

# Review

## Among the New Books

N. JAMES

### Global threat? The development of human society

ALBERT DUCROS, JACQUELINE DUCROS & FRÉDÉRIC JOULIAN (ed.). *La culture est-elle naturelle? Histoire, épistémologie et applications récentes du concept de culture*. 238 pages, 22 illustrations. 1998. Paris: Editions Errance; 2-87772-153-1 paperback F180.

BRUCE G. TRIGGER. *Sociocultural evolution: calculation and contingency*. xiv+306 pages. 1998. Oxford & Malden (MA): Blackwell; 1-55786-976-4 paperback £13.99 & \$24.95.

JOHN BINTLIFF (ed.). *Structure and contingency: evolutionary processes in life and human society*. xxii+153 pages, 23 figures, 1 table. 1999. London & New York (NY): Leicester University Press; 0-7185-0025-3 & 0-7185-0026-1 hardback & paperback £50 & £16.99.

GARY M. FEINMAN & JOYCE MARCUS (ed.). *Archaic states*. xiv+430 pages, 64 figures, 10 tables. 1998. Santa Fe (NM): School of American Research Press; 0-933452-98-5 & 0-933452-99-3 hardback & paperback \$55 & \$24.95.

✉ 'Is culture natural?' ask Dr DUCROS and colleagues. The first part of their book comprises seven essays on the concept of culture: from Linnaeus to Darwin; de Mortillet, Boucher de Perthes, Quatrefages and Abbé Bourgeois struggling over Palaeolithic spirituality; A. Kuper, R. Delisle and S. van der Leeuw on the social and cultural anthropologists; and L. Olivier on how archaeologists adapted their concepts of time to the new evidence of deeper antiquity. The second part is nine essays on the origin of culture and the relation between human ways and primates', including a couple on 'traditions' among apes and monkeys and a theoretical piece by M. Godelier on the theme, one on sociobiology (always worth reading about from France), and F. D'Errico on his ideas about the origins of techniques for recording information.

Prof. TRIGGER works over some of the same ground in response to post-modern 'romanticism', archaeological 'post-processualism' in particular, and criticisms of the concept of stages and types in the evolution of human societies. He urges that 'descent with modification may explain the development of cultural diversity' and also that a view of history as a whole shows that a pattern of 'linear evolution' 'has become more pronounced' (pp. 260–61). Archaeology, he recommends, 'may provide the only

reliable information about early . . . human societies' and, for later periods, about 'the changes brought about by European and other forms of contact' between groups (p. 163). He argues that, as modern technology threatens to destroy the world, we must 'plan . . . our collective future' (p. 257). Equally opposed to New Rightery and centralized social planning, he recommends that awareness of the broad scheme of history helps us to recognize our responsibility.

To mull over with him the same theme of pattern in long-term history, Prof. BINTLIFF has gathered two geologists, three anthropologists and a fellow archaeologist, and brought S.J. Gould in to introduce the proceedings. A. Bilsborough's long review of hominid speciation is especially thought-provoking. Considering his colleagues' remarks, and with illustrations of his own from Iron Age Greece, Roman villas in Britain, and the history of English parish churches, Prof. BINTLIFF recommends that 'punctuated equilibrium' is the model that accords best with the evidence.

On the strength of comparing Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus civilization, Mesoamerica and the Central Andes, the seminar reported in *Archaic states* agreed on the validity of the concept of states for studying early complex society but participants used it in various ways — partly, perhaps, depending on the different sources of evidence that one and another works with. In accord with much of the argument by both Prof. TRIGGER and the BINTLIFF team, the 10 scholars (9 US, 1 British) also tended to agree that early states took various forms but were unstable organizations, evidently susceptible to internal and/or external disturbance. *Archaic states* has proved very stimulating for students.

The next pair of titles are textbooks.

CHARLES KEITH MAISELS. *Early civilizations of the Old World: the formative histories of Egypt, the Levant, Mesopotamia, India and China*. xvi+479 pages, 97 figures, 21 tables. 1999. London: Routledge; 0-415-10975-2 hardback £40.

PETER BOGUCKI. *The origins of human society*. xvii+475 pages, 78 figures, 1 table. 1999. Malden (MA) & Oxford: Blackwell; 1-55786-349-0 & 1-55786-112-3 hardback & paperback \$64.95, £60 & \$29.95 & £16.99.

Dr MAISELS presents cases in point of Prof. TRIGGER and FEINMAN & MARCUS. He argues that complex societies developed in the Old World by various processes; and he affirms that they were usually unstable. His book is approachable and attractive to students, so it is a pity that plans for a paperback edition have been dropped. Dr BOGUCKI's full but lucid and elegantly designed book covers the story from human origins to early states in the Old World and the New. How will it fare in competition with R.J. Wenke's established *Patterns in prehistory?* It offers engaging reassessments of key issues such as the development of farming or the role of chiefdoms in social evolution — for the latter, again, variation and instability are emphasized.

MARY W. HELMS. *Access to origins: affines, ancestors and aristocrats*. xiv+258 pages, 12 figures. 1998. Austin (TX): University of Texas Press; 0-292-73119-1 hardback \$35.

Dr HELMS returns very fruitfully indeed to her theme of aristocracy and chiefly power. Ancestry and cosmological concepts of origin, she explains — with ethnography from the world over — provided idioms for justifying the emergence of centralized, hierarchical organization. Her argument works especially effectively in regard to 'house societies' and to forms of 'tangible durable wealth' (heirlooms etc.) which belie human and political 'fragility'. It is an exciting book. See also REDMOND in 'Americas', below.

Fact-packed, vividly illustrated and well designed, the following title reviews, for the beginner, case studies from the Neolithic back to the Lower Palaeolithic in order to explain our understanding of the earlier phases of history. Von Däniken, Mme Blavatsky and G. Hancock are dismissed at the outset.

RICHARD RUDGLEY. *Secrets of the Stone Age: a prehistoric journey*. xii+196 pages, colour and b&w illustrations. 2000. London: Century; 0-7126-8452-2 hardback £18.99.

## Egypt

RICARDO A. CAMINOS. *Semna-Kumma* (Archaeological Survey of Egypt 37th Memoir; 2 vols). xiii+121 pages, 61 plates & x+117 pages, 7 figures, 76 plates, table. 1998. London: Egypt Exploration Society; 0-85698-096-X ISSN 0307-5117-37 hardback £90.

