

Antiquity

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Editorial

PLATE I

This is the diamond jubilee year of ANTIQUITY, that is if we accept Queen Victoria's view of this matter and not the view that the diamond anniversary of a wedding (or anything else) is 75 years. This 60th volume will end with the retirement of the present Editors who took over from the founder-editor Crawford when he died in 1957. The Trustees of ANTIQUITY and the Directors of Antiquity Publications Ltd have appointed Christopher Chippindale to succeed us from 1 January 1987; the March issue of that year is his: we are still editing the July and November issues of this jubilee year.

Mr Chippindale read archaeology and anthropology in Cambridge and then, after a business career in publishing, came back to do research on rock engravings in south-eastern France and is now a Research Fellow of Girton College. He has been Editor of the *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine* for the last few years; but will be best known for his *Stonehenge complete* (published in 1983 and reviewed in these pages, 1984, 68), which won the first British Archaeological Book Award in 1984.

☞ Shortly after the publication of this issue of ANTIQUITY the space robot rocket probe 'Giotto', built by British Aerospace, will pass within 60 miles of Halley's Comet, and will probably be destroyed by the hail of dust particules in the Comet's tail, travelling 50 times faster than a bullet; but by then it should already have transmitted photographs and data on the inside of the Comet, which could help scientists to establish the history of the solar system—perhaps even the origin of life. We became aware of all this when, last October, we visited the Palazzo della Ragione in Padua to admire its magnificent hall and the wooden horse—a copy of Donatello's equestrian statue of Gattamelata outside the Basilica of San Antonio—and discovered a splendid exhibition, mounted by British Aerospace, of Halley and Giotto. It made us retrace our steps to the Chapel of the Scrovegni, made famous by Giotto's frescoes of 1302–6, and study with renewed interest his 'Adoration of the Magi' which

shows as the Star of Bethlehem Halley's Comet, which had been seen in Italy in 1301. The Florentine chronicler Giovanni Villani described it as leaving 'great trails of fumes' behind: the fresco shows the Comet just as Giotto saw it, a blazing comet with the head in the shape of an eight-pointed star, dominating the sky.

Incidentally, although Halley's Comet was seen in 12 BC (or 11 BC)—Dio Cassius describes it as suspended over the city of Rome—it cannot have been the Star in the East that the Wise Men saw (*St Matthew* 2, 7–10), for Christ was born, according to most authorities, in 4 BC (certainly not on 25 December AD 1).

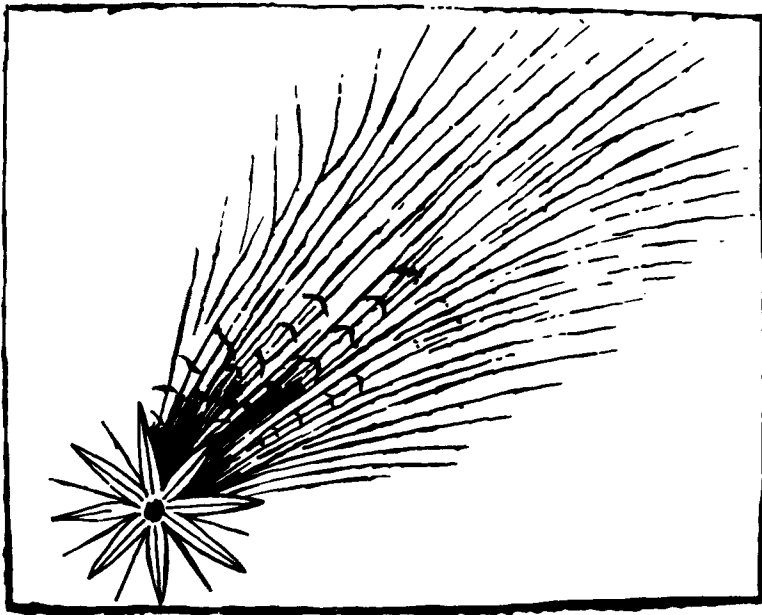
Between this sighting and the Giotto sighting it was recorded at least 15 times. The 684 sighting was recorded in the *Nürnberg Chronicle* of 1493 and is reproduced here (PL. 1b). The 1066 sighting has long been famous to every schoolboy because it is recorded on the Bayeux Tapestry, that magnificent early medieval artifact. Its appearance in England in March 1066 was thought to be a harbinger of doom, an unfavourable omen foretelling the successful invasion of England by the Normans, but it had disappeared from the skies before Harold's death in October.

