Why study history?
How do we discern pattern and significance or meaning in ‘the past’? JOSEPH MALI (details below) develops the argument that we are steered by myths. There is evidence to support him throughout the books reviewed this quarter, ranging from the political convictions of MARK LEONE, or perhaps PETR CHARVÁT, to the proposition that ‘values … attributed to a site … drive decisions about why and how to preserve and protect’ it (Management planning p. 34; see ‘North America’, ‘Middle & Near East’ and ‘Values’, respectively, below). ‘Name your bias’ (LEONE & POTTER p. xi).


Mythistory illustrates historiography accordingly from Livy to Machiavelli, Vico and Michelet to Burckhardt, Aby Warburg, Kantorowicz and – with his ‘attempt to retain the image of history even in the most inconspicuous corners’ – Walter Benjamin. Likewise, as C.A. Crosby argues (LEONE & POTTER p. 201), ‘legends and stories … have come to … embody the Indian … ability to change’. Dr Mali rounds off with a little essay on James Joyce. He begs the question as to how we select our myths, and even our subjects – see both of the following sections.

Values in archaeological resources


The first part of Management planning is a set of three papers, on ‘Threats and challenges … in the Mediterranean’ (G. PALUMBO), ‘Heritage values’, and planning for protected sites open to visitors. In the third, M. Demas points out ‘that values are mutable’ (p. 49) – the ‘message’ of the monument is liable to change (cp. The recovery of meaning in ‘Americas’, below, and see Shamans, ‘Lost’, below). The five case studies in the second part cover: Hadrian’s Wall (C. Young), Chan Chan, in Peru, Masada, Petra and Corinth. The editors sum up the Workshop’s discussions and there is a substantial and exceedingly useful annotated bibliography of publications (mostly in English).

Prof. MANISCALCO’s title, ‘Protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict’, is taken from the UNESCO Hague Convention (1954). It comprises two sections, arranged in the same way as Management planning. The first is eleven articles and notes ranging from
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pieces on the Convention’s Additional Protocol (1999) and the Unidroit Convention to the Museums Emergency Programme and the Blue Shield Trust. The second is 27 studies of ‘Damage to cultural heritage in areas of crisis’, including pieces on Nazi protection of cultural assets from air raids, ‘unreturned Ethiopian loot in Italy’, ‘post-conflict situations’, six papers on recent developments (and lapses) in the Balkans, two on each of Cyprus, Palestine and Afghanistan, papers on ‘disappearance of Tibetan buildings in Lhasa’, on Cambodia and Peru, on ‘The Berber Question’, and one on a survey of early Muslim cemeteries in the Sudan. Most of the contributions are in English or Italian and all have abstracts in the one language or the other.


Larry Zimmerman et al. introduce four sets of papers on ‘Responsibilities’, mostly in the USA, with particular attention to issues in regard to Native claims on archaeological resources. They open with contributions on theory of ethics (A. Wylie) and a history of ethics in archaeology. There follow half a dozen on ‘the archaeological record’, including a piece from the British archaeologists, N. Brodie & D. Gill on ‘Looting’, G. Bass on shipwrecks, a piece on museums, and a discussion of values at stake in managing resources. Six articles concern ‘publics’: amateur collectors; Native Americans and (T. Singleton & C. Orser) other ‘descendant communities’; education and outreach; the mass media and the World-Wide Web; and a consideration of archaeologists’ professional codes, concentrating on the USA, Australia and the World Archaeological Congress. The collection is completed by five papers on ‘colleagues, employees, and students’, including R. Wright on gender, C. Chippindale on strain between specialisation and collegiality, and a thoughtful paper on field schools (A. Pyburn). H. Davis rounds off on ‘code and standards’, and there is an appendix to list ‘Websites for professional codes of ethics & standards’. Each contribution concludes with a list of questions for further thought – very apt. (See too ‘Recounting research’, below).


