

Barbara Isaac

I am in Cambridge at 3 Brooklyn Court. The date is 17th of May 2007. I am here because it is the Inaugural Lecture in honour of Ray Inskeep who was a great friend of ours; he was a friend of my husband, Glynn Isaac, and a friend of mine. Unfortunately, I came to live in Oxford just a year before he died which was terrible. But, I am very pleased to be here for this particular occasion.

So this will be my potted life history. I'll start at the beginning. I was born on the 6th of June 1936 and went up to Cambridge in 1955. I matriculated in 1955. I read English but, as I was reading English, I became interested in archaeology. I then spent a year in France (1958-9) and afterwards moved to the Sheffield City Museum (1959-61). I had always wanted to work in museums; I was employed as the education officer at the museum. While I was there, I volunteered with the Derbyshire Archaeological Society. In Easter of 1960, Charles McBurney came to dig at Creswell Crags, together with a crew of undergraduates. We spent two very wet weeks, I remember, under canvas digging. It was there that I met quite a number of young Cambridge prehistorians, archaeologists. There was Paul Mellars in his first undergraduate year.

The other person who was there was Nic David, whom Glynn and I met on and off again in later years. He worked in West Africa. And I met Glynn for the first time. I could not quite place this young man because he seemed, at the same time, both very young and very mature. He had a great sense of humour yet he was a very sensible and practical person. We spent one day together digging in the bottom of Mother Grundy's Parlour. And I still remember that we had a very long and involved conversation. I think towards the end of the two weeks, Paul was taking photographs and you, Pamela, were asking me about those. He was

taking a photograph of me and said, "I want some more movement in this. I want something a little less staid." At that point, Glynn took a flying rucker tackle at me and brought me down. That must be the photograph that Paul has which I have never seen. I got up; I was so angry with this young man. It was not exactly a good beginning.

Pamela: Paul didn't tell me that part.

Barbara: I don't know if he remembers that. I think, at that point after I had returned to Sheffield, Glynn drove back to Cambridge. I have a wonderful photograph of the crew. It was raining the day they left and they look a miserable lot. Anyhow, he drove back to Cambridge. At some time later, I received an invitation to a May Ball from this young man, from Glynn. So, I accepted. I wrote back but I sent the letter to St. John's College. Well, unfortunately, Glynn wasn't at St. John's. He was at Peterhouse but because I had spent a year in France, I put my home address on the back of the envelope. So, fortunately, my response was returned to me.

Barbara: The Deputy Director at the Museum, Stanley West, had actually just come down from Cambridge and he told me that Glynn was at Peterhouse. So, I sent the letter back to Peterhouse. If it hadn't been for that, I guess my life . . . this may not have happened. Life started then for the two of us.

Pamela: Tell me about the Ball! And, Glynn must have been at Cambridge with David Clarke.

Barbara: He and David were great friends, yes, and they talked a lot. Glynn had done a three-year degree in Cape Town in zoology, geology and archaeology.

And, then, because of the difference in the southern hemisphere, the winters and summers, and because his mentor, a wonderful teacher called John Goodwin, had died, he had just died . . . until Ray Inskeep came out to Cape Town University from Cambridge they had no one to replace Goodwin. So, Glynn actually lectured at that point. Carmel Schrire remembers attending lectures given by Glynn. He was a very raw graduate and he was teaching. He then came up to Cambridge to do a second degree. He only did Part II of Archaeology and Anthropology; that was his specialisation. He wanted to study Old World Prehistory. I can't remember the exact year's relationship with David. Glynn was the same generation as Derek Roe.

Pamela inaudible

Barbara: Yes. They were slightly later. One of the great things - - I don't know if anybody has said this to you - - there was a coffee shop where they all gathered. It was just around the corner from Downing Street. In the morning, in between lectures, a group of them would go there and they would argue and argue about everything that they had learned or not learned. It was probably as much a proving ground for these young archaeologists as the formal lectures were. It was an informal debating society.

Pamela: During my Ph.D research, I found that the tea-room in the Museum was the meeting place. That was 1930. People have said to me that a coffee shop replaced that.

Barbara: That may be the coffee shop they are referring to but it was used by the students only. I don't remember the Faculty staff being there. I used to come down from Sheffield to visit Glynn from time to time.

