

Social Landscapes

A Cooper **Negotiated dilemmas of the landscape: place and Christian commitment in a Suffolk parish** *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 19/2 1994 202-212

P Gruffudd **Back to the land: historiography, rurality and the nation in interwar Wales** *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 19/1 1994 61-77

T Greider & I Garkovich **Landscapes: the social construction of nature and the environment** *Rural Sociology* 59/1 1994 1-24

DS Rugg **Communist legacies in the Albanian landscape** *Geographical Review* 84/1 1994 59-73

Brian J Graham **The search for common ground: Estyn Evans' Ireland** *Trans Inst Br Geogr* NS19 1994 183-201

Lynn Hollen Lees **Urban public space and imagined communities in the 1980's and 1990** *Jour Urb History* 20/4 1994 443-465

Richard Harris Matt Sendbuehler **The making of a working class suburb in Hamilton's East End 1900-1945** *Jour Urban History* 20/4 486-511

Richard Morris **Churches in the landscape** J M Dent and sons ltd 1989. ISBN0-460-86014-3

Urban Landscapes

Francoise Chenet-Faugeras **L'invention du paysage urbain** *Romantisme* No 83, 1994, 27-37

D Hayden **The power of place: claiming urban landscapes as people's history** *Journal of Urban History* 20/4 1994 466-485

LJ Loewen, GD Steel & P Suedfeld **Perceived safety from crime in the urban environment** *Journal of Environmental Psychology* 13/4 1994 323-332

Landscape areas and regions

The new map of England: a celebration of the South western landscape Countryside Commission John Dower House, Crescent Place, Cheltenham, Glos GL50 3RA ISBN 0-86710 4134 Price £20.00
Land Use and Policy

H Clout **Aspects of rural change in the United Kingdom** *Norois* Vol 40 No 160 1993 555-572

J Sheail **Geography and land use research: a UK historical perspective** *Applied Geography* 14/4 1994 372-385

Irene Guijt and John Thompson **Landscapes & Livelihoods: environmental and socio economic dimensions of small scale irrigation** *Land Use Policy* 11/4 1994 294-308

C H Bullock, DC Macmillan & J R Crabtree **New perspectives on agroforestry in lowland Britain** *Land Use Policy* 11/3 1994 222-233

V Rivas, A Gonzalez, D W Fisher & A Cendrero **An approach to environmental assessment within the land use planning process: Northern Spanish Experiences** *Jour Env Planning & Management* 37/3 1994 305-322

D Cosgrove **Contested global visions: one-world, whole-earth and the Apollo space photos** *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 84/2 1994

JR Crabtree et al **The economic impact of wildlife sites in Scotland** *Journal of Rural Studies* 10/1 1994 61-72

Photography and Image

HA Laskey, B Seaton & JAF Nicholls **Effects of strategy and pictures in travel agency advertising** *Journal of Travel Research* XXXII/4 1994 p13

Ecology and Culture

KS Zimmerer **Human geography and the "New Ecology": the prospect and promise of integration** *Annals of the Assoc of American Geographers* 84/1 1994 108-125

The School of Environmental Design, University of Georgia now produces an annual publication Georgia Landscape. The first issue contains:
Burke Walker **Vernacular buildings and landscapes of Madison County, Georgia.**

Brad Jones **The outer perimeter: overdevelopment endangering the landscape.**

Susan Hitchcock **Use of greenways as wildlife mitigation corridors.**

Cari Goetcheus **Visual assessment strategies: crossing the line from landscape architecture to historic preservation.**

Landscape Issues 11/1 April 1994 **Special Issue: Ecology and management of cultural landscapes, the proceedings of a conference organised by the International Association for Landscape Ecology (UK), held in Cheltenham in September 1993.** Copies available from: Peter Dennis, Secretary IALE-UK, Macaulay Land Use Research Institute, Craigiebuckler, Aberdeen AB9 2QJ Price £9 cheques to IALE-UK.



D Collins **Lowland heath restoration - putting concept into practice** Minerals Planning 58 March 1994 31-35 Study of a major heathland creation/restoration project on a former open cast coalmine site (Co Durham)

Geoff A Wilson **Towards sustainable management of natural ecosystems on farms? a New Zealand perspective** Jour Env Planning & Management 37/2 1994 121-187

Planning

R Mabey **Planning guidelines for coal** Minerals Planning 58 March 1994 3-8 Summary of past and present Government guidance in relation to both deep and open-cast coalmining.

D Egerton **Planning for gold** Minerals Planning 58 March 1994 10-13 Reports on issues related to consideration of first planning application for a goldmine in Scotland (Stirling district), and linkage of technical, landscape and planning issues.

M Glen **The changing role of opencast coalmining restoration in landscape regeneration** Minerals Planning 58 March 1994 29-31 Examines the role of restored opencast sites in the evolving landscape of coalfield areas.

Historical and Archaeological Landscapes

Eberhard Zaugg **Landscape changes around Tiryns during the Bronze Age** American Journal of Archaeology 98 1994 189-212

Gerald P Schaus & Nigel Spencer **Notes on the topography of Eresos (Lesbos)** Am Journ Archeol 98 1994 411-430

Susan E Alcock **Graecia capta: the landscapes of Roman Greece** 307 pages Camb Univ Press 1993 ISBN 0-521-40109-7 (reviewed in Am Jour Archeol)

Urban History

Adam W Rome **Building on the land: towards an environmental history of residential development in American cities and suburbs 1870-1990** Jour of Urban History 20/3 407-434

Richard Harris Matt Sendbuehler **The making of a working class suburb in Hamilton's East End 1900-1945** Jour Urban History 20/4 486-511

Technical

CIRIA Research Project 446 **Small embankment-type reservoirs for water supply and amenity use** Contact Robert Freer (Tel 071-222 8891)

Editors: Celia Kirby & W R White **Integrated river basin development** ISBN 0-471-95361-X Publ John Wiley & Sons

HOBART CONFERENCE REPORT "A SENSE OF PLACE, A PLACE FOR PEOPLE"

For the first time in 20 years the Australian Institutes of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Planning held their national conferences jointly; as "A Sense of Place - A Place for People" it attracted over 900 delegates from the Australasia area to the historic City of Hobart in Tasmania.

Speakers in over 130 papers and workshops called for the professions to contribute to a sustainable future by helping to build *community* through the planning and building of beautiful surroundings. many speakers focused on community participation as the as a way to assist this process, stating that "people know what kind of places they want to live in" and thus should be involved in "place-making". Solutions to the making of place ranged from landscape restoration works in Australia and America, through "green" architectural solutions for the the Sydney 2000 Olympic games, to satellite based earth sensing projects in Africa.

International speakers included Michael Jacobs, Economist (UK), Carol Franklin, Landscape Architect from *Andropogon Associates* (US), Amelio Ambaz, Architect (US/Italy),

Robert McNulty, Lawyer from *Partners for Livable Places (US)*, Bahram Shirdel, Architect (US/UK), Hajime Yatsuke, Architect (Japan), and Prof. Dirk Bolt from the *International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences (Netherlands)*, in addition to 24 noted Australians including Daryll Jackson, Architect, and Jim Sinatra, Landscape Architect.

The proceedings (over 30 papers) are available on disk from Conference Design PO397 Sandy Bay 7006 Tasmania, Australia for \$150AUD.