We reproduce (PL. 1a) the relevant portion of the Tapestry by kind permission of Messrs Thames and Hudson and the Clichés Ville de Bayeux. It is from the complete and brilliant photographic record of the Tapestry made when it was rehoused in 1982–3 and published in *The Bayeux Tapestry* by Sir David Wilson (Thames and Hudson, 1985; £45), to be reviewed in our next issue by Professor Ray Page.

In 1705 Halley began his pamphlet *A Synopsis of the Astronomy of Comets with a reference to Babylonian (Chaldean) astronomers* with these words: 'The ancient Egyptians and Chaldeans (if we may credit Diodorus Siculus) by a long Course of Observations were able to predict the Apparitions of Comets. But since they are also said, by the Help of the Same Arts, to have prognosticated



a



b

PLATE I: EDITORIAL

(a) Harold being told of Halley's Comet in the Bayeux Tapestry (32); below is a body of figures who 'mirant stella'. (b) Halley's Comet, AD 684, as shown in the Nürnberg Chronicle, 1493

See pp. 1–2

Photo a. Clichés de Ville de Bayeux and Thames & Hudson

Earthquakes and Tempests, 'tis past all Doubt that their Knowledge in these Matters, was the result rather of meer astrological Calculation, than of any Astronomical Theories of the celestial Motions.' As recently as 1955 nothing more could have been said than Halley did about the Babylonian observation of comets, but in that year the late Professor Abraham Sachs of Brown University, USA, published his *Late Babylonian Astronomical and Related Texts* based on some 1,600 Babylonian astronomical texts in the British Museum, which include observations of Halley's Comet in 164 and 87 BC. The Museum has mounted an exhibition, 'Halley's Comet in History', which illustrates the history of scientific observation of the Comet up to the time of Halley himself, laying particular emphasis on the Babylonian and Chinese records which, from the scientific point of view, are superior to any European observations before the 15th century AD. The Museum has also published a book to accompany the exhibition: it is *Halley's Comet in History* by Hermann Hunger, F. R. Stephenson, Christopher B. F. Walker and Kevin K. C. Yau, edited by Stephenson and Walker (64 pp., 15 pls., 10 figs., B.M. Publications, 1985; £5.50).

Edmund Halley (1656–1742) seems to have been a most engaging, genial, and learned person; a friend of Sir Isaac Newton, he was responsible for persuading him to write the *Principia*, indeed paid for the printing, did the proof-reading, and other editorial work. His predecessor as Astronomer Royal, the Reverend John Flamsteed, however, did not get on with him, declaring in 1703 that Halley 'now talks, swears and drinks brandy like a sea-captain'. He travelled extensively, to St Helena (while still an undergraduate at Oxford) to observe the sky in the southern hemisphere, and to America, and as far south as the Falkland Isles and South Georgia. He had archaeological interests and wrote *The Ancient State of the City of Palmyra*. He certainly knew Peter the Great when he came to England in 1698 to learn about shipbuilding: there is a story, discredited by some, that after a bibulous evening, the Czar climbed into a wheelbarrow and that in the subsequent ride, Halley pushed him through a holly hedge. Obviously a very jolly man of many parts.

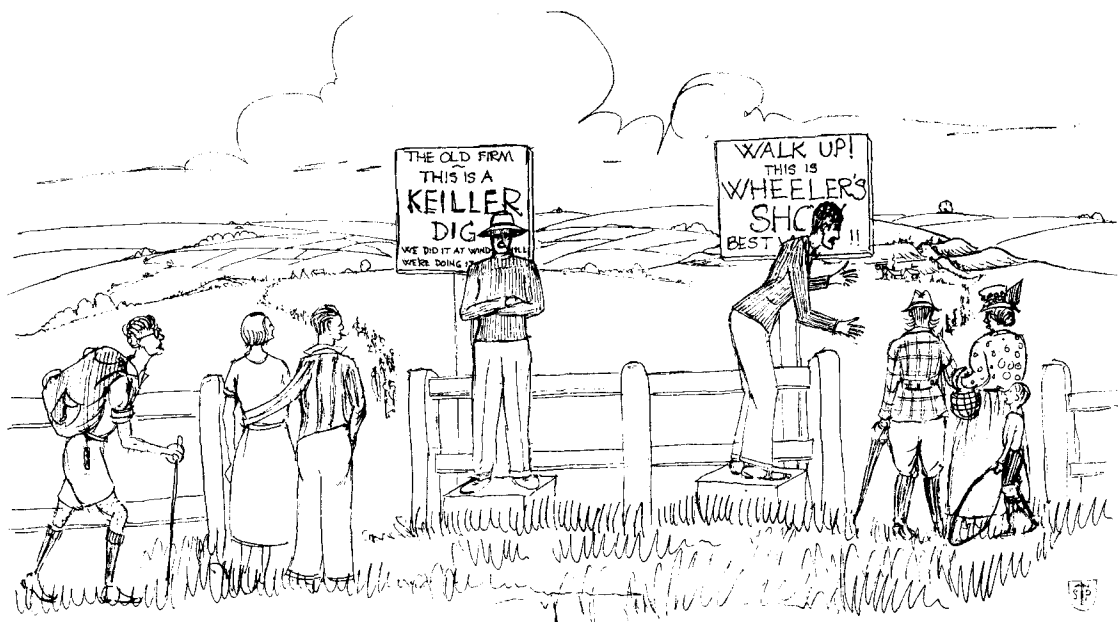
Half an hour away from Padua, pushing our way through the usual crowds of tourists and shrieking, enthusiastic schoolchildren, we got to the remarkable exhibition HOMO set up in the