Our laurels, this quarter, go to the Getty Museum for the superbly illustrated works by Cassanelli et al. on Modern artistic ‘reception’ of Pompeii and Rome, now translated from the Italian (1997 and 1998, respectively). Senior colleagues of the archaeologist, Giuseppe Fiorelli, the Niccolini brothers flourished in the mid nineteenth-century, Fausto a designer, architect and urban planner, Felice an architect and museum curator. Their paintings of the ruins of Pompeii were the first pictures to be produced in Naples by chromolithography and, introducing Houses and monuments, the Provincial Superintendent of Archaeology argues that, by capturing the ruins’ vivid detail, the Niccolinis encouraged

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those standards of complete preservation and restoration that we have since demanded. Reproduced with the same breath-taking quality as the pictures of Pompeii are the French architects’ painted maps, bird’s-eye views, plans, elevations, archaeological figures, architectural drawings, cut-aways and reconstructions in *Ruins*, all in colour. The brief but scholarly captions enhance their historical interest.

See too the review of *Greek vases*, p. 642–3.

**Culture and physical environment**


In *Supply-side*, two botanists and an archaeologist (Tainter) have created a rich, ‘systematic’ review of causes of and conditions for ecological and social complexity, ranging over global physical and cultural ecology, studies of stability in ancient and Medieval Babylonia, the fall of the Roman Empire (through excessive autonomy of its parts, they explain), the survival of Byzantium (by dint, they consider, of apt economic and political adjustments – albeit amidst social collapse perhaps not fully acknowledged here; cp. Haldon in ‘Greeks …’, below), Native North American history and archaeology, and more. Much of the illustrative material in this well written and compelling book is drawn from Britain past and present. To clarify the ‘problem solving’ that, according to these authors (and their ilk), civilisations must tackle, distinctions are drawn between complex systems and complicated systems and between ‘tangibly human’ goals and ‘the true invisible hand’ (pp. 414–5). Ironies of rationality loom in Prof. Redman’s study too (of the same ilk but not cited by Allen et al.). ‘No domain of enquiry is more appropriate for the archaeologist nor more pressing for contemporary society’, he asserts (p. 6), than environmental and technological sustainability. Tracing history from the Pleistocene to ‘The growth of world urbanism’, *Human impact* draws on his broad familiarity with the archaeology of the Mediterranean, Middle East and Americas. See too DhaValikar in ‘South Asia’, below.


*Colonization* is a well conceived set of thoughtful papers by workers from a variety of disciplines devoted to important issues about knowledge, purpose, creativity and cultural tradition. It opens with five on ‘Conceptual frameworks’, including R. Golledge on ‘wayfinding and cognitive maps’, a historical study of native routes in Minnesota, R.L. Kelly reexamining assumptions necessary, unnecessary and inappropriate, and D. Hardesty on mining rushes. There follow six case studies, on Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic Europe (W. Roebroeks, C. Tolan-Smith and S. Fiedel & D. Anthony), Paleoindians in the High Plains, early Polynesians, and the English colonists in North America. To finish are a piece on ‘theory and method’ and comments by D. Meltzer on all the foregoing. See too Barrett in ‘The Scandinavian’, below.
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Dr.s Peacock & Schauwecker present 15 chapters on the plain around the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico, arranged in three groups: flora and soils, insects, snails and small mammals, including two papers drawing on Peacock’s archaeological evidence; archaeology, with case studies in settlement patterning, water management, and wood management for trade through prehistoric Spiro and its neighbourhood; and contemporary botanical management and planning. In a brief conclusion, the editors remark on ‘the need to preserve variability as a buffer against changes too rapid or radical for comfortable human adjustment’ (p. 281) – beside the point for Allen et al.

See too ‘Deeper’, below.

Palaeolithic


The body of the Catalogue is a gazetteer of collections and finds of stone tools and other artefacts or manuports in the Quaternary Section of the Museum’s Dept. of Prehistory & Early Europe, arranged by province (South Africa) or country. Selected tools are illustrated with drawings (from the original reports as well as new pictures) and photographs; and larger collections are tabulated. It is accompanied by lists of other collections of African Stone Age material in the Museum (excluding items from Egypt) and of collections of Stone Age material from Southern Africa in other museums in the UK. The volume opens with discussions of geography, of ‘Southern African archaeology and its changing relationship with Britain’, and articles on ‘Terminology and typology’, and ‘The history and contemporary significance of the collections’; and there is an appendix on the collectors. See too the review of *The archaeology of southern Africa*, p. 625–7.

