ON A JOURNEY THROUGH THE FRENCH LANDSCAPE

Twice, when I might have been working in the spring and summer of this year I travelled across great chunks of French landscape and I am overwhelmed by both its broad geography and its cultural and esthetic detail.

It was perhaps a required remedial to observing the English landscape for so long. My need now is to investigate the many views and differences that I have seen so that in ten years I may claim to have grasped its essence, I plan to enjoy it.

A few instances: I have never before seen trees shredded (which is an alternative method of 'coppice' production) but saw such trees in Brittany. In 1948 I saw them shell blasted as a result of the War but the effect is not quite the same! Exciting to find that the forest fuel wood rotation remains an essential part of rural life at least in Perigord where one sees oak, ash, chestnut and hornbeam coppice woodlands in good heart. I am astonished at the skill put into pollards, espaliers and the artistically engineered trees of many towns. How they improve urban spaces. Then roadside avenues - in different areas one finds not only poplar but also plane trees, horse chestnut and limes; and I was charmed to see Robinia and true acacias growing in the wild. Almost best of my tree observations in Perigord and the Dordogne was the wide occurrence of planted walnut trees, singly and in groves, grown for oil and edible nuts.

I am not competent to write about elegant chateaux and the fortification of the Bastide towns, which underlines to me how appreciation of landscape may require historical knowledge of the Hundred Year's War. I did not have a single book about French history (but have since remedied this).

But I am a geologist and 'understood' that quintessential part of the landscape: the size of

Citee de Carcassone with vines! Cultural landscape gem. Photo by the Editor
some of the landscapes were truly regional, and many were uninterrupted by towns. Among these I number great extents of creamy white Tertiary limestone of the Aquitaine Basin which form undulating plateaux draped with interconnecting woods and ornamented here and there with richly flowered meadows; the completely different quality of the Cevennes seen at the height of the heat - and the clear opal waters of the River Gardon which flow out of the Cevennes on lustrous schists near Anduze; the deep brown soils and basaltic delights of mountain landscapes near Mauriac and the strangely mountainous quality of the villages.

Impossible dear readers to describe all the variations and all the visual pleasures – different rocks, different woods, different scale, different sounds and qualities of light, different way of life, different culture and townscape. What price our British agricultural revolution.

Bad Young

A CONVENTION ON THE RURAL LANDSCAPES OF EUROPE

Members may recall that the conference at Blois in October 1992 "Landsacpes in a new Europe: unity in diversity" (De l'Europe des pays a l'Europe des paysages) organised by LRG and Paysage et Aménagement, provided a platform for the first public airing of a proposal for a European convention on rural landscapes.

Adrian Phillips, former Director General of the Countryside Commission, gave a paper outlining the proposed convention.

A Convention is a treaty between sovereign states. Conventions in the environmental and cultural fields are useful instruments of national and international policy because:
- they raise awareness of issues;
- they set standards for action at the national level;
- they prescribe how states should manage resources of international importance and they encourage States to cooperate.

Several European and global conventions exist which deal with issues related to landscape, the most important being the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention, 1979) and the Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (the Granada Convention, 1985). However there are no conventions which deal with the protection of the landscape. Nor is this issue covered effectively by any of the directives of the European Community, including the recently concluded Habitats Directive which is restricted to the protection of nature.

In practice, therefore, there are no intergovernmental arrangements for the protection of the rural landscapes of Europe – despite their great cultural and natural values, the importance of some landscapes to the people of Europe as a whole, the many threats to their survival and the need for international cooperation to deal with a number of these threats.

The overall purpose of the proposed Convention would be to strengthen the conservation of the rural landscapes of Europe. More particularly it would have three aims:

* NATIONAL ACTION – to encourage all the signatories to record the rural landscapes in their countries and to take some steps to ensure the protection or enhancement of such areas within policies for rural development;
* INTERNATIONAL ACTION – to develop a network of European Rural Landscapes, incorporating those landscapes which are considered to be of European significance;
* SUPPORTING MEASURES – to put in place supporting measures, such as training, information exchange and perhaps a centre of European expertise.

It is worth stressing that the focus of the Convention is on raising awareness and facilitating action within rural communities themselves as much as among national governments. Its aim is not to create new instruments for conservation which are imposed upon unwilling communities. National governments, communities and individuals are constantly making decisions which influence the way in which landscapes develop - discarding or strengthening sense of place, reducing or enhancing biodiversity, damaging or preserving historical continuity. Many decisions made in the interests of short term gain are regretted at leisure. The Convention will supply an international framework to ensure that those decisions are better informed about their long term implications for the landscape. It will especially provide a forum in which those countries who have lost much, and regretted deeply, can share their experiences with those just setting out on a period of rapid change in their rural areas.

The conference at Blois concluded that:
"...further work should be undertaken on a possible convention on the protection of rural landscapes in Europe... Through greater international cooperation, the convention could reinforce the effective protection of valued landscapes that are as much a part of the European heritage as great historic monuments. While it should recognise that landscapes must evolve, it should encourage that this be done with respect for local identity.
Implementation, therefore, should be at national and local levels."

During the past 12 months, the Convention has been discussed in a number of forums, generating interest and support. Officials in the Council of Europe have expressed interest in its potential to bring together, in the long term, the work currently being done on recommendations to ministers in the areas of historic sites and landscapes, (due to be published early in 1994), and nature conservation, which will follow.

The Convention features also in the draft "Action plan for protected areas in Europe" of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). This notes the close relationship between biodiversity and natural and cultural diversity of landscapes in Europe, and the threats posed by rapid and unsustainable changes in rural environments. The plan recommends that the Council of Europe fund a feasibility study for a convention. The draft plan will be presented to the IUCN General Assembly in Buenos Aires in January 1994, with the aim of final approval and publication in summer 1994.

The Convention was discussed and broadly welcomed by the Federation of Nature and National Parks of Europe (FNNE) at their General Assembly in Perth, Scotland, in September.

These reactions are encouraging, but the tempo must be stepped up if we are to succeed in the broad purpose of raising awareness of the status and importance of rural landscapes in Europe, and encouraging action throughout Europe to protect and manage these landscapes.

The Countryside Commission has therefore set a Working Group, consisting in the first place of representatives of the Commission, the Countryside Council of Wales, FNNE, your Society - LRG, Paysage et Aménagement and ECOWAST. Its immediate aim is:

* to develop the proposal in more detail
* to enlist the support of other national and European organisations
* in particular, to seek at least one Member State government which may be willing to become a champion for the idea within the Council of Europe
* to lay the groundwork for a full-blown feasibility study to be commissioned, we hope, by the Council of Europe following the discussion at Buenos Aires on the IUCN Action Plan, during which we hope to secure endorsement of the Convention proposal.

I am the LRG representative on this group and I shall welcome contact with members who wish to receive papers and contribute to the development of the Convention by correspondence.

David Coleman
49 Crediton Hill
London NW5 1HS

View across dissected limestone plateaux within Aquitaine

IALE (UK)’s CULTURAL LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE September 1993

This was a wide ranging short conference arranged by Paul Selman and others at the Gloucester and Cheltenham College of Further Education. It had an international element with two papers from Spanish contributors, one from an Italian and one jointly from a French ecological team. There was strong representation from UK Agencies, EN Countryside Commission, DOE, ITE, CONW and English Heritage (...EH!) apart from which perhaps the majority were of academic background. About sixty people attended.

The first paper by Antonio Gomez Sal of the Pyrenean Institute Zaragoza, examined the transhumance pattern of pasturing sheep in parts of the Pyrenees (Galicia and the Picos d’Europa) and considered the cultural farming and living patterns of the farmers who may own as many as four cabanas or houses to allow them to be with their flocks in different locations. It considered the needs of the society and the vegetation and social changes that were occurring. Of great interest were the droveways ninety metres in width by which sheep moved as flocks southward through the country. The paper discussed the different but comparable southern grazing areas in the Dehesa system (see LRE issue 11). This most interesting paper should be read in Spanish or in translation: its author apologised for his fractured English which was not easy for the audience.