Jerry de Gryse, Consultant Landscape Architect, Hobart

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PROGRESS: AT MELBOURNE

The following are research projects from the Master of Landscape Architecture course, School of Environmental Planning, University of Melbourne

Lisa Walker *A landscape for learning: the design and use of the school ground*

This study addresses the relationship between children's learning and the outdoor environment, as a step towards designing the ideal school ground. There is a conviction that all those who are concerned with design should have a deep interest in the nature of the 'user', in this case the child. The project examines the nature of childhood, the child-environment relationship and the nature of learning within the outdoor school environment. The process of consultation undertaken in this investigation sought to uncover the needs of children in two Victorian, suburban primary schools. Research techniques involved behavioural mapping, interview and projective techniques. The research concluded that the school ground has significant yet largely unrealised potential to be used to promote play and formal learning. School grounds have to be far more complex and replete with opportunities than they have been. In order to provide rich experiences for a range of children, a diversity of learning opportunities need to be provided beyond the asphalt, fixed equipment and oval tradition. Natural spaces in particular support a great variety of play and learning opportunities.

Michael Leslie *Conveying designs to the public: an investigation of how people understand various design presentation media.*

The purpose of this research was to determine the most effective design presentation media in conveying to the public a three dimensional understanding of the organisation and layout of urban spaces. A computer graphics model of interconnected urban spaces was constructed and the model was portrayed by four different presentation media; annotated plan, aerial photo, wire-frame animation and photo-realistic model. Subjects were tested on how well they understood the model based on the type of presentation media that they

viewed. The results revealed that in order to portray the three-dimensional character of the site the best media to use would be a photo-realistic animation. To portray the site layout an annotated plan would be as good, maybe better than other media. It was concluded that the selection of media to present designs is dependent on what is required of that media.

Andrew Partos *The ideal ski run: exploring the downhill ski experience.*

This research recognises that downhill skiing is a growing recreational activity. Existing ski areas are expanding, and new areas are being planned to accommodate this growth. Planners involved in the design process generally do not consider the ski experience in the planning process. This is because they do not understand the factors which affect this experience.



A CAÑON IN THE WAHATCH MOUNTAINS (UTAH TERRITORY).

The aim of this research was to determine how the landscape affects the experience of the downhill skier and how this knowledge can be used in the design of ski areas. The proposed Lake Catamount ski area in Colorado, USA was used as case evidence and interviews and questionnaires were undertaken. The research reveals that the experience of the skier is derived from two main areas, the skier's perception of the landscape, and the skier's actions in the landscape. The ski experience reflects the type of arousal derived from these two sources. The research suggests that this experience falls into three categories; challenge, exploration and relaxation. Some underlying motivations are common to all skiers such as closeness to nature, socialising and peacefulness. Otherwise skiers vary in their motivations, depending on the type of arousal they seek from the ski terrain. The thesis

concludes with an outline of guidelines based on the different types of arousal.

Greg Burgess *Designing for others: a case study exploring participatory design with an Aboriginal community.*

This research identifies the need for designers to address cultural differences and the social requirements of minority groups, as a lack of awareness of minority groups and their needs has resulted in inappropriate design solutions for Aboriginal people. The aim of the project was to develop, document and evaluate a participatory design approach with an Aboriginal community. It involved a case study, working in collaboration with Worawa Aboriginal College, Healesville, Victoria. The results of the research were used to formulate a preliminary design method to guide designers working with Aboriginal people. The results show that the pace of design is usually slow and requires commitment, perseverance, optimism and patience. It is necessary to respond to the needs of the particular Aboriginal community and to understand the social hierarchy and organisational structure of the community. The designer should have sensitivity towards the needs of the Aboriginal community and finally, techniques involved should be simple, clear and understandable to the participants.

Mary Papaioannou *Place attachment: recognising feelings for places.*

This research focuses on the assessment of the social value of landscapes, in particular the phenomenon of place attachment as an indication of the value placed by 'ordinary people' on 'ordinary places'. The investigation attempted to answer the question of what aspects of place attachment are best catered for in current conservation programs. The research involved an analysis of the concept of place attachment using a case study of St Kilda, Victoria. Place attachment in St Kilda was investigated by using an interview method based on photographs of special places produced by a sample of people. The photographs and what they express, were considered in relation to heritage conservation programs in St Kilda. The research concludes that the aspects of place attachment best catered for in current conservation programs are those that are easy to identify, categorise and to physically protect from damage - namely buildings and other discrete elements of the built environment. The importance of the intangible aspects of place investigated in this study are largely avoided because they are difficult to articulate, identify and protect. A better understanding of place attachment may allow better informed heritage conservation programs and may broaden the types of elements considered 'heritage' in the first place.

Geoff Stringer *Trees... a national icon: cultural perceptions of trees in the Australian landscape.*

The aim of this research was to trace and interpret the evolution of the perception and usage of native trees in Australia, and identify how this perception has been an integral component in the creation of a national identity. The research reveals that initial reservations about the value of Australian flora have been replaced by a slowly growing appreciation of its value as an element of the landscape and

as an expression of national identity. The public debate over the selection of trees for Swanston Street, Melbourne was used as a case study for the investigation. Contributors to the debate displayed deep seated perceptions of the roles of native and exotic trees in Australia and environmental nationalism was identified as a major theme. This research provides a historical perspective against which current and future issues of tree selection will be able to be considered. It was concluded that to Australians, native trees are far more than just trees.

Helen Armstrong *Post World War 2 Immigrant Heritage Places in Australia*

This research is identifying immigrant heritage places in Australia which reflect the massive immigration programme after the second World War. The current method of assessing culturally valued places, heritage places, is through heritage studies undertaken by heritage professionals who are predominantly middle class and eurocentric and who derive their assessment from field observation and archival research. Culturally valued places in ethnic neighbourhoods are not readily accessible through such techniques. The research concentrates on phenomenological methods such as in depth focus groups with selected immigrant groups as well as workshops with immigrant representatives, writers, artists and heritage professionals. The work to date is revealing rich and diverse aspects of Australia's multicultural heritage and the ways in which it is reflected in the urban landscape.

LEISURE LANDSCAPES

Within fifteen minutes, even the birds seem to have been silenced, only sporadic flushes of water, the dull murmur of electric systems, and the rattle of apartment balcony cutlery break the silence. Bilbao is at siesta ... the visitor forcibly detained in a new cultural experience. Four days ago, again at 1.30pm, Lower Heyford in Oxfordshire was offering its own, more mixed, messages of the daily cycle. The market place pub opened, but with few resident users, vans rather than cycles or tractors, stopped home for lunch; activity stilled. Maternal run-about and station wagons had picked up from play-school. Expresses, Cross-Country, Inter-City, had flown past the canalside boatyard with its expanded leisure lets.

Between Oxford and Banbury, and more significantly, between the ancient ridgeway line and the M40, this 'hidden heart' of rural England could be read as a timeless landscape, the quiet rural retreat which we are advised that so many treasure. And it is, admittedly quieter still, for the last F111's which once left for Libya, have now departed. The airbase skyline which provides a 20th century surprise from William Kent's Rousham just over the Cherwell, is redundant ...but not, we must accept, for long. The ready-made new town of USAF/RAF Upper Heyford will not be allowed to crumble into the dust, like the medieval villages of the valley, or like Hampton Gay to the south, into the dust. A well-equipped new country town? A high-tech centre? A peace-dividend focus for suitable rural regeneration?

