

= O. G. S. Crawford =

Osbert Guy Stanhope Crawford ( 28 October 1886 ? 28 November 1957 ) , better known as O. G. S. Crawford , was a British archaeologist who specialised in the study of prehistoric Britain and the archaeology of Sudan . Working for most of his career as the archaeological officer of the Ordnance Survey , he wrote a range of books on archaeological subjects and was a keen proponent of aerial archaeology .

Born in Bombay , British India to a wealthy middle @-@ class Scottish family , Crawford moved to England as an infant and was raised by his aunts in London and Hampshire . He studied geography at Keble College , Oxford and worked briefly in that field before devoting himself professionally to archaeology . Employed by the philanthropist Henry Wellcome , Crawford oversaw the excavation of Abu Geili in Sudan before returning to England shortly before the First World War . During the conflict he served in both the London Scottish Regiment and the Royal Flying Corps , where he was involved in both ground and aerial reconnaissance along the Western Front . After an injury forced a period of convalescence in England , he returned to the Front , where he was captured by the German Army in 1918 and held as a prisoner of war until the end of the conflict , when he returned to Britain .

In 1920 he was employed by the Ordnance Survey . In this position he toured Britain to plot the location of archaeological sites in the landscape , in the process identifying a number of previously unknown sites . Increasingly interested in aerial archaeology , he obtained aerial photographs produced by the Royal Air Force and identified the extent of the Stonehenge Avenue , excavating it in 1923 . With the archaeologist Alexander Keiller he conducted an aerial survey of many counties in southern England and raised the finances to secure the land around Stonehenge for The National Trust . In 1927 , he established the scholarly journal *Antiquity* , which contained contributions from many of Britain 's most prominent archaeologists , and in 1939 he became president of The Prehistoric Society . An internationalist and socialist , he came under the influence of Marxism and for a time became a Soviet sympathiser . During the Second World War he worked with the National Buildings Record , photographically documenting Southampton . After retiring in 1946 , he refocused his attention on Sudanese archaeology and wrote several further books prior to his death .

While friends and colleagues remembered Crawford as a cantankerous and irritable individual , his contributions to British archaeology ? namely in the form of *Antiquity* and his promotion of aerial archaeology ? have been widely acclaimed , with some referring to him as one of the great pioneering figures in the field . His photographic archive remained of use to archaeologists into the 21st century . A biography of Crawford by Kitty Hauser was published in 2008 .

= = Early life = =

= = = Childhood : 1886 ? 1904 = = =

O. G. S. Crawford was born on 28 October 1886 at Breach Candy , a suburb of Bombay in British India . His father , Charles Edward Gordon Crawford , was a civil servant who had been educated at Marlborough College and Wadham College , Oxford prior to his move to India , where he became a High Court Judge at Thane . The Crawford family hailed from Ayrshire in Scotland , and the child 's great @-@ uncle was the politician Robert Wigram Crawford . Crawford 's mother , Alice Luscombe Mackenzie , was the daughter of a Scottish army doctor and his Devonshire wife . Alice died a few days after her son 's birth , and so when he was three months old , Crawford was sent to England aboard the P & O liner *Bokhara* . During the journey he was entrusted to the care of his paternal aunt Eleanor , an Anglican nun who was the head of the Poona Convent of the Community of St Mary the Virgin .

After his arrival in Britain , he spent the next seven years with two paternal aunts who lived together near to Portland Place in the Marylebone district of central London . Like his father , they were devout Christians , having been the children of a Scottish clergyman . Under their guardianship

Crawford had little contact with other children or with men . Crawford saw his father on the few occasions that the latter visited England , prior to his death in India in 1894 . In 1895 , Crawford and his two aunts moved to a rural house in East Woodhay in Hampshire . Initially educated at Park House School , which he enjoyed , he was subsequently moved to Marlborough College , his father 's alma mater ; he was unhappy there , complaining about bullying and enforced sporting activities , and characterising it as a " detestable house of torture " .