The second paper presented by Miguel Novoy of the University of the Balears, Mallorca dealt with the changes in the Islands’ landscapes brought about by tourism development and by fire, drawing on photos
he had taken more than thirty years previously. He outlined a landscape hierarchy employed as a map legend: landscapes of dry crops and of irrigated crops with and without villages, trees and so on. He discussed some of these landscapes in detail showing slides of fig and almond orchards, ancient houses windmills and wells and what has replaced them. All this was set within a framework of the geology of the Islands, largely calcareous and communicated rather well the fullness and recent evolution of the cultural landscape.

The third paper from Chris Hunt, University of Huddersfield showed a drier limestone capped clay and nearly treeless landscape on the Maltese Island of Gozo and the patterns of stone and clay-built terraces, the water sources and retention walls that cut the land up. The minuteness of some of the parcels of land were a result of the system of partible inheritance in which land is inherited not by one only but by many children within the family. He examined the nature and layout of the walls and terraces supposed some to be the 'original' land subdivision some due to inheritance. He suggested that most terraced landscape in Gozo dated from from 18th–19th century British occupation but Arab and other much earlier influences were evident.

After lunch came the paper by Françoise Burel and Jacques Bartruc from Rennes. Their study of hedges and their significance in a part of the Breton landscape showed evidence of much detailed field work and was illustrated by coloured hand draw oblique views. A number of points were of particular interest: the prevalence of ash trees near to villages because of their fodder value; and the small size of fields next to the village to allow Sunday (rest day) care of livestock. Many points on why hedges, and where hedges and the foolishness of removing some hedges, one might read in books by AG Street – farmer journalist of the 1930-60’s, but are points well made. The evolving pattern of the hedge network and its tendencies under large and small farming systems as shown in four distributions would be of great interest to local authorities. So also the distinctness of different patterns containing the same density of hedges with different spatial distributions. All hedges crowded into a corner leaves wide areas open and therefore a more diverse biological landscape; an even distribution of hedges makes for a more uniform habitat. It is perhaps self evident but most important.

Bob Bruce longtime stalwart of ITE (the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology) then read a paper for Ingvar the Amused. She had studied, but more than that experimented, in the management of three forest pasture landscapes around Sorjadiord the largest fjord in West Norway. These had been cultural landscapes mentioned in Viking chronicles. Her work pointed the way via removal of nitrophilous debris, mowing, repollarding and reseeding and what looked like a lot of hard (traditional) work to the recapture of the traditional pattern of land use with productive biodiverse meadows and viable fuel cropping. One slide showed junipers being grown for... fence posts! The cultural setting of the ancient houses had been restored and they now read with the landscape.

The last paper by Alma Farina of the Museo della Lunigiana, Anlia in Italy was an intriguing set of survey data on landscape and habitat change over a fifty year period in wooded mountainous areas where pasture had declined and fires had been important. There were connections (and related advice) between fire risk and connectivity of the woodland, and the migratory bird life in particular required a balance of open and wooded landscape, as they do not alight in forest areas. GIS had been used. It was an attractively presented paper focussed on the Appenine area between the Gulf of Genoa and the Plains of the River Po.

The papers after lunch are more difficult to report, one on Northern Ireland (Andrew Scott and Alan Cooper), offered a fast landscape introduction to the Province and an outline of the official view on landscape based on the statistically tested sampling method that produces reliable data for policy makers.

The paper by David Crouch the audience found exhilarating. From a swift torrent of impassioned words I might extract a list of recorded phrases in which many people found meaning – but I would not like to say I had time to test the validity of his reasoning. He talked of the proper landscape; the validity of landscape as lived today; commercial, promoted and lived culture; the landscape of our daily lives; worthy or moral landscapes; icons from high culture; connecting landscapes with other parts of our character; such landscapes not being cruelly determined by social position; experiences that were different – neither better nor worse. Those who have read or watched David 'allotment' Crouch will recognise that he is a movement in himself and that what he says is all about 'the ordinary' in cultural landscape.

On the second day Bryn Green of Wye College outlined the work of an IUCN working group on landscapes. They now look at the whole landscape not simply the hotspot areas; systems that had been interfered with were more beautiful and diverse than purely natural areas and equate with cultural landscapes. There is some resistance to thinking of areas as landscapes – whether they can be clearly recognised and whether they are repeatable – but the same deficiencies apply to ecosystems, vegetation types and species. One should not assume that policy makers understand the idea of either ecosystems or landscapes. Showing a graph of environmental values against agricultural productivity with a swelling maximum in the mid range (a carefully managed rich cultural landscape) he pointed out that one might go for polarisation.
visited cultural geography before, cultural landscapes were not new. They were nevertheless the highest expression of humankind's activities on the earth. The present author would agree and add that they make the most fascinating study that any cultured geographer could imagine... or ecologist, or archeologist....

Bud Young

A Crouchian Landscape
photo by the Editor

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY IALE

This group has a national branch in the United Kingdom and information about them may be obtained from Dr Ian McClean, English Nature, Northminster House Peterborough PB1 1UA. At present they have rather more than fifty members in this country and strong international connections with other national branches. For example Peter Howard, editor of Landscape Research is giving a paper at their Warsaw Conference in October (see p19 of our last issue for details) and we carried a report of their 1992 Czechoslovakian conference (p4 Issue 11 of LRE). A number of papers from their last annual conference are listed under 'Biological' in Should You Read, and Bud Young met at least six LRG members at their Cheltenham Conference on Cultural Landscapes which will be briefly reported in LREextra.
SHOULD YOU READ?

Physical Landscape
The Geographical Journal 159/2 1993 Issue devoted to Earthsurface resources management in a warmer Britain (land use, coastal & river flooding etc)

Biological Landscape
* C Y Jim Trees and landscape of a suburban residential neighbourhood in Hong Kong Landscape & Urban Planning 23/2 1993 119-143
* Paul Selman Landscape ecology and countryside planning, vision theory and practice Journ of Rural Studies 9/1 1993 1-22
* L Clements The statutory protection of hedges Ecos 13/3 1992 34-39
* IALE (See note elsewhere in this issue) Conference Report on Landscape Ecology in Britain includes:
  Bob Bunce (ITE) Landscape Ecology: The scientific issues 1-7
  Richard Lloyd (Countryside Commission) Landscape assessment by integration 8-20
  Jon Marshall (AFRC) Species movement in agricultural landscapes 45-48
  Nigel Webb (ITE) Heathland fragmentation and potential for expansion 49-54
  George Peterken (JNCC) Woodland connectivity and design 55-65
  Roy Haines-Young (Univ of Nottingham) Landscape ecology and the countryside information system
* Roy Haines-Young, David Green & Steven Cousins Landscape ecology and geographical information systems ISBN 0 7484 0002 8 £39.00 296pp April 1993
* S Malik Colours of the countryside: a whiter shade of pale Ecos 13/4 1992 33-40

Policy and future
* P Fairbairn The future history of our landscape (about the Ordnance Survey, copyright and spatial data) The Cartographic Journal 30/1 1993 62-67
* Richard W Coles & Jane Taylor Wind power and planning: the environmental impact of windfarms in the UK Land Use Policy 10/3 1993 205-226
* H Millward Public access in the west European countryside: a comparative survey Journ of Rural Studies 9/1 1993 39-52
* I Brotheron The interpretation of planning refusals Journal of Environmental Planning and Management 36/2 1993 167-178
* I Brotheron The interpretation of planning appeals Journal of Environmental Planning and Management 36/2 1993 179-186

Toons and urban form
* Peter J Smith The cycle of growth maturity and abandonment in Edmonton’s central wholesale district 62-68 The Canadian Geographer 37/1 1993