The language of the late 20th century, developer-led landscape planning, will ring around the county (if such persists) over the next few years. Barn-conversion bound commuters will pen protests below professional letterheads, and stoke up the fires of a retread local history. Conservation interest will sit in their sensitive, and defined as such, Cherwell watermeadows. Elsewhere, those rendered unemployed by the USAF's departure may have more reason to press for new jobs at the old 'base', reflecting on the steady erosion of a workplace community, on house prices in the Oxford commuter range, and on the steady decline of immediate public services.

Rousham, a retrieved and cosily managed national attraction, defies most of the rules of interpretation and customer care, having no brown signs and admitting no children. Local walking and cycle routes, though marked, are off the beaten track and longboat progress on the Oxford Canal imposes its own pace and clientele.

Heyford is lucky, it has stopping trains, but few people stop. It has marketable assets but they have been developed wisely. Whilst the Market Square barn conversions signal the change most clearly, and the absence of pub sandwiches 'because we were very busy yesterday' suggests that this was, indeed, a quiet day, this is very much the 'Leisure Landscape' which Britain has become.

As the new CPRE report details, our countryside has been forced to adapt to an accelerating sequence of cultural and economic changes generated, in part at least, by the expectation that it can continue to subsume conflicting cultural intentions and official value systems. What is most striking in the University of Lancaster's fundamental enquiry is the evidence for confusion between those government agencies which seek to promote and manage the countryside. The use of piecemeal legislation and practices - to promote local economies through tourism development, to maintain an often contrived, 'sense of place' through development control, to conserve natural remnants, or to sustain the quiet, calm detail of the landscape, simply do not fit together.

The incipient solution - though not explored in the report - seems to be to increase the zoning of landscape and cultural areas through the rather blunt instrument of landscape and conservation designation. With the demand for value-for-money and costing, this environmental packaging will generate a deep-rooted commodification which makes the signposting of Catherine Cookson or Hardy Country positively attractive. Tinted maps showing 'Look but don't touch' Nature Zones, 'Spend lots of money enjoying yourself' Activity Zones, and 'Neighbourhood watch' Living Zones could become commonplace.

The Lancaster team is, perhaps, too guarded in its recommendations, although there are provocative thoughts on a revised role for the English Tourist Board, and for the extension of Environmental Assessments to large, leisure-related, schemes. Little though, concerning the relationship between rural land holders and the landscape which they

maintain and develop. Little too, on the failure of local government and of the planning system to develop local democratic discussion and decision-making in rural areas.

The evolving leisure landscape may still be meeting the fragmented and short-term needs of the majority, which is, of course, urban based. We could go on for another generation - especially with some displacement through the travel trade to less developed countries - before there is a substantial public outcry and a media-attracting event which reveals how cultural conflicts in the countryside have become irrevocable. By that time it is possible that governmental environmental and agricultural issues will be reconciled, that the demand for golf courses will be satisfied, that four-wheel drives, pony clubs and ramblers will all have had enough. But I doubt it.

What we need, and urgently, is a set of regional landscape plans, which like the development brief for townscape change, provides a flexible (but not too flexible) context for change which is supported by residents and owners of the areas, and channelled through parish-level councils.

Interesting to remember that it was the Council for the Protection of Rural England which led the fashion for such plans in the 1930's. Introducing the 1929 report on *The Thames Valley*, John Buchan saw the valley as 'something which is more than a centre of historic memories - something which has preserved into our own day many of the visible characteristics of an elder England.' It was an 'elder England' lacking in zonation: the National Parks which followed were, on reflection, a major step in the process of comfortable zonation but one which can never be sustained in an age of mass mobility and multi-...er...culturalism. Managing finite resources for an infinity of cultural developments is the challenge.

Professor Brian Goodey Oxford Brookes University

Leisure Landscapes is the title of a report published by the Council for the Protection of Rural England, May 1994: Centre for the Study of Environmental Change, Lancaster University, *Leisure Landscapes: Leisure, Culture and the English Countryside: Challenges and Conflicts*. Main Report and fourteen background papers, research supported by the Monument Trust, publication by ESSO.

GARDENS FOR TOMORROW: REPORT ON AN AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Landscape Australia magazine convened a national conference entitled 'Gardens for Tomorrow' on 10-12 March 1994. The conference sought to identify an Australian garden style which at the same time addressed the conservation of water and other environmental issues. The speakers who opened the conference considered the notion of an Australian garden from a range of perspectives; Professors David

Yencken and George Seddon drew analogies with their personal gardens and the greater Australian landscape while Helen Armstrong described the migrant's garden and the importance of creating a garden as part of the process of identifying with a multicultural Australia. In contrast Peter Valder questioned the relevance of an Australian garden style by pointing out the universality of today's gardens.

There were a number of international speakers; Marc Treib, Robert Perry, Pamela Burton and Topher Delaney spoke about west coast gardens in USA, Professor Giovanni Abrami spoke of Italian contemporary gardens and John Brookes described the British precedents for Australian garden styles. A range of speakers, all of whom are specialist in their field addressed the topic of environmentally acceptable garden design. All these have published books in their areas of expertise.

The conference covered a diverse range of issues in great depth. A book on the conference may be published as a lasting tribute to Ralph Neale and Elizabeth Jacka of Landscape Australia.

Helen Armstrong, Director, Cultural Landscape Research Unit, School of Landscape Architecture, University of New South Wales

GARDEN CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER NO 11 FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION

Pamela Paterson who edits this highly informative newsletter is now sending it to us regularly in exchange for Landscape Research Extra. She introduces the papers in this issue thus:

'The main article in this issue is from Brian Dix, Chief Archaeologist working on the Privy Garden at Hampton Court Palace which the first year students will be visiting this term. Following the theme of Dutch gardens, an intriguing account from Jennifer Potter on the AA Netherlands trip illustrated by her husband Neville. Christopher Thacker then reveals the opinions of other British travellers from the C18th, and Jane Brown's golden account of the work at Goddards brings to light another sketch drawn on another AA excursion way back in 1906. Sue shares with us some small Arts and Crafts gardens in the Cotswolds which she says can all be visited'.

Pamela Paterson can be contacted at 25 Jermyn Street London SW1Y 6HP Telephone 071 434 0021

DOCTORATE OF LANDSCAPE IN FRANCE

A pathway leading to a doctorate in landscape has been established at the Ecole d'Architecture de Paris-La Villette. The first step towards the doctorate is the D.E.A., "diplome

d'etudes approfondies" (diploma of advanced studies), which is completed in one year. Following the D.E.A., students can enroll in a course leading to the full doctorate, which takes four years.

This D.E.A., entitled "Gardens, landscapes, territories" proposes a program linking theory and practice within an interactive movement. Lecture subjects include history of landscape, literary and artistic history of landscape, bio-ecological logics and dynamics of landscape, history of landscape conception, landscape ethnology, landscape sociology, social construction of a territory, and methods for elaborating a landscape plan (also called intervention processes). Teaching is by a multi-disciplinary group of philosophers, landscape architects, sociologists, archaeologists, geographers, urbanists, and historians. The director is landscape architect Bernard Lassus.

This program is open to all those who have an advanced degree and speak French fluently. The lectures take place Friday and Saturday each week of the academic year, that is, between the first of November and the first of July.

