

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH GROUP

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH EXTRA
No 13 AUTUMN 1993

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 planetrees, horsechestnut 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 townscapes. What price our British agricultural revolution.

Bud Young

A CONVENTION ON THE RURAL LANDSCAPES OF EUROPE

Members may recall that the conference at Blois in October 1992 "Landscapes in a new Europe: unity in diversity" (De l'Europe des pays a l'Europe des paysages) organised by LRG and Paysage et Amenagement, 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 inter-governmental 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 (FNNPE) 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.

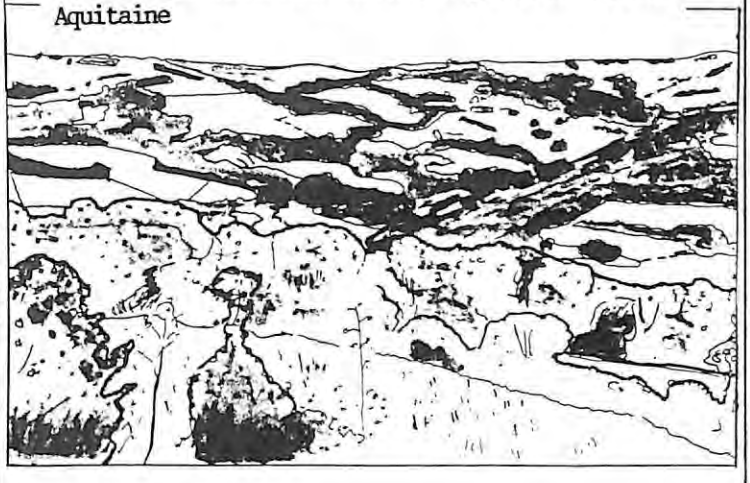
The Countryside Commission has therefore set a Working Group, consisting in the first place of representatives of the Commission, the Countryside Council of Wales, FNNPE, your Society - LRG, Paysage et Amenagement and ECOVAST. Its immediate aim is

* 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 NW6 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, CCW 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 Morey** of the University of the Baleares, 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 supposing some to be the 'original' land subdivision some due to inheritance. He suggested that most terraced landcape 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 **Francoise Burel and Jacques Baudry** 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 Bunce longtime stalwart of ITE (the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology) then read a paper for **Ingvild Austad**. She had studied, but more than that experimented, in the management of three forest pasture landscapes around Sonjafiord the largest fiord 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, Aulla 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 betwen 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 Stott 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 crudely 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

(hard worked farmland, untouched wildland) or aim to heighten the central zone of rich cultural landscape. Valued cultural landscapes must be recorded inasmuch as they were vanishing and a selection of types were being considered for red book listing. There was a European atlas of cultural landscapes in the wings but coordination was required.

Two speakers then introduced archeology into the cultural equation. **Graham Fairclough** spoke for English Nature and in a more measured fashion **George Lambrick** for the Oxford Archeological Unit. Though the second speaker appeared to have a theoretical framework he did not have enough time to make it clear how it might operate. I shall therefore have to read his paper. He was serving as an adviser to Cobham Resource Surveys in an English Heritage survey of four areas of different archeological landscape. Their aims were to be able to consider archeological landscapes at several levels of detail and their subjects embraced the visible roofed and upstanding monument as well as the all but invisible crop mark. He will not thank me for not gathering in the detail of his paper, nor for concluding that inclusion of archeology in this conference may have been too ambitious, premature even if theoretically essential - a chaos of spars, liferafts, survivors and the drowning.

The conference finished with the skilled rabble rousing oratory of **Malcolm Bell** who brought the audience down to earth with his telling anecdotes of North Yorkshire farming life: here was where landscape culture resided, this was the reality and planners pronouncing cultural objectives in their land use plans had better get to understand it. Again the memorable phrases: too many generations from the land; a chocolate box view of landscape; carrots not sticks; re-inforce in farmers an appropriate self identity; mobilise their pre existing biases - let them be stewards; don't force farmers onto the treadmill; hold onto complex forms of ownership that defy change and improvement; nod assent to all the temptations of commercialism and the blandishments of government then follow real traditional inclinations. The audience loved it.

It was the more difficult for the final speaker **Clive Potter** of Wye College to follow with a scientific sample based study of family farmers and how they decide when and where to change their farm landscape. Up to 1000 individuals were being interviewed answering a complex questionaire within the 256 kilometer squared land use samples of the ITE survey. The research questions looked interesting but as with many skilled and painstaking pieces of social science one wonders whether it will bring forth new facts and relationships.

