

Editorial

¶ A side-result of the long collecting of antiquities, classical especially, in northern Europe has been the gradual accumulation of important things in unexpected places, some scattered in museums where they now sit uncomfortably in collections of other interests. This is why the museums quietly exchange and transfer things between them, so they end up in more rational homes. *Aphrodite's island* is a result of this kind of work. It is a small and splendid exhibition at the Royal Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, continuing until 4 September, that brings together 140 artefacts

from ancient Cyprus and presents them in a handsome setting, bright and white, that manages to capture the feel of Mediterranean light, even in Edinburgh in April. Most of them come from Scottish museums which – when their separate Cypriot collections are taken together – have between them a comprehensive number of special things. The Cyprus Department of Antiquities have made up gaps by arranging loans of some key items. And Item 1 in the show, now in Aberdeen's university museum, owes its rescue to Cypriot Antiquities' Director, Dr Vassos Karageorghis. It is a stone bowl, of the aceramic



From Elizabeth Goring's *A mischievous pastime: 'Photographers on Mount Olympus'*, an Illustrated London News engraving of 1878 that shows what field-recording in the Mediterranean was sometimes like. The photographers' damp expressions will be familiar to those of us who have let the rain get into the innards of all-electronic cameras.

As to the point of it in an opinion of 1909:

'The visitor will find little to interest him in the ruins of the ancient temples which made Cyprus famous. . . Idalium, Tamassos, Golgoi, Amathus, Paphos and Salamis are mere sites, which have yielded many, and may still yield, objects of value to antiquaries, but in themselves have no beauty. The objects of native make which the soil of Cyprus has yielded to the explorers are curious and historically valuable. But . . . they are not beautiful. The vases are clumsy and monotonous in form, and the principle of decoration generally wrong. The statues are faulty in proportion, and the expression of the face is either dull or frankly comic . . . for a single spark of originality, or of inspiration caught from the living model, or from Greek art, we may look in vain.'

Neolithic, that had been brought home by a Scottish District Commissioner in Cyprus at the turn of the century. He spotted it in the 1970s when, its origin forgotten, it had come into domestic use in a Scots household as the water bowl for a little Scottie terrier; inside the bowl is physical record of this functional use, a dark tide-mark half way up the side.

Elizabeth Goring, Curator of Mediterranean Archaeology for the National Museums of Scotland, has written a good and well-illustrated catalogue to the exhibition, prefaced by an intriguing historical essay on 19th-century archaeologists in the island, and entitled *A mischievous pastime*,* from which this *ILN* print is reproduced. Recommended.

Special reason for a Cyprus exhibition in Edinburgh is the University's field project in the island, from which *ANTIQUITY* was able to publish a remarkable find of figurines in the last number (pages 288–93). And the exhibition opened with an important conference on Cypriot archaeology in Edinburgh. Among the new finds was the discovery by Alan Simmonds & Stuart Swiny of a site with pygmy hippopotamus bones in a context which appears to indicate a human presence on the island as early as 10,000 b.p., and is therefore much the earliest known settlement of an offshore Mediterranean island (details now in *Nature*, 9 June). Pygmy hippos, like dinosaurs, sound like every child's ideal of a special pet, and not too large (a bit bigger than a big dog), but they went the way of the rest of the Mediterranean islands' mini-megafauna.

U Many of us around the world followed the long struggle to save Tasmania's southwestern wilderness from development, in particular from a generating station to make electrical power that no one needed. Part of the value of the Tasmanian forest is in its archaeology, still not much explored, but the occupation sequence at Kutikina (Fraser) Cave on the Franklin river is known to go back about 20,000 years. There, intensive exploitation of red-necked wallaby echoes the specialized horse and reindeer economies of the European Upper Palaeolithic, almost exactly contemporary and

under climatic conditions that bear comparison. An early settlement of Tasmania, right down to its south coast exposed to the Southern Ocean, goes with a range of new evidence from across the region. The finds from the Huon peninsula of mainland New Guinea and offshore in the Bismarck archipelago document occupation of the tropical-forest zone before 30,000. A dated sequence from the desert heart of the Continent north of Alice Springs, published last year, goes with the Tasmanian sequence to prove there was not just a chance crossing across into the continental mainland, but rapid and radiating adaptation to the extremes of climate, hot and dry or cool and wet, that Australia imposes. And all this well back into the Pleistocene.