The temples of Semna and Kumma faced each other across the south end of the Second Cataract until Lake Nasser was formed in 1965. Prof. CAMINOS now reports on his detailed surveys and analyses of the monuments and their reliefs and inscriptions.

See also NICHOLSON & SHAW in 'Reference', below.

ALAN K. BOWMAN & EUGENE ROGAN (ed.). *Agriculture in Egypt from Pharaonic to modern times*. xxviii+427 pages, 11 figures, 3 maps, 20 tables. 1999. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 0-19-726183-3 hardback £40.

BOWMAN & ROGAN present 18 very scholarly papers by British, US and Egyptian experts in history, Egyptology and anthropology assessing agriculture along the Nile and in the Fayyum at various scales from the village level to the whole country. It is very valuable that they cover such a long history: there are two papers on the Dynastic period, three on the Ptolemaic, two on the Roman, four on the Medieval, and five on the modern period. The result is a thorough case study in historical geography, with special attention to administration, economic systems and technology. The book has been produced to a suitably high standard.

*Agriculture in Egypt* pays little attention to rites and the recording of time but Dr EL-SABBAN (details below) presents detailed evidence for periodic celebrations and methods of data presentation in the Old, Middle and New Kingdom and Ptolemaic periods. His emphasis falls on the New Kingdom period, and he concentrates especially on the Medinet Habu calendar, with its well preserved lists of offerings of stock and produce. Prof. ROSE (details below) has branched off a well-worn trail of scholarship to argue that the whole chronology of the ancient calendars has been misconstrued: he has calculated that the Middle Kingdom ended not in 1786 BC but 1455 years later!

SHERIF EL-SABBAN. *Temple calendars of ancient Egypt*. xii+220 pages, 33 plates. 2000. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press; 0-85323-623-2 hardback £45.

LYNN E. ROSE. *Sun, moon, and Sothis: a study of calendars and calendar reforms in ancient Egypt*. xxxvi+339 pages, 1 figure, tables. 1999. Deerfield Beach (FL): Kronos; 0-917994-15-9 hardback \$35 (+\$5 overseas).

Fifteen contributions, ranging from physical anthropology and X-ray analysis of materials to iconography, museology and archive research have been assembled as a Festschrift for Harry James, as follows.

W.V. DAVIES (ed.). *Studies in Egyptian antiquities: a tribute to T.G.H. James* (British Museum Occasional Paper 123). vi+177 pages, figures, colour & b&w plates. 1999. London: British Museum; 0-86159-123-2 paperback £40.

ROSALIE DAVID. *The experience of ancient Egypt*. xxii+192 pages, 33 figures, 6 maps. 2000. London: Routledge; 0-415-03263-6 hardback £35.

A.G. MCDOWELL. *Village life in ancient Egypt: laundry lists and love songs*. xvii+279 pages, 26 figures. 1999. Oxford: Oxford University Press; hardback 0-19-8149980 £40.

FRANÇOISE DUNAND & ROGER LICHTENBERG. *Les momies et la mort en Égypte*. 256 pages, colour & b&w illustrations. 1998. Paris: Errance; 2-87772-162-0 paperback F220.

The first part of *The experience of ancient Egypt* is a brief introduction to the history, to funerary customs and religion, to everyday life, and to the

texts. The second and longer part traces the history of Egyptology from the Classical period to the new biomedical research (see also DUNAND & LICHTENBERG, below). *Village* reconstructs domestic life, work — particularly construction of Ramesses IV's tomb — and law from 1570 to 1070 BC, on the basis of the evidence from Deir el-Medina. *Les momies* is a comprehensive, lively and intensely (but not flawlessly) illustrated beginners' introduction to ancient Egyptian mummification and how it is studied (see too RAUTMAN in 'the body', below).

ERIK HORNUNG. *Akhenaten and the religion of light* (tr. David Lorton). xiv+146 pages, 19 figures, 1 map. 1999. Ithaca (NY): Cornell University Press; 0-8014-3658-3 hardback £22.95.

JOYCE TYLDESLEY. *Ramesses: Egypt's greatest pharaoh*. xxix+225 pages, 25 figures, 25 plates, 4 maps. 2000. London: Viking; 0-670-88487-1 hardback £16.99.

*Akhenaten* concentrates on Amenhotep IV's distinctive doctrine. Prof. HORNUNG explains the background under the previous pharaoh and assesses the fate of Akhenaten's cult as a fundamentalist creed. He includes a short description of the capital, Amarna, and, in the opening chapter, sums up the history of research on this fascinating story. Dr TYLDESLEY's biography is presented thematically: war, the cult of the pharaoh and his own capital, and his family relations. She sets Ramesses II into context with chapters on the historical background and on his successors' reigns.

BÉATRICE MIDANT-REYNES. *The prehistory of Egypt from the first Egyptians to the first pharaohs* (tr. Ian Shaw). xv+328 pages, 26 figures, 5 maps. 2000. Oxford & Malden (MA): Blackwell; 0-631-21787-8 hardback £55 & \$64.95, paperback £15.99 & \$29.95.

Dr MIDANT-REYNES' valuable review works through from Lower Palaeolithic to the beginning of the Dynastic period. Most attention is on the Epipalaeolithic and Neolithic. There is a hefty bibliography.

## Americas

KAREN OLSEN BRUHNS & KAREN E. STOTHERT. *Women in ancient America*. xvi+343 pages, 66 figures. 1999. Norman (OK): University of Oklahoma; 0-8061-3169-1 hardback \$34.95.

Drs BRUHNS & STOTHERT hold that women have not been adequately recognized in the archaeology up to the Colonial period. After a stimulating opening essay to show the possibilities, there are two chapters on the Palaeoindian and Archaic periods, with ethnographic analogy from the Arctic for the earlier part of the story. The central six chapters, following, are on food production, households, other economic activity, religion, political organization and war. The economic patterns are related cogently to concurrent social developments. The last chapter urges that prehistory shows how unnecessary are today's inequalities.

GUSTAVO G. POLITIS & BENJAMIN ALBERTI (ed.). *Archaeology in Latin America*. xiv+286 pages, 78 figures. 1999. London: Routledge; 0-415-22158-7 paperback £25.

