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In memoriam

Alan Saville
31 Dec 1946 - 19 June 2016

Among the sad losses in the archaeological community in 2016, one that is felt particularly keenly by prehistorians is that of Alan Saville, who died from cancer aged 69. Alan will be most familiar to readers of *Mesolithic Miscellany* for his work on Mesolithic and Late Upper Palaeolithic Scotland, and for his expertise in studying, identifying, meticulously documenting and interpreting lithic finds: his guide to illustrating flint, written with Hazel Martingell in 1980, remains an invaluable aid to researchers, for instance. But his skills extended far beyond that. In a long and very distinguished career, his achievements range from his text-book excavation of Hazelton long cairn (1979–82), undertaken while he was working at Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, to the creation of an exhibition *Prehistoric Japan: the collections of Neil Gordon Munro* in the National Museum of Scotland (21 July 2001–15 May 2002) – thereby combining two of his interests, Japanese prehistory and the history of archaeology; the development of the National Museums Scotland Artefact Research Unit following his move to NMS as a Senior Curator in 1989; the overhauling of the operation of the Scottish Treasure Trove system while serving as Head of Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Advisory Panel; and the excavation of Scotland’s only flint mine as part of his Buchan Ridge Gravels Project (a project whose final publication, sadly, he was not able to complete before his death). The breadth and calibre of his published work is clear from the bibliography recently published as part of Ian Ralston and Trevor Cowie’s obituary in the latest *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*.

The range of positions held by Alan is equally impressive: among many others, he was President of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (2011–13), Chair of the NERC Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Dating Service Steering Committee (2000–04), Co-Convener of the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF) Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Panel (2009–12) and Chair of the European Association of Archaeologists Editorial Board (2004–2010). Throughout his career, Alan adhered to the highest standards of...
professionalism and was a stern but fair critic of others whose work failed to make the grade. He was kind to the many researchers who visited NMS, and colleagues across Europe will remember many happy occasions during conferences and field trips. The loss of his profound expertise (and indeed of his post) is keenly felt in National Museums Scotland, and the archaeological world is all the poorer for his absence.

Alison Sheridan, National Museums Scotland