At the school , Crawford was influenced by his housemaster , F. B. Malim , who presided over the archaeological section of the college 's Natural History Society and encouraged the boy 's interest in the subject . It has been suggested that Malim provided something of a father figure for the young Crawford . With the society , Crawford visited such archaeological sites as Stonehenge , West Kennet Long Barrow , Avebury , and Martinsell . It was also through the society that he obtained Ordnance Survey maps of the landscape , allowing him to explore the downs near to his aunts ' home . He began excavation of a barrow near to Bull 's Copse , thus attracting the attention of the antiquarian Harold Peake , who was then involved in compiling the Victoria County History of Berkshire . Peake and his wife lived a Bohemian lifestyle , being vegetarians and social reformers , and their ideas had a strong impact on Crawford . Under the Peakes ' influence , Crawford rejected his religious upbringing in favour of a rationalist world @-@ view based in science . Moreover , from Peake , Crawford gained an appreciation for the understanding of past societies through an examination of the geographical landscape rather than simply through texts or artefacts .

= = = University and early career : 1905 ? 1914 = = =

Following his schooling , Crawford won a junior scholarship to study at Keble College , Oxford . There he began reading literae humaniores in 1905 but ? after gaining only a third @-@ class score in his second year exams ? he switched courses to study geography in 1908 . In 1910 he gained a distinction for his diploma , for which he had conducted a study of the landscape surrounding Andover . Reflecting his interest in the relationship between geography and archaeology , during a walking tour of Ireland he had also written a paper on the geographic distribution of Bronze Age flat bronze axes and beakers in the British Isles . It was presented to the Oxford University Anthropological Society before being published in The Geographical Journal . The archaeologist Grahame Clark later related that the paper " marked a milestone in British Archaeology ; it was the first real attempt to deduce prehistoric events from the geographical distribution of archaeological objects " . Crawford 's fellow archaeologist Mark Bowden stated that while archaeological distribution maps had been previously produced , " archaeological data had never before been married with environmental information " in the way that Crawford did in this article .

After Crawford graduated , Professor A. J. Herbertson offered him a job as a junior demonstrator in the university 's geography department ; Crawford agreed , and served in the position , which largely entailed teaching students , over the following year . Through Herbertson , Crawford was introduced to Patrick Geddes . Crawford however decided that he wanted to focus his attentions on archaeology rather than geography ; attempts to find a professional position in the field were hindered by the fact that very few existed in Britain at the time . Looking elsewhere for archaeological employment , he unsuccessfully applied for a Craven Fellowship and for a post at Bombay Museum .

On the recommendation of Herbertson , on 1913 Crawford joined William Scoresby Routledge and Katherine Routledge 's expedition to Easter Island as an assistant ; the expedition was put on with the intent of learning more about the island 's first inhabitants and its Moai statues . However , after the team departed from Britain aboard the schooner Mana , Crawford quarrelled with the Routledges ? informing them that they exhibited an " extraordinary lack of courtesy " and " appalling stinginess " toward him and other crew members ? and he then left the ship at Cape Verde and returned to Britain . He subsequently gained employment from the wealthy philanthropist Henry Wellcome , who sent him to gain training in archaeological excavation from G. A. Reisner in Egypt before sending him on to Sudan , where Crawford was given charge of the excavation of the Meroitic site at Abu Geili ; he remained there from January to June 1914 . On his return to England , where he was

planning on sorting through the artefacts found in Sudan , he and his friend Earnest Hooton began excavation of a long barrow on Wexcomb Down in Wiltshire .

= = = First World War : 1914 ? 1918 = = =

It was while Crawford was engaged in this excavation that the United Kingdom entered the First World War . At Peake 's encouragement , Crawford enlisted to serve in the British Army , joining the London Scottish Regiment which was sent to reinforce the First Battalion in France . The regiment marched to Béthune to relieve the British line , there fighting on the Western Front at Givenchy . Afflicted with influenza and malaria , in February Crawford was invalided back to England , being stationed at Birmingham for his recuperation . After recovery , he applied to join the Royal Flying Corps ( RFC ) but was deemed too heavy . In July 1915 he was successful in his application to join the Royal Berkshire Regiment as part of the Third Army , being stationed at Beauval and then St. Pol . Utilising his existing skills , he served as the regiment 's maps officer , responsible for mapping the areas around the front line , including the German Army positions . He also took various photographs which were used for British propaganda purposes , and in 1916 he guided the writer H. G. Wells around the trenches on the latter 's visit to the Front .