Return to Chauvet Cave, first published in France two years ago, is suitably large and lavish. Indeed, Thames & Hudson have pulled off a technical coup with the amount and quality of colour photographs, including a stunning four page centre fold. Jean Clottes and 29 colleagues (geologists and other scientists, an art historian and an anthropologist as well as archaeologists) explain their methods of research, the site, its setting and its history before describing, analysing and discussing the drawings and paintings and appraising features of the art both generic to the Upper Palaeolithic of France and Switzerland and distinctive to Chauvet and its comparatively brief (and early) occupation.


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Civilisations


JOAN ARUZ introduces six sets of essays intended to provide context for the items displayed in the exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, this year, that gave the book its title. H. Nissen, D. Hansen, J. Reade and colleagues discuss Mesopotamia; J.-C. Margueron, P. Matthiae et al. cover Syria; Hansen et al. appraise Akkadian art; J. ARUZ, O.W. Muscarella, E. Izbitser, D.T. Potts, M. Tosi & C. Lamberg-Karlovsky and J. Kenoyer et al. sweep from Egypt and the Aegean to Central Asia and the Indus; Jean Evans and B. André-Salvini consider ‘The dynasties of Lagash and Ur: approaching the divine’; and P. Michalowski, B. Salje and I. Spar consider the earliest writing, including the epic of Gilgamesh and ‘origins of the Genesis tradition’. J. Reade adds a note on ‘Problems of … chronology’. It is on top of this all that the systematic and discursive catalogue entries are provided. It is a big and quite magnificently produced book including many illustrations from other museums in addition to pictures of pieces lent for the show from elsewhere.

Dr HANSEN presents seven careful essays on city-state cultures: Sumerian, Neo-Hittite, prehellenistic Lycian, Zapotec (Mexico), Early Modern southwest Germany, and on Nepal (c. 1482-1769), followed by one on evidence from many parts of the world for defence as a reason for the development of ‘city-states’. One is in German, one in French, and the rest in English. This book follows the big volume on thirty cases, reviewed in ANTIQUITY 75 (pp. 197-8).

Middle & Near East

Originally published, ten years ago, in Prague, Mesopotamia before history is a welcome breath of Central European thought. The Palaeolithic, Epipalaeolithic, Neolithic, Halafian, Ubaid, Uruk and Jemdet Nasr and Early Dynastic (ED) periods are covered in distinct chapters. Each opens with summaries of up to eight typical sites and proceeds to interpretation on ‘Economy’, ‘Society’, and ‘Metaphysics’. The story is pushed along by the proposition, treated at more length in a closing chapter, that ‘extra-economic factors’ were ‘at least’ as important ‘as purely economic considerations’ (p. 234). Thus, Samarran irrigation channels and forts are interpreted as experiments in an ‘age of freedom’ and ‘inspiration’ (p. 235); ‘deliberate’, perhaps insistent, ‘egalitarianism’ is ascribed to Uruk civilisation (p. 237); and the ED is read as an age in which economic interests were served by innovations in ethics and philosophy as well as sociological and political developments (cp. ‘Bronze Age … Levant’, pp. 605–8). The approach taken here leaves the prevalent ‘line’ in US universities looking more akin to Soviet archaeology. Can PETR CHARVÁT’s motivation be found in recent Czech history?
Remaining largely in Mesopotamia, the body of Prof. Van De Mieroop’s workmanlike textbook, following a chapter of general introduction, traces a chronicle of ‘city-states’ (Uruk, ED, Akkadian and Ur III and the developments of the Old Babylonian and early Assyrian periods), ‘territorial states’ (later second millennium BC from Elam to the Hittites) and ‘empires’ (the Assyrians and their enemies, the Neo-Babylonian period, and Persia). Here too, theoretical landmarks familiar to archaeologists are scarcely acknowledged; as the title indicates, this book depends mainly on the written sources.


Miss Bellelli reviews 174 pieces of Bronze Age bronze tableware from Iran, the great majority of it recovered in archaeological digs and the rest from ‘fairly certain provenance’, but excluding the material from Susa. She considers depictions of such vessels in other media. She argues that the evidence indicates certain centres of production, that it shows the influence of Mesopotamia, and that production declined with urban life in the Late Bronze Age. She includes a short summary in English.