For further details, please write to or call: **Ecole d'Architecture de Paris -La Villette**, 144, Rue de Frandres, 75019 Paris France Tel:44.65.23.00 Fax:44.65.23.01



This red and white coal conveyor travelator brings imported coal under the River Avon at Avonmouth to a *ginormous* hopper under which coal trains move at creeping pace to be loaded. The Avonmouth area is the most impressive industrial area in the southwest of England. Photo by the editor 1994

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AND NOW A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.....



The trees were roaring and shaking in the wind as Jane was blown down the hill

THANK YOU JANE!

Jane from *Jane's Country Year* by Malcolm Saville
 illustrated by Bernard Bowerman George Newnes Ltd 1946

HISTORIC CULTURAL LANDSCAPE MAPPING NEW SOUTH WALES

In 1992 Associate Professor Ken Taylor in association with a Sydney firm of Landscape Architects, Landscan Pty. Ltd., completed an historic cultural landscape assessment for Wingecarribee Shire. The study was a major part of a wider heritage study directed by Jocelyn Collieran, JPC Planning Services, Sydney.

The Wingecarribee area is known as the Southern Highlands of New South Wales. It is mid-way between Sydney and Canberra in the wider region of the Southern tablelands, an undulating hill and valley topography of about 500 metres above sea level. The landscape is one of open park-like pastoral areas with eucalypt clad hills. The area is also well known for its country towns, rural settlements, and pastoral homesteads and rural buildings. It was first explored in the early 1800s, then settled in the 1820s when extensive land grants were made for cattle and sheep properties. During the 1840s the Southern Highlands were known as one of the finest wheat growing areas in the colony of New South Wales. Its main fame, however, was as excellent grazing country, a reputation which survives today. The early landscape descriptions praise its open park-like appearance. Interestingly, of course, what the descriptions praised was an Aboriginal cultural landscape of scattered eucalypt trees and tall grass induced by millennia of burning.

The study resulted partly from concern by the local community and planning agencies (local and state) as rural residential and suburban development pressures threaten the historic rural landscape. Freeway construction has linked the area with Sydney thereby adding to development pressure. The Southern Highlands with its country towns, splendid historic gardens and rural landscape is a major tourist destination and attracts retired people.

In the landscape study a series of settlement themes provides a framework for understanding the present landscape, its making, its meaning, and its cultural values. The study area is readily subdivided into ten cultural landscape units on the basis of land-use and landscape patterns. Visual assessment criteria were not used. The units were assessed and analysed using primary archival data, field observation, surface archaeological observations, and secondary sources.

As a result of the assessment, five Key Historic Cultural Landscape Units were identified. These are the landscape units which are particularly important in the development of the historic landscape setting of the Shire. They are regarded as displaying important *interpretative and associative value*, ie they particularly inform and enlighten us on the history of the landscape, promote a sense of place, and relate this to the people - ordinary as well as famous - who made the landscape. Additionally the key units display a high level of integrity or intactness where past historic landscape patterns are still visible within modern patterns.

As a result of the study, and of particular note, is that Wingecarribee Shire Council Planning Section has created a

Draft Local Environmental Plan through the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979). This delineates a Landscape Protection Zone covering the key historic units, recognises the cultural significance of the historic rural landscape and restricts land use to, 'rural'. This conservation action is a particularly welcome outcome of the study and the methodology used.

Ken Taylor

For further information contact: **Ken Taylor, Associate Dean, Research, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Canberra, PO Box 1, Belconnen ACT 2616 Australia.**

CHURCHES IN THE LANDSCAPE WINDOWS ON THE MEDIEVAL CULTURE OF DEVON

I refer in "Should You Read" to a book of this title by Richard Morris, but let me also draw attention to a dull looking little church I dropped in on when, like Jane (see back if you have forgotten Jane), I rushed down Haldon Hill on my bicycle and like a nice young man from the 1940's I propped my bike against the church gate and went in. Here is the church drawn by a local.



Inside rather dark and rather plain but with these simple stained glass windows...but let W.G.Hoskins continue:

"Doddiscombeleigh lies in a coombe under the western slopes of Haldon. The church, St Michael, is almost entirely a 15th century construction with some slight traces of earlier work.... but the glory of the church is the medieval glass in the north aisle which is undoubtedly the best in the county. The five large 15th century windows of the aisle preserve their original glass almost intact. The east window showing the seven sacraments is of exceptional interest. This part of the Teign Valley, besides being very beautiful, is noted for the treasures of its churches, those of Ashton, Dunchideock and Bridford being outstanding."

A church within its landscape, little change and still relating to its streams its woods and fields and the slope of its land. Are we not fortunate! And the people in the windows wore brown homespun and medieval hoods.

ANTHOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS

"Anthology" is my excuse to delve into books and to pick passages that reveal landscape. The process is revealing in itself and I have not yet decided if it is because of the skewed nature of my preference in books or whether it is something more fundamental. I have a lot of books whose purpose is to describe countryside and the country way of life. I have others which are topographic, that is they describe particular areas, and others that are about exploration in foreign parts. And then there is my more normal library (I use the word library pompously), the kind of books that everyone is likely to read, books which have stories and plots and centre on people not places.

What I find is that landscape description is rare in 'normal books' and comes if at all in short unexploited utterances which quickly move back to the story or the action. Landscape may be no more than a topographic explanation "as the car made its way down the street faces peered at me from rows of market stalls dripping in the tropical rain. We turned right into..." - an unexploited fragment you will agree. Much more exciting is where landscape is described in greater detail and is used to create a mood, or underline a feeling and we have printed a number of these excerpts.

Occasionally as in some of the passages in this issue, landscape is the stuff of the narrative but not described as an object of pleasure or contemplative delight (is it therefore landscape or just environment!?), and the text will focus down from landscape to tactile place in all its earthy scratchiness. I like this kind of writing although of course it is perhaps supposed to appeal to children more than adults.

Within countryside writing I find little to inspire me. A pall of low quality landscape description also seems to lie over much topographic writing. Occasionally in topography and more often within exploration there are sharply drawn descriptions, perhaps derived from field notes, which deal not only with the broad sweep of landscape, but also with the detail - the stones underfoot, the plants, and the lie of the land. I have always enjoyed this kind of writing. It reveals something about the writer - what he or she knows of the subject, or if it is new to him how he grasped its essence and the impression it made on him (or her).

Most exciting is when such a description induces some exalted state of mind, when for example the sand dunes and the cars seem to be moving as in an ocean swell, when the black waters of the Mississippi arouse some deep sense of 'vacancy torpidity, rottenness and things dead' (page 15, Issue 12).

Sometimes the explorer like a novelist uses his surroundings to embellish the situation of the moment, giving grandeur or mystery to his narrative, while more commonly science (admitted for fear of subjectivity), administers a pervasive bromide to the writer's imagination. From time to time one notes the signs of puff and polemic, landscapes extolled for the fertility and abundance, or held up as witness to some

social injustice.

I think I am in need of the wider library of taste that comes from asking one's more literary and erudite friends for their best extracts and comments. What offers? And now for further examples in which tracks and paths figure strongly. The passages and their characteristic dates are identified at the end of this issue.

