

Review

Among the New Books

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☞ I was once informed, by someone strongly associated with recent developments in archaeological thinking, in a lecture long gone, that the years from 1930 to 1960 could be described as 'the long sleep of archaeological thought'. Once the conceptual framework of the archaeological culture had been developed by Gordon Childe and Alfred Kroeber, it was normal, though 'sleepy', science all the way. R. LEE LYMAN, MICHAEL J. O'BRIEN & ROBERT C. DUNNELL's *The rise and fall of culture history* (xiv+271 pages, 28 illustrations, 4 tables. 1997. New York (NY): Plenum; 0-306-45539-0 hardback \$44.50 0-306-45540-4 paperback \$25.95) and their edited companion reader *Americanist culture history: fundamentals of time, space, and form* (xiii+499 pages, some illustrations & tables. 1997. New York (NY): Plenum; 0-306-45539-0 \$88; 0-306-45538-2 paperback \$55) go some way towards redressing this particular view, at least for archaeology in the United States. *Americanist culture history* reproduces articles from 1907 to 1971, in their chronological order. Thirty-nine works by Kroeber, Kidder, Ford, Phillips, Rouse and Spaulding among others reveal a real conceptual struggle in the creation and interpretation of Culture-Areas and Age-Areas from archaeological data. *The rise and fall of culture history*, however, is an extended essay, in which LYMAN *et al.* look in detail at the conceptual development of culture-history (for example, the implementation of seriation studies by Kidder at Pecos Pueblo) and the means by which their essentially descriptive tools became embodied with cultural power. Given the authors' backgrounds, it is not surprising that they are critical of these culture historians for confusing their biologically inspired concepts. Not all similarities are related to the same process: they may be the result of a direct historical link, in which case they are homologies, or they may be due to convergent adaptation, in the manner suggested by Julian Steward, in which case they are analogies. The strength of the New Archaeology, LYMAN *et al.* argue, was the recognition of this difference and the attempt to understand analogous differences. Mistaken, perhaps, but sleepy science culture-history was not. A similar reader and comment for European culture-history would be most welcome.

If politicians aspire to that state of recognition that enables them to publish their collected memoirs or diaries so perhaps academics must surely hope to republish their collected papers. ANDREW SHERRATT in *Economy and society in prehistoric Europe: changing perspectives* (xiii+561 pages, 160 illustrations. 1997. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press; 0-7486-0646-7 hardback) has in this instance collected 20 papers written, approximately one each year, to chart his changing concerns and perspectives on prehistoric Europe. These papers cover the introduction of the secondary products revolution, and perhaps the tertiary products too with the evidence for the manufacture and use of narcotics and alcohol in Europe. As usual, with such collections, it is as much the introduction and acknowledgements that reveal the author's 'progress' as any reading of the papers alone; unfortunately for those who have indulged upon the tart accompaniments of Binford's *An Archaeological Perspective*, this is no 'kiss and tell' collection.

☞ The French publishers Seuil have treated us to a series of glossily illustrated books on Palaeolithic art over the last couple of years. Two more have graced the ANTIQUITY shelves this quarter. The first, MICHEL-ALAIN GARCIA & MADIHA RACHAD's *L'art des origines au Yemen* (98 pages, 104 colour & black & white illustrations. 1997. Paris: Seuil; 2-02-032278-1 hardback FFr245) is a geographical review of a series of art sites surrounding the cities of Sanaa, Rada and Saada. Pecked and painted figures of animals and humans cover exposed wall surfaces, some pecked still deeper by the bullet holes of the Yemen's recently troubled past. Four style periods now date this art from the last ancient hunters (the representation of aurochs) through the crafted Neolithic engravings of naturalistic animal groupings, to the painted figures of the Bronze Age to more pecked figures of such scenes as camel-trains accompanied by Arabic inscriptions. The colour plates are gorgeous, and not just those of the art (though no scales here!) but also and especially those of the Yemen itself. Meanwhile JESUS ALTUNA's *L'art des cavernes en Pays Basque: les grottes d'Ekain et d'Altzerri* (200 pages, 211 colour & black-&-white illustrations. 1996. Paris: Seuil; 2-02-032340-0 hardback FFr295) will

perhaps bring to greater attention the art from these two important Basque sites, previously published in the excellent, but hard to get hold of journal *Munibe*. The bulk of this book provides a guide to these two sites: maps, illustrations and colour plates are included, and as one might expect of such a renowned faunal analyst, ALTUNA provides us with photos of these same animals still living for comparison. Ekain is above all a place of horses, whilst Altxerri is a cave of bison. JESUS ALTUNA was one of the first scholars to recognize that the animals depicted were not those most often hunted; fittingly, the last chapter is devoted to this difference between graphic and gastronomic representation not just at Ekain and Altxerri, but also at other sites in northern Spain, such as Santamamine and Tito Bustillo.