Nimrud integrates textual testimony with a critical eye to the archaeology. This very substantial, engaging and well written summary of the evidence by a pair of archaeologists working, between them, on the site from 1952 to 1962, will satisfy both students and the general reader. References to the literature are provided in endnotes indicated in light type, allowing two different levels of reading.


David Hopkins has collated most of the articles and notes on Turkey and the Hittites commissioned by Biblical Archaeologist (Near Eastern Archaeology) from 1986 to 1993. The collection comprises 16, ranging from palaeoethnobotany to ‘The history of the Hittites’, narrative in Hittite literature’, ‘The Great Temple in Boğazköy-Hattusa’, urban planning at ‘Early Bronze Age Titriş Höyük’ and Aphrodisias, ‘Swords, armor, and figurines’, ‘Lydian houses’, and ‘A Hittite seal from Megiddo’. Those from the first group (1986) have been brought up to date.

Based largely on the Hittite literature but some of the archaeological evidence too, Life and society covers royalty, law, skills, marriage, gods, the dead, festivals and rites, myths, and Hattusa, with a final chapter on ‘Links’ to the Greeks. It should be welcomed by students, especially were a paperback produced. See too the picture review of Karatepe-Aslantaş.

NEIL FAULKNER is thorough, most engaging and brings (of course) a good eye to the archaeology. However, he falls short of his first sentence’s claim, ‘a book about revolution and war’: it is about that uprising.

**Prehistory of Europe**


J. CLOTTES & R. DESBROSSE introduce a diverse selection of 35 substantial papers or notes on ‘Prehistory of Europe’ from the 125th French National Congress of Historical & Scientific Societies. They are grouped under three headings: physical anthropology (including a review by J.-J. Hublin of discoveries, during the 1990s, on Pleistocene Eurasia, B. Maureille on evidence for ‘neanderthalisation’ from Petralona, B. Vandermeersch on ‘The … first modern people’, and a paper on the peopling of Corsica); art (including a review by J. Clottes on recent progress from France, papers on rock art in Spain, and E. Anati on the Alpine rock art of the terminal Pleistocene and early Holocene); and ‘material culture’. The latter covers four groups: seven papers on the Upper Palaeolithic; five on the end of that period and the beginning of the Mesolithic; eight on general and particular aspects of the Neolithic, ranging from a case study of sources of stone bracelets from the Basin of Paris to the ‘how & why’ of the spread of Beakers (L. Salanova), and discussions of ‘neolithisation’ (M. Midgley) and the ‘Indo-Europeans’ (J.P. Demoule); and, to finish, a couple on the Bronze Age, including a widely ranging but concise appraisal of economic and religious associations in an ‘Atlantic’ province, by J. Briard. Plainly, archaeologist’s archaeology is flourishing among the French and their francophone colleagues; but they are in step with the current sensitivity of British colleagues to the evidence for cultural diversity. Most of the papers are provided with short abstracts in English.


TOUCHAIS & RENARD introduce 13 valuable papers on the later prehistory of Albania. They cover environmental archaeology (geomorphology, pollen, seeds, animal bones), stone tools and burials; and several consider evidence for connections with other regions, to the south (including different degrees of Mycenaean influence), east and north, including appraisal of Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age migrations. There is some attention to Epirus too and a paper on work since 1992 on ‘The Neolithic lakeside settlement of Dispilio, Greece’. *A propos* myths, R. Treuil adds pungent remarks on nationalism and archaeological balkanisation with a demand for studying themes rather than ‘cultures’. Most of the papers are in French, three in English, and there is one in Italian. Abstracts are provided in French, Albanian and English.


*Manching* is an admirable, well illustrated little handbook on the great oppidum, produced most attractively for the general public.
reader. The core of the substantial text is organised chronologically. It comes with an excellent-looking bibliography.

Also for the general reader, *The Celts* is a comprehensive but approachable, witty and concise summary of the evidence and the fraught issues around both the history and archaeology and the recent popular image of celticity. This is another good text on ideas and myth, of course. (See too *Danebury* in ‘Britain & Ireland’, below.)