Drs POLITIS & ALBERTI too have tried to balance the record. Pointing out that much of the literature and the theoretical agenda in Latin America has been dominated by outsiders, they present a refreshing sample of Latin work, including several archaeologists now becoming better known to the English-reading world. Dr POLITIS opens with a historical review showing not only divergences between Latin and 'Anglo' research but also something of the diversity in Latin America — which, he suggests, owes, in part, to a comparative lack of dominant schools. The next four chapters carry out similar historical assessments; and there follow eight on topics ranging from the Archaic in Venezuela to the extent of the Inca empire.

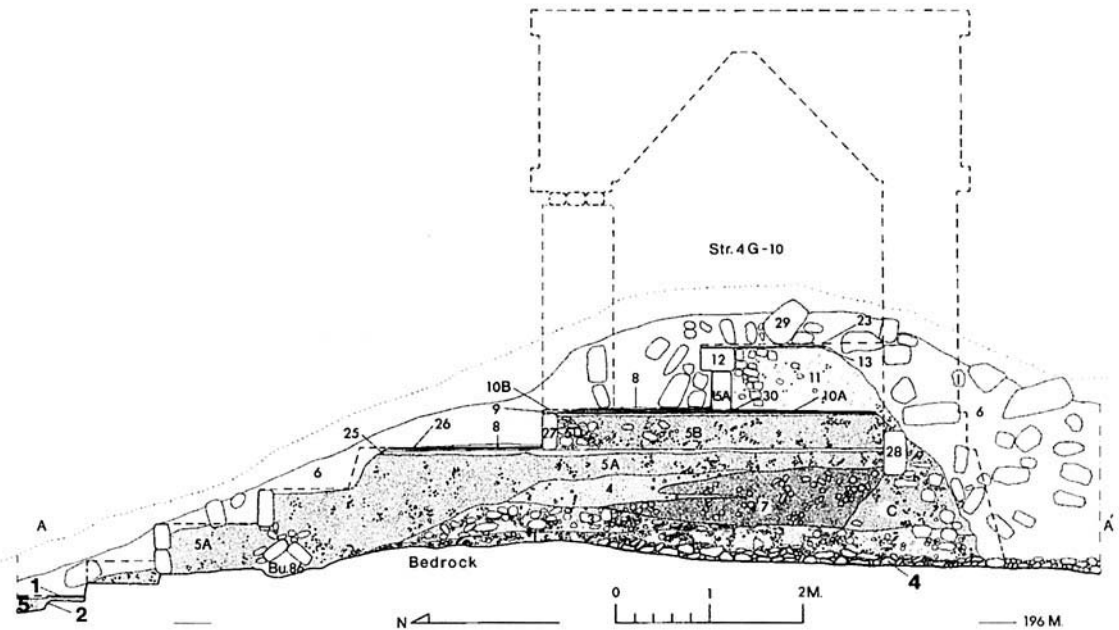
E. JAMES DIXON. *Bones, boats and bison: archeology and the first colonization of western North America*. xiv+322 pages, 91 figures, 4 tables. 1999. Albuquerque (NM): University of New Mexico; 0-8263-2057-0 hardback \$49.95, 0-8263-2138-0 paperback \$24.95.

COLIN RENFREW (ed.). *America past, America present: genes and languages in the Americas and beyond*. x+175 pages, 25 figures, 11 tables. 2000. Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research; 1-902937-01-5 ISSN 1461-331X paperback £30 & US\$50.

Dr DIXON is not the first to argue that the first Siberians to occupy America followed the coast rather than an inland route but there is now more evidence of early occupations on the North Pacific coasts; and he has dispensed with the usual hypothesis that grassland hunting was the means of early colonization. That came later, he suspects: he argues that the first assemblages are foragers; and he suggests that the celebrated Clovis point was developed from harpoons. His review of the archaeology and physical anthropology ranges across all the principal sites in North & South America. The review of the Palaeoindian archaeology in the northwest is interesting but, to bear the theory out, more evidence of early coastal sites is needed further north.

Prof. RENFREW presents 10 papers on the integration of linguistic and genetic data for prehistory. There are five on methods in general, including his own overview and a summary by N. Bradman *et al.* of their work on Jewish priests; a couple on demarking linguistic affiliations in the Americas; and three on genetic patterns, including a study of Yanomama mitochondrial DNA.

ELSA M. REDMOND (ed.). *Chiefdoms and chieftaincy in the Americas*. xii+303 pages, 34 figures, 3 tables. 1998. Gainesville (FL): University Press of Florida; 0-8130-1620-7 hardback \$55.



Structure 4G 10. Section A-A' (scale 1:50).

MARSHALL J. BECKER (with CHRISTOPHER JONES & JOHN MCGINN. Excavations in residential areas of Tikal: groups with shrines (*Tikal Report 21; University Museum Monograph 104*). xviii+292 pages, 125 figures, 121 tables. 1999. Philadelphia (PA): University of Pennsylvania Museum; 0-924171-71-5 hardback) remarks that the excitement of deciphering hieroglyphs has distracted scholars of the Maya from the archaeology of ordinary everyday life. His report does include data on at least one larger building above a tomb containing reference to a king of Naranjo but it concentrates on structures like the one shown here. Dr BECKER confirms that 'The unsurpassed quality of the map of Tikal . . . enables greater prediction of building arrangements than is possible at other sites' (p. 147). See also *The lords of Tikal*.

DAVID C. GROVE & ROSEMARY A. JOYCE (ed.). *Social patterns in Pre-Classic Mesoamerica: a symposium at Dumbarton Oaks 9 and 10 October 1993*. viii+336 pages, 80 figures, 3 tables. 1999. Washington (DC): Dumbarton Oaks Research Library & Collection; 0-88402-252-8 hardback.

*Chiefdoms and chieftaincy* is six papers on cases from South America, three on North America, one on the West Indies, and a comparison by P. Kelekna of 'War and theocracy' among the Jivaro, in the Cauca Valley and in Mesoamerica. Dr REDMOND introduces with a broad review and contributes a paper on South America. D. Kurella assesses the Muisca (Chibcha), who may have been about to develop a state when the Spanish arrived. C.S. Spencer contributes with archaeology from Venezuela; but N.L. Whitehead assesses problems of evidence with both archaeological and historical information; and W.C. Sturtevant doubts whether the Tupinambá did have chiefs. R.L. Carneiro speculates about military 'flashpoints' in the rise of chieftains.