Nomination of the Tasmanian wilderness to the register of World Heritage sites appeared to signal its security – but that protection only covers a small area. A three-man inquiry, the Helsham Commission, has been assessing the value of the adjacent Lemonthyme and Southern forests, which logging companies want to fell. By a two–one majority the commission has recommended that all but 8% (!) of the forests could be logged. For reasons that make no sense at all, the commission chose to be directed largely by legal quibbles: whether this area should be considered only on its own, or in conjunction with the adjoining protected area; whether the region had value either as natural property or as cultural property, rather than an integrated whole. (The choice of the word 'property' is revealing in itself.) That is exactly what the idea of World Heritage is not about; the point is in some generosity of vision, in recognizing that there are some things in the world too grand and precious to be allowed to slip through the gaps in legal definitions.

On the substantive issue, the report* of the inquiry makes your hair stand on end, particularly where it addresses the expert testimony of Rhys Jones, of the ANU Research School of Pacific Studies, on the archaeology of the area. This is unexplored, or was until Dr Jones and colleagues made an instant reconnaissance for the inquiry, in just nine days of ground survey; this had the most startling results in Juds

* Elizabeth Goring. *A mischievous pastime: digging in Cyprus in the nineteenth century*. x + 98 pages, many colour and black-&-white illustrations. 1988. Edinburgh: National Museums of Scotland; ISBN 0-948636-11-4 paperback £6.95.

* Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Lemonthyme and Southern forests. Canberra (ACT): Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories. 1988.



The bicentennial of 1776, celebrating two hundred years of United States' constitutional independence, was an optimistic and upbeat affair, not just because all-American celebration, and patriotic waving of the Stars-and-Stripes, is one of the things they do best. The other and darker story – of the people whose land was taken in order to give Europeans their freedom – was not in visible evidence. This year's bicentennial, of the First Fleet that made a permanent settlement of Australia, seems to have been a different, and a more thoughtful, bitter-sweet affair. The older claims to Australian land-rights have been conspicuous; the disparity has been obvious between 200 years of European settlement and the 30,000-plus years of preceding occupation now archaeologically documented for the continent; and no one talks of the simple 'discovery' of Australia. It will be interesting to see with what mood the Americans will celebrate, in 1992, the 500th anniversary of Columbus finding himself in the 'New' World.

The art of the First Fleet* is a most remarkable book prompted by the Australian anniversary. It publishes, in large fine-coloured reproductions, nearly 250 watercolours from the 1780s and 1790s, of natural-history, topography, and ethnography around Port Jackson. The mortal impact of the Europeans was swift, as the Aborigines succumbed to smallpox, brought in the Fleet: one band near the British settlement at Port Jackson was reduced

from 50 persons to three within a couple of years, and the Aborigines of the Sydney region had almost disappeared by the time the first anthropological records begin.

The three major groups of paintings that make up most of the book are all in the British Museum (Natural History), London, a natural home since so many are of animals and plants, often painted with a conscientious care for observed detail through which there also shows a fresh astonishment at the strangeness of the creatures that were there to be drawn. As precious – for they record what immediately vanished – are the pictures of Aboriginal life and manners. Here are two paintings by the 'Port Jackson painter', who is recognized by a distinctive style but unidentified by name.