**Greeks, Romans, Byzantines**


To mark a century of Swedish research, a mass of well documented and well illustrated detail is presented by Dr HÄGG in articles and notes ranging from the Late Bronze Age to the early Roman period, mostly on the Archaic and Classical periods: three on the history of ‘Swedish archaeology in Greece’; 13 on the Argolid and the Corinth district; three on ‘The sanctuary of Athena Alea at Tegea’; a couple on the ‘Cults of Herakles and Artemis’; and six on the western and southern Peloponnesus (including Olympia). Groups of them are accompanied by brief transcripts of the discussions. Three of the papers are in French, the rest in English.

With a few of the same contributors among his international roster, Dr KYRIELEIS presents 23 papers on 125 years of German digging at Olympia. They range from accounts of the history of research to analyses of features (including T. Hölscher on ceremonial buildings and political monuments – cp. pp. 637–8, below) and discussions of recent discoveries, and from essays on aspects of Classical cultural history to ones on political and cultural interests in the development of research at the site. The book is very well designed, printed and bound. Although short on pictures of the monuments, it comes with a fine plan of the site tucked into the back cover. Most of the papers are in German, with four in English and one in French.


*East Greek*, first published in hard covers five years ago, is a handbook on styles and groups up to the fifth century BC. It comprises 20 short chapters on crockery, plus one on Clazomenian sarcophagi, a note on faience, and a longer chapter on ‘Archaic … trade amphoras’.


*Figures* assesses the iconography of Athenian vases and sculpture as well as texts to investigate concepts, ethical (and artistic) conventions, and practices in the recognition and expression of adult gender roles and statuses and
heterosexual and homosexual relations. With a variety of approaches from both the ancient sources and anthropological theory, PROF. LLOYD investigates concepts of disease and principles of diagnosis and healing. In his ‘Epilogue’, he considers other work on the theme, from Galen to Ian Hacking and ethnographer, Tanya Luhrmann. See too Medicine man and DUNCAN in ‘Recounting’, below.


Dr ERSKINE introduces 27 chapters on political, cultural and social history, and the history of religion and arts & sciences, plus one on the ‘art, AD 1500-2000’. They seem to cover the ground comprehensively but archaeology sensu ANTIQUITY does not feature very much: E. Dench remarks (p. 296) that ‘archaeology … maintains a somewhat strained relationship with ancient history’. Serving to point out that that is not true altogether are S. Alcock et al. in a chapter on ‘survey … and … oikumene’.


Dr MATYSZAK’s contribution to the Chronicle series shares its companions’ features of good, plain text and plentiful well worked illustration. However, proliferation of ‘boxes’ and diverse images assume fidgetty readers – a formula which does not deserve to succeed.


After considering the history and construction of the Colosseum, the biggest of them all, Mr BOMGARDNER goes on to appraise ‘The origins and early development of the amphitheatre’ and to consider, as a distinct type, the ‘imperial amphitheatres – ‘architectural jewels’ to adorn ‘the greatest cities’ (p. 61). He then presents a case study of N. Africa, with special attention to Carthage and El Jem. The concluding chapter assesses the last amphitheatres and the decline of the games held there (with attention to the theory of climate change in AD 535), and conversion of the great buildings for other uses. Printed in small type, the book is packed with archaeological and historical information on the amphitheatres and the activities associated with them directly and indirectly, and it should serve as a useful source of reference. It was first published three years ago.


Wacher comprises 28 scholarly contributions ranging from early Silchester to industry at Dolaucothi, four on urban defences and military archaeology, a couple on urban water management, pieces on urban art and fine pottery, and a speculation on provincial urban archives. Most are on Britain but others range from Nijmegen to Pompeii and Turkey. They come with an appreciation and bibliography of the dedicatee.


