

What secrets are revealed on this great journey through our past?

Time goes so fast as we grow older, but this magnificent book slows down the clock.

We contemplate the vast eras of geological time and the stirring sights of our ancestors' battles to survive in the toughest conditions of rock, sea and wind. We meet mysterious traders from overseas and the exotic goods they brought. We gain insights into ideas about society and civilization that arrived 2,000 years ago and resonate still. We watch the pastorate of the developing landscape that the farmers, fishermen and churchmen began to create from moor and cove; and hear again the sound of the splitting of the hard living rock that delivered up so much wealth and left such hard times.



This is a new archaeology, building on the discovery of artefacts and the traces in the landscape to form a chronicle of our people. It is a substantial work that will form a pillar of understanding for all who value the past as the foundation of our futures.



I The Origins of Cornwall

Cornwall's crooked granite finger pointing out to sea sums up the circumstances its women and men have contended with – toughened by hard geology, rough weather, patchy soil and rugged coasts, Cornwall's people have created a unique history, tantalisingly revealed through archaeological study and interpreted anew in this richly packed book.



II On the Edge of the Atlantic

(400,000–1200 BC)

The first chapters give us an insight into the earliest societies in Cornwall – hunters and gatherers, growers of food before farming became settled. We see how the Prehistoric era gave way gradually to more sophisticated cultures and discover some of the extraordinary works that have been found – from which we can dimly make out our ancestors' attitudes to life and death.



III Settled Farming Communities

(1200 BC–AD 400)

We watch the landscape change as farming became more consistent, sea-borne trade grew, the Roman Empire made itself grandly felt.

These chapters test our preconceptions of Cornwall and Roman Dumnonia; and of the impact of trade from across the seas on the already ancient societies commemorated in stones that we still see today.



IV The Age of Saints and Traders

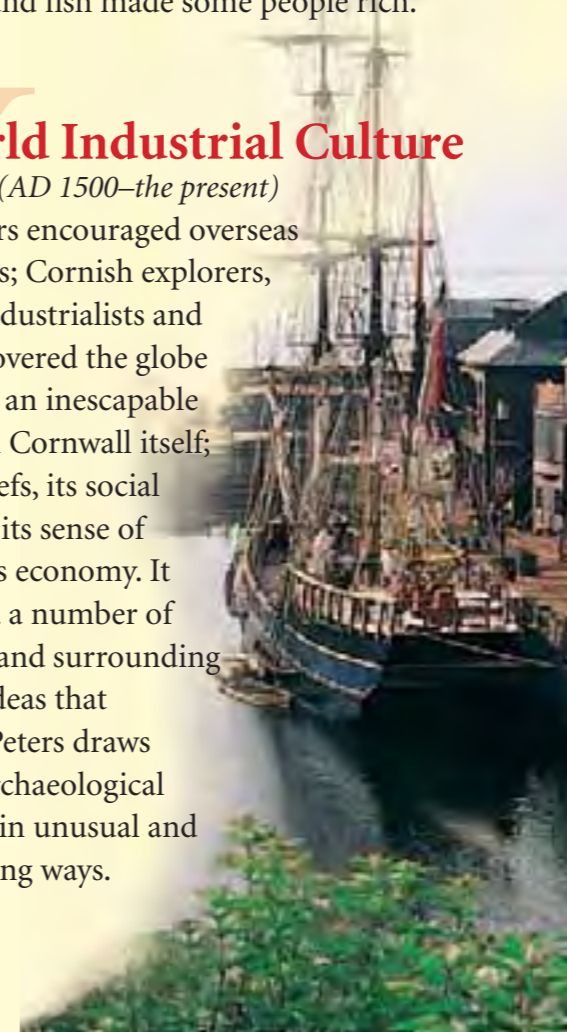
(AD 400–1500)

Christianity and Paganism sat side by side as the Romans retreated and saints and holy men founded chapels and monasteries. The Saxons found a tough land inhabited by tough people – the Tamar asserted itself as a natural boundary. In the ensuing centuries, relative peace allowed the mediaeval world to flourish and institutions that have become familiar today set down their roots. Industry, trade, minerals and fish made some people rich.

V A World Industrial Culture

(AD 1500–the present)

The Tudors encouraged overseas adventures; Cornish explorers, miners, industrialists and farmers covered the globe and made an inescapable impact on Cornwall itself; on its beliefs, its social structure, its sense of self and its economy. It developed a number of identities and surrounding myths – ideas that Caradoc Peters draws into his archaeological discourse in unusual and enlightening ways.



