

## Ian Carvel Glover (1934 – 2018)



Ian and Emily Glover in Ulu Wae, an Iron-age burial cave in the Maros karst area, South Sulawesi, 1969. Photo: Teguh Asmar.

Ian Glover will always be remembered as a great pioneer of Southeast Asian archaeology, with a breadth of fieldwork which took him from the Ulu Leang caves in South Sulawesi in the 1970s, to Ban Don Ta Phet in west-central Thailand in the 1980s, to Tra Kieu in Vietnam in the 1990s, and many other sites in-between. Those of us lucky enough to know Ian have all in some way been influenced by his life.

Born in Lancashire, England, Ian never quite lost some of its linguistic traits, saying ‘uzz’ instead of ‘us’. In the years leading up to the Second World War, his family lived in Grange-over-Sands in a wonderful house overlooking Morecambe Bay with the Lake District National Park beyond. Those hills in the north of England remained important to him throughout his long life and he often returned to them, celebrating his eightieth birthday on a walking holiday. That love of the outdoors, of the hills and exploring the unknown, shaped him and, to a huge extent, his family as well.

Ian went to school in the Lake District, and then to Stowe in Buckinghamshire. This shaped and honed his mind as an independent, scholarly and intelligent young man. He was amongst the last of his generation to do National Service, which he hated. He then swapped the Yorkshire gloom for the Cyprus sunshine on a sort of surveillance duty, which he would only describe mysteriously as ‘secret’. He was in fact attached to

MI7 and his family are convinced that his job involved intercepting 'enemy' Russian telegraphic messages, but he once told his eldest son that the British actually spent much of their time intercepting American ones too. More importantly, it was in Cyprus that Ian's interest in archaeology began, a passion which would last his whole life.

In 1959, Ian's wanderlust overtook him, and he left London to head East, when that was still a rare thing to do. The hippies would only follow a decade later. He hitch-hiked across Europe, through Pakistan to Asia, and then on to Australia, with many mishaps and adventures along the way, including a night in an Iranian jail. Once in Australia, he tried his hand at film editing for a TV channel for which he had a natural ability, but something in his mind told him it was time to attend university. Ian would say he chose archaeology and anthropology because the lectures were in the afternoon, so he could continue to work in the television industry. In reality, he did it because he loved the subject matter. He also said that it was one of the few professions that caused no harm to anyone.

After graduating from Sydney University with top honours, Ian went on to study for his PhD at the Australian National University in Canberra and work in (what was then) Portuguese Timor on early prehistoric sites. In 1963, he met his future wife, Emily, whom he married in 1968—a marriage that was to last for fifty years. They set up their home in London, where Ian had been offered a permanent teaching position in archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, a college of London University, which later became part of University College London (UCL). They had two sons, of whom he was extremely proud and whose academic successes delighted him immensely. His eldest, Julian Glover OBE, is an English author, journalist and speechwriter. The younger, Adrian, is a research leader in the Life Sciences Department of the Natural History Museum, London, with a particular focus on deep-sea biodiversity. As a family, they shared many interests, led in many ways by Ian and his imagination.

As one of the founding members in the field of Southeast Asian prehistory, his legacy is not only in his fieldwork, excavating in Timor, Thailand, and Vietnam, but also in his publications and books about early Southeast Asia. In 1986, he and Peter Bellwood founded the European Association of Southeast Asian Archaeologists (EurASEAA), which held its inaugural meeting in London. One of his greatest contributions to Southeast Asian archaeology is in terms of the large number of his students who have gone on to work in this field. The enormous feeling of sadness and the great number of expressions of gratitude and appreciation for his steadfast support, vis-à-vis his colleagues and students from all over the world, is testimony to the great number of people he inspired.

Although Ian was structured in his work, and his research was carefully conducted, he did not cling to preconceived ideas. He allowed the archaeology and the material to speak for itself. In that respect, his research attitude was exemplary. He was a great site director, and he would provide the framework and the basis on which to let his students and colleagues operate freely, allowing them to put their talents to good use. Occasionally, a student might fail to appreciate the extraordinary opportunity that Ian's support offered and might fail to rise to the level required. While Ian was always ready to guide and encourage his students, he would never do their work for them.

He might obtain research funding for students' work but would never dictate how that money should be spent. Rather, he would demand that his students think for themselves and produce their own original research. At times, he might even disagree with their methodology or hypotheses, but that was for him secondary. He was like a generous gardener who allowed plants and trees to flourish independently.

Knowing when to show humility, Ian was not afraid to change his mind or admit when he may have been incorrect. In the 1980s, Ian had suggested that the high tin bronzes he excavated at the protohistoric site of Ban Don Ta Phet in west-central Thailand, dating to the 4th century CE, were products of workshops in what is now Thailand. He later came to believe that these were, in fact, more likely to be products of Indian manufacture, albeit with the raw tin coming from Southeast Asia. However, he also would never fail to stand his ground when his strongly held opinions about fairness were challenged. A particular example caused him to take early retirement two years prior to his sixty-fifth birthday because of his views concerning the equality of treatment of staff members and his refusal to be bullied by the university authorities.

After he retired from teaching prehistory at UCL, Ian continued contributing to the field by inspiring new students and imparting advice and valuable knowledge with boundless generosity. Easily bored, he was constantly busy with new ideas and projects and, as a consequence, he did not publish as much as he should have. Those of us lucky enough to have worked with him could take advantage of his great intellect. Being in his company meant that the resources of his mind and his formidable powers of reflection were on tap and at our disposal. How fortunate we were!

Ian was a true polymath, widely read and with an impressive memory. His interests in literature, history, architecture, cooking and early music made him an intellectual guide to his family and friends. After his retirement from teaching, he spent more time at his country house in Shropshire, where he was as happy strimming the weeds and making bread and cider in season as he was in London, attending the theatre and classical music concerts and having dinner with friends, or in a Soi off Sukhumvit. His zest for life showed through in every aspect.

In his eighties, Ian was still travelling the world, not only for his Southeast Asian research, attending conferences, giving talks and keeping in touch with his old colleagues and former students, but because he decided that there were still too many places in the world with which he was unfamiliar. To his dying day, he pursued new adventures, gaining new knowledge with the same unfailing curiosity. This unadulterated enthusiasm meant that his circle of friends ranged down through the generations to those just setting out on their paths in the world. His ease and talent for befriending people of all ages and walks of life rested on his singular capacity to learn from others. His appreciation of people translated into a symbiotic relationship of mutual exchange.

At the time of his death in Catania, Sicily, on the eve of his eighty-fourth birthday, he was still on an adventure. Ian died on stage with sword in hand.

Anna Bennett