Bud Young

ANTHOLOGY

I had no idea whither I was going. I was aware that the South Wiltshire Down-country covered a space of earth roughly twenty miles long by fourteen broad.I was in an enchanted land, as was borne in upon me at the first silent step on the yielding sward.The level light grew mistier with every moment, and took on a ruddier tinge. The intersecting hedgerows, full of scarlet berries and the yellow of maple, barred the way before me like lines of swift travelling prairie fire. All the brown cattle turned purple, and the white were dyed to rosy hue. A wisp of vapour stole up here and there, and lay like a pink veil of gossamer across the path, that I must break if I would journey onward. And the air was steeped with a quiet music, wavering inconstant as of harps, that laid aside after a symphony, still remembered the merry roundels in their dreams.

It was dusk before I had traversed the last field in that elf haunted valley, and all the way this sheep bell music kept with me step and step. At last when I could scarce make out the shapes of the cattle standing knee deep in the mist, I stumbled upon a track

*

I pushed my combination along the ridge until I came to a lane that dived down into the valley. In the dark I could hardly recognise it. I remembered it as a path, deep indeed, but dappled with sunlight; it looked to me now a cleft eroded in desert country, for its bottom was only a cart's width across, and its sides, with the banks, the hedges above them and young oaks leaping up from the hedge, seemed fifty feet of solid blackness.

I followed it down until another lane crossed at a right angle; this led northwards back to the ridge, where it came up to the surface and branched into two farm tracks. These two tracks appear to be the end and aim of the ancient little high-road, but if you ignore them and walk across an acre of pasture you come to a thick hedge running downhill into the Marshwood Vale. In the heart of this hedge, which I had been seeking all the way from London, the lane reappears. It is not marked on the map. It has not been used, I imagine, for a hundred years.

*

At one place, on the skirts of Blackmoor Vale, where the bold brow of High-Stoy Hill is seen a mile or two ahead, the leaves lie so thick in autumn as to completely bury the track. The spot is lonely, and when the days are darkening

the many gay charioteers now perished who have rolled along the way, the blistered soles that have trodden it, and the tears that have wetted it, return upon the mind of the loiterer.

The physiognomy of a deserted highway expresses solitude to a degree that is not reached by mere dales or downs, and bespeaks a tomb-like stillness more emphatic than that of glades and pools. The contrast of what is with what might be, probably accounts for this. To step, for instance, at the place under notice, from the edge of the plantation into the adjoining thoroughfare, and pause amid its emptiness for a moment, was to exchange by the act of a single stride the simple absence of human companionship for an incubus of the forlorn.

*

They took a long time before they started again, and I was jolly well relieved when they went scouring down the road. I ran deeper into the woods till I found a track which - as I judged from the sky which I saw in a clearing - took me nearly due west. That wasn't the direction I wanted, so I bore off at right angles, and presently struck another road which I crossed in a hurry. After that I got entangled in some confounded kind of enclosure and had to climb paling after paling of rough stakes plaited with osiers. Then came a rise in the ground and I was on a low hill of pines which seemed to last for miles. All the time I was going at a good pace, and before I stopped to rest I calculated I had put six miles between me and the sandpit.

*

Ah! I do think, as I do tread
Thease path, wi' elems overhead,
A-climen slowly up vrom Bridge,
By easy steps, to Broadwoak Ridge,
That all thease roads that we do bruise
Wi' hosses' shoes, or heavy lwoads;
An' hedges' bands, where trees in row
Do rise an' grow aroun' the lands,
Be works that we've a-vound a-wrought
By our vorefathers' ceare an' thought.

*

How pleasant are the fields to roam and think
Whole sabbaths through unnoticed and alone
Beside the little mole hill skirted brink
of the small brook that skips oer many a stone
or green woodside where many a squatting oak
Far oer grass screeds their white stained branches hing
Forming in pleasant close a happy seat
To nestle in while small birds chirp and sing
And the loud blackbird will its mate provoke
More louder yet its chorus to repeat
How pleasant is it thus to think and roam
The many paths scarce knowing which to chuse
All full of pleasant scenes - then wander home
And oer the beautys we have met to muse.

*

The cultivated gardens were enclosed, and bordered with high walnut trees whose deep shade gave a shelter from the burning sun, but they were intersected with paths which

wandered between plantations of fruit-bearing bushes and of flowering plants, such as the fragrant peony. During the weeks we spent there we wandered freely among eighty enclosures which formed the estate, and each day brought us some new discovery.

COLLOQUIUM ON LANDSCAPE STUDY AND MANAGEMENT, Trinity College, Dublin 27-28 September 1994

A highly successful colloquium on landscape study and management has been organised by Professor FHA Aalen, with support from the Irish Office of Public Works. This drew together a limited number of delegates, from diverse academic and professional backgrounds, to investigate the many practical and theoretical perspectives adopted towards the landscape. Speakers on the first day set out systematic analytical frameworks, ranging from the geographical and ecological, to the archaeological and ethnological. Quantitative, multi-disciplinary and design approaches were also considered. The second day balanced these theoretical frameworks with accounts of current practice from England, Wales, Scotland, Germany and Sweden. A concluding session reviewed various European and global initiatives to record and protect cultural landscapes.

The colloquium illustrated well the richness of landscapes in stimulating research, reflection and enjoyment. Inevitably, too many concepts and methods were introduced to permit instant assimilation, though a number of striking themes recurred. One was the complementarity of alternative frameworks of investigation, emphasising the risks of studying landscape from one perspective only. A second, was the need increasingly to consider the broader scale - whether from an ecological, humanistic or management viewpoint - rather than simply local sites. Also, the total stock of "information" in landscapes, deriving from their time-depth, must be valued, rather than giving primacy, for instance, to biodiversity. Finally, delegates were struck by the apparent duplication of many current efforts to map, describe and protect internationally valuable landscapes. This suggested two further themes: to protect effectively, but without stifling; and to harmonise endeavours, but without pre-empting important details of specific initiatives.

Paul Selman



LANDSCAPE CLASSIFICATION .

Yesterday I bought a book entitled *Soils: Their formation, classification and distribution* (E A Fitzpatrick, Longman Scientific, 1980, 1983). It used to be my subject. The owner of the secondhand bookshop flicked through the pages as he sold it to me and 'gave a low whistle' that there were more than 11 published

systems of classifying soils. They span 70 or 80 years and derive from many parts of the world. Each has its devotees, applies to a specified range of conditions (or is universal), and is founded on a particular way of working in a particular environment. If you work in England you rely on Avery. And what you ask has this to do with landscape?

Well soils classification and landscape classification have a lot of similarities and perhaps some cross fertilisation is overdue. Soils and landscapes both occupy areas of land, both have predictable layers of character and wildcard characteristics, both intergrade from one modal type to another and both demonstrate change over time. However you can see landscape whereas soils stay hidden below the surface. I recently prepared a map of the landscape of North Worcestershire and this has focussed my mind on both classification and mapping, classification being the essential precursor of mapping. A few words from the eminent soilman Dr Fitzpatrick under "Discussion and Conclusion" on p181. You are left to draw your own parallels.

"It is clear that attempts to produce hierarchical systems of soil classification based on morphogenetic principles have failed, and the newer systems of Northcote and USDA are little more than incomplete and cumbersome keys, while numerical taxonomy has, as yet not contributed any fundamentally new method, but merely tries to establish by mathematical methods what has already been achieved by trial and error."

The most pertinent criticism that can be made of nearly all systems of soil classification is the paucity of information conveyed by the particular system employed, whether it involves the use of names or a code. This is a serious deficiency in those newer schemes that employ long names and codes. There is also inadequate provision for intergrades in spite of the large amount that has been written about them by many authors.....A new approach is necessary. Soils must be examined as separate and distinct phenomena in order to establish those features common to all soils, then to determine how these distinct and specific features can be used to construct a system or organisation for soils."