Completing a trio of art books is PAUL G. BAHN & ANGELO FOSSATI's edited volume *Rock art studies: news of the world*. (Oxbow monograph 72. x+229 pages, numerous plates and figures, 1996. Oxford: Oxbow; 0-900188-21-x paperback £30), a series of invited papers with the purpose of setting out recent developments in the study of rock art. Twenty-two papers consider world rock-art research developments from 1990 to 1994 by region. BAHN & FOSSATI hope that this is the beginning of a series with similar review volumes appearing perhaps at five-year intervals from henceforth.

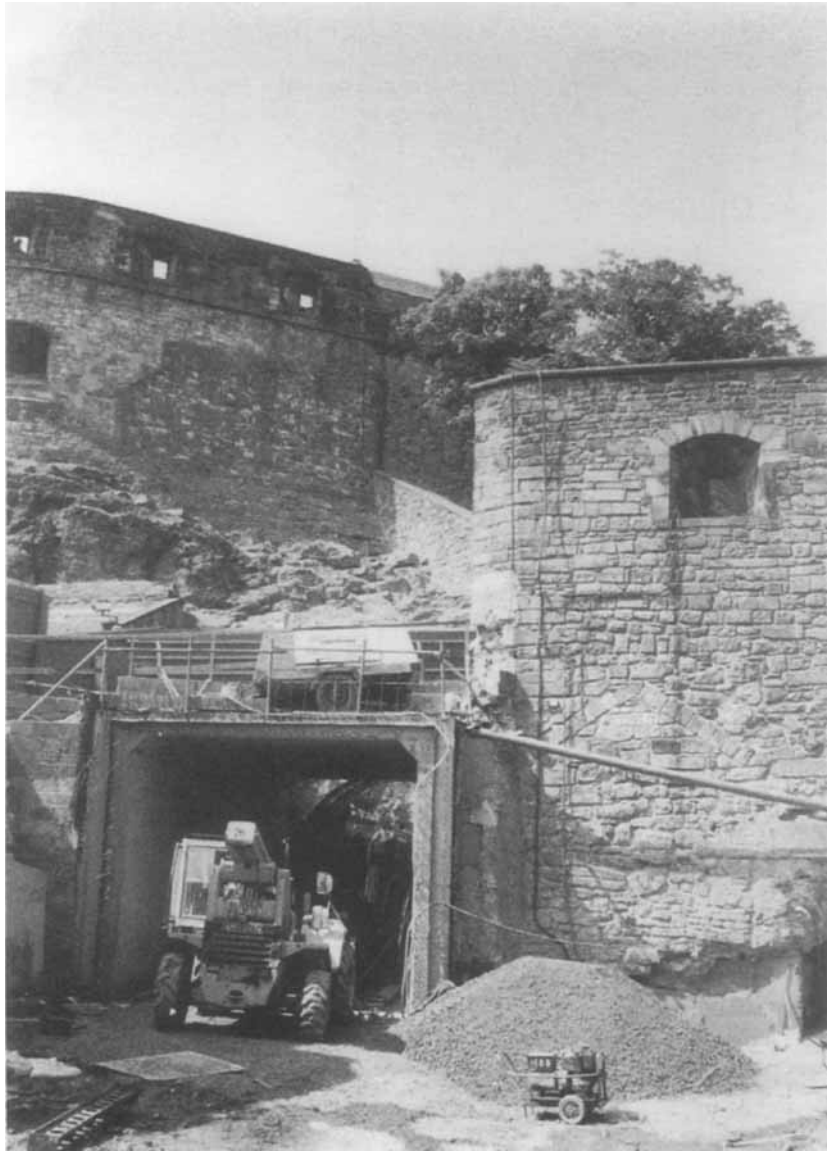
☛ In 1974 DAN MORSE and other members of the then recently formed Arkansas Archaeological Survey excavated the Sloan site, spurred on by the increasing removal of Dalton type, Palaeoindian artefacts by collectors. The report on this site now sees the light of day, in DAN F. MORSE's *Sloan: a Palaeoindian Dalton cemetery in Arkansas*. (xviii+157 pages, 59 illustrations, 26 tables. 1997. Washington (DC): Smithsonian Institution Press; 1-56098-712-x hardback £54.50). An introduction notes the inevitable unfolding of successive events, all too familiar to most readers I would guess, that led to the delay in publication by 20 years, necessary rescue archaeology (the Zebra site), the need to produce a book (a regional survey of Mississippian archaeology), and special occasions that needed to be commemorated (the 450th anniversary of the de Soto expedition). The result, however, is a much better volume than would have been possible had it been produced on time. Spatial analyses determine artefact clusters, and possibly individual graves; soil analyses reveal the presence of calcium and other chemicals supporting the interpretation of the site of a cemetery in the absence of significantly preserved human remains. In short, the Sloan site is the oldest recorded cemetery site in the United States, dating back to 10,500 years b.p., with evidence for perhaps 29 Dalton period graves and their associated lithic, burial equipment. Replication work on an assemblage that, unusually