Pamela: inaudible

Barbara: So, yes, it was a lovely May Ball. I bought a wonderful silk dress. I came down from Sheffield. Your escort arranged a bed and breakfast. I remember that we had dinner beforehand in Peterhouse. The other people who were there, have you heard Bob Rodden's name?

Pamela: Yes. Well, I never interviewed him.

Barbara: You should talk to his wife, Judith, who was up at Girton at the same time as myself.

Pamela: You were at Girton; how wonderful.

Barbara: Yes, yes, it was actually. But, Judith was the only woman of my year at Girton reading Archaeology and Anthropology and she went on to do an M.Phil. and met Bob who was then also an older student of Peterhouse working on his Ph. D after graduating from Harvard under Movius. So, we were all together at the May Ball. There was another couple, it may have been Peter Addyman, but I don't quite remember.

Pamela: Oh, yes. I would like to have Addyman, Derek Roe, Martin Biddle and Martin Carver on a Personal-Histories panel at some point.

Barbara: I remember, I think it was the following day, we took a punt up the river, and I remember looking at Martin [Biddle], even then he was pretty heavy and wondering if he was going to make the punt go below the water line.

Barbara: It was a wonderful May Ball, very romantic. That summer, Glynn went to dig in France with Movius at the Abri Pataud.

Pamela: Really. What year was that?

Barbara: Let me make sure. I went down in 1958. In 1959, I was in France. The autumn of 1959, I arrived in Sheffield. I was in Sheffield until 1961, at the Institute of Archaeology, London, from 1961-1962. It must have been the summer of 1960 that Glynn was in France and at Abri Pataud with Movius. And Nic David was there. I don't know whether Paul was there. Yes, Jim Sackett was there. This is only what Glynn told me.

There is a story that should be introduced at this point. As you may know, Glynn has an identical twin, Rhys. Rhys is now an eminent historian of pre-revolutionary America. Rhys joined them and, as the story has it, there is Glynn in one trench and Rhys in another and they are exchanging non-stop pleasantries imitating the Goons. I can't remember if it was Jim or Nic David, who was driven mad and said, "For goodness sake, it is like hearing someone talk to themselves!"

Pamela: Did his twin come up to Cambridge?

Barbara: No, his twin got a Rhodes Scholarship from Cape Town University to Oxford. Glynn got an Elsie Ballott scholarship to Cambridge, which was the equivalent of a Rhodes Scholarship, in terms of sending someone to Cambridge from Cape Town, because you don't have Rhodes Scholarships in Cambridge. So they both left South Africa and came out together. Rhys had an extra year at Oxford and then he went to teach in Melbourne and spent the rest of his life in

Australia, apart from the fact that his expertise and sources are in Virginia. He wrote *Transformation of Virginia 1740-1790* which was a Pulitzer Prize winning book.

Pamela: What was the history of that family? Were they all academics?

Barbara: Only by one generation. Glynn's father was Welsh-speaking and had taken a degree, a Ph.D. I think, in chemistry and botany. He moved to South Africa in the 1930s, eventually became Chair of Botany at Cape Town University. His mother worked independently as a botanist. They were actually marine botanists. His mother had been born in South Africa of Scottish parents who had immigrated to South Africa. They were the best of academics I would have to say, very scholarly, very invested in what they were doing. In fact, they moved from South Africa in 1961, partly because of apartheid, up to Kenya where Glynn's father became Chair of Botany at the new university in Nairobi. Until that point it had been the Royal College, and at Independence, it became a university. It was a year later that Glynn took the position as Warden of Prehistoric Sites in Kenya.

Let me just retrace a little. So Glynn was digging at L'Abri Pataud in the summer of 1960. In the summer of 1961 he went with Eric Higgs to Libya. I should tell you a story about that. They were not fed very well.

Pamela: Oh, I have heard these stories.

Barbara: Wilfrid Shawcross, who is part of that exact same generation and who became an archaeologist in New Zealand and then Australia, was on the same expedition. I was telling Judith last night, there was another Nick, Nick Peterson,

who was an anthropologist who also went to Australia. Once they got back to Italy, the young men went out to the market, bought a whole lot of food and ate and ate and ate. Eric Higgs looked at them and, puffing on his pipe, he said, "It is so good to see you young men regain your appetite." I understand that this remark created a lot of indignation. They had been starving.