The last words within a short final discussion might go to an older geographer Dr Aaven of Trinity College Dublin who reminded the assembly that we had 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 LRExtra.

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 landscape** 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

* B W Ilbery & I R Bowler **The farm diversification grant scheme: adoption and non-adoption in England and Wales** Environment & Planning C: Government and Policy 11/2 May 1993 123-141

* I Brotherton **The interpretation of planning refusals** Journal Environmental Planning and Management 36/2 1993 167-178

* I Brotherton **The interpretation of planning appeals** Journal of Environmental Planning and Management 36/2 1993 179-186

Towns 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 **Ceausescu's Bucharest** The Geographical Review 83/2 1993 170-182

* Roman Cybriwsky **Tokyo: The changing profile of an urban giant** 268pp Macmillan New York 1991 ISBN 0 8161 7329

* John A Jakle & David Wilson **Derelict landscapes: The wasting of America's built environment** 342pp Savage Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publ 1992

* David Ward and Oliver Zunz (Editors) **The landscape of modernity: essays on New York City 1900-1940** New York: Russell Sage Foundation 1992 370pp

* A D Jansen **Economic activity and the quality of public space in inner cities - Amsterdam for example** Tijdschrift voor Econ en Soc Geographie 84/1 1993 13-26

* P W Germeraad **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

* B Berghund **The cultural landscape during 6000yrs in Southern Sweden - The Ystad Project** Ecological bulletin 41 Copenhagen: Muntsgaard 1991 495pp ISBN87.16.110498 accessible via a review in Geographiska Annale 74/B/2

* Douglas E Heath **Highly localised vernacular regionalisation in the Allentown-Bethlehem area** PA-NJ The Professional Geographer 45/3 1993 251-263

* Allen G Noble (Editor) **To build in a new land: ethnic landscapes in North America** Baltimore The John Hopkins Univ Press 1992 455pp ISBN0 8018 4188 7 $29.95 paperback (very well reviewed)

* Shelagh J Squire **Valuing countryside: reflections on Beatrix Potter Tourism** Area (IBG) 1993 25/1 5-10

* John Martin Robinson **'"Heritage" architecture: losing sight of the past in the present'** Apollo CXXVII 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

* Jean Jacques Bavoux **La Bourgogne: un archetype d'espace intermediare?** Annales de Geographie 570 1993 162-174 (Identifying spaces of regional landscape level in between well imaged areas)

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

Experiential

* Daphne Spain **Gendered spaces** publ. Chapel Hill and London, The Univ of North Carolina Press 1992

* J R Short, L M Benton 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 home 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

* W M Gesler **Therapeutic landscapes: theory and a case study of Epidauros, Greece** Environment and Planning D: Society and Space 11/2 April 1993 171-189

* 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

* O M A Rahman **'Visual quality and response assessment: an experimental technique'** Environment and Planning B, Planning & Design 19/6 1992 689-708

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 Avi 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 Mawson (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 Assn of American Geographers 83/3 1993 and the original paper by Price and Lewis

* Trevor J Barnes & James S Duncan **Writing Worlds: Discourse, Text and Metaphor in the representation of landscape** Routledge 1992 £12.99 pb

* 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

Theme 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 AC 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**

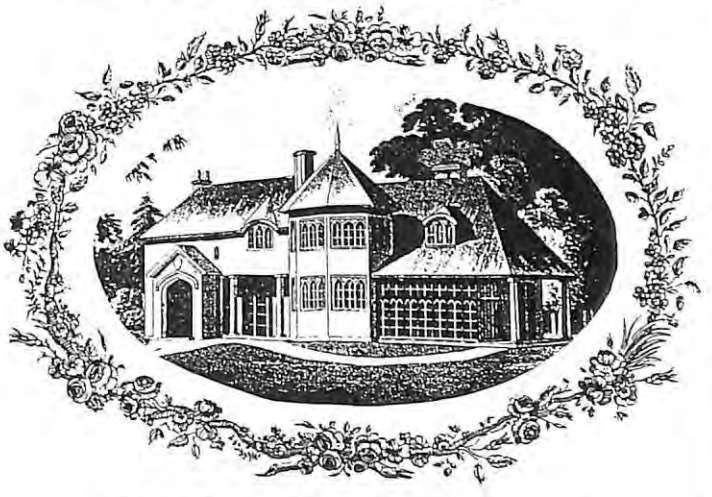
* Ecos 13/3 1992 is devoted to **farm policy in the European Community, setaside etc.**

* Landscape and Urban Planning 22/2-4 November 1992 is devoted to **European urbanisation**

* Brief reports from the World Congress of Landscape Ecology **Scanning the mosaic** July 1991 IALE 1992 Available from Bob Bunce of The Institute of Terrestial Ecology. Contains numerous landscape summary papers.