for Palaeoindian sites, contains mostly whole tools, just made or just re sharpened, has been able to reveal that bifaces taken previously to be preforms for the manufacture of Dalton points are in fact genuine tools in themselves. Moreover, many of these artefacts are too elaborate to have been designed for utilitarian purpose alone, and so their elaborate manufacture must have been for social or symbolic purpose. Phew! The wait seems worth the while.

☛ There is no need to travel to Egypt to experience the ancient wonders of pyramid power. An interesting place to start might be Las Vegas. Where else? Here, as a monument to frivolous spending of a usually more fleeting kind than that which created the original pyramids, the Luxor Hotel/Casino Pyramid rises 30 storeys (365 ft) high. Laser beams shoot out of the eyes of an enormous sphinx, then bounce off an obelisk into dancing waters which themselves project a portrait of King Tut. The legacy of Egypt's pyramids is so great, as MARK LEHNER's *The complete pyramids* (256 pages, 83 colour plates, 473 black-&-white illustrations. 1997. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-05084-8 hardback £24.95) points out, that they are to be found all over the place doing most unlikely pyramid sorts of things. In Galveston, Texas on a slightly smaller scale (just 125 ft), the Rain Forest Pyramid is home to the world's largest indoor rain forest (can there be many others?). Apparently, the pyramid shape provides optimal lighting conditions as well as fending off hurricane-force winds. In Long Beach, California State University has built a pyramid (178 ft high) as a Physical Education Pyramid. There is of course the glass pyramid in front of the Louvre in Paris, and a five-storey pyramid housing the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio. Of pyramids intended to do truly pyramid-like things there was a plan for an 18-acre pyramid to be built in Primrose Hill, London to hold, not just the one, but five million bodies in no less than 94 tiers of vaults. Finally, Thomas Wilson designed a pyramid as a mausoleum to US President Garfield; not the cartoon cat but the original in 1882. As the title of his book suggests, LEHNER also deals with more usual pyramid fare, with sections on the history of pyramid archaeology, the manner in which they were built and the nature of Ancient Egyptian life around them. In making the work 'complete', he also provides a catalogue of all the pyramids.

In JAROMIR MALEK's *The cat in ancient Egypt* (144 pages, 120 black-&-white and colour illustrations, 1997. London: British Museum Press; 0-7141-1907-5 paperback £9.99), two great publishing bulwarks, cats and Ancient Egypt, are brought together in one volume. Cat lovers will be impressed by tales of wild cats, domestic cats, story cats and mummified cats. In fact, cat lovers owe the domestication of the cat to the

'Castles, it is popularly believed, were built to keep people out; nowadays, they are expected to admit as many as possible' notes Chris Tabraham, in STEPHEN T. DRISCOLL & PETER A. YEOMAN'S (ed.) *Excavations within Edinburgh castle in 1988–91* (Society of Antiquaries of Scotland monograph series 12. xvi+251 pages, 157 illustrations, 77 tables. 1997. Edinburgh: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland; 0-903903-112-1 paperback £35). A need to improve visitor facilities at the castle led to a sequence of archaeological work at the site between 1988 and 1991 as part of a multi-million-pound development programme. These improvements included the fitting-out of the Inner Barrier Guard House as a shop, the refurbishment of the Cartshed at Mills Mount as a restaurant and the creation of a vehicle tunnel from the northeast of the Esplanade to the Western Defences behind Mills Mount, shown here.



Surprisingly, perhaps, this was the first archaeological work in the castle since 1912, and although the trenches could not be placed where an ideal research plan would have put them (in the core of the Castle) they still revealed a sequence of prehistoric and Roman occupation of the site, as well as clarifying the development of the entrance defences.

Ancient Egyptians, no less. Fans of Ancient Egypt will be amazed to find out quite how popular cats were with the Ancient Egyptians. With such a potential audience of bibliophiles, I fully expect this book will have seen several reprintings by the time you read this!