Drs GROVE & JOYCE introduce papers on, variously, burials and offerings, households and iconography from Paso de la Amada (M. Love), Tlatilco (JOYCE), 'the Olmecs' (A. Cyphers, P. Ortiz & M. del Carmen Rodríguez and D. Grove), Oaxaca (J. Marcus), and the lowland Maya (N. Hammond, W.M. Ringle and J. Hendon). The emphasis is on the earlier and Middle phases of the Formative period — topical, in view of the evidence for ever earlier social complexity. B.L. Stark contributes a sensible discussion of problems in interpreting sociology and symbolism.

This quarter brings three books on the Maya for the general reader.

PETER D. HARRISON. *The lords of Tikal: rulers of an ancient Maya city*. 208 pages, 13 colour plates, 127 b&w figures. 1999. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-05094-5 hardback £32.

DAVID DREW. *The lost chronicles of the Maya kings*. xiv+450 pages, 55 colour and b&w plates, 38 figures, 2 maps, 1 table. 1999. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson; 0-297-81699-3 hardback £20.

ANON. *The Maya*. Colour figures. 1996. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-06022-3 hardback £5.95.

At first sight, *Lords* aptly complements the other books in the series 'New aspects of antiquity' which do so much to describe and explain important sites to students and the general reader. Tikal is one of the most outstanding sites in Mesoamerica; and Dr HARRISON has contributed greatly to the research there. He does, indeed, provide a good general sense of how its monuments illustrate Tikal's public history; and he explains his discovery of the triangulation by which successive buildings were laid out. Yet a few editorial problems blunt the effect. The prose and even details of the argument are slightly ambiguous in places; references are not provided clearly enough; there are more typing errors than usual; figure 109 is poor. The emphasis on the *Lords* begs questions about their subjects and the economy. See also the picture review of BECKER *et al.*

Mr DREW's up-to-date book describes the history of research (at some length) and then the Mayas' own history, including a brief summary of their survival since the Spanish Conquest. However, it seems quite a read, compared with the spectacular treatment by Thames & Hudson in all their books in 'New aspects' and two other series. Yet another of their series is the dinky books on 'Sacred symbols', one of which is *The Maya*. Although beautifully produced, it is all iconography and the text is much too short to make sense of it — a poor concept.

DAVÍD CARRASCO, LINDSAY JONES & SCOTT SESSIONS (ed.). *Mesoamerica's Classic heritage from Teotihuacan to the Aztecs*. xix+559 pages, 208 figures, 10 tables. 2000. Niwot (CO): University Press of Colorado; 0-87081-512-1 hardback \$49.95.

ALFREDO LÓPEZ AUSTIN & LEONARDO LÓPEZ LUJÁN. *Mito y realidad de Zuyuá: serpiente emplumada y las transformaciones mesoamericanas del Clásico al Posclásico*. 168 pages, 27 figures, 5 charts. 1999. Mexico City: Fideicomiso historia de las Américas; 968-16-5889-2 paperback Mex\$54.

MICHAEL E. SMITH & MARILYN A. MASSON (ed.). *The ancient civilizations of Mesoamerica: a reader*. xv+497 pages, 188 figures, 13 tables. 2000. Malden (MA) & Oxford: Blackwell; 0-631-21115-2 hardback \$74.95 & £70, 0-631-21116-0 paperback \$36.95 & £17.99.

*Classic heritage* is a bold and compelling assertion of the principle, which Dr CARRASCO and some others have been working on for years, that Teotihuacan should be associated with the mythic Toltecs. There were always those for whom simple identification with Tula (Hidalgo) was inadequate. The high powered roster of archaeologists and cultural historians contributing to the new book goes most of the way, at last, to showing how and why the mythic Toltecs must be distinguished from the later historic Toltecs who created but one version of Mesoamerica's key civic idiom.

The first article is a good, long summary by LÓPEZ & LÓPEZ — brilliant historian father & brilliant archaeologist son — of their essay on *Zuyuá*. It is an absolutely excellent way to start the book (and a great service to anglophones who do not read Spanish). In the context of CARRASCO *et al.*, however, it begs a question as to how, in Michoacán, the *Zuyuá* principle had applied before the late period. There follow seven papers on aspects of the archaeology and art history of Central Mexico, and eight on the symbolism, including two on connections with the Maya during the Classic period (but tip-toeing around the problems of interpreting Chichen Itza). This book is also a great mark of Anglo-Latin cooperation (*cf.* POLITIS & ALBERTI, above).

SMITH & MASSON is a special boon for teachers & students, the first reader on Mesoamerican archaeology for years and certainly the best. It presents 23 fine articles, both older and recent, assembled from a very broad range of sources, by US and Canadian archaeologists (and one Mexican), on social organization, economic organization, political organization, and religion and ideology. Great!

ENRIQUE FLORESCANO. *The myth of Quetzalcoatl* (tr. Lysa Hochroth). xiii+287 pages, 164 b&w illustrations, 2 tables. 1999. Baltimore (MD) & London: Johns Hopkins University Press; 0-8018-5999-9 hardback £35.

MARIA ROSTWOROWSKI DE DIEZ CANSECO. *History of the Inca realm* (tr. Harry B. Iceland). x+259 pages, 18 figures, 3 maps, 2 tables. 1999. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 0-521-44266-4 hardback £35, 0-521-63759-7 paperback £13.95.

ERIK WAHLGREN. *The Vikings and America*. 192 pages, 103 figures. 2000. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-28199-8 paperback £9.95.

Prof. FLORESCANO's disquisition on the great feathered serpent spirit has been translated. \*\* So too, at long last, N.B., is Dr ROSTWOROWSKI's very fine work on the Incas. *The Vikings and America* is now out in paperback.

JOYCE M. WRIGHT. *Numbers: a message from the past* (London Museum of Archaeology Bulletin 16). xiii+197 pages, 20 figures, 33 tables. 1999. London (PO): ISSN 0709-2628 paperback \$25 (+ \$5 p&p).

Ms WRIGHT (daughter of J.V.) has studied late precolumbian pottery of the district between Lakes Ontario and Huron. She claims that assemblages, house by house, were rather uniform. She argues that villages, even remote from each other, were in close touch; and that frontier sites were dangerous. She suspects that the chronological relation of two pottery wares has to be reassessed. The main 'message' of her volume is more surprising. She claims to have detected symbolism in the varying numbers of horizontal lines scored on the pottery. She supports her interpretation with reference to historical descriptions of the Huron, who lived here in the 1600s.