In January 1917 , Crawford successfully applied to join the RFC as an observer with the 23rd Squadron , as part of which he flew over enemy lines to make observations and draw maps . On his maiden flight , the German Army opened fire on his aircraft , in which his right foot was pierced by bullets and badly injured . To recuperate , he spent time at various hospitals in France and England before eventually being sent to the RFC Auxiliary Hospital at the Heligan estate in Cornwall . During this time in England he spent a weekend at Wells 's home in Dunmow , Essex , embracing the latter 's desire for a united world government and the idea that writing about global history was a contribution to that cause . While at Heligan , Crawford began working on a book , *Man and his Past* , which examined a broad sweep of human history from an archaeological and geographical perspective .

In September 1917 , Crawford ? who had been promoted to the position of squadron intelligence officer ? joined the 48th Squadron , during which he again took aerial photographs during flying reconnaissance trips . While on one flight in February 1918 , Crawford 's aircraft was shot at and forced to land in German @-@ held territory ; he and his co @-@ pilot were taken as prisoners of war . He was initially imprisoned at Landshut in Bavaria , from where he tried to escape by swimming down the River Isar ; the river current proved too strong and he was soon recaptured . He was then transferred to Holzminden prisoner @-@ of @-@ war camp , where he was aware of an escape plan involving tunnelling out of the camp , but did not take part . Instead he spent much of his time reading works by Wells , Carl Jung , and Samuel Butler , and working on *Man and his Past* . Crawford remained in the camp for seven months , until the declaration of armistice , at which he returned to Britain and was demobilised .

= = Career : 1920 ? 1945 = =

= = = Ordnance Survey and Antiquity = = =

Back in England , Crawford finished writing *Man and his Past* , which was published by Oxford University Press in 1921 . According to the historian of archaeology Adam Stout , the book was " a manifesto , a rallying @-@ cry for a new generation of archaeologists who shared in the idealism and the faith in the potential of Progress " . Bowden suggested that it could be seen as a " manifesto for geoarchaeology , environmental archaeology and economic archaeology . The unifying theme is that all these topics should be approached through the compilation of maps " . The work fitted within the theoretical trend of culture @-@ historical archaeology by discussing geographical methods for delineating cultures although it did not attempt to apply the concept of culture in a systematic fashion . He also returned to field work , carrying out archaeological excavation for the Cambrian

Archaeological Association in both Wiltshire and Wales . During the summer of 1920 , he then excavated at Roundwood in Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight for Sir William Portal .

His expertise resulted in his being invited by Charles Close , the Director @-@ General of the Ordnance Survey ( OS ) , to join that organisation as their first archaeological officer . Accepting the position , Crawford moved to Southampton and began work at the project in October 1920 . His arrival at the OS generated some resentment , with co @-@ workers often seeing his post as superfluous and deeming archaeology to be unimportant . His job entailed correcting and updating information on archaeological monuments as the OS maps were revised , and involved him undertaking much fieldwork , travelling across the British landscape , checking the location of previously recorded sites and discovering new ones . He began in Gloucestershire in the autumn and winter of 1920 , visiting 208 sites around the Cotswolds and adding 81 previously unknown barrows to the map . As a result of his research in this region , in 1925 he published his book Long Barrows and the Stone Circles of the Cotswolds and the Welsh Marches .

As part of his job , he travelled around Britain , from Scotland in the north to the Scilly Isles in the south , often conducting his fieldwork by bicycle . On his visits he took photographs of archaeological sites , which were stored in his archive , and he also obtained aerial photographs of archaeological sites taken by the Royal Air Force . In this he was aided by regional antiquarian societies and by his correspondents , whom he called his " ferrets " . In 1921 , the Ordnance Survey published Crawford 's work , " Notes for Beginners " , in which he explained how amateur archaeologists could identify traces of old monuments , roads , and agricultural activity in the landscape . He also began producing " period maps " in which archaeological sites were marked ; the first of these was on Roman Britain , and featured Roman roads and settlements . First published in 1924 , it soon sold out , resulting in a second edition in 1928 . He followed this with a range of further maps in the 1930s : ' England in the Seventeenth Century ' , ' Celtic Earthworks of Salisbury Plain ' , ' Neolithic Wessex ' , and ' Britain in the Dark Ages ' . Although his position had initially been precarious , in 1926 it was made permanent , despite the reluctance of the Treasury , which financed the OS at the time . By 1938 , he had been able to persuade the OS to employ an assistant , W. F. Grimes , to aid him in his work .