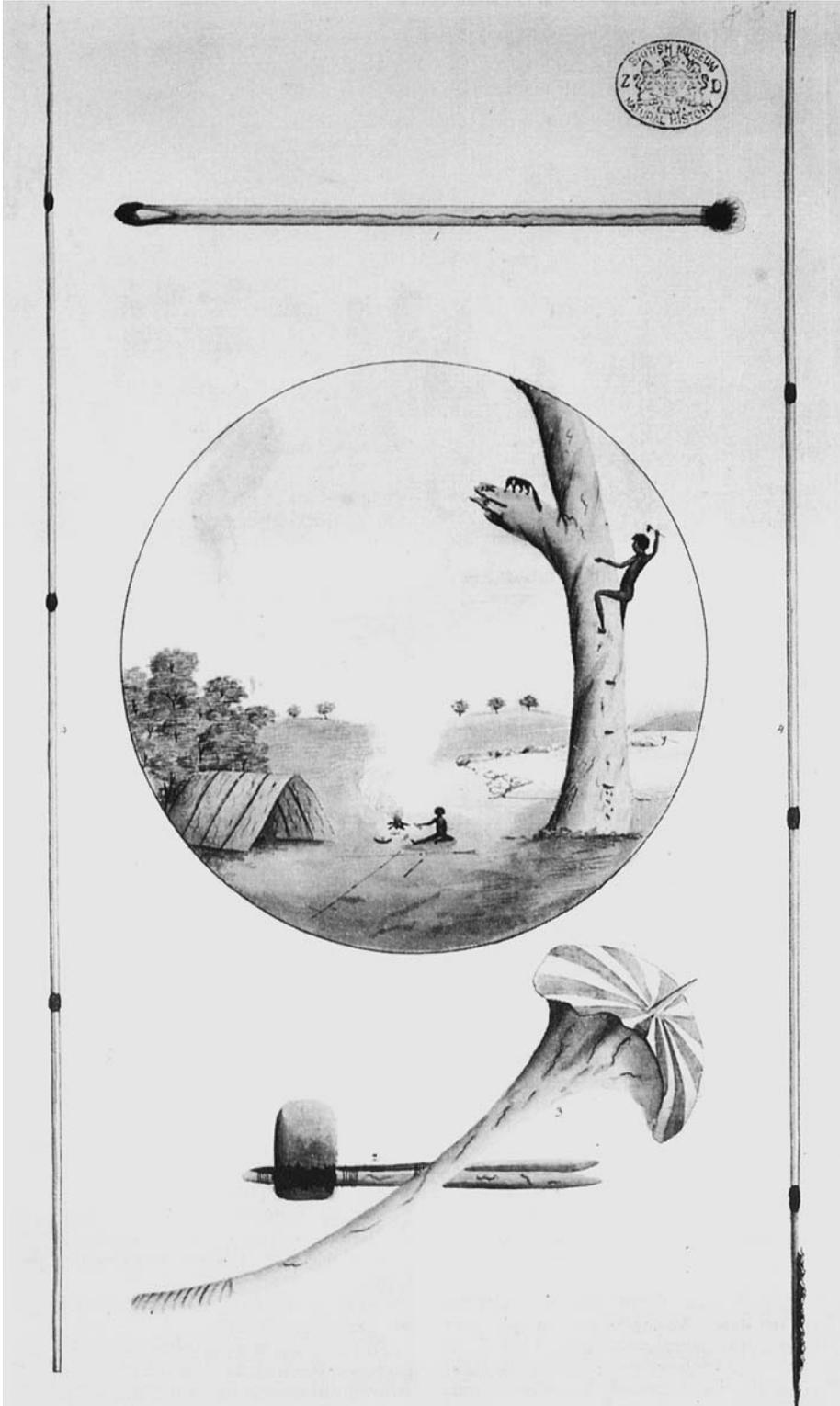
Above: M^r White, Harris & Laing with a party of Soldiers visiting Botany Bay Colebee at that Place when Wounded near Botony Bay. The picture may refer to an incident after the death of a hated convict at Aboriginal hands; the structure of the picture, a ring of Aborigines on one side and a line of redcoats on the other, tells the larger story.