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM WAGENINGEN September 23 1994

The Theme: **Symbolic aspects of contemporary landscapes: a challenge for landscape architecture.**

Landscapes of every nation represent a heritage in which the collective identity and memory of its population are expressed. Historical continuity, manifest in landscape patterns, is in itself a quality one cannot easily ignore. Modern technological developments constitute a threat to this quality in the eyes of many. Landscape architects, when confronted with the task of combining a cultural heritage with new functional requirements, must search for landscape form and function which represents values and ideals, both of the past and the present.

But what are these new values and how should they be reflected in our landscapes? Are we to choose between an adaptation of the new to the old and a clean break with the past? Does the "back-to-nature" movement provide an answer? Should we perhaps revert to an adapted version of the ideals of the Modern Movement, or abolish these and embrace the glitter of a fast-changing high-tech urban environment as a representation of our ideals? Could such one-sided choices perhaps be avoided by adopting or inventing an entirely different language of symbols, based on a new philosophy. The central question is how to express new values and ideals in contemporary design and how to distinguish between the fashionable issues of the day and more permanent values.

Some of the fundamental issues of the discipline of landscape architecture are at stake here, and an ultimate answer may be beyond the scope of a one-day symposium. However the issue can be addressed and exemplary designs might be illustrated during the presentations.....



That was how this conference was previewed. Four speakers addressed diverse aspects of this issue during sessions attended by some 150 participants. David Lowenthal (University College London) spoke on 'Landscape as living legacy', Sven Ingvar Andersson (Royal Academy of Art, Copenhagen) on 'Gardens in phantasy and real life', Dusan Ogrin (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia) on 'Symbolic transformation in landscape design, needs and limitations', and Klaas Kerkstra (University of Wageningen) on 'Dutch landscape genius, geometry and the genius loci'. A concluding statement by Michael Downing (Secretary General, European Foundation for Landscape Architecture) celebrated the career and contributions to collaborative understanding of Meto J Vroom, in whose honour the symposium was held. The papers, along with one by Michael Hough (York University) whom ill-health prevented from attending, will be published in a forthcoming issue of Landscape and Urban Planning.

The following day foreign participants enjoyed a field trip focussed on the management of river landscapes. Preceded by an illustrated lecture by Meto J Vroom on recent projects along the lower Rhine, the excursion began with a tour of the Blauwe Kamer Riverbank Reserve, a 120-hectare nature reserve devoted to the regeneration of alluvial forests, grazed grassland, and wetland wildlife almost as 17th-century painters might have imagined it. A tour of river dikes and dike reconstruction projects followed.

David Lowenthal

CONFERENCE ON ECOLOGY & DEMOCRACY : THE CHALLENGE OF THE 21st CENTURY

At the Institute of Landscape Ecology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Ceske Budejovice, 6-9th September 1994

Only two years ago, also in the Czech Republic, a bold assertion that now that the Czechs had regained their democracy, the ecological problems of the country would solve themselves, brought loud acclamation from many Czechs, and worried frowns from many visitors from western Europe and America. At least in 1994 that touching faith in democracy as a cure-all has been badly dented, and many felt that solutions to ecological problems will take place, if at all, despite rather than because of the wishes of the people.

In that two years, the speed of change in Bohemia has been dramatic, and very visible. The towns are developing new businesses, especially in retailing, though many shops are also going bankrupt. The townscapes reflect the new business climate, and everywhere the buff colour which was almost universal is being replaced by refurbished buildings in bright paint on the German model. Prague has hosted, apparently, 70 million visitors in one year, proof enough that 40 years of a Communist regime were not as effective as 40 years of western capitalism in destroying town centres to the point of banality. At the same time the major ecological problems inherited from that period, which loomed so large in political consciousness at the time of the Velvet Revolution, have been put on the back burner by politicians acutely aware that the first demand of their voters is for more tangible and immediate benefits.

The tradition of highly positivist scientific ecology which dominated during the Communist period had little room in it for people, either as actors on the ecological stage or as audiences whose acclamation was important. Such a tradition dies slowly, but is clearly being very heavily questioned. This resulted in three distinct groups at the conference, by no means simply divided by being western or eastern in their origins. The scientific ecologists presented papers which demonstrated or called for better science - for a greater understanding of the complexities of the biosphere, and pointed to several cases where ecologists had been unable to present a united viewpoint, or even one with a satisfactory majority of scientific opinion behind it. The construction locally of a nuclear power station lent focus to this debate. No wonder public and politicians were confused if it was clear that ecologists were divided also. Their emphasis, therefore, was on a better and clearer demonstration of findings to politicians, including the importance of finding appropriate statistics which might give valid and reliable indications of environmental well-being.

A second group, perhaps the largest, consisted of those for whom ecology was a transcendental idea, to quote the conference literature, rather than a positivist discipline. This group tended to presume that the way in which ecological thinking will enter the political agenda is via a change of

heart in some way. In some cases this would be brought about by example, as by the green village being constructed in Hungary at Győrúfalu; in others some form of educational programme was envisaged which looked remarkably like a programme designed by evangelists for religious purposes. By no means all the members of this group were trained as ecologists, some coming from philosophy and allied disciplines, as well as cultural geography.

The third group consisted largely of non-ecologists, whose interests were much more concerned with the democratic process, and the preferences of people. There was considerable concern expressed with the extent to which environmentalism itself had become a highly politicised arena, with different interests competing within it. This group were shy of suggesting solutions to the undoubted problem, that democratic systems of government, coupled with free markets, are not the tools one would invent if the aim was solely a cleaner, healthier environment.

One other problem, which was voiced only occasionally in a country jealous of its new freedom, and actively defending and promoting the uniqueness of its own culture, is the impact of nationalism. If democracy is inimical to ecology, so too is the nation state, especially in those countries where the landscape is perceived as iconic of the nation, as it certainly is in Bohemia as much as in the countries of the United Kingdom. As this conference is expected to be the first of a series, the problem of nationality may make a topic to be addressed. Certainly there appeared to be quite marked disillusion with the achievements of international agreements such as at Rio.

Education was seen, inevitably, as the only major tool at least partly in the hands of ecologists which might slowly produce a democratic society more prepared to defer immediate benefits for future advantages, such as a cleaner planet. Education was necessarily seen in the broadest sense, as communication to many groups of people, through formal education at school and university, through the media to the public at large, and through much improved means of disseminating findings to politicians and other decision makers. Despite this common theme, there was a marked lack of specialists in those fields present at the conference. Space was found for one environmental interpreter from the nearby town of Prachatice, but even here there was confusion between scientific education and the indoctrination of good taste. Those who think they know what it is that needs to be said, those who devise the message, seem remarkably unwilling to discuss on equal terms, or any terms at all, with those who are expert at knowing how to say it, teachers, media specialists, popular writers, designers.

The Institute at Ceske Budejovice now has built up an impressive and enthusiastic group of academics from several disciplines, including philosophy and the humanities, dedicated to exploring inter-disciplinary initiatives in the environmental field. Situated in the very heart of Europe and at the political junction between west and east, they are considering widening their interests and responsibilities to provide a focal place for interdisciplinary landscape studies

on a Europe-wide basis. As Budvar is certainly amongst the best beers to be brewed anywhere in the world, there will be no shortage of scholars anxious to avail themselves of the opportunity.

