

Stone, Peter G.

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Basic Biographical Information

Peter G. Stone was born in Manchester, UK, in 1957. After school, he first studied at the University of Stirling, gaining both a bachelor's (BA) degree in history and a Diploma of Education (DipEd) in 1979. Over the next few years, he worked as a schoolteacher, teaching history in England, but also teaching English in Greece. In the school summer holidays of 1978 and 1979, and before going to Greece in 1979, he worked as a volunteer at the Coppergate excavations in York with York Archaeological Trust. He was soon drawn even closer to archaeology, completing in 1983 a master's (MA) degree in archaeological method and theory at the University of Southampton. This was followed by a PhD at the same university, supervised by Professor Peter Ucko, with the thesis entitled *Teaching the Past, with Special Reference to Prehistory, in English Primary Education*, combining both his pedagogical experience and his archaeological interests.

Major Accomplishments

Due to working in a number of posts, including as a Project Manager and Coordinator at the University of Southampton for the Archaeology and Education Project set up with Ucko and then in various posts at English Heritage, and with a young family, Peter had the challenging task of carrying out his PhD research on a part-time basis. This achievement both developed in him a wider knowledge and experience of the heritage sector than a full-time student would have gained and also demonstrated his ability to focus on academic research despite many other commitments. It was during his time with English Heritage that he was directly involved with the infamous controversies surrounding the Summer Solstice at Stonehenge, dealing with this issue in the early to mid-1990s, including while working as Acting Regional Administrator for the South West. His experience with Stonehenge helped establish him as an authority on the site, with numerous publications looking at issues around the site's treatment and management (e.g., Stone 1999, 2006), leading to his appointment in 1997 as the Council for British Archaeology's (CBA's) Special Advisor on Stonehenge (later appointing him CBA representative for Hadrian's Wall, another significant World Heritage Site). The CBA also took advantage of Peter's educational expertise, appointing him Chair of the CBA Education Committee from 1997 to 2003, and he had been a member of the Schools Committee and then the Education Board for the CBA since the mid-1980s.

However, Peter's involvement in heritage reached beyond the UK into international issues from an early stage; he was instrumental, again with Peter Ucko, in driving the formation of the World Archaeological Congress (WAC). From 1998 to 2008, he was the Chief Executive Officer of WAC, and his continued involvement has been credited with providing WAC with administrative continuity and institutional memory (Smith, pers. comm. 2011), working from 1986 as head of the unpaid secretariat that enabled the organization to function. During this time too, he was the Executive Series Editor for the One World Archaeology (OWA) Series (1999–2003). He also produced as part of the OWA Series several seminal publications on education and interpretation of archaeological and cultural heritage that are still core textbooks (e.g., Stone and MacKenzie 1990; Stone and Molyneux 1994; Stone and Planel 1999).

He has also been involved with international heritage management issues for much of his career, for example, through extensive involvement with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). For example, in 1996 he was appointed as a member of the Advisory and Drafting Team for the World Heritage Education Project Kit. His work with UNESCO has also included extensive work overseas. He was personally approached by National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe (NMMZ) to carry out a review of their education service, compile a report on its future development, and then

implement some of that development – in particular a 7-week training program for education and interpretation staff in NMMZ. In addition, sabbatical visits to Australia and New Zealand as visiting lecturer at Flinders and Auckland Universities in 2004 and work in China in 2008 with the International Centre for Chinese Heritage and Archaeology (ICCHA) reinforce the regard in which his expertise is held internationally.

In 1997 Peter joined Newcastle University as a lecturer in heritage studies at the Department of Archaeology. He developed the popular MA program in Heritage Education and Interpretation and was the Director of the International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies at Newcastle University from its formation in 2001–2005. Following this, he moved to becoming Head of School of Arts and Cultures at Newcastle University, also becoming a Professor in 2005. In 2016 he became UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace at Newcastle University.

From a research perspective, Peter has recently been involved with exploring the controversial issues around heritage management during armed conflict, stemming from his appointment in 2003 as advisor to the Ministry of Defence with regard to safeguarding the archaeological heritage in Iraq in light of the impending conflict. As well as an award-winning publication coedited with Stone and Bajjaly (2008) and the development of a touring exhibition in partnership with the Oriental Institute in Chicago exploring the impact of the destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq, this experience has also led to Peter's continued lobbying of the UK government to ratify the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention 1954. Related to this, he is also the Chair of the UK Committee of the Blue Shield. Peter also continues to be interested in other heritage management issues, chairing the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site Management Plan Committee and sitting on the National Trust's Archaeology Advisory Panel.

Peter Stone's career has been highlighted with much esteem for his influential and groundbreaking contribution to international heritage studies. In 2011 he was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to heritage education. In 2013 Peter was awarded the Peter Ucko Memorial Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award by the World Archaeological Congress – both for services to world archaeology. Peter currently lives in Northumberland with his wife and four children.

References

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Further Readings

For many of Peter's publications. See www.ncl.ac.uk/sacs/staff/profile/peter.stone#tab_publications