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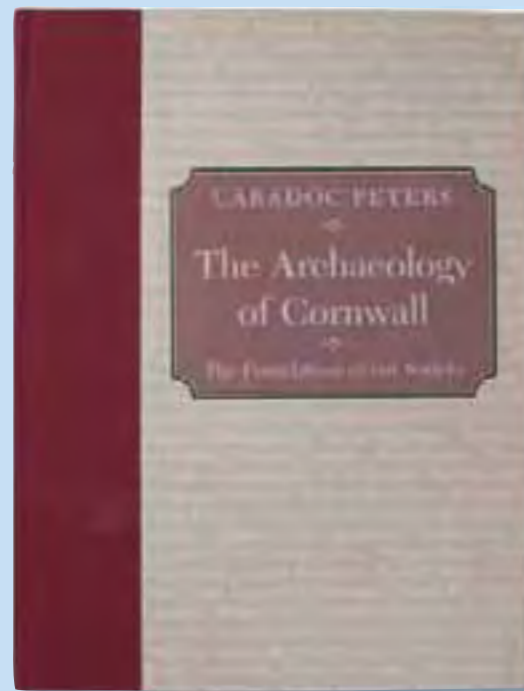
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Dr Caradoc Peters

Born in Redruth, Caradoc Peters spent his early childhood in Nigeria. He studied at Helston School, Cornwall, the University of Wales, Cardiff, the University of Bradford and the University of Auckland, New Zealand (PhD). While at Auckland, his doctoral thesis concerned the archaeology and environment of the Polynesian island of Rarotonga (the Cook Islands). He has worked in field archaeology in Germany, France, Switzerland and New Zealand. Since 1998, he has been a lecturer in Archaeology at Truro College. He is married with one son.

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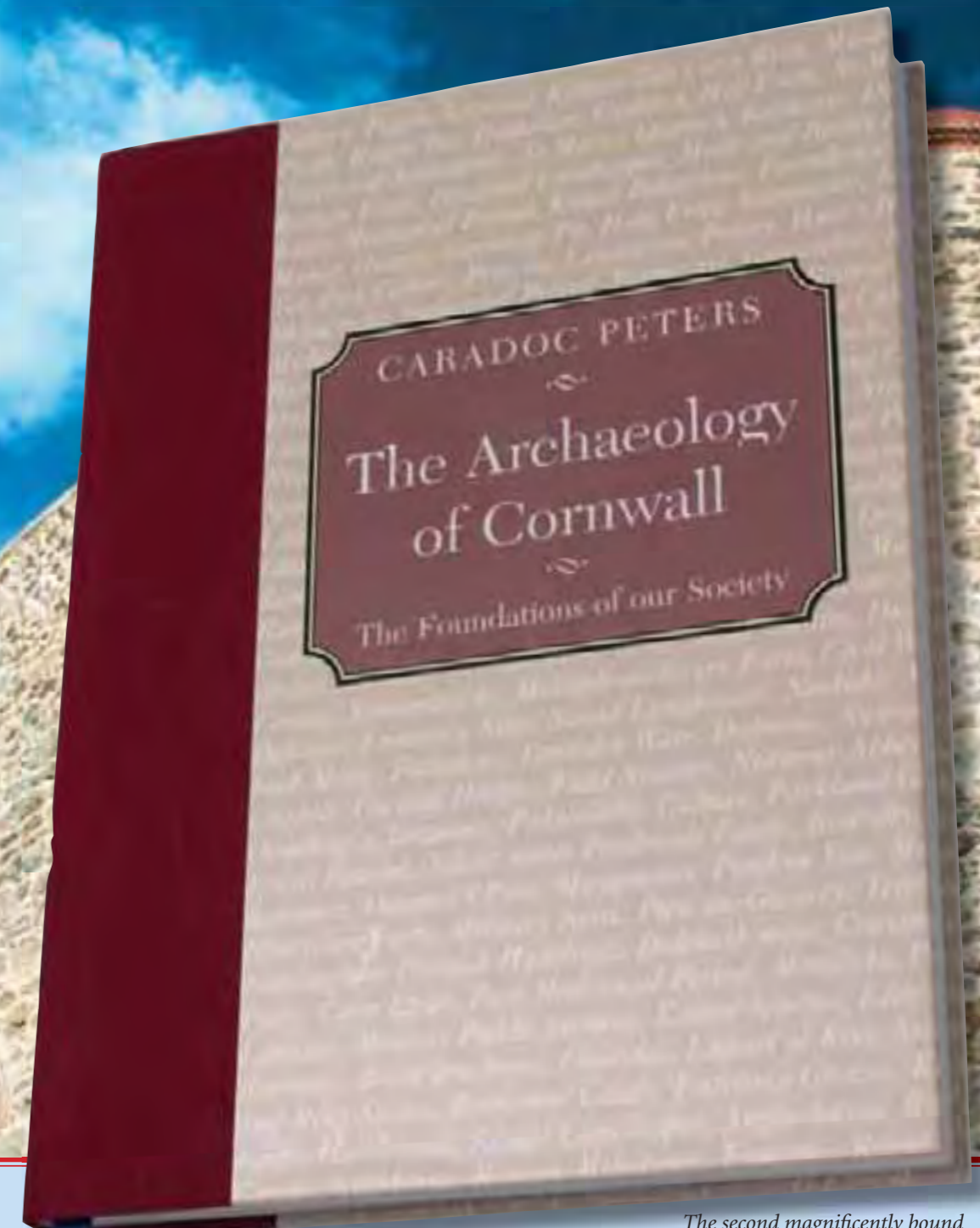
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