* Darrick Danta Cosmassescu’s Bucharest The Geographical Review 83/2 1993 170-182
* A D Jansen Economic activity and the quality of public space in inner cities - Amsterdam for example Tijdschrift voor Econ en Soc Geogapfie 84/1 1993 13-26
* P W Cannady Islamic traditions and contemporary open-space design in Arab-Muslim settlements in the Middle East Landscape and Urban Planning 23/2 April 1993 97-106

Social Landscapes
* Editors: Wayne Franklin & Michael Steiner Mapping American Culture Univ Iowa Press 1992
* Douglas E Heath Highly localized vernacular regionalisation in the Allentown-Bethlehem area PA-NJ The Professional Geographer 45/3 1993 251-263
* Shelagh J Squire Valuing countryside: reflections on Beatrix Potter Tourism Area (IBA) 1993 25/1 5-10
* John Martin Robinson "Heritage" architecture: losing sight of the past in the present? Apollo CVII 373 March 1993 181-183
* M Phillips Rural gentrification and the processes of class colonisation Journal of Rural Studies 9/2 1993 123-140

Landscape regions
* Kevin Archer Regions as social organisms: The Lemurian characteristics of Vidal de la Blache’s Regional Geography Annals of the Assn of American Geographers 83/3 498-514

Experiential
* J R Short, L M Denton et al Reconstructing the image of an industrial city Annals of the Assn of Amer Geographers 83/2 1993 207-224
* J Winter, T Coombes & S Farthing Satisfaction with space around the house on large private sector
estates: lessons from surveys in southern England and South Wales, 1985-1989 Town Planning Review 64/1 1993 65-88
* A H Wanderman & W K Hallman Are people acting irrationally?: understanding public concerns about environmental threats American Psychologist 48/6 June 1993 681-686
* J Western Ambivalent attachments to place in London: twelve Barbadian families Environment & Planning D: Society and Space 11/2 April 1993 147-170
* L Marin Frontiers of Utopia: past and present Critical Inquiry 19/3 Spring 1993 397-420

Techniques
* Jeremy A Evans Simulation of realistic landscapes: mapping Awareness & GIS in Europe 7/3 1993 36-40
* Daniel Z Sui Mental maps and fuzziness in space preferences The Professional Geographer 45/3 1993 264-276
* Aitken, Stutz, Prosser & Chandler Neighbourhood integrity and residents' familiarity: using a GIS to investigate place identity Tijdschrift voor Econ en Soc Geographie 84/1 1993 2-12
* T O'Riordan, C Wood & Ann Shadrake Landscapes for tomorrow (A public perception project on the Yorkshire Dales) Journ Environmental Planning & Management 36/2 123-148

Art, literature, history
* Anthony Pagden European Encounters with the New World: from Renaissance to Romanticism Yale UP 1993 £18.95 hb
* Perspektief No 43, the photographic journal, is devoted to landscape issues including Lewis Baltz Rules without exception 4-17 and Ari Holtzmann & W Doherty Political landscapes 18-32
* G E Cherry, H Jordan & K Kafkoula Gardens, civic art and town planning: the work of Thomas H Maseon (1861-1933) Planning Perspectives 8/3 July 1993 307-332

Philosophy and Theory
* Denis Cosgrove On the "Reinvention of Cultural Geography" Price & Lewis 515-517 Annals of the Assm of American Geographers 83/3 1993 and the original paper by Price and Lewis
* K H Halfacree Locality and social representation: space, discourse and alternative definitions of the rural Journal of Rural Studies 9/1 1993 23-37
* R S Phillips The Language of images in geography Progress in Human Geography 17/2 1993 180-194

These Issues
* Journal of Environmental Psychology 13/1 March 1993 concerns Crime and the environment
* Journal of Leisure Research 25/1 1993 concerns The wildland urban interface.
* Journal of Environmental Planning and Management 36/1 1993 concerns Costing the countryside edited by A C Flynn.
* Urban Studies 30/6 June 1993 concerns European Cities: growth and decline.
* Built Environment 18/3 1992 is devoted to Metropolitan Australia in the 1990s.
* Built Environment 18/4 1992 is devoted to The compact city.
* Ecos 13/3 1992 is devoted to farm policy in the European Community, setaside etc.
* Landscape and Urban Planning 22/2-4 November 1992 is devoted to European urbanisation.

THE PICTURESQUE

BEING THE JOURNAL OF THE PICTURESQUE SOCIETY

THE PICTURESQUE SOCIETY

The Picturesque Society is nearing the end of its first year's work. Prompted, in part, by the approaching two hundredth anniversary of the publication of "The Landscape" by Richard Payne Knight, a meeting of interested people was held at Croft Castle in the county of Herefordshire in April 1992 to discuss the formation of a society to study, and encourage interest in, the Picturesque Movement of the 18th and early 19th centuries. After work by a Steering Committee the Picturesque Society was formally inaugurated, at a further meeting at Croft Castle in September 1992. From fourteen founder members the Society has grown.
steadily throughout the year and now has over fifty members, about half of whom live in the county of Hereford with the remainder distributed throughout most parts of England and Wales. An encouraging recent development has been the addition of the first overseas member, from the State of New York, U.S.A.

The objectives of the Society include the encouragement of research into the history and achievements of the Picturesque Movement in architecture, landscape gardening, literature and art, with emphasis on the widest possible multidisciplinary approach to those achievements. We also wish to promote the preservation and restoration of noteworthy examples of Picturesque architecture and landscape gardening. As part of these objectives the Society aims to organise lectures and visits to subjects of Picturesque interest and central to its function, to produce a high quality quarterly journal; the fourth issue of this has just been published. [Contents are listed elsewhere in this issue].

With the historical importance of Herefordshire in the Picturesque Movement, and particularly with the work of Richard Payne Knight, Uvedale Price, and the Rev. William Gilpin in mind, the activities of the Society are based primarily in that county, but to encourage active participation by members in other parts of the UK it is intended that a two day Annual General Meeting event in June shall circulate to other venues throughout the country. Looking to the future, as membership increases, the Society will endeavour to encourage the formation of affiliated local groups in other parts of the UK and, in time, even overseas.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the Picturesque Movement, in any of its aspects, and further information can be obtained from the Membership Secretary, W S Phillips, at Broad Green House, Brampton Road, Malley, Hereford HR2 9LX. Telephone 0981 251799

ANTHOLOGY

A few miles south of Soledad, the Salinas River drops in close to the hill-side bank and runs deep and green. The water is warm too, for it has slipped twinkling over the yellow sands in the sunlight before reaching the narrow pool. On one side of the river the golden foothill slopes curve up to the strong and rocky Cabilian mountains, but on the valley side the water is lined with trees—willows fresh and green with every spring, carrying in their lower leaf junctures the debris of the winter’s flooding; and sycamores with mottled, white, recumbent limbs and branches that arch over the pool. On the sandy bank under the trees the leaves lie deep and so crisp that a lizard makes a great skittering if he runs among them.

The trail was ill-defined and wound between thick clumps of tangled thorn-trees and stunted bushes. In a few seconds after leaving the salt-pond the soil underfoot changed from shifting sand to a hard floor of smooth grey rock. Scattered shelter-skelter over its surface were dozens of slabs of loose flat stone. These varied in thickness and in size from small dinner-plates to irregular sheets seven or eight feet in circumference. The rock floor seemed hollow and boomed cavernously even under the soft tread of my canvas shoes... Whenever I stepped on one of the loose slabs it rang with the resonance of a bell, the tone varying through several octaves depending on the width and thickness of the plates. The sound was clear and metallic; the effect was startling.