## Korea

JANE PORTAL. *Korea: art and archeology*. 240 pages, colour & b&w photographs, figures. 2000. London: British Museum; 0-7141-1487-1 paperback £15.99.

SARAH MILLEDGE NELSON. *Spirit bird journey*. vi+237 pages, 2 figures. 1999. Littleton (CO): RKLOG; 0-9675798-0-6 paperback \$15.95.

To accompany the British Museum's new Korean Gallery, *Korea* outlines the history of the peninsula and of Western interest in the country's art and crafts before surveying the art history up to today in six chapters. It is illustrated most effectively and is attractively designed.

Dr NELSON has taken the evocative instructional vignette to unusual length by writing a novel about a visiting American archaeology student who manages to fly back into the Korean Neolithic as a magic bird. By dwelling more on symbolism, Dr NELSON produces a more rounded sense of the life than other experiments of this ilk; and by intertwining the adventure with a fictive ethnography of the student's travels around contemporary Korea, she deals with issues of cultural interpretation too. See also 'Creative responses', below.

## The body

JANE DOWNES & TONY POLLARD (ed.). *The loved body's corruption: archaeological contributions to the study of human mortality*. xiv+224 pages, illustrated. 1999. Glasgow: Cruithne Press; 0-873448-06-6 paperback £16.50.

ALISON E. RAUTMAN (ed.). *Reading the body: representations and remains in the archaeological record*. ix+283 pages, 41 figures, 13 tables. 2000. Philadelphia (PA): University of Pennsylvania Press; 0-8122-3521-5 hardback \$45 & £33.50, 0-8122-1709-8 paperback \$22.50 & £17.

ANN OLGA KOLOSKI-OSTROW & CLAIRE L. LYONS (ed.). *Naked truths: women, sexuality, and gender in classical art and archaeology*. xv+315 pages, 60 figures, 2 tables. 2000. London: Routledge; 0-415-21752-0 paperback £16.99.

✉ *The loved body's corruption* comprises three general papers and a dozen case studies (the latter mostly European). It is lively: graves by the ocean in Scotland and St Kilda and burials at sea (POLLARD), and the fate of Franklin's last expedition to the Arctic (X-rateable photos of frozen corpses!); the Quaker cemetery at Kingston-on-Thames; Iron Age infanticide in Scandinavia and landscape archaeology of Iron Age square barrows in the East Riding (B. Bevan); ethnoarchaeology from Madagascar (M. Parker Pearson) and Bali (DOWNES); disposal of victims of stigmatized diseases; a prolegomenon to technical and ethical issues in digging cemeteries of the Modern period (J. Reeve & M. Cox); and forensic excavation. Our own Deputy Editor & colleagues contribute on the Eneolithic Brochtorff Circle, Malta.

Gender is the basic theme of the next title: Dr RAUTMAN presents five papers on burials, nine on iconography (rock art, ceramics, seals, papyri etc.) and a couple of methodological pieces (RAUTMAN & E. Talalay and L. Meskell). Eight are on the Mediterranean & Middle East (including M.J. Becker on Etruscan false teeth of gold and M.M. Lee on the Minoan snake goddess), five on North America (including A.B. Kehoe on Mississippian weaving), and one on European Upper Palaeolithic figurines

*Naked truths* is now published in paperback.

## Creative responses

GUSTAF SOBIN. *Luminous debris: reflecting on vestige in Provence and Languedoc*. ix+247 pages, figures. 1999. Berkeley (CA): University of California Press; 0-520-22245-8 hardback \$45 & £27.50, 0-520-21775-6 paperback \$18.95 & £11.95.

ALEX COLES & MARK DION (ed.). *Archaeology*. 110+ pages, colour & b&w illustrations. 1999. London: Black Dog; 1-901033-91-0 paperback £16.95.

"Documentation" for the archeologists, pure "curio" for the rest', ruminates Mr SOBIN (p. 193), 'who can say that any object . . . outlasts the fires with which it was originally invested?' In 26 essays, he assesses the cultural significance of archaeological interpretation from Terra Amata to the burials of babies in Iron Age houses to the study of the long-lasting aqueduct of Nîmes. The latter, for instance, was not 'merely an act of manifest bravura': 'We've become far too attached . . . to its necessity as both monument and metaphor . . . to endorse such a slender hypothesis' (p. 222). Or, like dolmens, 'Don't we, after all, under certain pressures, motivated by a particular set of circumstances, occasionally face west-southwest ourselves?' (pp. 62–3).

Beachcombing along near-by stretches of the river, processing and classifying the finds (including knives and blank ammunition below the HQ of Military Intelligence 6), and then exhibiting them, were part of an exploration of archaeological procedures by the artist, MARK DION, last year, for the Tate Gallery in London. The work on the finds was carried out on the lawn by volunteers, also as an exhibition. *Archaeology* includes commentary on projects of his in Switzerland and Italy. The artist reflects on both archaeology and art; and Prof. Renfrew points out that these projects raise 'penetrating questions' (p. 22). The finely produced and illustrated book includes short pieces by colleagues (including J. Cotton on the history of management and finds along the lower Thames).

## History and development of archaeology

LEONARD BARKAN. *Unearthing the past: archaeology and aesthetics in the making of Renaissance culture*. xxxiv+428 pages, 199 figures. 1999. New Haven (CT) & London: Yale University Press; 0-300-07677-0 hardback £26.

ALAIN SCHNAPP. *The discovery of the past: the origins of archaeology*. 384 pages, 257 colour and black-&-white illustrations. 1999 London: British Museum; 0-7141-2732-9 paperback £14.99.

ALICE B. KEHOE & MARY BETH EMMERICH (ed.). *Assembling the past: studies in the professionalization of archaeology*. vii+241 pages. 1999. Albuquerque (NM): University of New Mexico Press; 0-8263-1939-4 hardback \$49.95.