✉ In their work on the castellated and domestic architecture of Scotland, the great castellologists MacGibbon and Ross recorded the presence of more

than 760 stone castles. These days that number might be increased considerably: there is evidence for at least 300 earthen mottes too. One might be forgiven, on hearing these numbers, for thinking of this as perfect supporting evidence for the warlike state of life in Scotland in the Middle Ages, notes CHRIS TABRAHAM in *Scottish castles* (Historic Scotland series. 143 pages, 15 colour plates, 87 illustrations, 1997. London: Batsford; 0-7134-7965-5 paperback

£15.99). But this is just English mischief and perfidy. Between the years 1341 and 1469 England experienced three times as many civil-war battles, twice the number of rebellions, and three times as many politically related deaths, including losing two kings as opposed to just the one in Scotland. Castles are not signs of insecurity; in fact quite the opposite. It was security of income, home and position in Scotland that led to the improving 'middling orders' making manifest their wealth in stone and mortar. Brimming with enthusiastic prose, TABRAHAM tells the history of castles in Scotland, from their introduction as Royal, baronial or knightly places in Norman times, until their finale in the 16th century as garrisons or the fortified homes of reiving folk protecting their wealth in the Borders from raiding. The golden age of castle building was in the 13th century, when the leading magnates built large curtain-walled castles with plenty of accommodation. Rooms would have had both fireplaces and latrines *en suite*, and members of the great households would have moved from room to room as the stench from the cess-pits below the latrine chutes encouraged a certain nomadic life. For those of a military turn of mind, we learn of the ways in which castle design was altered to take account of assault by cannon, and the need to keep such devices at bay with counter-fire. At St Andrews Castle in Fife, there is rare evidence for siege engineering during the 14-month assault, in the form of a mine and counter-mine. A fine rock-cut and stepped shaft was dug to afford troops the opportunity to breach the defensive walls. A cramped counter-mine intercepts, testifying to the desperate measures taken by the defending forces.

Further matters Scottish are to be found in RICHARD FAWCETT's *Scottish cathedrals*. (Historic Scotland series. 128 pages, 12 colour plates, 90 illustrations, 1997. London: Batsford; 0-7134-8188-9 paperback 15.99). A series of chapters tell a history of the construction and use of these great buildings.

Field reports and archaeological surveys

It was Ivan Kuskov who started the foundations for Fort Ross in 1812, as a settlement for the Russian-American Company. Fort Ross was to establish Colony Ross as a staging area for the hunting of sea otter and fur seals, an agricultural community for raising crops and livestock, as well as a small shipyard and crafts production centre. It was one of California's first 'pluralistic' communities with workers from Europe, Siberia, Alaska and Hawaii as well as native Californians in residence. In 1906, it became an historic park, one of the first in the state. Present archaeological work has begun to reveal the lives of this pluralistic community, and the present volume, KENT G. LIGHTFOOT, ANN M. SCHIFF & THOMAS A. WAKE's (ed.) *The native Alaskan neighborhood: a*

multiethnic community at Colony Ross (The archaeology and ethnohistory of fort Ross, California: volume 2. xvii+429 pages, 201 figures, 74 tables, 1997. Berkeley (CA): ARF Publications; 1-882744-05-3 paperback \$35), reports on excavations in the village area of the Native Alaskans and the Native Californians. Seventeen chapters deal with all aspects of the archaeology, and conclude by suggesting that the Russian-American Company largely left both native Alaskans and native Americans to look after themselves; they did so in ways that would have been familiar to their families further inland or north in Alaska. A fascinating study and part of what will be an important series.