For hundreds of miles the sterility and barrenness of the huge mountains of yellow sand and surf beaten rock chilled the eye by its very bleakness and its monotonous increased the cheerless and inhospitable chill of Chinese nature, as seen along the shore. Occasionally a fishing village, black as the hills about it, a fortification more like a sand ridge than a defense; a pagoda tower high in the air, representing the ancient faith of Buddhist romantic because so old, and interesting as it is romantic, and strange as it is interesting; a convoy of trading junks at anchor in a rock bound bay—perhaps a mountain more fertile than its neighbours, as we neared Shangai, cultivated to its very summit—perhaps some of these changes would timidly show themselves to relieve an excursion otherwise tame for lack of incident and cold with continual sameness.

Next evening, just before stand-to, I was watching a smouldering sunset and thinking that the sky was one of the redeeming features of the war. Behind the support line where I stood, the shell-pitted ground sloped sombrely into the dusk; the distances were blue and solemn, with a few trees grouped on a ridge, dark against the deep-glowing embers of another day endured. I was looking westward, away from the war, and the evening star twinkled serenely. Guns were grumbling miles away. Carthwheels could be heard on the roads behind Emericourt; it still made me feel strange when I remembered that they were German cart-wheels.

The departure of the sun has never seriously impressed me; in fact the Arctic landscape then does not show half the savage sombreness that it does when seen through the dead grey noon twilights of two or three weeks later, especially if viewed from the icecap. Neither has the return of the sun seemed joyous, but quite the contrary. Of the two events the latter to me is the saddest. At the departure of the sun one does not realise its meaning. We look upon the landscape as upon the face of a dear one just dead. It is yet warm and soft, perhaps there is still a slight flush, we
cannot believe the light is gone for ever; while the steely rays of the returning sun light the ghastly pallor of a white and frozen landscape, a corpse stiff with rigor mortis, revealing every drawn feature, every harsh line that life and warmth has masked.

The Terek, which separates the Cossacks from the hill-tribes, flows still turbid and swift but broad now, and smooth, continually depositing grey silt on its low reedy right bank, and washing away the steep, though not high, left bank with its tangled roots of century-old oaks, rotting plane-trees and young underbrush. On the right bank lie the villages of the pro-Russian but still somewhat restless Tartars; along the left, half a mile back from the river and five or six miles apart from one another, lie the Cossack villages. In former times the majority of these villages were on the edge of the river; but the Terek, year after year shifting northwards from the mountains, washed away its banks and now all that remains are the ruins of old settlements and the gardens of pear and plum trees and poplars, thickly overgrown with blackberry bushes and wild vines. The place is no longer inhabited and the only signs of life are the tracks made on the sand by deer, wolves, hares and pheasants, who have learned to love the spot. A road runs from village to village, cut in a bee-line through the forest. Along the road are cordons of Cossacks, and watch-towers with sentinels on guard.

LETTERS

Dear Editor,
Alas for your slim post-bag! LR Extra No 12 illustrates MP6 on p16 with a sketch of Easter Island moai facing the wrong way. These statues (now under threat of 'restoration' for a Japanese-financed film) were erected to gaze inland, with their backs to the sea, of which the islanders had more than enough, day-in, year-out. The moai are not tourists, but guardians; in Appletonian terms, their concern is with refuge rather than prospect.
Yours sincerely
David Lowenthal

POSTMODERN CITIES: A CONFERENCE IN SYDNEY APRIL 1993

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Sydney, hosted a conference entitled Postmodern Cities on 14–16 April 1993. There were a number of international speakers including Edward Soja, Peter Marcuse and Di Austen-Brooks. The themes covered issues such as segregation and surveillance in postmodern cities, cities of imagination, cities of image, cities of representation, gendered/sexed spaces, racialised cities and city cultures.

The field of investigation is diverse and provocative and concurrent papers were streamed into three major themes: postmodern cities; planning, urban change and modernity; and representation and spaces. Included in the themes were a number of papers based on work being done in Sydney, which is addressing its multicultural composition.

The published proceedings may well have the same significance for the understanding of contemporary cities as the EFLA Proceedings Man and Landscape in Australia had for the maturity of landscape profession in Australia in 1974.

Helen Armstrong
Senior Lecturer, School of Landscape Architecture,
University of New South Wales

LANDSCAPE CHANGE RESEARCH IN LONDON'S GREEN BELT

There is increasing concern amongst the general public, pressure groups and public bodies such as the Countryside Commission about the gradual erosion of the quality of the landscape of the London Green Belt. The causes of this concern are investigated in a study undertaken by Land Use Consultants (LUC) for the London Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC); it is entitled Landscape Change in London's Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land - A Study of Strategic Policy (LPAC, 1993).

The study assessed the quantities and quality of change in landscape character within that part of the Green Belt within Greater London. From this LUC defined policy options for Strategic Advice and Guidance for London. The study focused on eight Green Belt sample areas - just over 2,600 hectares - being about 8% of the total area of Green Belt in Greater London. Two Metropolitan Open Land areas were also studied.
Using airphotos dated 1949, 1962, 1981 and 1992 (or thereabouts) in stereoscopic pairs, changes in landcover types (eg farmland, woodland) and landscape features (eg trees, hedgerows) in the sample areas were recorded, quantified and plotted and compared within a GIS with assistance from Hunting Technical Services. More than ten thousand individual changes were noted in the sample areas.

In summary, the study found that whilst the sample areas have remained relatively unaffected by development and land use change according to the legal definition and stated purposes of the Green Belt, their landscape character has changed significantly and their landscape quality has often deteriorated. For example, since 1949, landscapes with a predominantly urban character increased by a half; parkland landscapes decreased by one fifth; and degraded floodplain landscapes dwindled to one third of their 1946 extent. These changes and the overall picture of landscape character in the sampled area are shown in the text figure.

So as to encourage a positive approach to the planning and management of the Green Belt, we recommended that conservation and enhancement of the Green Belt landscape should be pursued as a policy objective - historically it does not form part of Green Belt policy. We also suggested that landscape assessment would help in implementing these new policy objectives, and that information from such an assessment should provide the basis for borough-wide landscape strategies - London is administered in 34 borough local authorities - which should distinguish between landscapes to be conserved, landscapes to be restored, and landscapes to be renewed, from which it follows that development plan policies should be framed accordingly.

Appropriate mechanisms for achieving landscape conservation are set out in various proposals to amend the 'Advice' LPAC offers the Department of the Environment for the guidance of borough authorities. The most tangible and perhaps radical of these is based on the clear evidence of the sample areas that the maintenance of landscape character and quality is more likely to be achieved where land is in public ownership. Revised Advice should therefore promote the retention and where possible the expansion of public land ownership in the Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land.

Also as 'permitted development' (ie that not requiring planning permission) is a main cause of land use change in the sample areas, revised Advice should promote more extensive use of Article 4 Directions whereby 'permitted development' may be withdrawn, particularly where agricultural and temporary uses disfigure the landscape.

Copies of the report are available from LPAC for £46.00 inc postage and packing and reductions are available for certain organisations.

Philip H Smith Environmental Planner
Land Use Consultants, London
AUSTRALIAN FORESTS AND WILD PLACES

The majestic forests and stunning wild areas of Australia are continually the subject of highly emotional, community and political issues. At the local level the values of conservationists are at odds with people such as the mountain cattlemen and timber workers who live in and work in the forests and woodlands. The tourist industry wants to safeguard the spots that tourists wish to visit while also supporting infrastructure developments of access and accommodation. Scientists are focused on safeguarding biodiversity, while the timber woodchip industry is demanding security of the industry resource. Caught within this melee are those from diverse disciplines who study the forests and wilderness areas and this article covers some of the studies in recent times which relate to these places.

A society of forest history was established in Australia in 1988 when the first conference of forest history was held. The Second National Conference on Australian Forest History was held at Creswick, Victoria in December 1992. The subject of these conferences is both the history of forestry and the vast history of human interaction with Australian forests which extends back in time for at least 40,000 years. Papers at the recent conference covered a range of topics which included examining tree rings to elucidate fire history, surveys of Aboriginal sites, tall trees and tall stories, an early timber processing plant, and lessons on how to use government archival records. The conference proceedings are being published and will be available later this year (1).