Prof. BARKAN assesses the impact of the discoveries in 15th-century Rome of Classical sculptures and architectural fragments. They affected thinking about Classical culture in general and history in particular. Prof. BARKAN confirms that they were a critical stimulus for the subsequent development of antiquarianism — not unlike the effect on the Aztecs of visits to Teotihuacan (see CARRASCO *et al.* in 'Americas', above). Prof. SCHNAPP's history — now out in paperback — covers the same ground more briefly and sets it in the context of Classical and Medieval thought about antiquities and the gradual emergence of modern archaeology.

Hindsight seems to show that archaeologists long groped toward professional standards. (See also *Encyclopaedia of archaeology* in 'Reference', below.) Prof. KEHOE presents 10 case studies of 19th- and 20th-century US practitioners in the States, Mexico & Guatemala and the Mediterranean and Near East plus a paper of her own on Daniel Wilson *et al.* in Britain and North America and one by N.A. Silberman on Petrie. Three of the papers are on women. L.G. Desmond argues that the establishment's rejection of Le Plongeon's interpretation of the Maya illustrates the growth of orthodoxy. See too *Communicating archaeology* in 'Presentation', below; and note the following title on exchange and cooperation between archaeologists, and the effect of bureaucratic context (*cf.* p. 255, above).

WILLEM J.H. WILLEMS. *The future of European archaeology* (Oxbow Lecture 3). i+22 pages, 1 figure. 1999. Oxford: Oxbow; 1-900188-79-1 paperback £3.

### Resource and data management

FRANCIS P. MCMANAMON & ALF HATTON (ed.). *Cultural resource management in contemporary society: perspectives on managing and presenting the past*. xv+342 pages, 38 figures, 4 tables. 2000. London: Routledge; 0-415-11785-2 hardback £80.

Messrs MCMANAMON & HATTON introduce 23 studies, from the 1994 World Archaeological Congress (WAC), on technical, ethical, educational and political aspects of heritage management from around the world (including seven from the USA and four from the UK, and five papers on UNESCO and other general matters). A number of the authors are familiar from other volumes in the WAC series. For a sense of the interest here, it must suffice to mention 'Conflict between preservation and development in Ja-

pan', R. Anyon *et al.* on management by Native Americans, C.A. Price on dilemmas of intervention in preserving stone (with special reference to Wells Cathedral) and MCMANAMON & Morton on the illegal trade in antiquities. See also WILLIAMS & BROWN in 'Reference', and 'Presentation', below.

The Archaeology Data Service is a branch of the Arts & Humanities Data Service (AHDS). The next two titles are in the AHDS's series, *Guides to good practice*. The lay-out is clear and businesslike (sub-headings, bullet points etc.) — as to be expected at these prices.

SEAN TOWNSEND, GRESSIDA CHAPPELL & OSCAR STRUIJVÉ. *Digitising history: a guide to creating digital resources from historical documents*. v+46 pages, 5 tables. 1999. Oxford: Oxbow; 1-900188-91-0 paperback £10.

ROBERT BEWLEY, DANNY DONAGHUE, VINCE GAFFNEY, MARTIJN VAN LEUSEN & ALICIA WISE. *Archiving aerial photography and remote sensing data*. vi+45 pages, 1 figure, tables. 1999. Oxford: Oxbow; 1-900188-70-8 paperback £10.

### Presentation

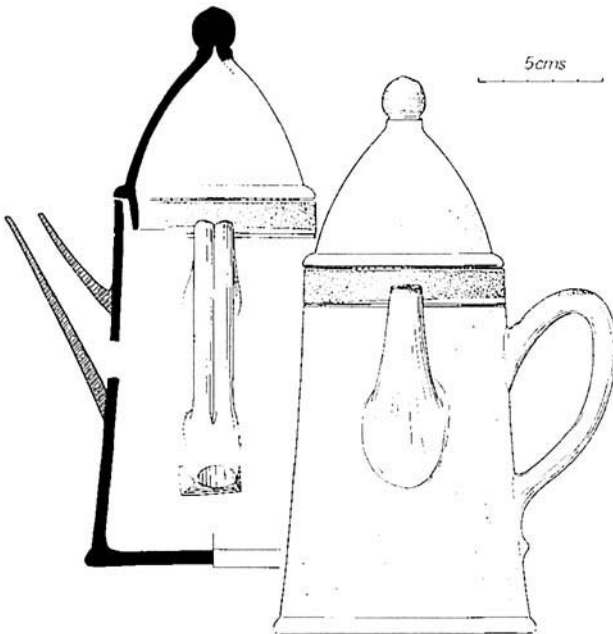
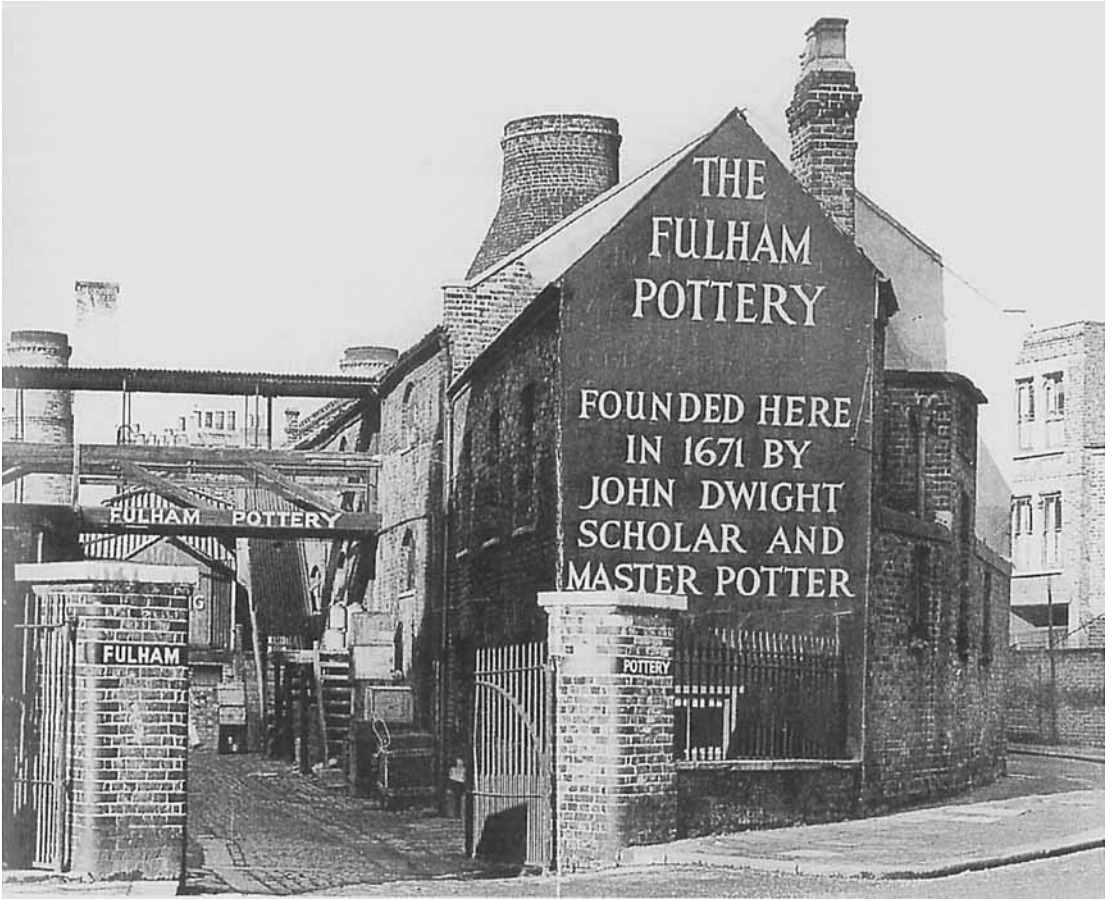
NICK MERRIMAN (ed.). *Making early histories in museums*. xii+212 pages, 14 figures. 1999. London & New York (NY): Leicester University Press; 0-7185-0110-1 hardback £55 & \$89.50.