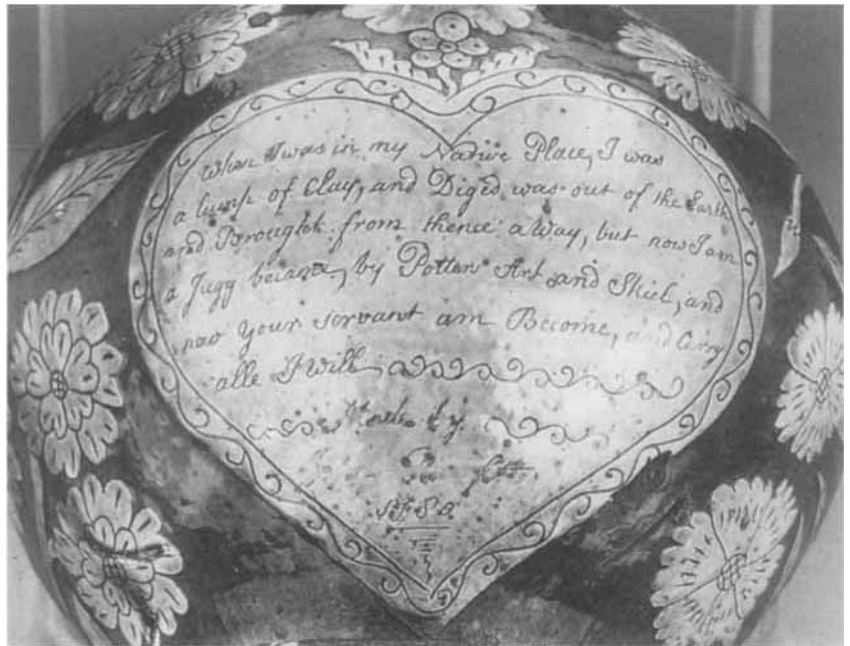
The results of the Methana Survey Project, one of a growing number of settlement surveys that are transforming Greek archaeology, are reported in CHRISTOPHER MEE & HAMISH FORBES' (ed.) *A rough and ready place: the landscape and settlement history of the Methana peninsula, Greece* (Liverpool monographs in archaeological and Oriental studies. 370 pages, 198 figures, 23 tables, 1997. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press; 0-85323-741-7 hardback £55). Preliminary chapters deal with the physical environment, the survey methodology, followed by chronologically defined chapters dealing with the history and prehistory of Methana. Concluding catalogues and appendices deal with the sites found, churches, ancient farmsteads, inscriptions and coinage. A frank introduction notes the importance felt of doing field-work somewhere that was warm, especially when you work in the cool climates of Liverpool (still the case!), and the fact that the precise requirements of explicit survey methodology in the 1980s in Methana, the rough and rocky place of the title, would have led to a few dead survey members. Health and Safety regulations would probably stop such work now.

ROBERT BRUCE-MITFORD. *Mawgan Porth: a settlement of the late Saxon period on the North Cornish coast, excavations 1949-52, 1954 and 1974*. (Archaeological report 13.) 114 figures, 15 tables, 1997. London: English Heritage; 1-85074-613-3 paperback £35. At last brought to light through extra resources provided by the Backlog Programme of English Heritage, the archaeological remains at Magwan Porth reveal three distinct but similar groups of buildings. Large quantities of local bar-lug pottery from Scilly and Cornwall date the site between AD 850 and 1050. Life at the settlement ended as a result of the increasing quantities of blown sand, but still allowing inhabitants to leave at their own time and taking their goods with them.

DAVID P. S. PEACOCK & VALERIE A. MAXFIELD. *Survey and excavations: Mons Claudianus*. (Volume 1: topography and quarries.) xi+366 pages, numerous illustrations, 1997. Cairo: Institut Français d'Archeologie Orientale; 2-7247-0192-5 paperback.

'When I was in my Native Place I was / a lump of Clay, and Digid was out of the Earth / and Bought from thence a Way, but now I am / a Jugg became by Potters Art and Skill, and now your Servant am Become and carry / Alle I will John Ph[illips] Pott 1780'

Not all archaeological finds are mute! The potter John Phillips worked in the North Devon town of Bideford, making amongst other things sgraffito 'harvest jugs', so called because of the way the design is incised through a layer of slip on the surface and because they were used to carry beer out to the harvesters in the fields. IAN FREESTONE & DAVID GAIMSTER's (ed.) *Pottery in the making: world ceramic traditions* (240 pages, 200 black-&-white and 45 colour illustrations. 1997. London: British Museum Press; 0-7141-1782-X paperback £18.99) provides a series of 32 case-studies on the topic of what the seven antiquities departments of the British Museum hold most of — namely pottery. These studies are organized into broader sections dealing with early sedentary communities, urbanization, professional workshops, rural communities, specialized products, industrialization and finally modern studio potters, whilst the areas covered range around Europe from the Classical to the Anglo-Saxon periods, the early civilizations of the Near East, and also East Asia and Africa are well represented. The nature of the production process is always at the core of these pieces. Given the broad spread of the articles, it is a pity that the fabulous ceramic traditions of the Americas are not better represented in the book and perhaps in the collections of the British Museum itself.



The first volume of a series of reports for this important Roman industrial complex, where not only were found the remains of the industrial workings, but also between 1987 and 1993 a remarkable col-

lection of textiles and over 9000 ostraka in the dumps. The present volume reports on the topography of the site and its associated quarries. It includes 10 detailed chapters and many excellent illustrations.

OLIVIER BUCHSENSCHUTZ & HERVÉ RICHARD (ed.). *L'environnement du Mont Beuvray*. (Bibracte 1. 207 pages, numerous illustrations. 1996. Glux-en-Glenne: Centre Archéologique Européen; 2-909668-10-x paperback FF170.) An almost Annaliste feel pervades this work, progressing as it does from studies of the geology and climate, to the countryside then to prospection beyond the walls of Mount Beuvray and ending with prospection within the walls. Chapters on prospection for sites on Mount Beuvray are particularly exciting, replete with evidence from aerial photography of various light forms, and geophysical techniques within the walls. Further volumes in the series will look at the entrance and the fountain on the site of Bibracte. Production quality is excellent.