IOLI KALAVREZOU with ANGELIKI E. LIAOU, ALICIA WALKER, ELIZABETH A. GITTINGS, MOLLY FULGHUM HEINTZ & BISSERA V. PENTCHEVA. *Byzantine women and their world.* 335 pages,

The body of Byzantium, a plainly written introduction, comprises a couple of chapters to out-line the history and six on institutions and aspects of the way of life, with special attention to aristocratic culture, including patrimonialism and the paradoxical combination of Christianity and militarism. Although he does not discuss the reorganisation emphasised by Allen et al. (‘Culture and physical environment’, above), Prof. Haldon does remark on the ‘adaptability and flexibility’ of the Byzantine empire, (p. 163).

Byzantine women is a splendidly produced catalogue, organised around essays to accompany a recent exhibition, at Harvard University, of artefacts in various materials. The essays cover ‘civic life’, the elite, the cult of the Virgin of Constantinople, work, home, marriage, adornment (‘Enhancing the body, neglecting the soul’?), and ‘Magic, medicine, and prayer’. The 186 catalogue entries are accompanied by ample discussions.


Britain & Ireland


After an introduction and a chapter on methods, Dr Bewley sums up concisely the evidence for settlements in Great Britain, following a chronological survey. Concluding, he invokes C.C. Taylor’s favourite image of kaleidoscopic change. The book is very well illustrated. Well illustrated and readable too is Stan Beckensall’s latest, which opens in the same way as Prehistoric settlements but organises the body of its material by theme, with emphasis on ritual sites. He concludes with some of his poetry. Both books add notes on sites to visit and resources for further study, including books.

The latest edition of Danebury brings readers up to date with Prof. Cunliffe’s research, including results from the Danebury Environs Programme and some more space devoted to ‘Religion, ritual and propitiation’. There are more illustrations and, in Tempus’s winning format, the book is now yet more elegant.


Ms Watson and colleagues report on inhumations and cremations from the second and third centuries. D. Goodburn contributes on construction of the wooden coffins. Also encountered at the site were earlier Roman fills and features and various Medieval and Post-Medieval features and fills. The report is provided with summaries in French and German.

Comprehensive, clever and accessible, Roman towns has been reorganised in places and brought right up to date, both empirically and with some conceptual tweaking (plus a bibliography, including references aplenty to books from Tempus, not least the author’s own; and see Eagles in ‘Also received’, below). The section of colour pictures has been improved and there is an appendix on sites to visit.

The ten solid papers on industry illustrate a range of approaches. There are case studies on urban and rural activity, and pieces on potting (including a big and amply illustrated review by V. Swan), and on glass, metals, leather and jet. The collection is rounded off with a contribution on ‘Sources of building materials in … York’.

See too Wilson in the previous section.


Fountains is easy to read and well illustrated. After an introduction to Cistercian history, the great abbey’s history is traced, allowing too for a valuable chapter on its estate, from the outer court to Boston. There is an ample annotated bibliography and notes on visiting the site and those of seven other northern abbeys. It is good to have Norwich back in print. The new edition has several revisions of text and changes of illustrations.


Dr Hourihane’s scholarly history of art depends largely on ecclesiastical sources, Cashel Cathedral taking centre-stage. It is well written, superbly illustrated and very well designed and bound.

Why (again) study the past? The millenarian British-Israelites must be the most obvious case in point, this quarter, for whom the Hill of Tara was surely the site of that New Jerusalem, spiritual capital of nothing less than the British Empire! Ms Carew (details below) explains lucidly what was done and the whole shenanigans of promotion and protest that accompanied the affair. For most readers, the main interest will be the offence that was caused to Irish nationalism: the accounts of the responses from W.B. Yeats et al. and the flamboyant interventions of Maud Gonne and her posse of schoolgirls make for rewarding reading.


See too the next title and the review on palaces, castles and ‘power’ (pp. 620–4ff.).
**The Scandinavian world**


Dr Barrett introduces nine papers on archaeological evidence for the spread of the Norse, first among the Saami in Arctic Norway, then to the Faroes and the British Isles, to Iceland, and on to Greenland, Ellesmere Island (NB P. Schledermann & K.M. McCullough reviewing evidence for substantial Norse settlement in the far north before arrival of Thule culture) and Newfoundland (L’Anse aux Meadows). R. McGhee rounds the collection off with thoughts about whether Norse memories of America were current in fifteenth century Europe. The collection makes for a very good state-of-the-art review. See too *Colonization* in ‘Culture and physical environment’, above.

