

Step Into the Past

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Introduction to the Paradata:

“Step into the Past” is a watercolour painting created from my experience of the Flag Fen museum and collections. It was created over the course of a week using traditional watercolour techniques on rigid A3 watercolour paper. Accompanying the painting is a short poem which outlines the inspirations and questions that arose during my time exploring and creating with the collections. After the jam I will give the painting to the trust to be used as part of their on-going fundraising efforts.

Paradata as Poem:

Close your eyes - let your senses soar
Imagine you are back in the times of yor –
Over three thousand five hundred years ago
This mystical land where the waters flow
Was a thriving place where people passed
With self-sheering sheep to graze lush summer grass
And what else you say! Oh wait just a while
The dark waters secrets will make you smile
Hidden away by peat and fen
From the disrespect of mortal men
Until Eighty Two when Francis Pryor
Tripped over a “twig” in the murky mire

The oak post was worked with a small bladed axe
Then everyone realised they had all been lax
At checking this site for signs of the past
Not realising the Bronze age would turn up last!
They had checked out the Romans and the Beaker peoples
The medieval sites and religious steeples
But before them now new finds were seen
New questions of how the past had been

The sounds and smells of the fen have changed a little
But now where exposed the causeway is brittle
Wembly arena’s the size of this find
A causeway to where? Must bear that in mind.....

Open your eyes – take a look around
You will be amazed at what's been recently found
A wooden wheel – the oldest recorded
The Must Farm boats – that many had boarded
Are here to be carefully conserved
To enable this history to be preserved.

Sea Henge has also been to this place
Before King's Lynn became its base.
There are many finds - a tiny gold ring,
Swords, pottery many more Bronze Age things
Were they an offering to a person or god?
Or dropped by mistake whilst the causeway they trod.
The amazing flora and fauna must have been key
Reeds for thatching and the food of the sea.

So stay a while and open your senses
Imagine the world without roads and fences
Come with a group - learn about the site
Help dig into the past with all your might.
“Experience Education” is for young and old
And remember all treasure is not measured as gold!

The Flag is the golden plant of great fame
The Iris that gives this site its name.
So I offer this painting as a gift of esteem
To the great unacknowledged archaeological team
Who have made this collection for us to see
By crowd source funding and selling cups of tea!