Also:

JÜRGEN RICHTER. *Sesselfelsgrötte III, der G-Schichten komplex der Sesselfelsgrötte. Zum Verständnis des Micoquien*. (Quartar-bibliothek: band 7). 473 pages, numerous illustrations & tables. 1997. Saarbrücken: Saarbrücker Druckerei und Verlag; 3-930843-21-8 hardback DM240.

Monographs

LUTGARDE VANDEPUT. *The architectural decoration in Roman Asia Minor. Sagalassos: a case study*. (Studies in eastern Mediterranean archaeology I.) 353 pages, numerous illustrations, 1997. Turnhout: Brepols; 2-503-50540-6 paperback BEF4000 & \$110. A detailed study of the nature of architectural decoration in Asia Minor, taking the decorations from the city of Sagalassos as source. Examination of the individual decorations in various parts of the city and of the different monuments allows VANDEPUT to set out a chronology for the building programmes in the city and for the development of various decorative forms, such as the acanthus, bead-and-reel and scroll-pattern motifs, as well as the Ionic Kyma decorations.

BARRY CUNLIFFE & PHILIPPE DE JERSEY (ed.). *Armorica and Britain: cross channel relationships in the late first millennium BC*. (Studies in Celtic coinage 3; Oxford University Committee for Archaeology monograph 45.) v+115 pages, 51 illustrations, 1997. Oxford: Oxford University Committee for Archaeology; 0-947816-45-3 paperback £16. Two sections by the respective authors deal with the most recent ceramic and the coinage evidence for contact between Armorica (northwest France) and southern Britain during the final part of the 1st millennium BC. The evidence suggests that there was little direct contact between the two areas prior to the 2nd century BC, but following that time significant evidence for contact exists from sites such as Hengistbury Head.

M.K. DHAVALIKAR. *Indian protohistory*. xiv+329 pages, 103 illustrations. 1997. New Delhi: Books & Books; 81-85016-52-6 hardback Rs1100. Nine chapters deal with the protohistoric archaeology of the In-

dian continent. The first chapter deals with the Harappan civilization of the Indus and later chapters present a review of the Chalcolithic cultures of various parts of India. The final chapters deal with copper hoards, socio-political organization and the archaeology of the Aryans. DHAVALIKAR admits that he dabbled with the tenets of the New Archaeology when he was young and was set on the right track by KENT FLANNERY's *Early Mesoamerican Village* (1976. New York (NY) & London: Academic Press). We are hence treated to a systemic archaeology of this period strong on settlement patterns, subsistence strategies, technology and other cultural sub-systems. A rich, data-filled book.

VALERII P. NIKONOROV. *The armies of Bactria 700 BC-450 AD*. (in 2 volumes). Vol. 1 (text only), 64 pages, vol. 2 (illustrations), 79 pages, 8 colour plates, 47 figures. 1997. Stockport: Montvert Publications; 9-781874-101109 paperback £11.99. In the first of two volumes, 6 chapters deal with the development of the Bactrian army through the Ancient Bactrian, Achaemenid, Hellenistic, Yueh-Chih and Great and Late Kushan periods. For each period the author covers both the weapons as well as the battle tactics. The second volume provides a series of bright colour plates of Bactrians and their weapons 'in action', concluding with both the finds drawings and illustrations of contemporary engravings and reliefs upon which the plates are based.

Conferences and colloquia

K. MEADOWS, C. LEMKE & J. HERON (ed.). *Trac 96: proceedings of the sixth annual theoretical Roman archaeology conference, Sheffield 1996*. 172 pages, 1997. Oxford: Oxbow Books; 0-910088-29-5 paperback £14. 18 separate papers, theorizing such topics as Romanization and Imperialism, immaterial subcultures, urbanism, élite settlements, Samian pottery and even human sacrifice, amongst other things. Importantly, this series is both organized and edited by graduate students.

CLAUS KJELD JENSEN & KAREN HØILUND NIELSEN (ed.). *Burial and society: the chronological and social analysis of archaeological burial data*. 198 pages, numerous illustrations. 1997. Århus: Aarhus University Press; 87-7288-686-2 hardback £23.95. Not so much a conference proceedings as a 'taking of the temperature' of burial archaeology in Denmark in the 1990s by means of a two-day teaching seminar organized by research fellows at Moesgaard in the autumn of 1994. 16 papers in three parts; theoretical and methodological frameworks, chronological and social case studies. Of particular note is a fabulous cover cartoon of the preparations for a ship burial in proper Asterix tradition.