Pamela: Yes, I had heard such stories about food or lack of food on those digs.

Barbara: Now that summer, Louis Leakey was looking to replace Richard Wright. He was another Cambridge man who had gone out to Kenya to be Warden of Prehistoric Sites, which at that time was under the direction of the National Parks. He had been preceded by Merrick Posnansky who then ended up at UCLA.

Pamela: Yes.

Barbara: So Louis was looking for a replacement. He came and interviewed three people, one of whom was Glynn. And, Glynn got the appointment. Glynn had been debating whether he should be doing library research for his Ph.D. He had actually been working with Derek Roe. Together, to begin with, they developed an objective measurement system for handaxes, Derek then elaborated his version, and Glynn developed his own for his volume on Olorgesailie but they had worked on it together here as students.

But the temptation of African fieldwork was too much for Glynn. He wanted to get back to Africa. He wanted to be in the field so he accepted Louis's invitation to go to Kenya. He went down with a B.Sc, in June of 1961. It was that year, after two years at Sheffield, that I decided to continue in museums and that I needed

more of a museum-oriented field of study; so I was admitted as a post-graduate Diploma student at the London Institute of Archaeology. This was unrelated to my blossoming interest in Glynn, although the choice of courses may have been influenced by him. I had one year there which was very useful. But, I had agreed with Glynn that I would go out in the summer of 1962 and work with him. He was digging at Olorgesailie. In Sheffield I heard Louis give one of his "post Zinjanthropus" talks. He was going around and was talking about discoveries at Olduvai. I have to admit that it rather disappointed me because I had expected a learned presentation explaining recent work in human evolution; instead it was one of those show and tell presentations. Anyhow, I did a year and got out to Kenya in June, joined Glynn at Olorgesailie.

Olorgesailie is about 40 miles south of Nairobi in the Great Rift Valley. In those days it was a dirt road. Glynn had got a little short-wheel-based Land Rover, very bumpy because of its short-wheel base. I remember driving down the first time; it was late in the afternoon and the sun was setting. It had been a year when one of the Maasai age groups had been initiated as moran (warriors). As we drove down there was the outline of the rocks and the reddening sky and, as we turned a corner, two Maasai, one on either side of the road, standing on an outcrop silhouetted against the sunset. It was incredibly romantic. It was incredibly romantic! Glynn was living in two grass huts and the workmen were living in other huts further away. They had been on the site working, on and off, some of them since soon after the site had been discovered in 1947 by Mary Catherine Fagg, Bernard Fagg's wife. She was a great friend of Mary Leakey, and together with Mary and Louis had been searching for a site with handaxes reported by the geologist Gregory.

Pamela: She is still alive.

Barbara: Yes. You should actually interview her in Oxford. She would be able to talk about Bernard in West Africa. In West Africa, they had known a young hydrologist, employed by the UN, someone called Gerry Decker. Gerry Decker moved to Ethiopia. In 1964, probably because of Bernard's influence, he recognised a surface distribution of stone tools as an important site. Gerry discovered the site of Melka Kunture. In 1964 Mary, Glynn and I went up to Ethiopia to look at this site.

So, I went out in the summer of 1962 and I never came back. We just got married in October of 1962. Glynn had gone out to be Warden of Prehistoric Sites and Louis, prior to that, had been Director of the then Coryndon Museum. But after Mary's discovery of Zinjanthropus . . . now this is my version of events, as I understand it . . . Louis asked for two years leave without pay so he could raise money in the United States for extended fieldwork at Olduvai. The Board of Trustees at the Museum said that that was too long. "If you go for two years, you have lost your job." So Louis said, "Okay, it doesn't matter, I'm going." So he left. Everything was then re-organised. Glynn knew that if he went to Kenya that this particular job was going to be short term. After six months, in fact, the Prehistoric Sites were transferred from the direction of the National Park to the Museum but without a budget; I don't think Louis had been clear on that point. Glynn therefore had no income. He was still able to live in the bandas at Olorgesailie, and he had a Land Rover, was administering the sites, but had no income. Louis was not at the Museum. Louis was not intervening in any way. Glynn raised a small amount of funding from the Boise Fund, which I think is in Oxford, and from the British Institute in Eastern Africa, where Neville Chittick was Director, and a fund called the Swann I think. We started our married life in two grass huts on 400 shillings a month (£20.00). It was fine. Essentially it was

food and some petrol that we needed. The remainder of the grants was spent on excavation expenses.