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 multi-disciplinary 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, Madley, 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 Gabilan 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 helter-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 monotony increased the cheerless and inhospitable look 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 Bhudah 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 Shangae, 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. Cartwheels could be heard on the roads behind Fricourt; 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 Artic landscape then does not show half the savage sombreness that it does when seen through the dead grey noon twylight 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 sadder. 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 MPG6 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-Broos. 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 postmodernity; 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 IFLA 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



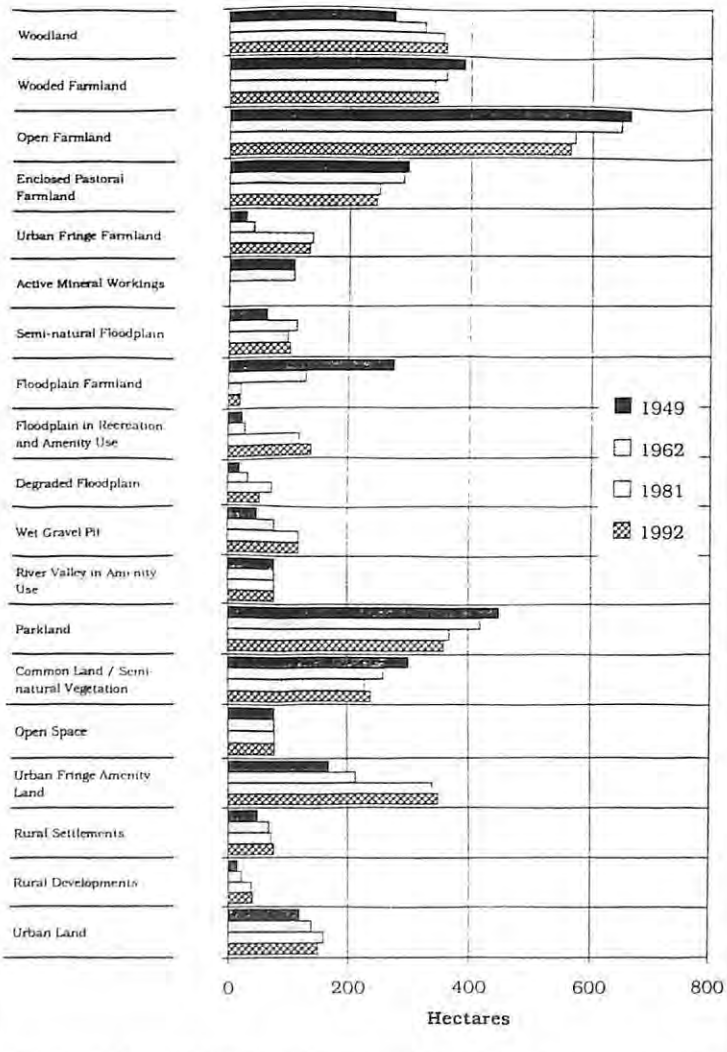
LANDSCAPE CHANGE RESEARCH IN LONDON'S GREEN BELT

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.



OVERALL COMPOSITION OF THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES IN THE SAMPLE AREAS

The main contributors to adverse landscape change were identified severally as: certain types of 'acceptable' use, particularly horticulture, outdoor sport, mineral extraction and landfill and agricultural dwellings; 'permitted' development, particularly agricultural developments, electricity power-lines and temporary uses; and under another head 'non-conforming' development, particularly motorways.

To understand what these findings mean and imply, we reviewed the role, evolution and likely future of London's Green Belt. This led us to the conclusion that the Green Belt is undoubtedly a successful tool for controlling the spread of development and avoiding coalescence with neighbouring towns. It is also fundamental to the sustainability of London, and yet its statutory purposes today are inherently negative.

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 rights' may be withdrawn, particularly where agricultural and temporary uses disfigure the landscape.

