

# ORSTOM

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DE RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE  
POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT EN COOPÉRATION

**Guide des étoiles de mer, oursins et autres échinodermes du lagon de Nouvelle-Calédonie.** Handbook of the sea-stars, sea-urchins and related echinoderms of New-Caledonia lagoon. A. GUILLE, P. LABOUE, J.-L. MENOUE. Partly bilingual: French, English. 1985. 240 p., 224 photos coul. 350F.

**Cloffa 1. Check-list of the freshwater fishes of Africa.** 1984. 410 p. Musée royal de l'Afrique centrale/ORSTOM. 130F.

**Cloffa 2. Check-list of the freshwater fishes of Africa.** 1986. 520 p. Musée royal de l'Afrique centrale/ORSTOM. 140F.

**Mangroves du Sénégal et de la Gambie.** Ecologie - Pédologie - Géochimie - Mise en valeur et aménagement. C. MARIUS. 1985. 368 p., 10 pl. photogr. 135F.

**Changements globaux en Afrique durant le Quaternaire. Passé - Présent - Futur.** INQUA - ASEQUA. Symposium international. Dakar 21-28 avril 1986. 1986. 528 p., some articles in English. 300F.

**Monographie hydrologique du fleuve Niger.** Ministère des Relations Extérieures. Secrétariat d'Etat à la Coopération. ORSTOM. **Tome I - Niger supérieur.** 1986. 396 p., 4 cart. ann. noir, 7 microfiches.

**Tome II - Cuvette lacustre et Niger moyen.** 1986. 506 p., 6 cart. ann. noir. (the 2 volumes: 350F).

**Pharmacopées traditionnelles en Guyane.** Créoles, Palikur, Wayãpi. P. GRENAND, C. MORETTI, H. JACQUEMIN. 496 p., 156 photogr. coul., 49 traits. (forthcoming)

**EDITIONS DE L'ORSTOM**

70 - 74 Route d'Aulnay  
93140 BONDY

## Daniel by himself

Jacquetta Hawkes

**Some Small Harvest: The Memoirs of Glyn Daniel.** Thames & Hudson: 1986. Pp. 448. £12.95.

GLYN Daniel, with characteristic sangfroid, has chosen the title of *Some Small Harvest* for one of the bulkiest autobiographies of recent times: 448 pages and over 50 illustrations. The first photograph shows a captivating little boy with bright, enquiring eyes, perhaps capable of impudence, and stoutly booted for the successful passage through worldly life that is to be chronicled in such loving detail.

Here I must declare an interest. Glyn Daniel went up to St John's College, Cambridge, during that dawn of modern archaeology, the early 1930s, in the very year that I had graduated. He came from a small village in South Wales, I from a home within half a mile of St John's. We both read for the new archaeological tripos and were to pursue the subject, he with infinitely greater diligence, for the rest of our lives. So it is that I share his memories of very many of the individuals and the events great and small which fill his book. It is hard for me to judge whether others, who must read without the glow of nostalgia, will find it as appealing as I do.

Glyn Daniel not only has an extraordinarily retentive memory but through 40 years has kept a journal which arms him with a record that is "contemporary and explicit". What is striking about the resulting life story is its range and variety. It is an exceptional man who, emerging from an unworldly yeoman background, could become a Wing Commander in India (as head of Central Photographic Interpretation), a brilliantly successful editor of *Antiquity* and of a long series of books of the best *haute vulgarisation*, an adventurous Steward of St John's, a writer on food and drink and of detective fiction — and then, when many felt that all this might have weakened his scholarly repute, carry off the much-honoured Disney Professorship of Archaeology at Cambridge.

Daniel writes of these achievements, interspersed with amusing episodes and anecdotes, as though he took life easy as the grass grows on the weirs, whereas in reality there was within him an iron determination to succeed and a rare capacity for hard work. He has such an enthusiastic interest in his own doings that he perhaps sometimes falls into triviality and self-indulgence; there are, for instance, too many recipes and wine lists, and accounts of lectures and broadcasts — yet for much of the way he carries one along on a tide of his own enjoyment.

For readers of *Nature*, most attention

should go to Daniel's archaeological researches and judgements over half a century. Here there is some disappointment. He has published several histories of the subject and can be excused from all such generalities. Yet it would, I think, have given more unity to the autobiography if he could have interwoven the development of archaeological knowledge, method and thought with his personal story; in particular, if he could have gone more fully into the new radiocarbon dating which appears to have nullified much of his extensive research into megalithic



Glyn Daniel, aged five — "stoutly booted for the successful passage through worldly life".

monuments, and also examined the present anti-diffusionist fashion. For fashion I believe it to be: how many publications have I read of late where the author is plainly forcing his conclusions into the "local development" mould. It should be added, however, that Glyn Daniel is consistently opposed to what he chooses to call "bullshit" archaeology, the outpourings of those who are honestly deluded or who deliberately indulge in wild fantasies in order to sell their books by the million.

Standing back to judge *Some Small Harvest* as dispassionately as I can, I am convinced that in the long run it will remain valuable as a sociological sourcebook, a record of Cambridge and especially college life, of travel and conditions in many lands, of the flavour of twentieth-century archaeology — and a highly personal *Who's Who* of scores of the notable characters the author has known. Viewed in this light the very trivia I have criticized will be of unique interest for a future generation, and may be more than forgiven.

Jacquetta Hawkes, Littlecote, Leysbourne, Chipping Camden, Gloucestershire, GL55 6HL, UK, is an archaeologist and author of, among other books, *Mortimer Wheeler: Adventurer in Archaeology* (Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 1982).