

MEMORIALS

Iain C. Walker, 1938–1984

Iain Walker was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on January 13, 1938. He studied prehistoric archaeology at the University of Edinburgh and received his M.A. from that University in 1961. For his Master's thesis he studied the Neolithic and Bronze ages in Nairn, Moray and Banff, three counties in north-east Scotland. In 1962 Walker moved to Canada, working as an archaeologist at the Fortress of Louisbourg, Nova Scotia, a major restoration project undertaken by the Canadian government. While working on this 18th century French fortress, Walker became interested in clay tobacco pipes, a topic which absorbed much of his subsequent research endeavours. In 1966 he transferred to the Historic Sites Division in Ottawa from where he excavated various sites in eastern Canada. In May 1967 he was awarded a Canada Council Doctoral Fellowship for the University of Bath, England, to study the clay tobacco-pipe industry. During the two years at Bath he made an exhaustive analysis of manufacturing techniques used to make pipes, and visited surviving factories in Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany as well as museums in those countries and in France. While Walker's doctoral work centered on the Bristol pipe industry he also investigated the history of pipe manufacture in Europe, Great Britain and North America, of overseas trade in pipes, and of the social and economic factors affecting the clay tobacco-pipe industry.

Late in 1969 Walker returned to Ottawa where he became Head of Artifact Research and worked on his PhD which he received in 1973. He held several other positions with Parks Canada: Staff Archaeologist (1974–1977), Acting Head of Historical Resources Impact Assessment (1977–1978) and Head of Publications (1978–1979). By the late 1970s Walker had become interested in a career in management and in 1979 he joined the Archaeological Survey of Canada, National Museum of Man, Ottawa, as Head of the Collections Management Section. In 1983, however, he was again back in archaeology as Head of the Historical Archaeology Program in the National Museum's History Division. This was the first such position at the National Museum and Walker's first task was to oversee the excavations at the two sites for Canada's new National Museum and the new National Gallery.

Iain Walker's published work on clay tobacco pipes attests to his integrated research approach, his attention to detail and his understanding of the various forces at work in the production and use of a specific group of artifacts. As well as his dissertation, published in 1977, Walker leaves behind more than 20 articles and papers on the manufacture and trade of the clay tobacco pipe. He considered no detail, no fact too insignificant to be investigated as thoroughly as was humanly possible. Those of us who have had the privilege of working with or under Iain learned many valuable research skills from him as well as a deep respect for knowledge.

Apart from his work with clay tobacco pipes, Walker is best known for his eloquent and literate defence of the "historicalist" view of historical archaeology in North America. He had little patience with those who took neither the time nor the trouble to learn their historical facts or to understand the nature of scientific evidence or scientific laws before heading into the forests of theory and hypothesis. Iain enjoyed his skirmishes against the barbarian hordes of New Archaeologists sweeping through those forests.

An early supporter of the Society for Historical Archaeology, Walker was also active in the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology, the Ottawa chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society, and the Conference on Historic Site Archaeology. He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in Scotland in 1961 and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in London in 1980.

Iain Walker died of cancer in Ottawa, 6 May 1984. He is survived by his wife Llyn de Sansoucy Walker of Greely, Ontario, by his mother and brother, both of whom live in Edinburgh and by many friends and colleagues who will miss his wit and stimulating conversations.

Olive R. Jones

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