Crawford became particularly interested in the new technique of aerial archaeology , claiming that this new process was to archaeology what the telescope was to astronomy . He produced two OS leaflets containing various aerial photographs , printed in 1924 and 1929 respectively . Through these and other works he was keen to promote aerial archaeology , coming to be firmly identified with the technique . His association with it reached the extent that in his 1939 novel The Shape of Things to Come , Wells named a survey aeroplane that discovers an ancient archaeological device " Crawford " .

Using RAF aerial photographs , Crawford determined the length of the Avenue at Stonehenge before embarking on an excavation of the site with A. D. Passmore in the autumn of 1923 . This project attracted press attention , resulting in Crawford being contacted by the marmalade magnate and archaeologist Alexander Keiller . Keiller invited Crawford to join him in an aerial survey , financed by Keiller himself , in which they flew over Berkshire , Dorset , Hampshire , Somerset , and Wiltshire in the spring and summer 1924 , taking photographs of archaeological traces in the landscape . Many of these images were published in Crawford and Keiller 's Wessex from the Air in 1928 . In 1927 Crawford and Keiller helped raise the finances to buy the land around Stonehenge and present it to The National Trust in order to prevent it facing agricultural or urban development . Previously , in 1923 , Crawford had assisted Keiller in campaigning to prevent a radio mast being erected on the archaeologically significant Windmill Hill in Wiltshire , with Keiller later purchasing the hill and the surrounding Avebury area . Despite this working relationship , the two never became friends , perhaps a result of their highly divergent interests and opinions .

In 1927 , Crawford founded Antiquity ; A Quarterly Review of Archaeology , a quarterly journal designed to bring together the work of archaeologists working across the world to supplement the variety of regional antiquarian periodicals that were then available . Although designed to have an international scope , the journal exhibited a clear bias towards the archaeology of Britain , with its release coinciding with the blossoming of British archaeology as a field of study . It contained

contributions from a variety of young archaeologists who came to dominate the field of British archaeology , among them V. Gordon Childe , Grahame Clark , Cyril Fox , Christopher Hawkes , T. D. Kendrick , Stuart Piggott , and Mortimer Wheeler . Crawford himself was known as " Ogs " or " Uncle Ogs " to a number of these individuals , who shared his desire to professionalise the field and take it in a more scientific direction and away from the domination of antiquarian hobbyists . In particular , Crawford saw *Antiquity* as a rival to the *Antiquaries Journal* published by the Society of Antiquaries , an organisation that Crawford was contemptuous of , disliking their neglect of prehistory and believing that they did little valuable research .

The journal proved influential from the start . Although not initially using a process of peer review , Crawford asked his friends to read through submissions that he was unsure about . As well as seeking to shape and define the discipline , *Antiquity* sought to spread news of archaeological discoveries to a wider public , thereby being more accessible than pre-existing scholarly journals . However , it resulted in Crawford receiving letters from proponents of various pseudo-archaeological ideas , such as the ley line theory of Alfred Watkins ; he filed these letters under a section of his archive titled " Crankeries " and was annoyed that educated people believed such ideas when they were demonstrably incorrect . He refused to publish an advert for Watkins ' *The Old Straight Track in Antiquity* , with Watkins becoming very bitter towards him . In 1938 , Crawford served as President of the Prehistoric Society ; in this position he instigated a series of excavations , inviting the German archaeologist Gerhard Bersu ? persecuted in Germany by the Nazi authorities ? to move to England to oversee the excavation of Little Woodbury .