Of course it was something that I wanted to do. I very much wanted to.

Pamela: inaudible

Barbara: Well I liked travelling. I liked the sense of adventure. I was young. I was in love with Glynn. I think he wanted to test me out. He wasn't going to actually propose until he saw whether I could manage Africa. And, I loved it.

Pamela: A romantic story

Barbara: We lived at Olorgesailie for about six months and then Louis returned. He had found funding and created the Centre for Prehistory and Palaeontology in the National Museum and asked Glynn to be his Deputy Director; so we moved up to Nairobi to live in the flats behind the Coryndon Museum. That would have been in 1963. Independence was in 1964 if I remember correctly. We were there for Independence. Now one of the interesting stories is, that Louis had, from time to time, met up with Glynn's parents, because they were by then in Nairobi. At one point, I think it is actually in a letter that Frances wrote - - - you understand this is a letter-writing era. I have letters from 25 years, from all the time we were in Africa. Louis is reputed to have said to Frances, Glynn's mother, "The mantle of Elijah will fall upon Glynn"; presumably Louis was Elijah. I think that young men found it difficult to work with Louis. Glynn was probably the only one who managed to maintain a cordial relationship over an extended period, and even that relationship was tested from time to time. But, over those years, those four years, Richard, who had not finished his school

career - - - he didn't have a degree - - - he went into the safari business. I think he then realised that he wanted more than the business; he was attracted to a career in human evolution; you understand that this was a very romantic career, human evolution at that point. Richard had worked with his parents. He knew the work from the ground up. Louis raised money from the *National Geographic* for Richard to go to the Peninj Delta which is west of Lake Natron in northern Tanzania. Richard went out with a school friend and they weren't finding anything at all. They weren't looking in the right places. So Louis said to Glynn, "You had better go down and help them."

Glynn went down and I went too. Glynn took charge of the fieldwork. I don't know whether this is the first time that this was done but it certainly was a pattern that continued later. Glynn would gather a team of men; in this case there would be four of them. Because he had been trained as a geologist, Glynn knew what he was doing; he would walk this group up and down in an orderly fashion in the areas where the stratigraphy was right for finding things. I don't know that the Leakeys had ever done that at Olduvai with teams of men, because their discoveries seemed to have been by serendipitous wanderings. But, Richard used this method afterwards in Northern Kenya at Lake Rudolph (later renamed Lake Turkana).

As we were walking, we had Kamoya Kimeu with us who was one of the excavators from Olduvai. I remember being at the bottom of the gully with the men on either side and Kamoya was one of them. About 20 yards away, he saw a piece of white which seemed different from the other bits of white. It turned out to be an Australopithecine mandible. Glynn came over and looked at it. Richard was out of town; he was in Nairobi getting food I think. That was a major discovery! Glynn recorded it and went across Lake Natron on the raft to Magadi

to telephone the Leakeys. Mary and Louis came to see it in the field. They sent down a young photographer to photograph it. It turned out to be Hugo van Lawick just back from Tanganyika where he had been working with Jane Goodall. So he was full of this wonderful young woman whom he was just engaged to; he photographed that mandible and a discovery scene. It duly appeared in the *National Geographic*. But, it was on the strength of that, that Richard was then sent around the United States, raising more money. There is no mention of Glynn in the *National Geographic* report. No. I think from then on, Glynn decided that Richard was really interested in that kind of a career and there was not going to be room for everyone. Some time afterwards, Glynn received a letter from Desmond Clark, who was by then teaching at Berkeley; the letter stated, "Would you like to come and teach at Berkeley?" This was early 1965. Letters don't arrive like that today - - - I remember the two of us walking and pushing the baby, walking around the neighbourhood, walking around the museum, debating should we do this. We knew nothing about Berkeley.