S. ANDERSON & K. BOYLE (ed.). *Computing and statistics in osteoarchaeology*. (Proceedings of the second meeting of the osteological research group.)

vi+53 pages, 1997. Oxford: Oxbow; 0-900188-46-5 paperback £8.95. 8 short papers inspired by recently developed computer packages for the analysis and interpretation of human and animal bones. The papers are more interesting than the title suggests!

ROGER BLENCH & MATTHEW SPRIGGS (ed.). *Archaeology and language I: theoretical and methodological orientations*. xxi+388 pages, 90 illustrations, 28 tables. 1997. London & New York (NY): Routledge; 0-0-415-11760-7 hardback £70. A product of the 3rd World Archaeological Congress held in New Delhi in December 1994.

Also:

CATHY E. KING & DAVID G. WIGG (ed.). *Coin finds and coin use in the Roman world*. (Thirteenth Oxford symposium on coinage and monetary history.) 460 pages, numerous illustrations, 1997. Berlin: Gebr. Mann Verlag; 3-7861-1628-8 paperback DM174.

Museum studies

CLAUDE DANIEL ARDOUIN (ed.). *Museums & archaeology in West Africa*. xiv+178 pages, numerous illustrations. 1997. Washington (DC): Smithsonian Institution Press; 0-85255-237-8 paperback £14.95; 0-85255-238-6 hardback £35. A second book from the excellent West African Museums Programme. Three parts and 20 case-studies deal with archaeology and museum training, museums and the management of the archaeological heritage and communication and education.

Reference

STEVEN A. ROSEN's *Lithics after the stone age: a handbook of stone tools from the Levant* (184 pages, 95 illustrations & 18 tables. 1997. London: Altamira Press; 0-7619-9124-7 paperback £19.95) provides an invaluable tool for archaeologists and analysts alike attempting to understand life in the protohistoric and historic periods in the Levant. Flint and metal overlapped in their use in this area for more than three millennia. To speak of progress from one material to the other ignores both the inherent properties of each material and the different ways in which actions such as woodworking must have been conceived as one activity with stone implements and another activity with metallic ones. ROSEN goes beyond the provision of a 'simple' typology, in itself good, to consider broader aspects of lithic behaviour such as the organization of production and distribution, the study of function and that of style.

Paperbacks and second editions

NIGEL DAVIES. *The ancient kingdoms of Peru*. 221 pages, 28 plates, numerous illustrations, 1997. London: Penguin Books; 0-14023381-4 paperback £8.99. A lucid account of the civilizations in Peru prior to their conquest by the Incas. Separate chapters deal with the Moche, Nazca, the Middle Kingdoms and

the Great Chimor, finishing with the rise of the Incas and their conquest of the area.

JOSHUA POLLARD. *Neolithic Britain*. 64 pages, 38 illustrations. 1997. Princes Risborough: Shire Publications; 0-7478-0353-6 paperback £4.99. A welcome, up-to-date introduction to the period, both in terms of new archaeological finds and also new interpretative approaches to the material. Six major chapters deal with the beginnings of the Neolithic, making a living, material culture, monuments, dealing with the dead and times of change. Two further chapters give advice on places to visit and further reading. All in all, informative and nicely written.

PETER BELLWOOD. *Prehistory of the Indo-Malaysian archipelago*. x+384 pages, 61 plates, 86 figures. 1997. Honolulu (HI): University of Hawaii Press; 0-8248-1883-0 hardback \$58; 0-8248-1907-1 paperback \$32.95. Thoroughly revised since its first publication in 1985, as a quick look at the new references consulted since that date reveals.

STEPHEN SHENNAN. *Quantifying archaeology*. 433 pages, numerous illustrations & tables. 1997. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press; 0-7486-0791-9 paperback £18.95. This second edition has been revised on the basis of feedback from the first edition. It also includes new sections on correspondence analysis and testing with the normal distribution, as well as a new account of sampling in archaeology.

MICHAEL ASTON. *Interpreting the landscape: landscape archaeology and local history*. 168 pages, 94 illustrations. 1997. London: Routledge; 0-415-15140-6 paperback £17.99. Reprinted as before by its new publisher.

NORA K. CHADWICK. *The Druids*. xii+119 pages, 2 maps. 1997. Cardiff: University of Wales Press; 0-7083-1435-x hardback £25. 0-7083-1416-3 paperback £10.95. A new edition of this key source first published in 1966.

A. SEGAL. *From function to monument: urban landscapes of Roman Palestine, Syria and Provincia Arabia*. (Oxbow monograph 66.) 184 pages, 84 plates, 95 figures, 25 maps, 1 table, 1997. Oxford: Oxbow; 0-900188-13-9 paperback £24. A revised version of this book first printed in 1995.