= = = Foreign visits and Marxism = = =

Crawford enjoyed foreign travel and left Britain on a number of occasions . In 1928 the OS sent him to the Middle East , there to collect aerial photographs that had been produced during the First World War and which were stored at Baghdad , Amman , and Heliopolis . In the summer of 1931 he visited Germany and Austria , there furthering his interest in photography through the purchase of a Voigtländer . He later visited Italy with the intent of examining the possibility of producing OS maps pinpointing the country 's archaeological sites ; in November 1932 he met with the Italian leader Benito Mussolini , who was interested in Crawford 's ideas about creating an OS map of archaeological sites in Rome . This was part of a wider project to produce a series of maps covering the entirety of the Roman Empire , for which Crawford visited various parts of Europe during the late 1920s and 1930s . Holiday destinations included Germany , Austria , Romania , Corsica , Malta , Algeria , and Tunisia , and in 1936 he purchased a plot of land in Cyprus on which he had a house built . During these vacations , he visited archaeological sites and met with local archaeologists , encouraging them to contribute articles to *Antiquity* .

Crawford believed that society would progress with the growth of internationalism and the increased application of science , and politically he had moved toward socialism under the influence of Childe , who had become a close friend . He expressed the view that socialism was " the natural corollary of science in the regulation of human affairs " . He attempted to incorporate Marxist ideas into his archaeological interpretations , for instance in an article on " The Dialectical Process in the History of Science " that was published in *The Sociological Review* journal . He became enthusiastic about the Soviet Union , a state governed by the Marxist Communist Party , viewing it as the forerunner of a future world state .

With his friend Neil Hunter , he travelled to the Soviet Union in May 1932 , sailing to Leningrad aboard the *Smolny* . Once there , they followed a prescribed tourist itinerary , visiting Moscow , Nizhni Novgorod , Stalingrad , Rostov-on-Don , Tiflis , Armenia , Batumi , and Sukhum . Crawford admired what he perceived as the progress that the Soviet Union had made since the fall of the Tsarist regime , the increasingly classless and gender-equal status of its population , and the respect accorded to scientists in planning its societal development . He described his holiday with glowing praise in a book , *A Tour of Bolshevism* , stating that he did so in order to " hasten the downfall of capitalism " while at the same time making " as much money as possible " out of capitalists . The book was rejected by the publisher Victor Gollancz , after which Crawford decided

not to approach other publishers , instead giving typed copies of the work to his friends . Although he became involved with the Friends of the Soviet Union and wrote several articles for the Daily Worker newspaper , he never joined the Communist Party of Great Britain or became involved in organised politics , perhaps fearing that to do so would jeopardise his employment in the civil service .

In Britain , he photographed a number of sites associated with the prominent Marxists Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin , as well as photographing the signs erected by landowners and religious groups , believing that in doing so he was documenting the traces of capitalist society before they would be swept away by socialism . Both in Britain and on a visit to Germany he photographed both pro @-@ fascist and anti @-@ fascist propaganda and graffiti , and like many leftists at the time , he believed that fascism was a temporary , extreme expression of capitalist society that would soon be overcome by socialism . He nevertheless expressed admiration for the German archaeological establishment under the Nazi government , highlighting that the British state lagged far behind in terms of funding excavations and encouraging the study of archaeology in universities ; he refrained from commenting on the political agenda that the Nazis had in promoting archaeology .

Despite his socialist and pro @-@ Soviet beliefs , Crawford believed in collaborating with all foreign archaeologists , regardless of political or ideological differences . In the spring of 1938 , he lectured on aerial archaeology at the German Air Ministry ; they published his lecture as Luftbild und Vorgeschichte , and Crawford was frustrated that the British government did not publish his work with the same enthusiasm . From there , he visited Vienna , to meet with his friend , the archaeologist Oswald Menghin , who took him to an event celebrating the Anschluss , at which he met the prominent Nazi Josef Bürckel . Shortly after , he holidayed in Schleswig @-@ Holstein , where German archaeologists took him to see the Danevirke .