Overleaf: Weapons and implements of natives of New South Wales.

- 1 [above] A Throwing stick.
 - 2 [below, behind] A stone Hatchet.
 - 3 [below, in front] A Club made of hard wood.
 - 4 [left & right] Spears of different make 10 to 12 ft long.
- [Inset in the centre] A Native climbing a Tree near his Bark Hut and Fire.

This is not just a coffee-table book of stunning pictures; the texts, including R.J. Lampert's on Aboriginal life around Port Jackson 1788–92, are scholarly and marvellous too.

* Bernard Smith & Alwyne Wheeler (ed.). **Art of the First Fleet & other early Australian drawings.** 256 pages, 244 illustrations, mostly in colour. 1988. New Haven & London: Yale University Press, for the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art; ISBN 0-300-04118-7 hardback £95 & \$150.



Cavern, one of the largest deep cave systems in Australia. Here Dr Jones found stencilled images 'formed by blowing red ochre from the mouth onto a hand pressed against the rock face', comparable with those at the Maxwell River hand-stencil site, 85 km to the northwest. Their position in a cavern resembles the scratched lines, of undoubted Pleistocene date, from Koonalda Cave on the Australian mainland. This combination – ochre, hand-prints, the technique of blown pigment, location deep in a cave, a likely Pleistocene date – is unique to Australia if not the Southern Hemisphere, and exactly echoes the model of the painted caves (earlier? later? much the same?) of Europe.

The commissioners, in their cross-examination of the witness, understood the excitement this new discovery ought to cause, but were anxious to hear that experts of a real standing would be brought in. Commissioner Wallace asked Dr Jones, 'Are you suggesting to the Commission that we could now confidently say that this is a world heritage standing or should we be more tentative and say that potentially this is of world heritage standing and that it should be put to the test of study by anthropologists, archaeologists from other countries, and if it is that latter view, you know, how long should we be digesting this material and having it tested? Not just by the other Australian scholars you have mentioned. . . .' This is astonishing stuff. The research community of Australian archaeology has come, in 30 years, from nowhere to an academic standing that can equal any in the world; the piecing-together of evidence for the nature and antiquity* of human settlement in Australia, Tasmania included, would be among my nominations for a world heritage list of intellectual advances. In his reply Dr Jones, whose Welsh origins sometimes lead him to eloquence and forthrightness, referred to an unthinking deference to foreign (and therefore better) expertise that could legitimize the find with the delicious phrase 'cultural cringe'. An expert

* ' . . . nature and antiquity. . . .'

The Commission, or its staff, got out of its editorial depth when it came to archaeology. This section of the report is liberally scattered with '[sic]', sometimes after perfectly good grammar. Where Jones referred to articles in journals with the words 'published in *Nature* or in *Antiquity*', the report prints 'published in nature and in antiquity' and – puzzled by this mystic phrase – conscientiously adds [sic].

from the University of Cambridge was mentioned! And another from yet another British university! The fact is that less than ten days in the field produced new evidence that shows every sign of real importance on the world scale. The fact is also that Australian archaeologists of good standing are the world authorities in these matters.

If the Commissioners saw the point, it does not show in the report's majority conclusions. They quote what they had heard: south Tasmania was 'the one place where they [the Aborigines] were faced with a southern ocean, the edge of the southern ocean, and this was the furthest extent where their economy had to cope with the rigours of that southern ocean. Now these sites exemplify that way of life, and it is . . . a system which is undisturbed; it is that quality that gives it its universal significance.' They comment,

'This aspect is doubtless important. No doubt the whole of the south coast area referred to by Dr Jones is important on whatever level of importance one wants to choose. No doubt, it should be given such protection as is commensurate with whatever importance it has.

'There is, however, nothing in that part which lies within the inquiry area that gives it the level of importance required for world heritage standing. It is all in the same condition. Even accepting what Dr Jones says of its importance, this Commission has no authority or power to declare the whole area of world heritage value.'