Electronic data base systems for management of forests are applied in most of the forest management organisations. Another system which overlaps with forest management is The National Wilderness Inventory. This inventory has been systematically plotting Australia's wilderness areas since 1986 using four indicators for measuring wilderness, and these are: remoteness from settlement; remoteness from established access; aesthetic naturalness which is the absence of permanent structures of modern society; and biophysical naturalness which is the absence of biophysical disturbance. The inventory is to be completed by 1993 and is expected to assist in the development of national reserve systems. It is already being used in forest management plans and to assist in the understanding of potential effects on wilderness values from development proposals (2).

Although one of the indicators for wilderness is remoteness from settlement, it is 'fairly true' to say that there are no places in Australia which have not had human history. The human history and the ongoing association of the wild places with families and communities, be they Aboriginal groups or families of mountain cattle men, has at times been divorced from management for natural values. The scientific/technical definition for wilderness and the conservation management prescriptions of national reserve systems is not necessarily accepted by individuals or groups of people who live close to these areas. The bonding between folk who live and work in the forest landscape is particularly strong, but it depends on their way of life within the landscape. Some recent works which investigate this bonding between people and Landscape (wilderness and non-wilderness areas) have been undertaken by the anthropologist Deborah Bird Rose (3), and historians Peter Read (4) and Sue Hodges (5).

Notes:
1. The proceeding will be published by the Centre for Environmental and Resource Studies (CRES), Australian National University, Canberra.
2. Further information on the Wilderness Inventory can be obtained from Mike Maslen at The Australian Heritage Commission, GPO 1560, Canberra ACT 2603.

Juliet Ramsay
Australian Heritage Commission, Canberra

AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPE STUDIES

The many kinds of research undertaken in Europe into the relations between society and landscape, like those reviewed by Denis Coagrove (Landscape Research...
have not generally achieved parallel
development in Australia. Such an absence of
theorising has not gone unnoticed. For example, last
year, the trainee candidates for landscape
architecture in their student conference "the
Cultures of Landscape Architecture: Edge Too"
(Melbourne, 30 Sept - 3 Oct), claimed their
discipline lacked critical discourse, and its
educational apparatus emphasised technical skills at
the cost of 'thoughtful enquiry'. Even allowing for
the possibility of excessive youthful idealism, I
think the student sentiment has a basis, not only in
landscape architecture, but also in other realms of
academia whose purview includes landscape.

This may seem strange in a country noted for artists
who have brought its landscapes to world attention.
Surely Australia is nothing but landscape, lived and
breathed by its scattered human occupants, and its
understanding ought be equally direct. On the
contrary, Australian history and geography, for
instance, have a long way to go to provide
satisfactory accounts of the changing human imprint
on the Australian environment (and vice versa) since
the first settlement fleet arrived from England in
1788. Australians seemed condemned to remain fixed
in extraordinarily wide generalisations about how
the European perceptual apparatus could not cope
with Antipodean landscapes. It was also considered
inevitable that the environment was seen as 'beaten
into submission', then changed to a pale image of
the northern hemisphere. Such views may indeed prove
tenable in the long run, but they cannot account for
the complexities in human responses and experience.

Things are changing. The artistic community was
always well ahead of the academics, of course, and
George Seddon in Western Australia noted recently
that the landscape there continues to be 'a major
literary and visual preoccupation of writers,
photographers and painters'. The academicians beyond
a few trailblazers have started to catch on. A special
December 1991 issue of Westerley, a quarterly
literary review (based in the Centre for Studies in
Australian Literature University of Western
Australia's English Department), was entitled
'Eyine the Environment', and is indicative of
trends towards a broader interest in landscape and
culture. There is little doubt that such trends have
been helped along by the notion of "cultural
studies".

Studies in environmental history are starting to
emerge more frequently. Tom Griffith's Secrets of
the Forest: Discovering History in Melbourne's Ash
Rang is a recent example. Some historians may have
been stung into action by the environmental
movement's emphasis on nature conservation and
wilderness concepts, realising that the styles of
land-based conservation studies since the late 1960s
had been seen principally from ecological
viewpoints, and that human heritage values in
landscapes took a poor second place at best. Wider

popular recognition that the non-Aboriginal
community were historical beings with stories to
tell, despite their short presence on the continent,
probably also helped. An expansion of heritage ideas
to the landscape - the "cultural landscape" concept
- played a role.

Whatever the causes, one might be optimistic that a
more mature, critical approach to the study of
landscape is emerging in Australia. These
developments are being matched, perhaps outstripped,
by a growth of landscape concern and action in the
community: hundreds of groups all over the country
are taking responsibility for aspects of their
local landscapes. That is another story, but both
trends are promising and highly interesting.

Jim Russell Centre for Environmental Studies
University of Tasmania

SET ASIDE - DOES IT SHOW?

Editor's note: The landscape effects of EC policy
to reduce production surpluses intermeshes and
becomes confused with other measures taken in the
United Kingdom to improve or repair the rural
landscape. Are the various measures having a
beneficial - even a visible effect? Is this good
for wildlife, for landscape or not? Seen in
airphotos West Sussex with which I am currently
involved is peppered with blotchy overgrown fields,
strange strips of fallow and newly planted
woodlands which look 'different'. How do they relate to EC policies, landscape grants or storm repair provision? I have sought permission from the Countryside Commission to bring this factual account published in their Newsletter, issue 62 in the hope that it may cast light into an obscure scene. It reads as follows....

There has been a lot of talk about the new "compulsory" set-aside facing farmers. Most arable, and many mixed, farmers had to take 15 per cent of their arable area out of production this year to qualify for support payments from the European Community. That's a lot of land - perhaps 600,000 hectares. And the picture is likely to be much the same for the next few years.

What does this mean for the countryside? A lot depends on the types of set-aside management allowed by the European Community. Although the 1992/93 scheme has been for rotational set-aside only, negotiations are underway about the possibilities for non-rotational set-aside, which might mean that land could be managed for more lasting environmental benefit.

The Ministry of Agriculture published its proposals for a range of set-aside options in the spring, and expressed its firm wish to see environmentally-beneficial management options for set-aside, including the creation of woodlands on non-rotational set-aside land. But there are many uncertainties about what can be agreed in Brussels.

The EC's sole aim in introducing set-aside is to cut the production of arable crops that are currently in surplus. It seems to be a quick and relatively easy way of achieving reductions. Effects on the countryside are not a prime concern.

The European Commission favours rotational set-aside; the set-aside area moving annually around the farm until every part of the arable land has come out of production at some stage. The idea is to prevent farmers from putting only their less productive land into set-aside under a non-rotational scheme.

In either case, there is almost bound to be "slippage": if you set aside 15 per cent of the land surface, it is unlikely that the volume of production will fall by as much. Minimising this "slippage" is the name of the game. So the EC has decided that farmers who go for the non-rotational option will be required to set aside more land - 18 per cent in the UK, 20 per cent elsewhere - to take account of the fact that their higher yielding land may never come out of production.

This decision could be crucial to the attractiveness of non-rotational set-aside, compared with rotational. The Countryside Commission was keen that the differential should be minimised, because the opportunities for environmental benefits appear to be greater under the non-rotational options. But it remains to be seen how UK farmers will react to a differential figure of three per cent.

The Countryside Commission believes that farmers who put arable land into the Farm Woodlands Premium Scheme should be able to count this towards their set-aside obligation.

"At present, farmers are reluctant to consider creating new woodland when their cropping area is already reduced by set-aside", says Susan Bell, Director of the National Forest Development Team. "People who were seriously considering woodland planting have changed their minds because of the new arable scheme. If we can persuade the EC to accept woodland planting on set-aside land, it should give a huge boost to the National Forest and Community Forests."