Palazzo Ducale in Venice. It was one of the best archaeological exhibitions we have ever been to: financed by AGIP, IBM Italia and the City of Venice, it was open from 22 June to 31 December. We hope it has been retained to travel to other cities. It is subtitled, 'Journey to the Origins of Man's History: Four million years of evidence'.

We have always known how good the Italians are at museum display but were especially attracted by the video machines in each part of the exhibition which enabled one to ask for further information on any aspect one had not understood and produced the answer at once. The catalogue/commentary is called *Homo* and is published by Cataloghi Marsilio, Venice. It has no declared price but we paid the equivalent of £20.00 as we tottered away across St Mark's Square and paid about the same for dry martinis at Harry's Bar.

The catalogue is worth many dry martinis and has chapters by many distinguished scholars including Yves Coppens, Phillip Tobias, Richard Leakey, Jean Chavaillon, Glynn Isaac (alas no longer with us), the de Lumleys, Bernard Vandermeersch, and, very appropriately, many Italians—Carlo Peretto, Marcello Piperno, Mauro Cremaschi, Arturi Palma di Cesnola, Bernardino Bagolini, Carla Accorsi, Benedetto Sala, and Brunello Chiarelli.

In her *Flinders Petrie* reviewed in this number (66–7) Margaret Drower says that the great man was instrumental and encouraging in getting Crawford to found ANTIQUITY, but although Crawford and Petrie were great friends we can find no trace of Petrie's direct influence in the founding of our journal either in the early editorials or in Crawford's autobiography *Said and done*. Rereading Margaret Drower's book, we feel one small point is worth making. She is not right when she says that Flinders Petrie is the only archaeologist to have a GLC blue plaque outside his London house. There is a plaque at 29 Eaton Place commemorating the fact that Lord Avebury (Sir John Lubbock), whose *Prehistoric Times* was published in 1865, lived there: and Thomas Young, the great Egyptologist ('phenomena Young') has a plaque on his house at 48 Welbeck Street. We learn that you have to be dead 20 years before you can be considered for a blue plaque. What names can we suggest to the GLC or whatever body succeeds it? Sir Mortimer Wheeler certainly, but he will have to wait until 1996: but it would be nice to see a plaque in Whitcomb Street,



and every time we walk from Leicester Square to Pall Mall to be reminded of that elegant Edwardian figure. We do not believe in ghosts, but every time we come out of the 'Hand and Racquet' we see a twirling of moustachios beneath an Augustus John hat, and discern a faint odour of cigars and dry martinis.

Excavations at Maiden Castle and Sutton Hoo proceed: and we publish, by the courtesy of Stuart Piggott and the Alexander Keiller Museum at Avebury, an amusing cartoon drawn by Stuart Piggott in 1934.

Here is an interesting letter from Dr Veronica Seton-Williams, dated 16 October 1985:

I was surprised to read in the July *Antiquity* that Olga Tufnell was the last archaeologist to have worked with Petrie. I did six months with him, from October 1935 to April 1936.

I am also interested in the photos that you show of Maiden Castle. I was site supervisor for Rik on both sites E, the Rampart cut and Site G across the juncture of the two ramparts. I appear in Pl. xxviii as the upper figure on the side of the trench watching the workmen. There were no volunteers on this particular site as it was done with Bill Wedlake and paid workmen except for a recorder and myself.