In the late 1930s he began work on a book titled Bloody Old Britain , which he described as " an attempt to apply archaeological methods to the study of contemporary society " and in which he was heavily critical of his homeland . It examined 1930s Britain through its material culture , with Crawford reaching the judgement that it was a society in which appearances were given greater importance than value , with clothing for instance emphasising bourgeois respectability over comfort . He attributed much of this to the impact of capitalism and consumerism on British culture . The work fitted within an established genre of 1930s publications which lamented the state of British society , in particular the quality of its food and manufactured products as well as its increasing suburbanisation . However , by the outbreak of the Second World War the work had become less marketable due to its unpatriotic nature , and when he proposed it to Methuen Publishing in 1943 they turned it down ; he gave copies to a few friends , but never published it .

= = = Second World War = = =

In anticipation of the Second World War , Crawford expressed the view that he would " remain neutral " and not take sides , not because he favoured fascism over liberal democracy but because he saw both as repugnant forms of capitalist society which would ultimately be swept away by a socialist revolution ; in his words the war would be " a clash of imperialisms , a gangsters ' feud " . After war broke out , he decided that in the event of a German invasion of Britain he would destroy all of his leftist literature lest he be persecuted for possessing it .

In November 1940 , the German Luftwaffe began bombing Southampton , where the OS offices were located . Crawford removed some of the old OS maps and stored them in the garage of his house at Nursling , while also unsuccessfully urging the Director @-@ General to remove the OS ' archives of books , documents , maps and photographs to a secure location . Subsequently , the OS headquarters were destroyed in the bombing , resulting in the loss of most of their archive . The refusal of the OS administration to take his warnings seriously infuriated Crawford , exacerbating his anger about the civil service 's red tape and bureaucracy . In his words , " trying to get a move on in the Civil Service was like trying to swim in a lake of glue " . Resigning his membership of various British societies , he unsuccessfully tried to find employment abroad .

With little for an archaeology officer to do at the OS in wartime , in the summer of 1941 Crawford

was seconded to the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England " for special duties during wartime " . They assigned him to carry out a project of photographic documentation in Southampton for the National Buildings Record , producing images of many old buildings or architectural features that were threatened by the Luftwaffe 's bombing campaign . He appreciated the value of this work , taking 5000 photographs over the course of the war . In 1944 , the Council for British Archaeology was founded , and while Crawford was invited to serve on its first council , he declined to do so , being lukewarm about the project .

= = Later life : 1946 ? 1957 = =

In 1946 , at the earliest possible opportunity , Crawford resigned his post at the OS , where he was replaced by Charles Philips . He nevertheless retained his interest in Southampton and its architecture , in particular that of the Middle Ages , and in 1946 was a founding member of a lobby group , Friends of Old Southampton , which sought to protect the city 's historic architecture from destruction amid post @-@ war development . During the post @-@ war period he also came to be preoccupied and terrified by the prospect of a nuclear war , urging archaeological authorities to make copies of all their information and disperse it in different locations to ensure that knowledge survived any forthcoming Third World War . Retaining his left @-@ wing interests , in 1945 and 1946 he had some involvement with the Labour Party , although elsewhere he mocked the " ignorant " who thought that Labour " genuinely " represented socialism . In the latter part of the 1940s he became increasingly disillusioned with the Soviet Union after reading Arthur Koestler 's *Darkness at Noon* , a book about Joseph Stalin 's Great Purge and Moscow show trials , as well as learning of how Soviet scientists who did not support the ideas of Trofim Lysenko had been persecuted . In 1950 , after reading the memoir of Margarete Buber @-@ Neumann , he declared himself to be " fanatically anti @-@ Soviet [ and ] anti @-@ communist " .

In 1949 , Crawford was elected a Fellow of the British Academy , and in 1950 he became a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire . In 1952 he was made an honorary Doctor of Letters by the University of Cambridge for his contributions to aerial archaeology .