Profs Roesdahl and Stoklund introduce 19 substantial and well illustrated essays on the history and archaeology of ‘House and family in Medieval Denmark’. They are arranged in four groups: ‘Private life and family structure’ (including comparison with elsewhere in Europe, and a contribution on church art); ‘Houses on farms and in fortifications’ (including Iron Age and Viking, remarks on the difficulty of finding samples of later Medieval housing, and a piece on castles); five on urban houses; and a group on interiors and furniture, including floor tiles. It is a very handsome book, produced to an excellent standard. Abstracts are provided in English. See too Prof. Roesdahl on ‘Viking ships’ and the review on palaces, castles and ‘power’, pp. 620ff.

**North America**


With L.S. Cordell, Elisa Villalpando introduces 15 valuable papers on the ‘Greater Southwest’ including the states of Baja California, Durango and Zacatecas. The collection opens with four on rock art. The second set is four on structures of community from regions to households. The remainder is a miscellany including reviews by B. Braniff, P. & S. Fish, N. Strazicich & B. Nelson, and, on applicability of the ‘culture area’ concept, R. McGuire. Two of the ones on rock art and Braniff’s are in Spanish, the others in English.


*Historical Archaeology* (1988) recommended critique of capitalism to a wide readership. Republished, Mark Leone reflects on development of that agenda since. He picks out Matthew Johnson on England, Carmel Schrire on South Africa and Australia (whose mission he compares to the philosopher, Jürgen Habermas’s), Christopher Tilley on ‘Metaphor and material culture’, and, for his ‘deconstruction’ of Chichen Itza, the ethnographer, Quetzil Castañeda: ‘people … need … figured, and refigured pasts’; ‘our self-
knowledge can be raised … by exhibiting material culture in organized settings, which may help produce meanings not hitherto available to … ourselves and others’ (p. xix; cp. ‘Values’, above). For those ‘provoked’ by these remarks – or exasperated by some of the authors there singled out (cp. p. 622, below)— the gauntlet is down. It should not be ignored. How could it be gainsaid?

See too Blackland prairies in ‘Culture and environment’, above, and Barrett, in the previous section.

South Asia


Prof. DHAVALIKAR has undertaken the same sort of chronological survey of cultural ecology as REDMAN (‘Cultural and physical environment’, above), accounting for the development ‘From foraging to farming’, the rise and decline of towns in the Indus civilisation, the ‘Age of empires’, followed by the ‘Second deurbanization’, and up to the ‘Mediaeval misery’. Here, instability is blamed on drought. See also the review of Acheulian culture, pp. 627–9, below.

Prof. HABIB’s admirable little book illustrates well the movement in India to greet spreading literacy and broadening interest with learned but accessible coverage of archaeology. It is clearly written, effectively organised, better illustrated than most Indian productions, and very nicely designed. Readers learn a good deal about the general nature of archaeological research into the bargain. Awkward looking footnotes etc. have been relegated to a helpful and ample bibliography (albeit the references will remain very difficult for most Indian readers to trace).


The last of the traditional Hindu temple dancers died not many years ago. Interviews with these ladies, the devadasis, provided critical information on the techniques and symbolism of the postures shown in the sculpture ornamenting several famous Medieval temples in India. See too the following title.

Lost language, literature and lore

Grapta poikila comprises two sets of papers. The first is a threesome on ‘Scribes and language variation’, ‘relative clause[s] … of an Egyptian … writing Greek’, and aspects of language in a set of letters from Roman Egypt. The second covers Lucian’s pantomime, European ‘open-air performances of Greek tragedies … 1860-1960’, ancient Greek tragedies and drama in modern Finland and Greece, and ‘Greek music policy … 1936-1941’.

‘Academics and other professionals’ must acknowledge their ‘social contexts’, points out Mr Wallis, so ‘neo-Shamanisms… cannot be neglected or written off as “fringe” or “harmless”’ (p. 227; Antiquity is not wholly innocent on this). He reports on ethnography in England and the USA, including attention to archaeologists’ struggles with ‘fringe’ interests at Avebury, Stonehenge, Seahenge and Chaco Canyon (New Mexico), and he remarks on the neo-shamanist movement in post-Soviet Siberia. He reports that practitioners know that they cannot revive ancient ways and that neo-shamanism is different from contemporary ‘native’ practice; and he argues that the movement is a valid critique of contemporary ‘Western’ world-view. Yet it is, of course, intrinsically related to features of this view. Shamans is learned and absorbing.