We have only just come across *The Gymnasium of the Mind: the journals of Roger Hinks 1933–1963*

edited by John Goldsmith (287 pp., Michael Russell, 1984; £10.95). Hinks was Assistant Keeper in the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities in the British Museum from 1926 to 1939 when he was forced to resign, it would appear most unfairly, as a result of a public scandal over the cleaning of the Elgin Marbles. To quote Lord Clark's words from the foreword to this book, 'In middle life, when at the height of his powers, he became the victim of an abominable intrigue which forced him to leave his beloved British Museum.' After this traumatic experience he was attached to the British Legation in Stockholm and in 1945 joined the British Council serving successively as Representative in Rome, Amsterdam, Athens, and Paris.

These well-edited extracts from his journals deal mainly with art history and criticism, for he was more an art historian than an archaeologist, though he disapproved of any such division in the scholarly study of the past. 'Anything that happens to help break down the false distinction between "archaeology" and "art history" is to be welcomed.' Lord Clark wrote: 'Roger Hinks was unquestionably one of the most learned and perceptive art historians of this generation . . . a superb stylist, clear, and at times eloquent . . . this selection of his writings shows that art history can be a form of literature.'

Yet this man was sacked from the British

Museum after serving there for 13 years. We turned eagerly through these pages to find his version of the Elgin Marbles scandal but he says very little that is new but comments sadly, 'my career in the British Museum came to an abrupt end (never mind whose fault it was!)'.

Meanwhile *Private Eye* has published an article entitled 'The Forsdyke Saga' in which it declares it has learned the full facts 'from an eminent classicist, who has asked not to be named, and who in 1939 was a British Museum official'. This source recollected that the Marbles had been scoured with wire brushes. 'His recollections', says *Private Eye*, 'have been confirmed by other scholars close to the incident and by a reference in the Public Records Office at Kew to a Foreign Office file labelled "Treatment of the Elgin Marbles: use of copper wire brushes to clean the marbles thus damaging the surface". *The file itself has been destroyed*' (italics ours—Ed.).

In the *Daily Express* for 19 May 1939 the B.M.'s chief cleaner, Arthur Holcombe, disclosed that for a period of fifteen months he and six other workers had cleaned the Marbles with soft brushes and a solution of soap, water and ammonia, and then scraped them 'with a blunt copper tool'. A full report on the damage was submitted to the B.M.'s Standing Committee on 14 January 1939: it is in a volume of Museum records which, says *Private Eye*, will not be available to the public until 1997.

Hinks wrote in his journal (13 November 1938): 'I naturally assumed that the routine devised by EJF[orsdyke] and Plenderleith was being faithfully observed, and that all was proceeding in accordance with the plan. And what is more, I do not understand why EJF, who started the whole business, did not himself notice that anything was wrong until Sidney Smith called his attention to the somewhat raw appearance of some of the recently cleaned slabs of the frieze on 22 November.'

John Goldsmith writes (p. 51): 'Forsdyke was placed in an extremely vulnerable position by the Parthenon sculptures affair. He had been Director for only two years and, before that, *he had himself been Keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities*. The evidence is not clear, but it seems likely that the cleaning of the sculptures had been initiated by him as Keeper; even if this had not been the case, he was still ultimately responsible for them, as Director. Obviously if he was to survive, he had to find scapegoats. Pryce and Hinks were the obvious targets.'

Frederick Pryce, Keeper, was given leave to retire from the services of the Trustees on account of ill-health: this was not diplomatic illness, he had been seriously ill for some time. Hinks was reprimanded severely, and reduced ten years in seniority and pay, and encouraged to retire. Arthur Holcombe, already beyond retirement age, was given three weeks' notice.

We are grateful to John Goldsmith and *Private Eye* for reminding us of and restating this strange and unhappy scandal of 46 years ago, and it is good to have Roger Hinks's own account at long last. It is now a matter of history. But surely the real scandal is that no one seems to have noticed what was going on for so long. Perhaps Forsdyke, Plenderleith, and the Trustees should all also have been retired: their wisdom and curatorial health seems in question during those long months when Arthur Holcombe and his six men were brushing, washing and scraping the marbles.