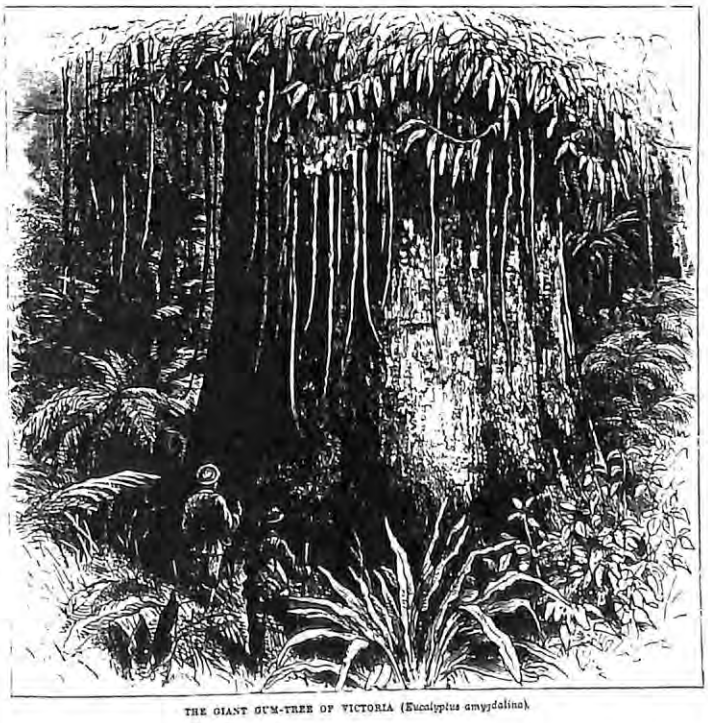
Copies of the report are available from LPAC for £46.00 incl postage and packing and reductions are available for certain organisations.

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).



THE GIANT GUM-TREE OF VICTORIA (Eucalyptus amygdalina).

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 sytems 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.
3. Rose, D. 1990 Gulaga: A Report on the Cultural Significance of Mount Dromedary to Aboriginal People. a report presented to the Forestry Commission of New South Wales and the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service.
4. Read, P. 1992 "The Look of the Rocks and the Grass and the Hills" in **Voices**, Vol 11 no 21
5. Hodges, S. 1993 "A Sense of Place" in Created Landscapes: Historians and the Environment. History Institute of Victoria, Melbourne (in press).

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 Cosgrove (Landscape Research

15[3] 1990), 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 Culture 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 Austalian 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 academics 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 'Eyeing 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 Range** 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.



VIEW OF FERN-TREE CAVE, GIPPS LAND, VICTORIA

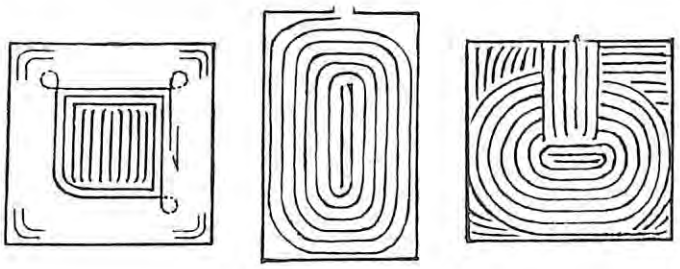
Whatever the causes, one might be optimisticthat a more mature, critical approach to the study of landscape is emerging in Australia. These developments are being matched, perhaps outstripped, by a growth of landscape concern and action in the community: hundreds of groups all over the country are taking 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 Newspaper, 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."

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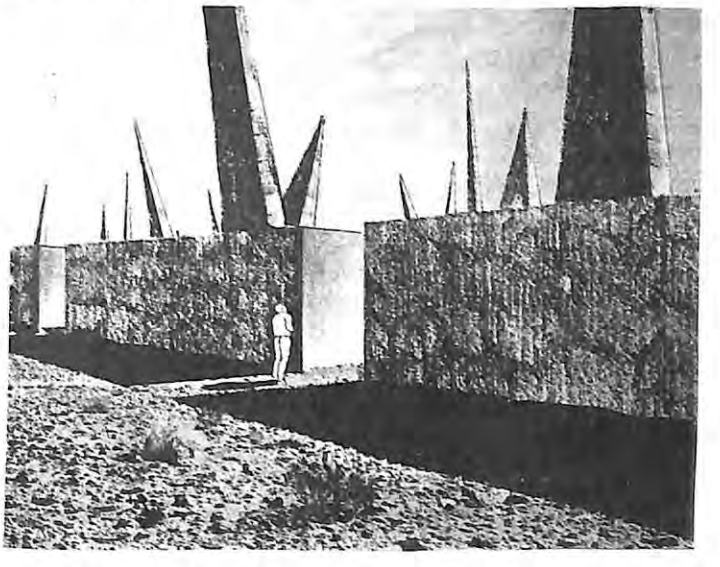
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We acknowledge with thanks Landscape Architecture as the source for the landscape of fear illustration in 'Other Journals'.

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 Humboldt. 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 Arbours 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 7NW.
The exhibition is connected with other events in Durham. The University hopes to set up an inter-disciplinary Centre for Landscape Studies: details may be obtained from professor M 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 surrounds. 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 dusk 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 this 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 'Englands glory: Houseman and the Gloster 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.