Peter Howard University of Plymouth

ANTHOLOGY ANSWERS - Who, when?

Lift luck on southern roads Tickner Edwardes Methuen and Co Ltd 1910

Rogue Male Geoffrey Household Chatto and Windus 1939

A Lonely Road Thomas Hardy from **The Woodlanders** 1887

Greenmantle John Buchan Hodder and Stoughton 1916

Our Fathers Works William Barnes from **Select poems of rural life in the Dorset dialect** Kegan Paul, Trench Trubner and Co 1909

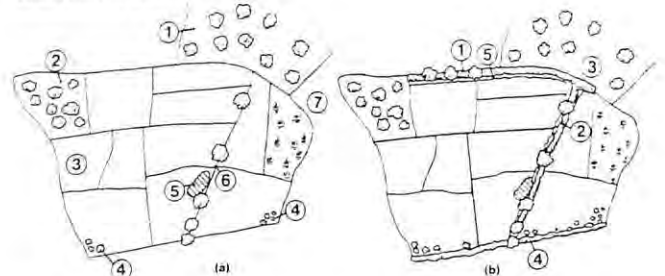
Stray Walks by John Clare in **Clare: selected poems and prose** Chosen and edited by Eric Robinson and Geoffrey Summerfield Oxford University Press 1966

The Gobi Desert Mildred Cable with Francesca French Hodder and Stoughton 1942.

FARMING, WILDLIFE AND THE RSPB

The heading refers to a recent publication. **Farming and Wildlife** It is a thick A4 format publication, subtitled "A practical handbook for the management, restoration and creation of wildlife habitats on farms" and is a superb synthesis of information edited by John Andrews and Michael Rebane of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). It appears to have obtained widespread approval by those who speak for agriculture, wildlife and the land. The following is an example of information and how it is presented.

Figure 8.2
Wildlife corridors: opportunities on farmland



- (a) Before planting
1. Area of ancient woodland on adjacent land.
 2. Area of new broadleaved woodland.
 3. Pasture.
 4. Areas of scrub.
 5. Pond.
 6. Old hedge-line - now gappy and fenced, still with some trees.
 7. Area of rough damp grassland.

- (b) After planting hedges as 'wildlife corridors'
- Note hedges are not isolated from one another, and link habitats like with like and with differing habitats.

1. Hedge-line between old and new woodland. New trees planted or selected for retention in existing hedges. Allow hedge to grow big, cut one side at a time, other side 2-3 years

- later. Protect ground flora carefully - scarce woodland species may spread into hedge.
2. Hedge-line gapped up and renovated, trees maintained. Allows amphibians to move to and from pond to feeding/hibernating sites eg dry grassland, scrub and woodland.
 3. Linking woodland to damp grassland would allow grass snakes to move from breeding and hibernation sites in woods and on dry banks to hunting sites in damp grassland and pond.
 4. Hedge linking scrub areas and scrub to other habitat types.
 5. Perennial herbs and grasses allowed to develop at the base of important hedges. A good variety of nectar plants encourages butterflies, which prefer to move along hedgelines rather than across open fields.

This and the next extract are of course reductions from A4 original pages. It comprises 358 pages and is the distilled experience of more than 30 experts with case studies by as many people again. Each part of the work has been reviewed by individuals from a very long list. The logistics of this work must have been very complicated.

As an RSPB publication it looks at habitats from a bird's point of view. The result however is excellent landscape ecology and the text deals separately with 8 distinct (landscape) habitats covering most of the open landscape of the British Isles. It also covers the topic of farm buildings and walls.

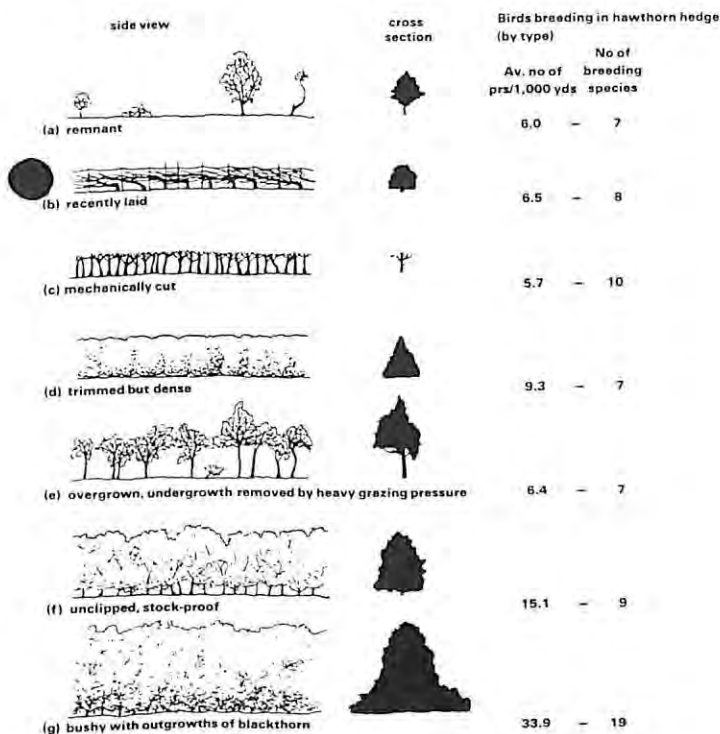


Figure 8.1
Hedge types and their use by breeding birds.

Adapted from Pollard, E, Hooper, M D and Moore, N W 1974. *Hedges*. New Naturalist 58. Collins.

What I like about it most is that it is detailed, it does list species of plants, considers agricultural operations, looks at bird life histories and feeding needs and at the same time I know that this is at the heart of biodiverse ecological landscapes. Those not in every day contact with habitat work will find this compendium of current knowledge invaluable. Each chapter discusses the subject and issues in discursive text; summarises the information within boxes; supports this with well designed tables of occurrence and seasonal change and adds plenty of fully annotated photos four or more on a page. There are also distribution maps and illustrative site plans and the whole text is given a lift by a series of ink sketches showing birds, habitat and landscape (if landscape equals habitat).

While not overtly "landscape" this book is much more than a how-to-do-it manual and should form part of the library of every person who takes the ecological landscape seriously.

RSPB (aided by the National Grid) are to be congratulated on such a fascinating and valuable book.

It may be purchased from the **RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL** Price £21.95 plus postage and they also have a sister volume **Rivers and Wildlife** 400pp at £19.95.