🏛 On 12 August 1985 the States of Jersey celebrated the 200th anniversary of the accidental discovery of the megalithic monument at Le Mont de la Ville, Saint Helier. The discovery on the morning of 12 August 1785 was recorded in a letter from Marshal Henry Seymour Conway (1721–1795), Governor of Jersey, to the Society of Antiquaries of London in which he says, 'It then happened that the Colonel of the St Helier's militia, wanting to level the ground for the exercise of his Corps, the workmen soon struck on the stones, and the temple thus discovered was afterwards cleared as it now stands.' Conway's letter was published in Volume VIII of *Archaeologia* and the same volume had a communication and note with sketches by Richard Molesworth entitled, 'Description of a Druid Temple lately discovered on the top of the hill near St Hilary in Jersey'. The third account of the discovery of this monument is in the *Diary of a Visit to Jersey* in September 1798 by William Money, published in the *Annual Bulletin of the Société Jersiaise* 1932 (317–25). Money wrote: 'Colonel Patriarch of the Island Militia, to prepare a level place for exercising his men, had assembled a party to remove a tumulus from the spot he had chosen. The sod being taken from the top, a large stone appeared which some of the soldiers endeavoured without success to move . . . The Colonel concluding from the figure which they presented, that there must be some Monument of Antiquity, ordered his men to proceed with caution

and carefully separate the earth from the stones. After very considerable labour a perfect Temple of the Druids was rescued from the Grave of Time.'

Military necessity required that the monument should be removed. La Vingtaine de la Ville in November 1787 decided to present the monument to Conway 'sensibles de la bienveillance que Son Excellence le General Conway leur Gouverneur a toujours montre pour la Prosperitie de cette Isle . . . de lui donner quelque marque de leur gratitude de prient de vouloir bien accepter l'Ancien Monument'.

Conway was delighted but understandably embarrassed by this unusual gift: indeed is it the only time in Western Europe that someone has been given a megalith as a present? His cousin, Horace Waipole, encouraged and persuaded him to accept the gift. He referred to the monument as 'Little Master Stonehenge' and 'the Cathedral of your Island' and wanted the megalith brought to England. He wrote to Conway on 11 November 1787: 'Dr Stukeley will burst his crements to offer mistletoe in your temple.'

Conway took Walpole's advice and the monument was transferred to England and re-erected at Park Place, Wargrave, near Henley-on-Thames. Horace Walpole was delighted: 'It is impossible not to be pleased with so very rare an antiquity so absolutely perfect', he wrote in 1787.

Readers of *ANTIQUITY* will remember that the monument had been forgotten for so long that despite the fact that R. A. Smith published a paper on it in 1919 it was still possible for Crawford to describe it in 1930 as 'an unknown megalith' (*Antiquity*, IV, 364).

No longer unknown or unsung, particularly after its full treatment by Jacquetta Hawkes in her *The Archaeology of the Channel Islands: Jersey (1939)*, this megalith which should not really be on the mainland of Britain was, at last, in 1984, scheduled as a Grade 2 listed building. Many have argued, though often half-heartedly, that Little Master Stonehenge should be returned to Jersey, but most of us realize this is an impracticable, unnecessary, and very expensive project. Meanwhile on 12 August 1985 the present Procureurs de la Vingtaine de la Ville in Jersey celebrated the bicentenary of the discovery of the monument by erecting a commemorative plaque. James Hibbs attended the ceremony and has written an admirable account of the monument in the *Annual Bulletin of the Société Jersiaise*, Vol. 24, 1985, 49-74, which has been

reprinted under the title of *Little Master Stonehenge* and is obtainable from the Société Jersiaise. He says, very wisely: 'To return the monument to Jersey now would serve little purpose; its archaeological potential can be assessed as well from the site at Temple Combe and existing information as from a re-erected monument . . . It is surely best to leave the monument at Henley as a memorial to Walpole, Conway and their era, while Channel Island prehistory moves from a descriptive to an explanatory phase.'

☞ Mansell Publishing Ltd (6 All Saints Street, London N1 9RL, and 950 University Avenue, Bronx, New York, NY 10452) are producing a new series called *Keyguides* which 'pinpoint information sources, on a world-wide scale, in a variety of subject areas'. The first, *The Keyguide to information sources in archaeology* (220 pp., 1985; £21.50) is by Peter Woodhead, who has been a member of the Reference and Information Department at Leicester University Library since 1975, and has special responsibility for a group of subjects including archaeology. He has produced a most valuable book* which all libraries, museums and serious students must have and put on their shelves alongside the many archaeological encyclopedias and R. F. Herzov's *Archaeology: a bibliographical guide to the basic literature* (New York, 1980) with its 4,818 references. We remember that M. H. Hasso in *A bibliometric study of the literature of archaeology* (City University M.Phil thesis, 1978) says there are 1,649 periodicals that an archaeologist should consult, and that Cherry Lavell in her *Publication: an obligation: archaeological documentation in Britain today* (1981) noted that in order to keep up with British archaeology alone, we should be aware of over 250 titles. One wonders, is life long enough?—and we feel most charitable about anyone who has missed a reference we felt essential.

