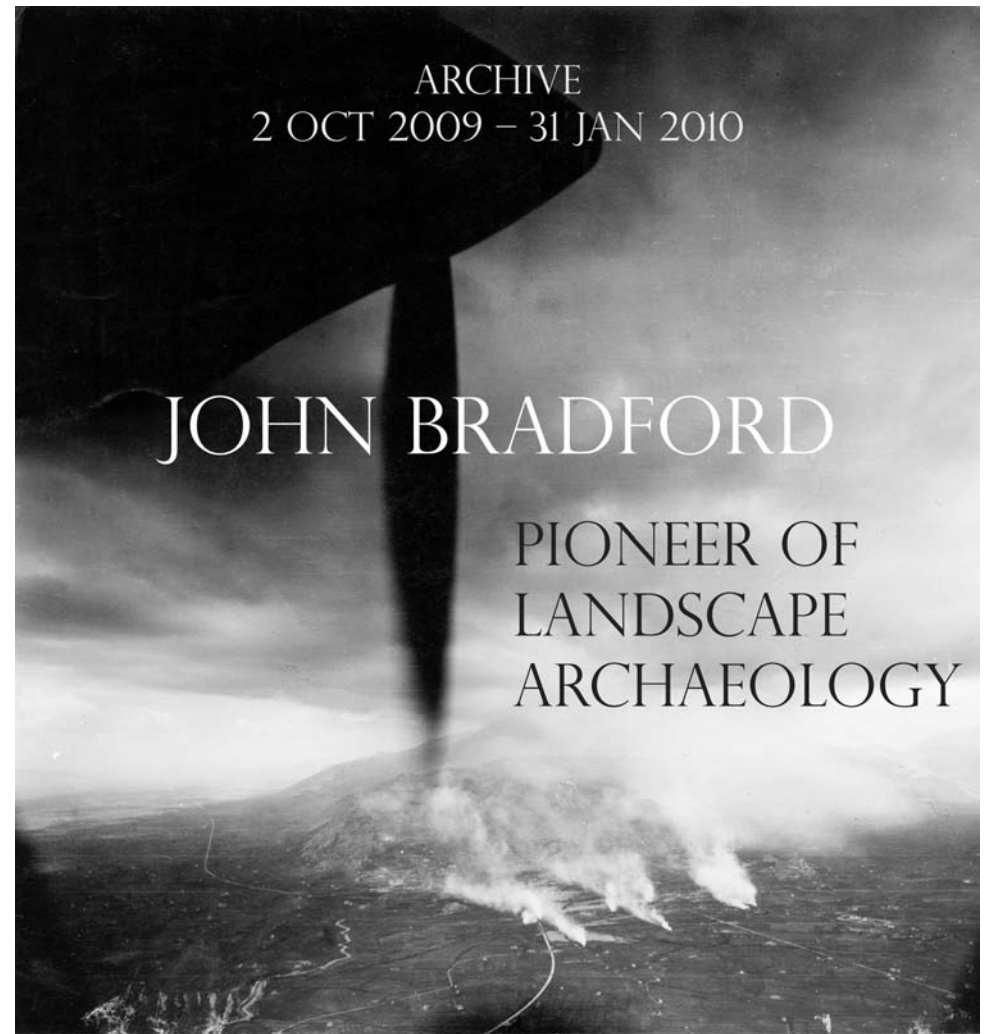


PittRivers
MUSEUM
Anthropology and World Archaeology



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PITT RIVERS MUSEUM
First Floor Archive Display Case

John Bradford - Pioneer of Landscape Archaeology

This exhibition shows photographs and other documents from the collection of John Bradford (1918-75), an accomplished field archaeologist and expert in the use of aerial photography, and who from 1947 until 1960 was University Demonstrator and Lecturer at the Pitt Rivers Museum.

As a History undergraduate at Christ Church College, Bradford excavated at a Dorchester gravel pit with Major Allen, known for aerial surveys of archaeological sites. His excavation experience however was cut short in 1943 when he was commissioned into the Royal Intelligence Corps and assigned to duties in Italy with the Mediterranean Allied Photographic Reconnaissance Wing. With responsibility for military intelligence in many countries, he produced and collected numerous RAF photographs covering North Africa, the Middle East, Italy, Southern France and some other European countries. Further photographs came from his colleague in Italy, Peter Williams-Hunt, including parts of East Asia.

Between 1943 and 1945 the RAF extended aerial photographic coverage of Italy, particularly the Tavoliere and Puglia. This invaluable archaeological resource was made possible by the Allied liberation of these areas and the willingness of the RAF to allow Bradford to organise

“training missions” which combined both military and archaeological investigation. Some of the sites photographed, notably Neolithic ones in Puglia, were previously unknown, and Bradford urged the making an aerial record modern ploughing obliterated them. In conjunction with these surveys he and Williams-Hunt produced a small manual outlining aerial methods and illustrating the recognition and interpretation of features from crop- and soil-marks which can reveal sites not always recognisable from ground survey alone.

Bradford published a number of important works, such as articles in *Antiquity* on his Italian work, and his book *Ancient Landscapes* (1957) (displayed in this exhibition) was the culmination of his extensive and varied experience of aerial and field archaeology. It dealt with the purpose and practice of aerial photography, illustrated with detailed case studies. A 1963 review of the book in the *American Journal of Archaeology* stated that ‘it should be in every archaeological library’.

Tragically, aged 42, and apparently suffering from a hereditary mental condition, Bradford was committed to hospital, where he spent the rest of his life, dying in 1975.

Exhibition curated by Alan Davis, Philip Grover and Chris Morton