JOHN WACHER. *The towns of Roman Britain*. 480 pages, 186 illustrations. 1997. London: Routledge; 0-415-177041-9 paperback £35.

In case you missed it among the book clubs in years past, another chance has been provided to acquire this classic.

Continuing series

ELIZABETH MOIGNARD. *Corpus vasorum antiquorum, Great Britain*. (Fascicle 18: the Glasgow collections: the Hunterian museum; the Glasgow Museum and Art Gallery, Kelvingrove; the Burrell collection.) 114 pages, numerous plates, 1997. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 0-19-72618-x hardback £55. A detailed

catalogue of the Greek and Italian vases from three collections in Glasgow in the Hunterian Museum, the Kelvingrove Museum and the Burrell Collection. As mentioned in the introduction, the vases in the three individual collections are as much representative of the vicissitudes of individual acquisition as any product of actual classical craft.

ROBERT E. FISHER. *The art of Tibet*. 224 pages, 93 colour plates, 87 black & white plates. 1997. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-20308-3 paperback £7.95. A further addition to the 'World of Art' series, Fisher examines the rich and multiple connections between Tibetan Buddhism and the nature of the vibrant and sophisticated world of Tibetan art.

Also

DAVID NICOLLE. *The Hamlyn history of medieval life: a guide to life from 1000 to 1500 AD*. 192 pages, numerous colour and black-&-white illustrations. 1997. London: Hamlyn; 0-600-59118-2 hardback £18.99. A broad sweep across the world looking at the nature of life in the Medieval period, organized into sections on domestic life, the arts, architecture, urban life and commerce, law and punishment and warfare and the army, amongst other things. Christian traditions mix with the Buddhist and Islamic. Western Science sits in comparison to Chinese. A final chapter 'worlds apart' looks at the lost 'primitive' parts of the world.

Review articles

Creating Pacific histories

PETER GATHERCOLE*

PATRICK VINTON KIRCH. *The Lapita peoples: ancestors of the oceanic world*. xxvi+353 pages, 20 plates, 24 figures, 7 tables, 9 maps. 1997. Oxford: Blackwell; 1-55786-112-9 hardback £55 & \$69.95; 1-57718-036-4 paperback £15.99 & \$26.95.

MATTHEW SPRIGGS. *The Island Melanesians*. xxvi+326 pages, 53 plates, 41 figures, 3 tables. 1997. Oxford & Cambridge (MA): Blackwell; 0-631-16727-7 £45.

ANTIQUITY demonstrated an interest in the archaeology of the Pacific and Australia in its first number, with Raymond Firth's article, 'Maori Hill-Forts' (Firth 1927), and thereafter articles reviewing new research received editorial welcome (e.g. Duff 1949; 1950; Golson & Gathercole 1962; Mulvaney 1964). The present editor has maintained this policy, conscious of the fact that the whole region has become one of the most dynamic on the world archaeological stage in both new discoveries and the level of discussion about their significance. For example, in 1989 ANTIQUITY ran a lengthy special section on the settlement of Island South East Asia and the Western Pacific (63: 547–626), echoed in last September's issue (Ambrose 1997; Sand 1997; Terrell & Welsch 1997).

It is appropriate, therefore, to review here two new coverages of today's archaeological scene in the Western Pacific, volumes in a new series on the peoples of South East Asia and the Pacific, under the general editorship of Peter Bellwood & Ian Glover, themselves long involved in the study of the archaeology of the region. Together these accounts give the

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reader results of 40 years of internationally coordinated research, which is both technically very impressive and also of cultural and political importance to Pacific peoples themselves. 'Prehistory' as studied by the archaeologist is also, and at least equally significantly, *their* history, a cultural and political distinction not always recognized in the academic world. The authors of these books, however, are well aware that they also write for an audience beyond that of academic colleagues. Indeed Spriggs dedicates his book to four Island Melanesians, one his wife, another a relative murdered on Bougainville by PNG soldiers in 1993. However different these volumes are in content and style, their overall message is similar: archaeology is for everybody.

Pat Kirch exploits the homogeneous theme of *The Lapita peoples* by distilling nearly 30 years' involvement with his subject matter. What then is Lapita? Its original defining feature was a distinctive dentate-stamped pottery, first reported in 1909, but not recognized as culturally significant for the South West Pacific for another 40 years. By 1979 Roger Green, the intellectual powerhouse of so much Lapita research (to whom Kirch dedicates his book), could write of a cultural complex with internally differentiated settlements; an integrated coastal fishing and gathering economy; interactions between communities indicated by non-local materials; and a range of novel portable artefacts. Thereafter definitions were extended beyond material remains to include, for example, social organization.

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