Is it a pity that, in reissuing Realm (first out three years ago), the publisher adopted one of these silly embossed covers common for airport literature? It contains a dizzying range of historical, and even archaeological, evidence (Golden bough cited but not Jessie L. Weston) for hints of an ancient tradition largely suppressed, it is argued, by the Church. See too Isis and Malory, ‘Also received’, below.

Recounting research


From journals and books, Dr Díaz-Andreu has collected nine of her papers on the cultural history of archaeology in Spain and Portugal and introduces them, translated into Spanish from English and Portuguese, and amended in places. They include ‘Theory and ideology … under … Franco’ from Antiquity 67. The book will be welcomed in several quarters. See too Carew in ‘Britain & Ireland’, above.


In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Henry Wellcome, Medicine man, amassed an enormous collection of ethnographic and archaeological objects to illustrate the history and cultural anthropology of health and medicine. It has, indeed, been somewhat forgotten, partly because it was dispersed for legal reasons, although the progressive distribution has enriched several museums. The book is intended to accompany the Wellcome Trust’s current exhibition at the British Museum.

Following the editors’ introduction are six well directed chapters, including a contribution by C. Gosden on the archaeology, who describes Wellcome’s digs in the Sudan, in which O.G.S. Crawford helped to direct 4000 diggers – ‘despite occasional difficulties with Wellcome … a life-changing … experience’ for Antiquity’s founder (p. 173)! The multitude of illustrations has been designed most imaginatively and very effectively.


C.S. Rafinesque (1783-1840) worked in the USA as naturalist, philologist, ethnographer and antiquary. Dr Boewe has collected twenty articles and notes on the man and his works, ranging from Audubon to G.E. Stuart’s appreciation of Rafinesque’s attempt on the
Review
decipherment of ancient Maya writing. Included are a long and charming biography and Dr Boewe’s enquiry as to ‘Who’s buried in Rafinesque’s tomb?’.


Discovering is a simple tale of adventure in search of ancient civilisations including an account of Pedra Pintada, among other sites. There are scenes of Indian life, struggles with ants, and a stick-up in Cuzco. Hunting is a timely (and placely, considering the publisher) and readable account of research on bodies exhumed from an Arctic cemetery. It depends on a plot about academic possessiveness, with the eminent British biologist, John Oxford, as villain.

Deeper


Perseus has turned out two well written books for the general reader on geology and palaeontology. Mr Repcheck argues that the achievement of the eighteenth-century Scottish geologist, Hutton, has been somewhat disregarded in the wider field of earth sciences partly because ‘geology has never been a … flashy discipline’ (pp. 204-5), partly because his announcements were up-staged by the great political events of the 1780s, and partly owing to ‘defects’ in Hutton’s prose. Dr Parker, to the contrary, writes on the Cambrian proliferation of life in that literary current that S.J. Gould did so much (with his own myth of history) to create and inspire. The development of vision, he argues, was what transformed the animal world. Compare ‘Culture and physical environment’, above.

Also received

References to reviews of the hardback editions in previous volumes of ANTIQUITY are added in parentheses.


Review


HALET ÇAMBEL & ASLI ÖZYAR report on excavation and mainly on conservation, restoration (anastylosis) and protection of ornamental architectural fragments, reliefs and small finds from a late Hittite town in southern Turkey, carried out in the late 1940s and the ‘50s (Karatepe-Aslantas, Azatiwataya: die Bildwerke. xx+403 pages, 158 figures, 1 table, 232 plates. 2003. Mainz: Philipp von Zabern; 3-8053-3085-5 hardback €95.33). Systematic and detailed discussion of the work is accompanied by a comprehensive catalogue raisonnée. The book and its illustrations are produced to the highest standard. The picture shows a sphinx that guarded the gate at the north tower. It is inscribed in Luwian.

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