The Countryside Commission is also keen that any scheme that takes land out of arable production for environmental purposes - such as Countryside Stewardship - should count towards the set-aside requirement. This is not allowed under the present rules. "The EC's set-aside policy is approaching things from the wrong end", argues Bob Roberts, head of the Commission's Land Use branch. "No matter what management conditions you put on farmers, the short-term, production-orientated approach militates against targeting the most appropriate land and managing it positively for the environment. It is better to start off with inventive schemes with clear environmental objectives - by that route you can gain conservation and public benefits and, at the same time, reduce production in the way that the EC requires.

"Although we welcome MAFF's efforts to build a range of environmental management options into the basic set-aside rules - and their proposal to offer payments for access to suitable set-aside land - we have strong reservations about how much these proposals will be able to achieve within the constraints of EC rules. We are urging the Government to negotiate hard for some radical changes to the EC approach to production control by designing schemes for environmentally beneficial, rather than simply non-productive uses,"
OTHER JOURNALS

LANDSCAPE DESIGN 219 April 1993
Special issue on waste management
Andrew Leithogee Filled up? 9-14
Elizabeth Simmons Means to restore 15-17
Louise Hooper Tale of a tip 19-21
Hal Moggridge A frank artefact 22-23
Andrew Moffatt Sylvan sludge 25-27
Tony Kornon Spreading the load 29-30
Ron Hebbelthwaite & Peter Emison Rising from the ashes 31-34
Glyn Symonds Re-used Landscapes 37-40
David Hares Acting for aquifers 41-42

LANDSCAPE DESIGN 220 May 1993
Chris Matthews A living laboratory 9-11
Preben Jakobsen Garden pleasure principles 12-16
Rodney Hilliwell The patterns of nature 18-20
Peter Aspinall & John Stuart-Murray Two drunk men look at a thistle 22-25
Tom Turner Postmodern landscapes 26-29
Ann Davies & Rob Shakespeare Mixing with metaphors 30-34
Nick Robinson Planting: new dimensions 35-39
Jaquline Fisher & Hilary Ludlow Applied scientists 40-42

LANDSCAPE DESIGN 221 June 1993
Bill Lucas Unlocking the school landscape 11-17
Lynn Kinmear An ideas explosion 18-20
Julie Martin Assessing the landscape 21-25
Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe An historic experience 26-28
Martin Andrews Ancient and modern 29-31
Andy Honeywood Working with the past 29-31
Peter Neal Silicon Landscapes 36-40
Martin Andrews Changing the times 41-44

LANDSCAPE DESIGN 222 July/August 1993
Annabel Downs A rural retreat 9-11
James Hitchmough The urban bush 13-17
Richard Stiles A common approach 18-22
Tony Edwards Counting the cost of quality 23-26
Madeline Sebsfri Setting standards 27-28
Janie Thomas Safety first 29-31
John Finn Peace of mind 32-34
Tony Edwards Reducing risk 36-39
John Paton Grounds guidance 41-42

LANDSCAPE DESIGN 223 September 1993
Elise Percifull, Steve Thomas & Tony Kendle Multi-cultural parks 9-12
Richard Webb Reenescence in practice 14-18
Ian Spellerberg & Martin Gaywood Linear landscape features 19-21
Nick Morgan & Anita Gibson On a brighter track 23-26
Technical section: timber includes Taking stock, Table of timber properties, A timber album, Timber ethics, Wood from trees, Timber contacts 27-51

GARTEN & LANDSCHAFT 4/1993
Special issue on Nightscape
Dieter Blase ...And there was light 13-16
Jorg Essefeld A functional illuminated sign 17-19
Shodo Suzuki The poetry of light 20-23
Monika Gora Den smala vagan (The narrow way) 24-25
Stefan Schmidt Urban wound or work of art? 26-27
Jutta Kehrer & Petra Mayer Light in the tunnel 28-32
Tunnelplatz Graz 33-35
Robert Schafer Laminaar water sculptures 36-37
Thorbjorn Andersson Espituna car park 38-39
Antero Makkelin Lighting the city of Tampere 40-43
Lyon's lighting plan 44-46

GARTEN & LANDSCHAFT 5/1993
Falk Trillitzsch Nature as a model 13-17
Wilhelm Rippl & Klaus-Dieter Wolter Ralid floating 18-21
Matthias Thonse Geiseltal Excavation 22-24
Elke Lowe Lauisitz Experience 25-39
Reinhard Mocisel Nature conservation at tips 32-36
Joachim Katzur Research into afterfures 37-40
Marina Friedt Competition for brown coal 41-44

GARTEN & LANDSCHAFT 6/1993
Tumult or progress? Special issue on the current landscape debate in Germany

GARTEN & LANDSCHAFT 6/1993
Special issue on Stuttgart's 'Green U' and the 1993 International Garden Show

GARTEN & LANDSCHAFT 8/1993
Thomas Grosser & Anja Keller From vision to reality 13-17
Peter Petschek Digital communication 18-22
Ingrid Bornes & Gerhard Schafer Mannheim casino project 23-27
Detlef Bakemecker & Achim Mirosviljevitsch-Lucyga Simulation of impacts 28-32

LANDSCAPE AUSTRALIA 15/1 February 1993
Lisle Rudolph Vegetation and bushfires-part 1 17-23
Noel Ratting A register of significant trees 26-32
Paul Bradley Urban Park changes direction - Royal Park's new indigenous character 33-39
Paula Bradley New advanced tree container system 40-41
Peter McNaught Couch grasses - fairy tales and facts 42-43
Paula Bradley Asian Courtyard Garden - Melbourne garden with a tropical feeling 45-49
Missy Martin 'Edge Too' 1992 Student Conference 55-56
George Seddon The Brion-Vega factory, Italy 57-60
Haidong Shung Creating accurate computer simulations for landscape architecture proposals 61-66
Paving technique - how to improve flexible clay and concrete segmental pavements - part 2 70-73
LANDSCAPE AUSTRALIA 15/2 May 1993
Lisle Rudolph Vegetation and bushfires, Part II - A system for the assessment of the behaviour of vegetation around buildings in the event of fire 113-115
Phil Rennie Environmental area and Landscape Lighting 118-122
Vlad Sitta Landscape of grit 123-124
Memorial park landscape masterplan design ideas competition 125-131
Robert Woodward Seen in Australia - A fountain of steel, water and light 135-137
Innovative UK designer - A Landscape Australia (LA) report about the work of Julian Trever-Evens 139-141
Paula Bradley LA revisits Plantmark's Operations 144-146
Glen Wilson Basic landscape plants - some are, some are not 149-152
George Seddon Pages from a notebook - three resort landscapes in Bali 153-156
James Hitchmough Relationship between the disciplines - design and management of the urban Landscape 157-160
A LA Report The damming of the Danube 172-173
Ralph Neale Dutch Elm disease seminar 174-175

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE 83/5 May 1993
James Wines Drawing: a gentle anachronism? (Will hand drawing succumb to CAD technology?) 44-47
J William Thompson LA Forum (A sketching charrette is held in San Francisco) 48-56
J William Thompson Portfolios (Seven innovators variously portray the landscape) 57-63
James Corner Projection and disclosure in drawing (Encouraging creativity through thinking and seeing) 64-66
Dean Cardasis Prospect (Is drawing overemphasized in landscape architecture?) 128
Richard Hansen The poetics of joining (Michael Vergason evolves design details by sketching) 76