Pamela: So you had a baby?

Barbara: Yes, by then we had a baby. Wait a minute; it must have been early 1965, because Ceri was born late in 1964. That was very difficult. I had been rushed to the hospital. Glynn was digging up at Gamble's Cave near Naivasha and I think he was told that one of us would die. Neither of us did, fortunately, although it was serious. I had a caesarian and I am still convinced that I was conscious, if not moving during the process. But, Ceri was born healthy at 2.5 pounds. She was born in December 1964. The Princess Elizabeth Hospital had a very good premie ward. She was in that ward for about two months. It was after that that we had the invitation to Berkeley. At that time, it really became clear that Richard was going to take over from Louis. Glynn had managed to

maintain good relations with Louis and Glynn worked well with Richard. Of course, Richard asked him back later on to be co-director the Koobi-Fora project. But Glynn also wanted to teach. He was a researcher and a teacher. He wanted the fieldwork, that was very important to him but moving to Berkeley he became one of the group of preeminent Africanists, Dick Hay, Desmond, Elizabeth Coulson and eventually Clark Howell but not at that point. Clark Howell moved to Berkeley later and Glynn was invited to go to Chicago. This is not in the history books. Glynn was invited to go to Chicago and he decided not to but chose to stay in Berkeley.

Pamela: It was wonderful - - - what Desmond was doing there.

Barbara: Yes, as a student in Cape Town, Glynn had travelled during his vacation to work with Desmond at the Livingstone Museum.

Pamela: a small world.

Barbara: It was in those days.

Pamela: Cambridge was the centre.

Barbara: Yes. Planting their flags around the world. I think deliberately.

Pamela: It has been so successful.

Barbara: Yes. So we decided to leave Kenya, had a year in Cambridge for Glynn to start writing his PhD. That was 1965, 1966. The question you asked was how did Glynn manage to work with Louis. Louis was not supervising Glynn in any

way at Olorgesailie. In fact, Glynn became a little concerned because Louis didn't actually visit him until towards the end. And, he wondered if this was a problem in terms of his own work, that Louis might not like what he was doing.

Eventually Mary and Louis came down. I remember them standing with him looking at the Trial Trench Member 10 site. Louis turned to Mary and said, "You know you should really have dug this concentration because I am convinced that there is probably a burial under there." Mary turned to Louis and said, "What utter nonsense, Louis, you know that we have already excavated several." Louis was not the detailed worker that Mary was.

Glynn had become Deputy Director at the Centre for Prehistory and Paleontology under Louis's direction and that lasted for about two and a half years. When Louis was out of the country, Glynn would be up in Nairobi, managing the Centre. When Louis was in the country, Glynn would be down at Olorgesailie, digging. On the whole that worked quite well. But there was a difference in approach. Louis was paternalistic towards his African staff. Glynn wanted to bring them in as equals.

The messenger Ishmael, at the Centre, would lose his bicycle. When Glynn had an extended management stint at the Centre, he decided that he would allow the messenger to buy his bicycle, a very little amount a week; then he would be invested in his bicycle. Well, of course, the bicycle didn't get lost or stolen. So, when Louis came back, as I remember it, he was outraged, because this was ripping off the messenger by insisting that Ishmael contribute something of his wages for the bike. Whereas, I think that Glynn was right, because Ishmael actually wanted to own his bike and owning it meant that he was going to take better care of it. I believe that once the old system was restored, the bicycle was lost or stolen again. That was an example of the possible tension. They

overlapped for the last few months and it did get a little difficult. Really they saw things in very different ways. I think that Glynn was so secure in what he was, that he didn't feel that he had to challenge Louis; whereas I think that every other young man, who had been there, disliked the tension to such a degree that they chose to move on eventually and not challenge Louis or work with him again. The relationship between Glynn and Louis remained amicable. I have always puzzled about Glynn's relationship with Richard because Richard knew exactly how he wanted things to be done.

Richard and Glynn clashed about the date of the Koobi Fora Tuff. Richard did not want the first date that came out, which was for 2.5 my, to be revised. Richard did not want to have his view challenged. Glynn worked very hard to get it dated a second time. Glynn managed to see that conflict through. The truth is, although maybe there should have been more confrontation, I think if that had happened, it would have broken up the research group altogether; they could not have worked together. It was a very productive partnership in the end, right through the ten years to 1979.