A government decision was due in June; in late July the departments of Environment and of Resources were still arguing, and a fudge seemed likely.

☛ Here is a story that makes a last, and curious, postscript to the Southampton and South Africa affair (ANTQUITY editorials *passim* for a number of issues now). The point of principle, and the cause of the schism that now divides the formal structure of world archaeology, was the decision of the British committee organizing the 1986 Southampton Congress to bar South Africans from attendance, which the UISPP felt was in breach of its absolute commitment to academic freedom. There followed the 'unofficial' World Archaeological Congress at Southampton in 1986, and the transfer of the 'official' UISPP Congress to Mainz in 1987, where South Africans and Namibians were welcome and present.

To ensure academic freedom, the UISPP

imposes this condition on a country that offers to host a UISPP Congress: 'all *bona fide* scientists are to be admitted to its venue, irrespective of nationality, philosophical conviction or religious faith'. The 1982 letter from the UISPP, taking up the British offer to hold the 1986 Congress, asked for an undertaking in these terms, and indicated that such a guarantee was given to the UISPP by the organizing committee for the previous Congress, held in Mexico City in 1981. Citizens of South Africa, like those of any other country, could have attended that Congress. Or could they? Jorge Eduardo Navarette, the Mexican Ambassador in London, explained his government's position, then and now, when enquiries were made of him this April:

'First, Mexico followed the policy stated in paragraph f of Resolution 2671 adopted by UN General Assembly in December 1970, which recommended that States break their diplomatic, consular of[or] any official relations with the Government of South Africa. The Mexican Government took steps in this direction by closing its Consulate in South Africa in 1974.

'Second, according to Resolution 3324 of the UN General Assembly of December 16, 1974, the Mexican Government does not issue visas to South African nationals. In the above mentioned Resolution, the General Assembly requested its members to forbid any cultural, educational, scientific, sports or any other kind of contact with the said Government and the institutions which support Apartheid. As a general policy, Mexico would only issue visas to South African nationals in humanitarian cases. . . .

'I should mention that the appropriate Mexican authorities have informed us that no authorization – exceptional or otherwise – was given to any South African national to attend the tenth Congress of the "Union International des Sciences Pre et Proto-historiques" held in Mexico City in 1981.'

A general ban on admitting South Africans into a country is not, of course, the same thing as a specific ban on admission to a conference by the archaeologists of its organizing committee. But a guarantee of admission to the conference venue is worthless if a delegate cannot even get beyond the airport's immigration control. It comes to at least the same thing in reality (you do not have to show your passport and visa at

conference registration, but you do at immigration). And the equivalent letter to the British in respect of 1986 makes it plain that this condition is something which the 'inviting country' – not just the inviting archaeologists of the organizing committee – must accept.

Perhaps no South African archaeologist actually wished to attend the Mexico Congress; it was a long distance away, and much smaller in attendance than UISPP Congresses have been in Europe. But it does seem clear that South Africans were not supposed to be able to attend the UISPP's Mexico Congress, and this by a declared public policy of some years' standing.

 *Nyame Akuma* is the newsletter of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists in America, published by David Lubell and Pamela Willoughby, from the Department of Anthropology, University of Alberta. They explain, 'Nyame Akuma is a newsletter for the publication, in English or French, of reports on current research, announcements of new publications and conferences, and news of people. It is not refereed and is not intended for the publication of major articles. Short articles on all aspects of African archaeology will be welcomed, although traditionally *Nyame Akuma* has not published articles on Classical North Africa or Pharaonic Egypt.'

