
**THE CALVIN WELLS PALAEOPATHOLOGY ARCHIVE :
COLLECTION DESCRIPTION**

(Special Collections, J.B. Priestley Library)

Reference code

GB 0532 CAL

Title

The Calvin Wells Palaeopathology Archive

Dates

1953-1984

Level of description

Fonds

Extent

5 large boxes

Name of creator

Calvin Wells, 1908-1978, pioneer palaeopathologist

Administrative/ Biographical history

Dr Calvin Bampfylde Wells (1908-1978) played an important role in developing the science of palaeopathology (the study of ancient disease). He began his career in medicine in London, training at University College London and University College Hospital and specialising in obstetrics. He also became interested in anthropology. In the period after the Second World War, when he had moved to Norfolk, he began to combine these two strands, using his medical knowledge to interpret archaeological finds and so shed light on the diseases and injuries suffered by ancient people and sometimes also on modern health problems. His works include "Bones, bodies and disease" (1964), a general introduction to palaeopathology, besides more detailed journal articles and papers on specific excavations and topics. After Calvin's death his widow acted as a literary/scientific executor, encouraging publication of his work.

Immediate source of acquisition

In 1984 Calvin's widow, Winifred "Freddie" Wells, donated his books, journals and papers to the Department of Archaeological Sciences at the University of Bradford. This material was later moved to the J.B. Priestley Library.

Scope and content

- Notes, reports and correspondence on archaeological sites, principally on skeletal material ; many sites, including North Elmham, Iona, Caerwent, Kingsworthy, and Icklingham.
- Short notes on cremations (a) Norfolk and Suffolk, (b) other U.K. sites.
- Correspondence with archaeologists, museum staff, medical professionals, editors, publishers.
- Scripts of video programmes and tape/slide presentation on palaeopathology.
- Microfilm (16mm) of Calvin Wells' reference files.
- 'The Times' obituary of Calvin Wells, August 1978.
- "Calvin Wells : a short biography of a friend" by Gerald D. Hart, 1983 (typescript).

Access conditions

Available to researchers, by appointment

Copyright/ conditions governing reproduction

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The Library will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

Language of material

English. Some articles in French.

Physical characteristics

Includes a 16mm microfilm.

Finding aids

Handlist in preparation

Archivist's note

Papers described by John Brooker

Rules or conventions

ISAD (G) 2nd ed

Description written July 2001.

For further information , see the web page for this Archive: <http://www.bradford.ac.uk/library/special/calvin.php>

Date(s) of description

19 July 2001

Indexing

Persons

Wells, Calvin

Subjects

Excavations (Archaeology)

Great Britain – Antiquities

Human remains (Archaeology)

Paleopathology

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