PETER G. STONE & PHILIPPE G. PLANEL (ed.). *The constructed past: experimental archaeology, education and the public*. xx+303 pages, 81 figures, 5 tables. 1999. London & New York (NY): Routledge; 0-415-11768-2 hardback £80.

JOHN BEAVIS & ALAN HUNT (ed.). *Communicating archaeology: papers presented to Bill Putnam at a conference held at Bournemouth University in September 1995* (Bournemouth University School of Conservation Sciences Occasional Paper 4). viii+120 pages, 14 figures, 6 tables. 1999. Oxford: Oxbow; 1-900188-93-7 paperback £14.95.

RACHEL BUTTER. *Kilmartin, Scotland's richest pre-historic landscape: an introduction and guide*. 113 pages, colour and b&w illustrations. 1999. Kilmartin: Kilmartin House Trust; 0-9533674-0-1 paperback £10+p&p.

Dr MERRIMAN introduces 10 good papers on opportunities and problems in presenting history museums (mostly British and Continental) to visitors. S. Pearce provides a systematic analysis of the process of presentation. There are case studies of displays and visitors' responses. J. Owen considers 'hands on' display. S. Lucy & C. Herring discuss particular problems in coping with visitors' perceptions of the 'Dark Ages'. A recurring theme is embarrassment about curators' interpretive authority; but more thought is needed on the match between visitors' tone and their own. There are several good contributions on reconstruction, including dioramas (*cf.*



John Dwight established, c. 1672, the first successful stoneware factory in England. Excavation of the site has confirmed that he experimented with wares in English, Continental and Chinese styles and with porcelain and statuary. The remains of a kiln were found; and, although they were poorly preserved, it transpired that the construction was derived from London delft-makers rather than the Rhenish potters who he was copying. Since the site was near the River Thames and wet, large deposits of hard core, containing a lot of pottery, were laid during the first couple of decades. CHRIS GREEN reports these discoveries in John Dwight's Fulham pottery: excavations 1971–79 (*English Heritage Archaeological Report 6*. xvi+380 pages, 259 figures, 8 colour plates, 16 tables. 1999. London: English Heritage; 1-85074-599-4 paperback £35) and he also covers research on the 18th and 19th centuries. The pictures show the pottery in the 1950s, before demolition, and a coffee pot c. 1700.



the following title); and see N. Merriman too, ed. MCMANAMON & HATTON ('Resource and data management', above) on 'the crisis of representation in archaeological museums'.

In a book more fun and more consistently instructive than most others spinning off from the 1990 and 1994 World Archaeological Congresses, Drs STONE & PLANEL present 20 papers on reconstruction (seven on the UK, eight on elsewhere in Europe). Among the highlights are contributions on Williamsburg (I.N. Hume), 'Reconstruction vs. preservation-in-place' in US National Parks, the Globe theatre in London, Butser, the Archaeological Resource Centre (ARC) in York (and see the next title), Lejre, and 'the open air museum at Oerlinghausen, Germany' from 1936 to today.

A highly impressive roster contributes 13 papers full of good sense and experience on *Communicating archaeology*. Books and television are covered, schooling, university courses and adult education, museums, the ARC again, local societies, and the Young Archaeologists' Club. They come with an appreciative piece on the exemplary dedicatee (and one on professionalism). Warns A. Lawson (p. 33), 'ignore good communication at your peril'.

*Kilmartin*, indeed, is an appealing booklet describing, with splendid pictures, the history of an Argyllshire landscape from the Mesolithic and Neolithic to the early Modern period. It explains how the local pattern relates to the broader scene of Scotland and includes brief passages on archaeology and landscape archaeology. It also sets out the routes of 22 walks with notes on historic features. An ample list of readings is appended. Few local organizations could emulate the Kilmartin House museum without like help from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

### Reference

RICHARD B. LEE & RICHARD DALY (ed.). *The Cambridge encyclopedia of hunters and gatherers*. xx+511 pages, 128 figures, 16 maps, 5 tables. 1999. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 0-521-57109-X hardback £75 & US\$125.

*The Cambridge encyclopedia* is obviously intended mainly for social & cultural anthropologists but it is certainly of interest to archaeologists too. In the first part are 53 notes on particular groups in, in order, North America, South America, northern Asia & Arctic Europe, Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Australia. Introducing each of these areas is a general article and a short one on archaeology. The second part comprises 14 articles on long-term history, including social evolution and on 'Images . . . in European social thought', on gender, cosmology and land management, mythology, music, visual art and health, and on 'globalisation'. Plenty of references are provided throughout. The editors' introduction defines the subject — pointing out that

'hunter-gatherer' social organization has been very diverse — and urges that history is of the utmost importance for understanding the way of life. That is a point which would have surprised many readers a few years ago, so it is apt that the editors also provide a history of research on the theme. At the end comes a list of 'Indigenous peoples' organizations and advocacy groups'. The book is elegantly printed and designed and sturdily produced. It is an outstanding resource.