Woodhead has organized his book in three sections: 1: a narrative account of the major forms of archaeological literature, together with a brief historical introduction to the subject, the various bodies in the field and the origins of utilization of archaeological information; 2: an annotated bibliography of all archaeological reference sources; and 3: a list of selected archaeological organizations

* Mr Woodhead says that as the book is on disk he would be delighted to receive comments for improvements, corrections, additions, etc.

which can serve as useful contact points for information. In Part 3 he allows only one entry per country: the CBA is an appropriate entry for the United Kingdom and the Archaeological Institute of America for the USA, but the Forhistorisk Museum at Moesgård is a curious choice for Denmark. Our friends and colleagues at Moesgård are always helpful but the National Museum in Copenhagen is a better primary source.

As we turn over his pages and are reminded of P. Åström's *Who's who in Cypriote archaeology* (1971) and the Dawson and Uphill *Who was who in Egyptology* (2nd ed., 1972), we wonder, and not for the first time, when some enterprising English publisher will commission a *Who was and is who in British archaeology* and an American publisher *Who was and is who in American archaeology*. Both books are urgently needed.

☪ Since our last issue we have the sad news of the deaths of Charles Phillips, Sir Harry Godwin, and Professor Glynn Isaac. Charles Phillips, firm friend and supporter of *ANTIQUITY* for all of its 60 years, is referred to later in these pages (53–4). Harry Godwin wrote his autobiography and it was published a few weeks after his death: *Cambridge and Clare* (230 pp., Cambridge University Press, 1985; £19.50). He contributed so much to Quaternary studies and is generous in his account of the Fenland Research Committee. He writes: 'The extremely acute and active secretary was Dr Grahame Clark, later to be the Professor of Archaeology and Master of Peterhouse, and always, at his shoulder, the reassuring bulk of C. W. Phillips and of Gordon Fowler, Transport Manager

of the Ely Sugar Beet Factory, both men of great resource and detailed familiarity with the countryside.'

Glynn Isaac's sudden death in Tokyo at the early age of 47 has shocked the archaeological world. He had been teaching at Berkeley from 1966 and moved to Harvard in 1983 to start a new programme in early man studies with the human palaeontologist David Pilbeam. During his 17 years in California he was, together with Desmond Clark, a major figure in building up a programme of early man research that focused on the East African Rift Valley system, and he became joint director with Richard Leakey of the Koobi Fora Research Programme. To quote from the obituary in *The Times* (1 November 1985): 'Isaac had a keen intelligence and was a brilliant, witty and highly stimulating lecturer and teacher and his enthusiasm and love of Africa spilled over to his students, black and white, many of whom have gone on to play leading parts in continuing the new approaches he initiated.'

We asked Professor Desmond Clark for an appreciation of Glynn and his work: this will be found on pp. 55–6.

☪ The publication in our last issue (November 1985, 167–73) of Peter Costello's article, 'The Piltdown hoax reconsidered', caused quite a *frisson* in the archaeological world and had our telephone trilling for days as first the *Observer*, then *Daily Telegraph* and BBC latched on to its significance. As a result of a member of the public's watching the BBC's *Newsnight* on 22 November the plot thickens—see pp. 59–60.

Book Chronicle

We include here books which have been received for review, or books of importance (not received for review) of which we have recently been informed. We welcome information about books, particularly in languages other than English, of interest to readers of ANTIQUITY. The listing of a book in this chronicle does not preclude its review in ANTIQUITY.

Slotholms-mødet by Birgit Andersen *et al.* Fredningsstyrelsen Rapport B7. Copenhagen, 1984. 206 pp., 24 figs.

Briar Hill. Excavation 1974–1978 by Helen M. Bamford. Northampton: Northampton Development Corporation, 1985. 139 pp., 61 figs., 28 tables, foldout plan and fiche. £22.50.

Orvieto by Arvid Andrén. Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology, Pocket Book 27. Göteborg: Paul Åströms Forlag, 1985. 83 pp., 28 figs.

Hungarian ethnography and folklore by Iván Balassa & Gyula Ortutay. Budapest: Corvina Kiadó, 1984. 818 pp., 68 colour pls., 232 figs.

continued on p. 14