Number 29, dated December 1987, has 66 pages in a side-stapled A4 format, very smartly produced as newsletters go. Articles report survey, excavation and analysis in Botswana, northern and southern Cameroon, the western desert of Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Malawi, Sudan and Uganda, of periods that run from deep Palaeolithic up to the historical era (the settlement at Elmina, Ghana, site of the first European trade-post in sub-Saharan Africa); contributors come from several African countries, as well as Europe and north America. To my ignorant eye, these look like just the kind of interim reports that are useful: short enough to be produced quickly, solid and long enough to say properly what they report.

The annual subscription is \$12 (US or Canadian): *The Editor, Nyame Akuma, Department of Anthropology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H4, Canada*. The editors endeavour to send copies gratis to people unable, by local restrictions, to obtain foreign-currency grants.

☞ The Prehistoric Society has, in its conference fund, money to give away which not enough people ask for. Its Secretary would like more people to apply: 'The Society disposes of limited resources intended to further the development of prehistory as an international discipline by assisting prehistorians attending international conferences. Particular attention is paid to the needs of those prehistorians, particularly from developing countries, who would otherwise have difficulty in acquiring funds to attend international meetings.' Application forms and further information from: *Dr Frances Healy, Norfolk Archaeological Unit, Union House, Gressenhall, East Dereham, Norfolk NR20 4DR, England.*

☞ No archaeologist buried with grave goods has announced himself, but I am reminded (I should have known already) of an archaeologist's wish to be buried in a barrow. John Aubrey, no less:

'On the South-Downe of the ffarme of Broiad-Chalke, on the top of the plain is a little Barrow (not very high) called by the name of Gawen's Barrow. . . . I was never so sacraleigious as to disturbe, or rob his urne: let his Ashes reſte in peace: but I have oftentimes wiſht, that my Corps might be interred by it: but the Laws Eccleſiaſtick denie it. Our Bones, in Conſecrated ground, never lie quiet: and in London once in ten years (or thereabout), the Earth is carried to the Dung-wharfe.'

The Laws Eccleſiaſtick won: Aubrey was buried in St Mary Magdalen, Oxford.

And a reminder also from Korea, where they kept up with megalith-building for centuries after Europeans had given up, that the Korean tradition continues of burial under little barrows, a metre or so high; perfectly respectable as barrows go, and bigger than the little tumps which cover the graves inside an English discbarrow.

☞ The July issue of the *New York* magazine *Connoisseur* reports yet another scandal of illegal excavation and smuggling out of, not for the first time, Turkey and into, not for the first time, the United States of America. This time, it was a hoard of almost 2000 Greek silver coins, half Lycian, half from other states in the alliance, and dated to around 465 BC. They were in mint condition, perhaps deposited during the

Persian campaign. The hoard was found near Elmali, in southeastern Anatolia, in 1984, while a new metal-detector was being played with after a picnic lunch, and went to the States by degrees. The *Connoisseur* gives some of the figures as it changed hands. Each time, the price jumped and the hoard got a little bit smaller: \$692,000 for 1889 coins; \$1,325,000 for a half-share in however many there next were; \$2,700,000 for 1680 coins, this time with a sting attached – another \$800,000 for 64 coins which had become detached before the transaction. Thus far, it is the kind of story which has been heard before, complete with a reclusive oil-millionaire art-collector and benefactor of a respected American museum, whose antiquities experts checked the hoard. There is a new element at the end: ten coins from the main portion of the hoard have been handed back to the Turkish authorities by a Los Angeles coin-dealer, so strong was the evidence they had been smuggled. This may leave the market value of the rest happily blighted.

☞ The Gordon Childe industry continues to grow, as indeed it should. The next in a succession of Childe studies and conferences is to take place at the Australian Studies Centre, Brisbane, in September 1990. So as to give particular opportunity to take note of the influence on his work of Australian social thought and Labor politics, the conference will have three themes in discussing Childe's career: the place of marxism in anthropology and archaeology; the relationship of party and class in socialist strategy; and the nature of Australian social thought in the early 20th century.

