

remained active in his last years despite arthritis and the onset of a terminal illness were symptomatic of the way he had lived the whole of his life. The Society for Libyan Studies is just one of the many organisations which gained from his administrative energy, and from his skill and his leadership in creating space in which others could innovate and develop. Sir Duncan's contribution in the Middle East was recognised in the award of the CB in 1948 and his other work was marked by the award of the KBE in 1963. He became the first Honorary Vice-President of the Society in 1974.

J. A. Allan

*Professor C. B. M. McBurney* MA, PhD, ScD, FBA, FSA (1914–1979)

Professor McBurney, who died in December 1979, was Britain's leading Palaeolithic archaeologist. He was also a founder member of the Society for Libyan Studies, and had served on its Council and Executive, as representative of the Prehistoric Society, since the Society's inception in 1969. Charles Brian Montagu McBurney was born in 1914 at Stockbridge, Mass., U.S.A. He was educated privately and at King's College, Cambridge, where his life-long interest in Palaeolithic Studies was aroused by the teaching of the late Professor Dorothy Garrod, to whose influence he always expressed a deep debt of gratitude. After graduating in 1937 he held a research studentship (1937–39) and then a research fellowship (1940–53) at King's College, which was interrupted by War Service. His interests and experience were, from this early stage, extremely wide-ranging: his fellowship dissertation discussed aspects of the Palaeolithic in various European countries and was prepared at the *Institute de Paléontologie Humaine*, Paris, while his contact with eastern European and Soviet prehistory began equally early.

It was while serving with the R.A.F. in the Western Desert (1942–3) that Charles McBurney first became interested in North African prehistory, an interest which was to lead to some of his most important work and principal publication. After the War he returned to Cambridge, becoming, in succession, Lecturer in Anthropology (1953), Reader in Prehistory (1967) and Professor of Quaternary Prehistory (1977), a personal chair. In 1962 he was elected a Fellow of Corpus Christi College, and in 1966 a Fellow of the British Academy. He was also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, an active member of the Prehistoric Society (on whose council he served for three spells, including four years as a Vice-President), a Corresponding Member of the *Instituto Italiano di Paleontologia Umana*, and a Knight of the Order of Dannebrog (First Class).

Charles McBurney's interest in Libya was long-standing and during a period of well over twenty years he frequently visited the country to carry out fieldwork and excavation, which led to various archaeological publications, including three works of major importance. The first was a joint volume with Dr. R. W. Hey, *Prehistory and Pleistocene Geology in Cyrenaican Libya* (1955), which set out the results of field-work in the Gebel Akhdar, together with a description of the Pleistocene geology of the Gebel terraces and coastal area. This was followed in 1960 by *The Stone Age of Northern Africa*, an impressive study of the whole region, which stressed the reciprocal influences that effected the immigration of men from Europe into Africa in the Pleistocene and from the Levant and Western Asia in the Neolithic. Then, in 1967, came the monumental *The Haua Fteah (Cyrenaica) and the Stone Age of the South-Eastern Mediterranean*, a detailed study of his excavations in the great cave near Marsa Sousa, which produced what is almost certainly the longest continuously dated sequence of archaeological deposits known from such a site, covering a time-interval of approx. 80,000–90,000 years.

But Libya was only a part of Charles McBurney's wide field. He organized a survey of Lower and Middle Palaeolithic finds in Britain for the Council for British Archaeology, and directed a programme of research into the British Upper Palaeolithic for the Prehistoric Society. Further afield he carried out extensive survey in the Kopet Dag Range in north-eastern Iran (including

excavations at Ali Tappeh) and across the mountainous region of northern Afghanistan as far east as Haibak (Samangan), an area stretching from the Caspian Sea virtually to the Hindu Kush, along the southern borders of the Soviet Union. In 1972 he was able to take this research a stage further and study recent Soviet discoveries from within, as a Visiting Fellow of the Institute of Archaeology of the Soviet Academy of Science. All of this he brought together in the 1975 British Academy's Albert Reckitt Archaeological Lecture "Early Man in the Soviet Union", published, in an expanded form, in the Academy's *Proceedings* for that year: another contribution of major importance. In all his archaeological work he was always quick to see the implications of new scientific techniques, especially in dating and computer analysis of artefacts, and to exploit them to the full. Likewise, in his published work he exploited to the full the wider implications of his discoveries, setting them in the largest regional contexts.

This account has, of necessity, concerned itself almost wholly with Charles McBurney's archaeological research and publications, but mention must be made of other aspects of his life. He taught, amongst others, the Prince of Wales and the Queen of Denmark, as well as many students who have gone on to establish themselves in prehistory or other fields. He was a College Fellow in the old style, a cultivated man interested in music (as befitted a descendant of the celebrated Dr. Burney) and Piranesi, who could rise to the occasion, as in the lecture with which he opened the 1968 Historical Conference in Benghazi. Although short in length it was truly memorable in delivery, and will remain amongst the most vivid impressions carried away by those who attended that event.

Charles Daniels