It was not always easy with Richard. We moved to Berkeley; Desmond was there. We had three years from 1966 to 1969 before returning to Kenya. Glynn finished his doctorate on Olorgesailie.

Pamela: When did he finish it?

Barbara: 1968. Then he thought there would be an opportunity to study some of the later material so he applied for NSF funding for work in the Naivasha and Nakuru Lake Basin in an area of the Rift which was Middle and Later Stone Age. Again, I remember Louis trying to dissuade him. Louis was coming over to the

Leakey Foundation, saying that, "The work has all been done." Glynn disagreed, "The work has not all been done by any means."

Glynn got the NSF funding. The season was delayed because of problems on the American side and then we spent the whole year, from the summer of 1969 to the spring of 1970, living just outside of Nakuru at Lanet, with a group of students who were digging with us. That was when Richard had just started flying over Northern Kenya to the Omo. In the summer of 1969, Kay Behrensmeyer first picked up the stone tools at FxJj 1 and 3. All this is recorded. Richard then invited Glynn to go up to Koobi Fora to see these promising new sites in the summer of 1970, (we were back in Berkeley) to see if they wanted to work together. Then they set up a partnership, with fieldwork together until 1979, although there was a pause for the archaeologists in the middle. Glynn was co-director with Richard. Glynn brought money in from the NSF. Richard brought money in from the *National Geographic*. I wouldn't say there were two teams working but the archaeologists were doing their thing and the hominid hunters were doing their thing. On the whole, hominid fossils don't turn up in archaeological sites. They come to light in a surface survey. Richard had brought in geologists from Iowa State University. That was a bit of a problem that they would face later.

Glynn had very good students who were working on various problems associated with the early archaeology. We called them the Berkeley monosyllabics. Henry Bunn, Ellen Kroll, Jeanne Sept, Nic Toth, Kathy Schick, and at the beginning John Barthelme and Jack Harris. These were Ph.D students at Berkeley. In both 1971 and '72, there was a six-month season. I would go out with the girls to Nairobi, go up and join them in the field. We would go back to Nairobi; the girls were then in grade school. And then Glynn would join us and

we would work in the lab together, six months of 1971 and six months in 1972.

Our second daughter was born at the end of October in 1966. Glynn's appointment at Berkeley was due to be taken up in September 1966. We were both staying with my parents in Northamptonshire. We had to clear all the hoops of American immigration. So before the second daughter was born, we had gone up to London with our 1 1/2 year old, to American Immigration and they processed us. In the afternoon, we were interviewed by an officer who told us that he would do us a great favour. He was actually going to let us into the country, into the US, on my quota. At that time, there was a quota into the US according to place of birth. And, there was a much bigger quota for people born in Britain than people born in South Africa. The South African quota had already been taken up until the end of September. So, they were not going to let Glynn in on his quota but they would let him in on my quota. I just said, "That is not acceptable. I'm absolutely not going to the US because my first pregnancy delivery was very difficult. I want to be home with my mother." We were told by the immigration officials that there was no way that we could do this. I had to go in at the same time as Glynn. So, we went away thinking, "What are we going to do?" Would I fly over with him to New York and come back. I was not going to end up in Berkeley in a place that I didn't know with a 1 1/2 year old child and no idea as to how my second delivery was going to be. It was not the best way for Glynn to begin his first term of teaching.

In the end, Berkeley took it in hand and they made sure that Glynn came at the top of the new quota period. He was therefore a little late for teaching but he did get there in time on the first of October; I arrived just before Christmas with both children. He had found us a little house on Cedar Street which was just above Peets Coffee. Some people will know about Peets Coffee. Peets Coffee was the

first coffee house in Berkeley and a model for all the coffee houses since.

It was just after the free speech movement which had sort of died down. It was a bit quiet. It was on and off with People's Power, Flower Children and everything else through the 1970s. I remember taking the girls for a haircut and there were armored cars on Bancroft Avenue. Once or twice Glynn slept in the office for fear of arson. This was an old fraternity house at the top of the campus. Old World Prehistory and Primate Studies were not in the main Anthropology Department, Desmond, Glynn, Bob Rodden, Sherry Washburn.