Rick-making, near Ashwick, Glos, 18 July 1930

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 Mwyn** 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 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 Revill, lecturer in Geography,
Oxford Brookes University

Ploughing patterns, p13, and 'Rick making: near Ashwick' p19, from T 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 GP 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

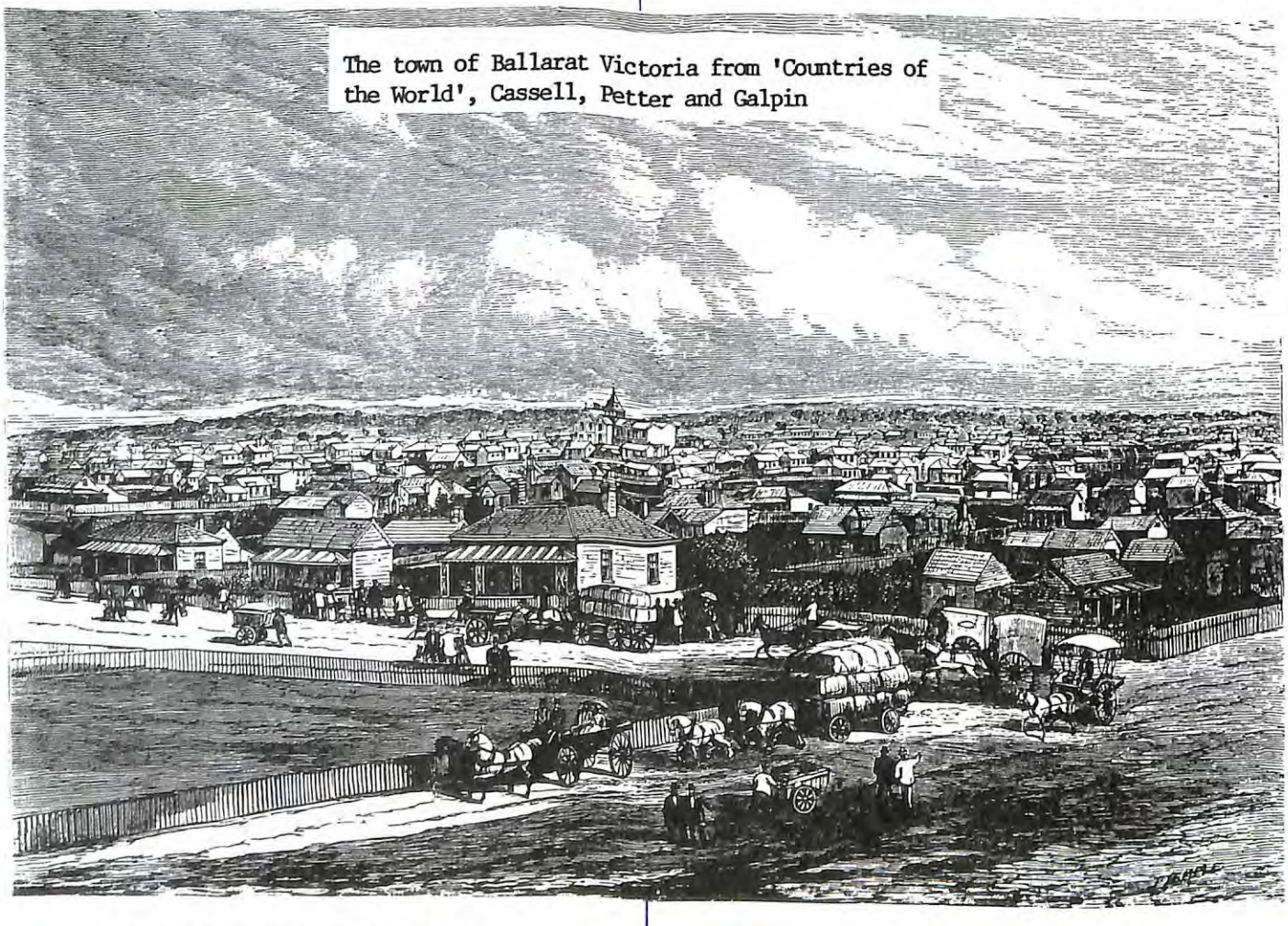
The Arts Council of New South Wales and the School of Landscape Architecture, University of New South Wales, have implemented an important designinitiative for country towns in rural Australia. Collaborative design teams of landscape architects, architects and artists, together with students of each 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 distintiveness 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.

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