Crawford returned his attention to Sudanese archaeology , describing Sudan as " an escape @-@ land of the mind at a time when the island of Britain was an austere prison " . At the invitation of the Sudanese government , he visited the country on an archaeological reconnaissance trip in January 1950 , before visiting the Middle Nile in 1951 . At Nursling , he wrote a book on the northern Sudanese Funj Sultanate of Sennar , which appeared in the same year as his long @-@ delayed report on the Abu Geili excavation , co @-@ written with Frank Addison . He followed this with the 1953 book *Castles and Churches in the Middle Nile Region* . Another of Crawford 's book projects in this period was a short history of Nursling , as well as an introductory guide to landscape studies , *Archaeology in the Field* , published in 1953 . In 1955 he then published his autobiography , *Said and Done* , which G. E. Daniel and Mark Pottle ? the authors of Crawford 's entry in the *Dictionary of National Biography* ? described as " a vivacious and amusing autobiography in which his character comes clearly through . "

After the discovery of prehistoric rock art on Stonehenge in 1953 , Crawford decided to examine the megalithic monuments in Brittany to examine the engravings there . Inspired by this subject , in 1957 he then published *The Eye Goddess* , a book in which he argued for the existence of a religion devoted to a Mother Goddess that was found across the Old World from the Palaeolithic through to the period of Christianisation , and which he believed was evidenced through various abstract depictions of eyes in prehistoric rock art . Similar ideas of a Neolithic religion devoted to a great goddess were also espoused in the works of Childe and Glyn Daniel that same decade , resulting in the observation from the later historian Ronald Hutton that " whether or not there was ever an ' Age of the Goddess ' in Neolithic Europe , there certainly was one among European intellectuals in the mid twentieth century " . Crawford 's book was nevertheless not well received academically .

Another of Crawford 's interests were cats , and he learned how to mimic cat noises , performing these on a BBC broadcast , " *The Language of Cats* " , which proved popular and resulted in his receiving a range of fan letters . A publisher in the United States invited him to write a book on the

subject , but Crawford never completed it . In the mid @-@ 1950s , Crawford began to take an interest in astronomy and cosmological ideas about the origin of the universe , favouring Fred Hoyle 's steady state theory about an eternal universe with no beginning or end .

In 1951 , an edited volume , *Aspects of Archaeology in Britain and Beyond : Essays Presented to O. G. S. Crawford* , was published , having been edited by Grimes and brought out to mark Crawford 's 65th birthday . Reviewing the anthology for *Antiquity* , J. v. d . Waals and R. J. Forbes described it as " an exquisite birthday present " . Many of Crawford 's associates worried about him , aware that he lived alone ? with only the company of his elderly housekeeper and cats ? at his cottage in Nursling , lacking either a car or telephone . It was there that he died in his sleep on the night of 28 ? 29 November 1957 . He had arranged for some of his letters and books to be destroyed , while others were to be sent to the Bodleian Library , with the proviso that some of them would not be opened until the year 2000 . His body was buried in the church graveyard at Nursling . In accordance with his instructions , the title " Editor of *Antiquity* " was inscribed on his gravestone , reflecting his desire to be remembered primarily as an archaeologist . On Crawford 's death , editorship of *Antiquity* was taken on by Daniel .

= = Personality = =

Crawford 's socialist beliefs were known to his colleagues and associates , as was his antipathy toward religion . While he became an atheist during his time at Marlborough College , it is not known exactly when he embraced socialism . He placed a strong emphasis on personal self @-@ sufficiency , and openly expressed contempt for those who required social interaction for their own happiness . His adult life was a solitary one , with no family and no dependents . His sexual orientation remains unknown , with Bowden noting that Crawford 's interactions with women were " cordial but not significant . " He was fond of cats , and kept several as pets , also rearing pigs for food as well as growing vegetables in his garden at Nursing . A heavy smoker , he was known for rolling his own cigarettes .

Crawford was often irritable and some colleagues found him exasperating to work with . He was known for his lack of patience , and when angry or frustrated was known to fling his hat to the floor in a gesture of rage . His biographer Kitty Hauser noted that " apparently trifling events left an indelible mark on him " , for he would remember a perceived slight for decades . However , Bowden expressed the view that while Crawford " had a quick temper , which he strove to control ... he was essentially a friendly man " , adding that he could be " clubbable , hospitable and kind " .