To retrace a little, myth has it that Desmond contacted Grahame Clark and said he had two teaching positions in Old World Archaeology, one would be for African archaeology and one would be for something else. Desmond must have known that he wanted Glynn and he asked Grahame Clark to recommend another student and Grahame recommended Bob Rodden. So Bob and Judith were there a year before us. Bob had been digging in Greece and he was similarly finishing his dissertation and teaching, not an ideal arrangement.

In the house at the top of the campus, there were Bob, Glynn, Sherry and Desmond. It was great. Absolutely great, I have to say. Maybe Phyllis Jay was there for a few years. It really was a great centre for discussion. Sherry was always stopping by, talking about his ideas. Every time a scholar came through from elsewhere, either Desmond and Betty, or we, would have people come in for supper. There would be 15 or 20 people coming in. Sometimes it would be potluck but not always. And the students were part of this. It was a very sociable subsection of the Anthropology Department. I remember Betty Clark, some years later, she was in my kitchen, and Betty Howell was there too. I don't know whether you know Betty Howell but Betty Clark was saying that there was

a Chinese visitor coming and that Desmond had invited the Chinese visitor and somebody else; then there was another that Desmond had invited also and then some more people he had invited etc. They ended up with 20 or so people and Betty Clark had got very irritated by this, "I don't know how I am going to do it," she said. But, Betty Howell turned to her, "Well, just tell them that they can't come." I don't know if that was the American versus British attitude but, of course, Betty Clark was outraged; you just don't do that when people are invited! Needless to say the Clark Howell house had their own large parties to which we were invited. Maybe Betty Howell had just been joking but I don't think so.

Pamela: Were they American?

Barbara: Oh yes, the Clark Howells were very American. Those were wonderful years. You couldn't get time off from teaching for field work so one of the ways Glynn was able to go into the field was if he had enough graduate students to be able to run seminars in the field. So, we had seven or eight Ph.D. students and a seminar at least every week in the field, 1977-1979. In 1977, our older daughter was in boarding school in England and the younger one followed in 1978, which meant that I could go to the field in 1978 and 1979. In 1978, Glynn invited John Speth from Michigan to go out and be part of the seminar series. And in 1979, it was Wilfrid Shawcross.

Pamela: Very exciting times.

Barbara: It was exciting. It was not without its perils. Crocodiles, lions, scorpions, bandits. You name it, very little of that actually took a toll although scorpions did. In 1978, I think it was, we had the BBC come out; they were doing a film on "The Making of Mankind." So they did one programme on the Koobi

Fora Project.

Pamela: inaudible

Barbara: I assume that is still in the archives. It must be there. That film is historic. Binford had been challenging Glynn's idea of home bases and food-sharing, and essentially saying that the Old World prehistorians were not theory-based in their research which irked. He had no experience with the African bush at all and he was prepared to lay down what was what. If you read Glynn's first chapter in *Koobi Fora Research Project. Plio-Pleistocene Archaeology* which was published after he died, you will see that Glynn describes the way in which his research developed according to the questions he was asking. If you go back to Olorgesailie and the excavations he was doing, you see that he was already asking research questions that he later addressed at Koobi Fora. He was trained as a geologist but he was asking question as to, "How is it that these stone tools end up here and in this way?" From that point onward, he was interested in site formation. If you are interested in site formation then you must excavate carefully.

Pamela: Your husband is one of the great archaeologists.

Barbara: John Gowlett said it well in his introduction to *Collected Papers*, "Glynn was always thinking ahead."

Pamela: Who published that?