Reviewed by **Bud Young**

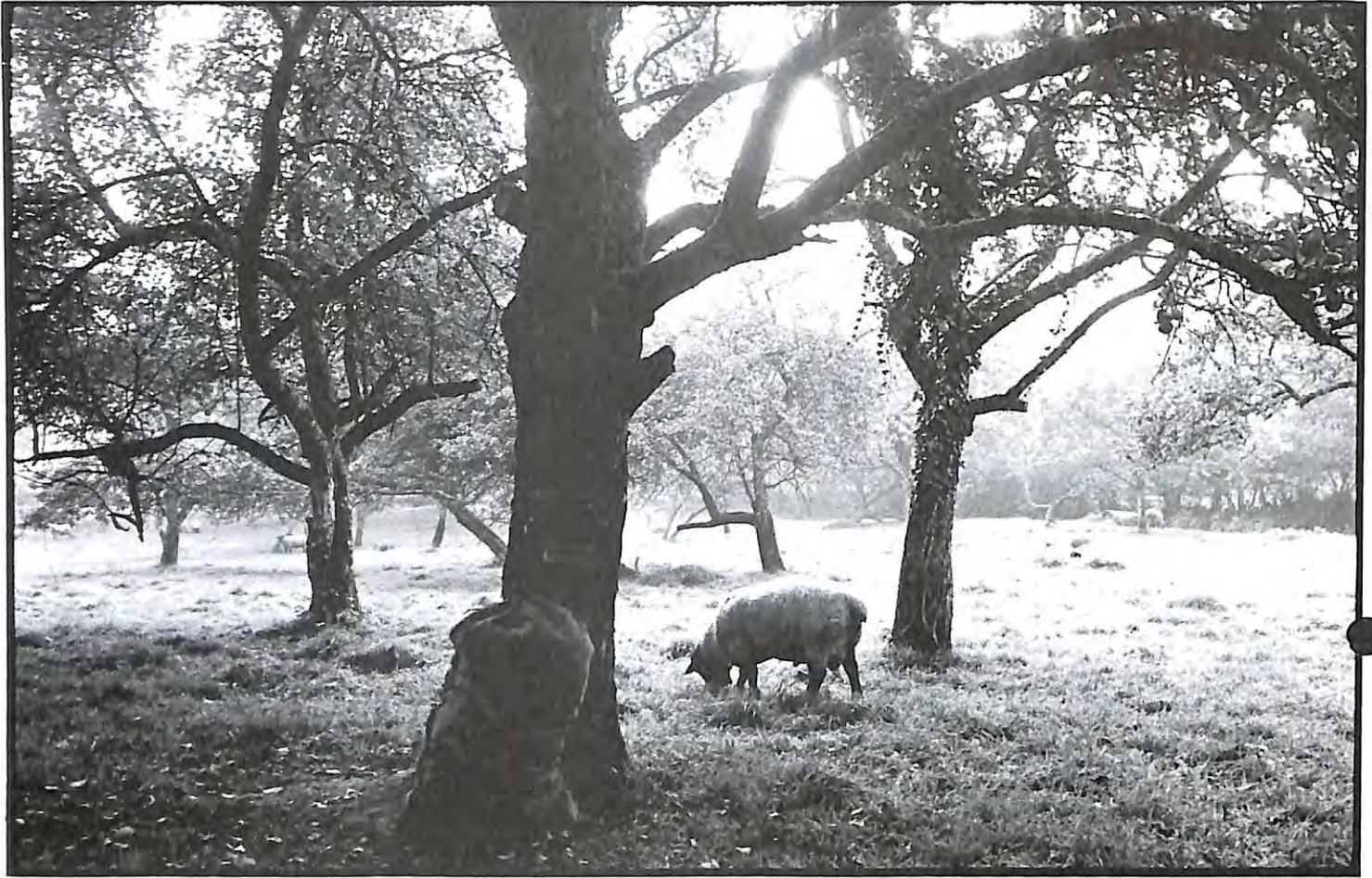
THE NEW MAP OF ENGLAND AND OTHER MAPPING INITIATIVES

Richard Lloyd of the Countryside Commission, has sent us a copy of the **New Map of England: A celebration of the South Western landscape** and against all my prejudices I am inclined to think it is very good and even perhaps that it is 'an important work'. How the map boundaries were created is the subject of a paper from the Commission in the next issue of *Landscape Research* but the celebration volume in front of me shows a map of the South West peninsular on an A4 page in colour, and these are supplemented by 38 small maps (10km grid but no coordinates!) and a locating map depicting each of the landscapes described. Each landscape is described under 'Landscape Character' and 'Evolution of the Landscape' followed by a summary of key characteristics and 'References'. It would be disagreeable to point out that the references are really suggested fun reading and wrong too, as this is a volume that might well be read by a wide lay audience, I have known American and Dutch tourists preparing for a South West Tour who would delight in such a sensible and enjoyable account of the landscapes they will meet. But will it be sold into this market? I would hope so. The volume as you might expect also contains excellent evocative photographs of high character components within each landscape. If I have a criticism it is of the science/statistic pye and bar chart diagrams which although explained in the front of the volume are liable to be misinterpreted, for what they seem to say is not what they really say and it is difficult to translate the one to the other.

Reviewed by the Editor

OPINION

While on the subject of landscape maps let me draw your attention to the Midlands Landscape Regional Assessment and its map for which I have an extract depicting Hereford and Worcester (two English old counties which stretch from the southern edge of Birmingham to the Welsh Marches). Its author and the person who did the research and programming is Steven Warnock. What I have to say about this a personal opinion and is less enthusiastic than my review of *South Western Landscapes* (though I believe that they also depend on multivariate analysis *to some extent*). I have not as yet talked to the author Steve Warnock and would no doubt find



(see page 3) for context.

on multivariate analysis *to some extent*) .I have not as yet talked to the author Steve Warnock and would no doubt find much to applaud if I did so. However it appears to be an automated classification of the landscape based on multivariate analysis of a series of attributes and "*the outcome is a combination of statistical manipulation and expert knowledge*" (I quote). "*A basic assumption underlying the process is that different types of landscape reflect particular combinations of characteristics, or attributes, which can be derived from various map sources*". " Suppose then you have a huge bank of information (perhaps from ITE) and this comes from maps which are a very partial extraction of information, and suppose you have the expertise and an urge to manipulate this data, you are in a position to do the job.

My personal opinion is that it is an intriguing method producing the wrong product but I am biased against multivariate analysis in this context, and see that automated classification depends heavily on the quality and relevance of the input data. I am biased *in favour* of direct observation and the application of geography. It will be interesting to see the reaction of the potential users of the map. How will it be used and how will it better fifty year old physiographic regional maps produced by geographers with a good eye for landscape, however amateurish to modern eyes.

The Landscape Assessment map was sent to me by The North Worcesterhire Project for whom I was producing an airphoto based map of the landscapes to the south and west of Birmingham. The latter map defined landscapes at the

local level.on the basis of airphoto detail (trees hedges farms etc) seen in three dimensions. From 150 or more local landscapes, each described, 20 were but together in a generalising synthesis. This compares with the eight landscapes which emerge for the same area in the Regional Assessment study referred to above.

It is obviously a matter of scale, horses for courses and suchlike, but there is a fundamental difference in approach analysing detached map data and observing "real life" airphoto image. Some of course would argue that ground observation is the only reality!

Bud Young Head of Airphoto Interpretation and Land Use
BKS Surveys, Coleraine Northern Ireland

*The views and opinions voiced in this newsletter are those of the authors and the editor and do not necessarily represent those of LRG as a Group. the Newsletter is prepared and edited by Rosemary and Bud Young.. It is published by the Landscape Research Group Ltd Leuric, North Road, South Kilworth, near Lutterworth Leicestershire. Letters, Written contributions and enquiries on the text to **Bud Young, Airphoto Interpretation 26 Cross Street Moretonhampstead Devon TQ13 8NL Tel 01647.40904***

This issue for the first time has been produced on an Apple Macintosh Power PC. We have retained a rather conservative approach to layout and fonts so as not to give our readers a serious jolt. When we have really got the hang of DTP we will become vulgar, down market and unreadable. We thank the Group for making this possible. The Editor October 1994