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE 83/6 June 1993
James Krohe Jr Are landscape architects ready? (An infrastructure revolution looms ahead) 50-59
J William Thompson Barbardero: free from the freeway (San Francisco uncovers the waterfront) 60-61
Eve N Kahn Denver: the wild walking West (A City Beautiful heritage reclaimed) 62-65
Ripley Golovin Providence: unwrapping the rivers (Where roadways roared, now walkways) 66-67
David Dillon Dallas’s DART: A Ramble for the southeast? (A transit mall aims to revive downtown) 69-70
Michael Leccese LA Forum (Is access attainable?) 71-75
Charles A Birnbaum & Sharon C Park Prospect (How historic landscapes keep integrity) 144
Menelaos & Eric Triantafilou Historic Landscape reconstruction (Utilizing computer simulations) 82
Craig Campbell Custom precast paving (Made-to-order pavers foster innovation) 84
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE 83/7 July 1993

Vilma Barr Marketing a diffuse profession - Carving out a niche in the marketplace 40-41
J William Thompson LA Forum - Jurors laud wit, concept, texture 42-44
1993 Excellence in communications and marketing winners 45-63
Eve M Kahn Jungle world: standard time Evaluating a pioneer of the form 66-68
Leonard Sharp Amazonia Grace - The Smithsonian's new tour de force 69-71
Ripley Colovin Marketing Landscape architecture - some top firm's successful strategies 116-118
Polly El Aidi Innovations in wetland trail construction - recycled materials work well in wetlands 120-122
Mark Johnson Prospect - a practitioner ponders lessons learned 128

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE 83/8 August 1993

Eve M Kahn The jury's still out - A muse that induces heartbreak - and inspiration 44-49
Lee Fleming Waiting for Columbus How five heavyweights vied for a Baltimore site 50-52
David Dillon Heart of the park: Kessler Radux Houston's central space gets fine-tuned 53-55
Lee Fleming National Garden: Design by Committee? Melting an array of proposals 56-57
Michael Lecese LA Forum Advice from seasoned competitors 58-63
Kim Sorvig New light on the Landscape Tube lights, fiber optics and Lasers 106-109
Reed Billingham Prospect - lessons from the Peace Garden 112

PLACES 8/3 Spring 1993

Special issue on Plaza, Parque, Calle.
Douglas R Suisman Plaza Mexicana 4-19
Ouist C Roseman & J Diego Vigil From Broadway to Latinoway 20-29
David R Diaz La Vida Libra: Cultura de la Calle en Los Angeles Este 30-37
Terezia Nemeth Downtown on Parade 38-41
James T Rojas The enchanted environment of East Los Angeles 42-53
Laurence A Herzog Between cultures: public space in Tijuana 54-61
James T Curtis Havana's Parque Coppelia: public space traditions in socialist Cuba 62-67
Monica Fonce de Leon Calle Ocho 68-79
Daniel D Arreola Plazas of San Diego, Texas: signatures of Mexican American place identity 80-87
The personality of plazas 88-90
Plaza, Parque, Colonia 91-93

LANDSCAPE JOURNAL 12/1 Spring 1993

Marc Treib Modes of formality: The distilled complexity of Japanese design 2-16
Robert Sommer, Joshua Summit & Amy Clements Slide ratings of street tree attributes: some methodological issues and answers 17-22

Cynthia Girling The pedestrian pocket: reorienting Radburn 40-50
Allen Carlson On the theoretical vacuum in landscape assessment 51-56

ARBORICULTURAL JOURNAL 17/1 February 1993

George Profous & Rowan Rowntree The structure and management of the urban forest of Prague, Czechoslovakia. I. Growing space in metropolitan Prague 1-31
Jeremy Barrell Pre-planning tree surveys: safe useful life expectancy (SULE) is the natural progression 33-46
D F Cutler Interactions between tree roots and construction work 47-55
Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dr Graham Leonard KCVO Address given at the 26th annual conference of the Arboricultural Association 57-59
Karel Bonsen & Martin Walter Westwood and its implications 61-67
Enr Cohn & JR Fackham The introduction and manipulation of woodland field layers: seeds, plants, timing and economics 69-83
C Ward Thompson, P Aspinall, N Rudd & C Mitchell A survey of current and potential use of tree spades 85-97

ARBORICULTURAL JOURNAL 17/2 May 1993

Professor F T Last The Tree Advice Trust 113-116
George Profous & Rowan Rowntree The structure and management of the urban forest of Prague, Czechoslovakia. II. History of Prague greenspace management 117-130
Byeongjin Cha & Terry Tattar Effects of antibiotic injection on ash yellows-infected White Ash (Fraxinus americana L) 131-143
AY Aziz, HA Foster & DP Fairhurst Two articles on (paraphrase)'biological control of Dutch elm disease' 145-170
Alan Rayner New avenues for understanding processes of tree decay 171-189
RS Longerich Ropes and their use 191-199
C Mattheck, K Benthge & D Erb Failure criteria for trees 201-209
KG Wills & D Carrod The contribution of trees and woodlands to the value of property 211-219
Michael Leslie An English landscape garden before 'The English landscape garden'? 3-15
Thomas Mowl New science, old order: the gardens of the Great Rebellion 16-35
Edward S Harwood Personal identity and eighteenth century English landscape garden 36-48
Tom Williamson The landscape park: economics, art and ideology 49-55
Michael Charlesworth Sacred Landscape: signs of religion in the eighteenth-century garden 56-68
Christopher Ridgway William Andrews Nesfield: between Uvedale Price and Isambard Kingdom Brunel 69-89
Robert Williams Edwardian gardens, old and new 90-103
Stephen Bann A Luton Arcadia: Ian Hamilton Finlay’s contribution to the English neo-classical tradition 104-111

We acknowledge with thanks Landscape Architecture as the source for the landscape of fear illustration in 'Other Journals'.

THOMAS WRIGHT OF DURHAM

An interesting exhibition was held this summer (until 30 September) in the University of Durham Library on Palace Green of the life and work of Thomas Wright of Durham. Wright, who lived from 1711 to 1786, was a notable astronomer, who wrote An original theory or new hypothesis of the Universe(1750), a work which influenced many philosophers, including Immanuel Kant and Alexander von Humbold. He was also (among many other things) a garden designer and architect, whose work followed the principles of Pope and William Kent in its preference for variety and interest over the open sweeps of Capability Brown. He also liked to design features with mathematical ideas in mind, including a kitchen garden showing the planetary system with sun at the centre; and he liked flower beds and shrubs near the house. He built rustic garden buildings to diversify the landscape, and published books of designs for Arbourys and Grottos.

It is hoped to raise enough money to open a permanent exhibition centre at Wright's village, Byers Green, in County Durham, and to lay out a garden which would contain sculptural references to Wright’s designs. Anyone interested in contributing to this memorial should write in the first instance to the Thomas Wright Memorial Committee, The Rectory, Byers Green Spennymoor, County Durham DL16 7NM.

The exhibition is connected with other events in Durham. The University hopes to set up an interdisciplinary Centre for Landscape Studies: details may be obtained from professor N J Tooley, Department of Geography, University of Durham.

Professor Dick Watson
School of English, University of Durham
THE LANDSCAPE OF RESURRECTION

Prior to a meeting of the Northern Committee on 25 May, LRG members and friends were invited to Durham Cathedral to hear Alan Turnbull talking about his recent major work, "The Landscape of Resurrection", which was then on display in the Galilee Chapel.

Turnbull has a deep and thorough knowledge of the natural world in all its variations throughout the year. He has spent years closely observing the landforms and features in Wensleydale (Yorkshire, England) where he lives, often spending long days out in all weathers, studying and drawing directly from the landscape. Thus the images he used for the work are taken from his wealth of visual knowledge; all the images had been drawn previously, some many times over. Trees and bushes are painted like portraits, with several studies of a particular tree carried out during the seasons to get to know it.

This intense observation and love of the landscape and natural forms is obvious in the group of oil paintings that go to make up "The Landscape of Resurrection". The three triangular images at the top of the 'altarpiece' reveal glimpses of natural rock forms and sweeping skies. The three central images show a wuthering hawthorn struggling to survive against the elements, dying trees on a small hill, and an ash tree pushing forth its leaves despite its rocky surroundings. The long panel at the bottom shows Breughel-like views of Wensleydale in the winter, with a diamond-shaped inset of a bush outlined against a dusky sky. All are painted with great care and insight, with the emphasis on calmness, clarity and light.