Barbara: This was CUP, I edited it around 1988. It is now in paperback I have discovered. John Gowlett did a very nice introduction to that. Glynn was always

thinking on his feet. And he was thinking with all the skills that he had and they were enormous. He was a very good geologist. He had the advantage during his second summer in Kenya, of meeting up with Dick Hay, who had been working at Olduvai, and in fact Glynn and I went down to Olduvai soon after I got to Kenya because Dick Hay was going to explain to Mary what he had discovered about the geology. Up until that point the geology at Olduvai was a mess. So, we went around the gorge with Mary, Dick and Glynn and they were talking mostly above my head certainly. I remember at the end of it, Mary, who had been listening very, very carefully, said that she would need to go back and talk it over with Louis. She still then had to pass things by Louis which was not true later. Glynn was able to see Dick in action, particularly in relationship to working with archaeological sites. I think that helped him to develop his geological skills. He was an excellent geologist and a zoologist and always asked questions in relation to animal behaviour. Jane had been working with chimpanzees and Glynn had asked questions about chimpanzee use of territory from people such as Richard Wrangham before they were actually mapping it. Glynn had produced early maps of movements of primates and hominids which he had asked Richard Wrangham about. I am sure that those maps stimulated people to think about that.

Then, of course, Glynn was interested in what had been happening with hunters-gatherers and their behaviour. One of his students, Jeanne Sept, did her thesis on plant communities and Annie Vincent researched Hadza women gathering tubers in northern Tanzania. Glynn was interested in how you could use tubers because it was obvious that whatever hominids were doing, they weren't necessarily just eating meat but also gathering plants. He was exploring these topics. I always felt with Glynn, that he always stuck very close to the evidence. If you look at what he was writing about, the archaeological data, he didn't over

interpret.

It was incredibly exciting. You really sort of felt that you were right at the very front of what was happening.

Pamela: Well, you were.

Barbara: And it was also so enjoyable. It was such fun. It was absolutely.

Pamela: What was it like working with Desmond?

Barbara: Well, unfortunately, Glynn and Desmond never went in the field together. This was something that Glynn had wanted and Desmond also lamented. I have no idea of how they would have worked together. They were working in very different areas. Desmond was an Africanist, I think he was a truly great archaeologist. He knew Africa. He had been over most of Africa. Glynn was - - - focused is the wrong word - - - but he was particularly in love with early man. He really wanted to tease out how humans became humans.

So they were doing very different things but they complemented each other wonderfully. They were together for 17 years. I think Desmond refers to that time as wonderful, amazing years together. I know that Desmond was very hurt when we decided to move to Harvard. Things had been happening at Berkeley and I think Glynn was ready to move on in some ways. Whatever I say is not going to be the complete truth and can be read in several ways but the primate studies at Berkeley changed. Clark Howell and Tim White. Tim White is one of the most difficult people that I have ever met. They hated, it is not too dramatic a word, they hated Richard. Because they hated Richard, they could not respect, in

a sense, Glynn's independence. So, that was difficult. Glynn knew David Pilbeam who had been at Peterhouse and David was in Cambridge the year that we were here in 1965/65. David was at Harvard. Harvard was a department that did not have a majority of social anthropologists which was also happening then at Berkeley. Social anthropologists were out voting the archaeologists; you know how things get in academic departments.

Pamela: quite

Barbara: So it seemed to be a good opportunity to move. We moved in 1983. We had a semester at Harvard at the beginning of 1981. Then, it finally came to fruition in 1983. Some of Glynn's PhD students moved with him.

Pamela: Yes, I'm sure that Desmond Clark would have really missed him.

Barbara: Oh, and I think to a degree things in the Berkeley Department broke down at that point.

Pamela: I never talked to Desmond about that. I was concentrating on his early life. He would have understood.

Barbara: In a way he understood.

Pamela: He was retired, wasn't he by then?

Barbara: No, he wasn't. He didn't retire fully until 1986. He turned 70 in 1986. I'm sure that is right. He took partial retirement for four years and retired at 70. There was a presentation and big celebration for his 70th birthday. He still

continued working, most remarkably because he produced so much, a lot of reports.

Pamela: Too bad I didn't ask him to talk about that part in life. But, you know, somebody has interviewed him.

Barbara: I think Tim White got him to do an oral history.

Pamela: There was also a man at the Berkeley University library. I talked to him when he was doing that project and could find out his name again. He recorded 20 hours of interviews; they hired him just to do that but, unfortunately, he wasn't an archaeologist.

Barbara: That is a real pity.

Pamela: We will conclude here. It is the 17th of May 2007 in Cambridge at our flat with Barbara Isaac.