Jonathan Glancey referred to Crawford as " a compelling if decidedly cantankerous anti @-@ hero " and an " essentially Victorian eccentric " . Hauser characterised him as " a very British combination of a snob and a rebel " , also noting that he was " no great intellectual " . Similarly , Clark expressed the view that " Crawford 's achievements " stemmed from his " moral integrity and singleness of mind " rather than " any outstanding intellectual brilliance " , while the journalist Neal Ascherson described Crawford as " not conventionally intellectual " . Ascherson added that Crawford was " withdrawn , generally ill at ease with other members of the human species except on paper , and suspicious of personal celebrity " , in this way Ascherson contrasting him with his " gregarious " contemporaries Wheeler and Daniel .

Daniel characterised Crawford as having a " messianic desire " to promote archaeology " to the people of the world " . However , he was opinionated and dogmatic and expressed disdain for those who viewed the past in a different manner to himself . Piggott noted that Crawford was unable to sympathise with the perspectives of those studying past societies through a discipline other than archaeology , such as history or art history , and that he moreover could not sympathise with " anyone not as passionately concerned as himself in field antiquities " . For example , in one of his publications , Crawford dismissed historians as being " bookish " and " clean @-@ booted " . The archaeologist Jacquetta Hawkes commented that in Crawford 's editorials for *Antiquity* , he directed " righteous indignation " toward " everybody from the State , Dominion and Colonial Governments , Universities and Museums , to tardy reviewers and careless proof @-@ correctors . "

Wheeler ? who considered Crawford to be " one of my closest friends " ? claimed that the latter was



" an outspoken and uncompromising opponent " and a man who had a " boyish glee in calling the bluff of convention " . He added that Crawford exhibited the " divine impatience of the pioneer " and that he had an " inability to work in harness . If he joined a committee or a sodality , he did so only to resign at the first opportunity . " Piggott described Crawford as a mentor who " was encouraging , helpful , and unconventional : his racy outspoken criticism of what then passed for the archaeological Establishment was music to a schoolboy 's ear " .

= = Reception and legacy = =

Crawford was much respected by his peers . According to Hauser , at the time of his death Crawford had " acquired an almost mythical status among British archaeologists as the uncompromising ? if eccentric ? progenitor of them all . " In 1999 , the archaeologist John Charlton referred to Crawford as " one of the pioneers of British archaeology this century " , while nine years later Ascherson described him as " beyond question one of the great figures of the ' modern ' generation which transformed British archaeological practice and its institutions between 1918 and ? say ? 1955 . " Ascherson noted that Crawford 's contributions to archaeology had little to do with archaeological theory and more to do with " the institutions and tools ... which he bequeathed to his profession " , including *Antiquity* . Crawford devoted little time to interpreting the archaeological record , and when he did so usually embraced functionalist interpretations , believing that people in traditional societies devoted almost all of their time to survival rather than behaving according to religious or symbolic concepts ; in his he was typical of his time and was influenced by Marxist materialism .

Crawford was recognised for his contributions to bringing archaeology to a wide sector of the British public . The archaeologist Caroline Malone stated that many viewed Crawford as " an ' amateur 's ' archaeologist , providing the means to publish and comment outside the restrictions of local journals and to offer a vision of a new and universal discipline " . Clark expressed the view that Crawford " always hankered to restore the flesh and blood and to make the past a reality to the living generation " , and in doing so helped to attract a greater public audience for British archaeology than many of his colleagues . Wheeler remarked that " he was our greatest archaeological publicist ; he taught the world about scholarship , and scholars about one another . " Commenting on Crawford 's editorship of *Antiquity* , Hawkes expressed the view that his " skill in steering between over @-@ simplification and over @-@ specialization has enabled the Magazine to succeed admirably in its role as go @-@ between for experts and public . "

Crawford 's system of documenting archaeological sites in the OS ' Archaeological Record provided the blueprint on which both the later National Archaeological Records in England , Scotland , and Wales , and the local sites and monuments records were based . In the 21st century , Crawford 's photographic archive stored at Oxford University 's Institute of Archaeology was still consulted by archaeologists seeking to view how various sites appeared during the first half of the 20th century . In 2008 , Kitty Hauser 's biography , *Bloody Old Britain* , was published . Reviewing her work for *The Guardian* , Glancey described it as " a truly fascinating and unexpected book " . Writing in *Public Archaeology* , Ascherson characterised it as " full of clever perception and sympathetic insight " but was critical of its lack of references and " occasional mistakes of fact " .