The more one looks at the series of images, the more detail emerges - a swallow, symbol of the return of summer, flashing past; a windswept bird of prey high up in the sky; roses on the darkening bush, a symbol of privacy. The central image, of Lady Hill, a well-known Wensleydale landmark, evokes the scene at Calvary. The more time spent immersed in the atmosphere of each scene, observing the detail and enjoying the craft of painting itself, the more the artist's love of landscape is communicated.

Although he does not believe in God himself, the painting shows a strong sense of the religious connotations within the natural landscape - the power of life in nature, the cycle of life, death and rebirth, the passing and returning of the seasons.

The work has been fixed on to a large panel, inset with goldleaf and framed, thus creating an imposing altarpiece. It is a confident work, calm in mood, rich in detail, which merits close contemplation and is entirely fitting for its Cathedral setting.

* Alan Turnbull is a practising artist and part-time lecturer in the Department of Fine Art at Newcastle University. The painting was commissioned by the Church authorities at Durham, and has toured several Cathedrals this year. On 27 November it goes on display at the Hatton Gallery, at Newcastle University, until 3 January 1994. Next year it will also be shown at Norwich Cathedral.

THE PLACE OF MUSIC CONFERENCE 13-14 September University College London

Unlike painting and literature, music is still widely perceived to be an autonomous realm far removed from worldly influences. By focusing on the geographical relationships between music and place, this conference was designed as a platform for the current research which brings assertion under critical examination. The conference was jointly sponsored by LRG with the Economic Geography and Social and Cultural Study Groups of the Institute of British Geographers. The conference programme attempted to reflect the joint interests of these organisations. It included sessions on music and landscape, and the economic geography of music as well as sessions on music and national identity and music and local culture. In the event, issues of identity, culture and politics dominated the programme reflecting the response to the call for papers. Though contributions were sought on topics of 'classical' as well as 'popular' music genres, contributions on popular music subjects predominated, though not exclusively so.

Two papers directly addressed issues of music and landscape, whilst papers in other strands of the conference included landscape issues to varying extent. In 'From Dust Storm Disaster to Pastures of Plenty: Woody Guthrie and the Landscapes of the American Depression' John Gold spoke about representations of the landscapes of the southern USA during the Great Depression of the 1930s. He isolated three specific ways in which landscape was represented in the music of this blues singer: the dust bowl itself; images of the highway as an escape route and the idea of the west (California) as the promised land. He argued that for Woody Guthrie as for many of the poor 'share croppers' the romanticisation of such landscapes played a fundamental part as they came to terms with their plight.

Robert Stradling's paper 'England's glory: Houseman and the Glaston Gang' focussed on the landscapes of the River Teme in Hereford and Worcestershire. He showed how this pastoral landscape played an important role in the English Musical Renaissance, influencing Edward Elgar and Ralph Vaughan Williams as well as A E Houseman whose poems were often set by composers of the English Pastoral school.
Stradling argued that this landscape became important for the construction of English National Identity through music. He explained how the symbolic qualities of the Teme landscape enabled connections to be made between Home Front and Western Front during World War I.

Around sixty people attended the conference over two days. Though the largest single group were geographers, a healthy interdisciplinary atmosphere was maintained throughout; others attending were musicians and musicologists, or had backgrounds in history, sociology and cultural studies. Some papers generated very lively discussion much of this focused on issues of music and national identity. Particularly excited discussion followed the talk given by Rhys Mythen, leader of a Welsh Nationalist rock group. He described how his group 'took over' the mountain summit of Snowdon and held an impromptu concert. He explained how the group were able to negotiate cheap fares on the railway which takes visitors to the summit and thereby open the tourist landscapes of Snowdonia to many local people who had never before had been able to enjoy them.

A similarly animated debate followed a most entertaining evening talk 'Scottish Landscape with Musicians' by the Scottish musicologist John Purser, which was liberally illustrated with musical examples. The subject was his recent book "Scotland's Music." Discussion following his talk centred around Purser's attempts to recreate the musical soundscapes of medieval and premedieval Scotland through the archaeological reconstruction of instruments and music.

Considering the diverse interests of participants and the wide range of individual papers, the conference managed to maintain a coherent focus. I certainly found it rewarding and enjoyable to discuss common concerns with people from a variety of disciplines. Oddly, my main misgivings concern music itself. One was left at the end of the conference wishing that more contributors had played more music and talked specifically about music rather than lyrics or the social and economic circumstances of musical production and consumption. If this had been the case I would be more convinced that the study of music can truly be said to have joined those of literary and art criticism as a practice critically aware of its own location.

Dr George Hewitt, lecturer in Geography, Oxford Brookes University
Ploughing patterns, p.13, and 'Rick making: near Ashwick', p.19, from T.H. Hennell Change on the Farm, CUP, 1934

ANTHOLOGY ANSWERS

Of Mice and Men: Published by William Heinemann Ltd 1947. This is the opening paragraph. Landscape descriptions are more often found at the beginning of chapters than in other positions, perhaps because they establish the scene.

Inagua: a very lonely and nearly forgotten island. Gilbert C. Klingel. Readers Union/Robert Hale, London 1944 from page 105. Inagua is next to Cuba in the southern Bahamas. I can attest to the accuracy of this account from a month there spent mapping just such phenomena. It is saline semi desert and scrub, notable since 1852 for its salt production and flamingoes.

An American Merchant in Europe, Asia and Australia: Geo. Francis Train of Boston; published as letters in 1857 by G.P. Putnam and Co., 321 Broadway New York. The view from the sea, strangeness unfamiliarity and not at all the way he talks of Sydney. A very lively if not terribly literate account of world trading potential, whose author reflects none of the constraints of Victorian Imperial privilege.

Memoirs of an Infantry Officer: Siegfried Sassoon, Faber Paperback 1965 originally 1930. This is as far as the author offers any landscape description in the whole book.

Northward over the Great Ice: Robert E Peary published by Methuen and Co London 1898 and found in a library attic in Inagua. Description taken from chapter 6. Peary, an American engineer was the first person to reach the North Pole. He illustrated this most interesting book (Volume 1) with more than 400 photographs.

The Cossacks: Leo Tolstoy translated by Rosemary Edmonds 1960 for Penguin Books. Passage taken from the beginning of chapter 4 page 178. There is nothing ornate about this description; it sounds like a military geography of the battlefield, setting out the territory for the narrative to follow. And yet it moves the imagination and conveys a stern image consistent with the story. How different from John Steinbeck's warm optimistic and recumbent river scene.
AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY TOWNS: A DESIGN INITIATIVE

The Arts Council of New South Wales and the School of Landscape Architecture, University of New South Wales, have implemented an important design initiative for country towns in rural Australia. Collaborative design teams of landscape architects, architects and artists, together with students of each discipline have been sent to a number of towns in diverse regions of New South Wales. The teams are invited in by the town communities who then get involved in the design process during a week-long residency which results in a design brief leading to the final design.

The project, called 'Creative Village' which is perhaps a misnomer in the Australian context, has resulted in a number of interesting design proposals for rural New South Wales. Although the team brings a range of skills to the towns, most of the design briefs emphasise landscape concerns; revitalising riverside parks, addressing such issues as alternative water management, permaculture, golf courses, and generating green corridors which highlight local distinctiveness while addressing environmental concerns.

Artists in the design teams move the landscape design proposals into the realm of environmental art.

The collective expertise and experience of the design teams together with the wealth of local knowledge in the community has resulted in a project which is changing the predictable design approaches of the 1980s. Innovative design approaches are being implemented and monitored.

Helen Armstrong, University of N.S.W.

The town of Ballarat Victoria from 'Countries of the World', Cassell, Petter and Galpin

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.