PAUL T. NICHOLSON & IAN SHAW (ed.). *Ancient Egyptian materials and technology*. xxii+702 pages, 325 figures, 28 tables. 2000. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 0-521-45257-0 £95 & US\$160.

PIOTR BIENKOWSKI & ALAN MILLARD (ed.). *British Museum dictionary of the ancient Near East*. x+342 pages, figures, tables. 2000. London: British Museum; 0-7141-1141-4 hardback £29.99.

RAY KAMOO. *Ancient and modern Chaldean history: a comprehensive bibliography of sources*. xlv+199 pages, 1 figure. 1999. Lanham (MD) & London: Scarecrow; 0-8108-3653-X hardback \$47.50.

JOHN HAYWOOD. *Encyclopaedia of the Viking Age*. 224 pages, 279 figures. 2000. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-01982-7 hardback £19.95.

✉ For the Egyptian Neolithic and Dynastic periods, NICHOLSON & SHAW present seven articles on inorganic materials (including a very long entry on stones of all kinds), a dozen on organic materials (including basketry, textiles, leatherwork, wood and woodwork, mummification, resins, and a note on ostrich shells), and five on food production and processing. Methods of analysis are described and assessed throughout. Not least among many impressive features is a consistent awareness of archaeological context — so often poorly controlled. The illustrations are lively and, mostly, informative. The entries have been well conceived and the editors have found authorities (British, US, Dutch and Egyptian) to write them. There are long lists of references. The whole tome has been elegantly designed (albeit some of the illustrations are unnecessarily large) and it is sturdily bound. Combining so well in one book an even vision of both ancient Egyptian ways of life and all the detailed methodological and technical problems of studying its stuff is a great achievement. See also the review of *Egyptian art*, p. 446, below.

*Bit-hilani*, Brak, *Exodus*, Mallowan, Phrygia, plants & flowers, social classes: complete, thorough, densely cross-referenced, serious and provided with ample references to sources in several languages (though mainly English), the *Dictionary of the ancient Near East* is a worthy addition to the shelves, here at ANTIQUITY. Note, though, that none of the entries is long — in one sense a virtue, in another a source of frustration, since there is little scope for indicating the cultural diversity. KAMOO covers books and periodicals on Iraq ancient and (AD 5 onward) modern, divided

English and non-English, plus a short section on dissertations and miscellaneous papers. Aelfifu of Northampton, Balts, furniture, Lejre, life expectancy, slavery, wapentake: accessibly written, nicely illustrated on every page and attractively produced, HAYWOOD is a considerable — and useful — accomplishment.

TIM MURRAY (ed.). *Encyclopedia of archaeology: the great archaeologists* (2 vols). xxxiv+950 pages, b&w figures. 1999. Santa Barbara (CA): ABC-CLIO; 1-57607-199-5 hardback £95.

Have more than half of 'the great archaeologists' and antiquarians really come from the UK and the USA (18 and 14, respectively), and barely a dozen from France, Germany and Scandinavia together? Britain, it seems from Dr MURRAY's selection, has been the most formative theatre of development — followed by North America. It is difficult to make this kind of selection. It is reassuring, though, that some 'greats' themselves have contributed — the late Grahame Clark on Dorothy Garrod, for instance, or, on François Bordes, L.R. Binford. The entries are satisfyingly long and provided with good lists of primary and secondary references (but most of the photographs are poorly produced). The editor rounds the work off with apt and learned musings about the significance of such biographies as provisional disciplinary self-appraisal.

JOHN WILLIAMS & NIGEL BROWN (ed.). *An archaeological research framework for the greater Thames estuary*. vi+57 pages, 1 colour & b&w figures, 1 table. 1999. Chelmsford: Essex County Council; paperback 1-85281-198-6 £5.

NEIL COOKSON. *Archaeological heritage law*. lx+905 pages. 2000. Chichester: Barry Rose Law; 1-872328-94-6 hardback £42 + £5.50 p&p (£6.50 p&p overseas).

The Thames Estuary Partnership, the County Councils and 'English Heritage' have published their priorities for research in and around the estuary (WILLIAMS & BROWN). Documents of this kind are emerging from several parts of the country. They tend to be widely researched and circulated in draft and they provide genuinely useful points of reference.

Dr COOKSON's handbook and digest will come into its own as planners struggle to keep pace with development in southeastern England and elsewhere.

### Journal

*Archaeology, Ethnology & Anthropology of Eurasia* 1:1. 165 pages, colour & b&w photographs, b&w figures. 2000. Novosibirsk: Institute of Archaeology & Ethnography of the Russian Academy of Sciences Siberian Branch; ISSN 1563-0110 US\$150 (individuals), \$90 (students), \$250 (institutions).

AEAE's first number carries articles on Pleistocene and Holocene climate in western Siberia, the Palaeolithic in Mongolia and Europe, rock art and sculpture in Central and Inner Asia, half a dozen on the Bronze and Iron Ages of Siberia and Russia, a couple on social anthropology (*Ethnology*) of Inner Asia and eastern Siberia, and a couple on physical anthropology (*Anthropology*) of Inner Asia. There are notes, news and book reviews too. The journal is to be published quarterly in Russian and English. Some of the contributors are from the USA but, although most are from the CIS, all of the articles and notes in Number 1 are in English.

### Also received

R.C. JAMIESON (ed. & tr.). *The perfection of wisdom: extracts from the Astasahasrikaprajnaparamita*. 109 pages, colour illustrations. 2000. London: Frances Lincoln; 0-7112-1510-3 hardback £14.99.

JENNIFER W. NOURSE. *Conceiving spirits: birth rituals and contested identities among Laujé of Indonesia*. xi+308 pages, 20 figures. 1999. Washington (DC) & London: Smithsonian Institution Press; 1-56098-850-9 paperback.

DAVID SCOTT KASTAN. *Shakespeare after theory*. 264 pages. 1999. New York (NY) & London: Routledge; 0-415-90112-X hardback £40.

BRUNO CLÉMENT. *L'invention du commentaire: Augustin, Jacques Derrida*. i+178 pages. 2000. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France; 2-13-050567-8 paperback F128.