Details from, and offers of papers to: *The Director, Australian Studies Centre, University of Queensland, St Lucia, Qld 4067, Australia.*

☞ The new Director of the British School at Rome is Richard Hodges, medieval archaeologist and lecturer in the Department of Prehistory & Archaeology at Sheffield.

Graeme Barker, his predecessor at the British School, who was also on secondment from Sheffield, returns instead to the University of Leicester as Professor and head of its Department of Archaeology.

Hugh Chapman, Deputy Director of the Museum of London, becomes General Secretary

of the Society of Antiquaries, on the retirement of Hugh Thompson.

Two senior scholars of Palaeolithic cave-art in Europe died in the summer, the Italian Paolo Graziosi and the Frenchman Leon Palès.

This autumn sees some changes in ANTIQUITY's domestic arrangements. Our postal address is now 85 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1PG, England. Anne Chippindale, for production, advertising and back-numbers, is on (0)(223) 356271 during office hours; Christo-

pher Chippindale, for editorial, is also on (0)(223) 356271 early and late (preferred, as he tries to keep ANTIQUITY separate from his day-job; but during office hours on (0)(223) 333512, if need be). By FAX both Chippindales are on (0)(223) 334748. By electronic mail, now the way we prefer to take final copy, we are on BITNET at CC43@UK.AC.CAM.PHX.

Current subscriptions remain with Oxford Journals, OUP, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP, England; their telephone number is (0)(865) 56767.

CHRISTOPHER CHIPPINDALE

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.

Frank Welsh. **Building the trireme.** 232 pages, many photographs. 1988. London: Constable; ISBN 0-09-466880-9 hardback £12.95.

K.J. Dover. **Greek and the Greeks.** 318 pages. 1987. Oxford: Basil Blackwell; ISBN 0-631-15792-1 hardback £32.50.

Michael Grant. **The rise of the Greeks.** 391 pages, 41 illustrations, 13 maps. 1987. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson; ISBN 0-297-79228-8 hardback £17.95.

Gay Robins & Charles Shute. **The Rhind mathematical papyrus.** 59 pages, many colour photographs. 1987. London: British Museum Publications; ISBN 0-7141-0944-4 paperback £7.50.

P.M. Fraser & E. Matthews (ed.). **A lexicon of Greek personal names.** 489 pages. 1987. Oxford: Clarendon Press; ISBN 0-19-864222-9 hardback.

Beth Dillingham & Robert Carneiro (ed.). **Leslie A. White: ethnological essays.** 389 pages. 1987. Albuquerque (NM): University of New Mexico Press; ISBN 0-8263-0980-1 hardback \$29.95 & paperback \$14.95.

Barbara Adams. **The Fort Cemetery at Hierakonpolis.** 258 pages, 26 plates, many line drawings. 1987. London: KPI; ISBN 0-7103-0275-4 hardback £40.

Françoise Le Ny. **Les fours de tuiliers gallo-romains.** 142 pages, about 70 illustrations. 1988. Paris: Éditions de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme; ISBN 2-7351-0236-X paperback 168F.

F. Fischer, B. Bouloumié & C. Lagrand. **Hallstatt-Studien/Études hallstattiennes.** 88 pages, many illustrations and some colour photos. 1987. Weinheim: VCH Verlagsgesellschaft; ISBN 3-527-17530-X hardback DM98.

G.F. Mitchell. **Archaeology and environment in early Dublin.** 40 pages, some illustrations and photos. 1988. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy; ISBN 0-901714-61-S paperback IR£4.95.

Colin Pearson (ed.). **Conservation of marine archaeological objects.** 297 pages, numerous photos and illustrations. 1987. London: Butterworth; ISBN 0-408-10668-9 hardback £55.

Yvon Garlan. **Slavery in ancient Greece.** xi + 216 pages. 1988. Ithaca (NY): Cornell University Press; ISBN 0-8014-9504-0 paperback \$12.95.

Roger Lewin. **Bones of contention: controversies in the search for human origins.** 348 pages, some b&w photos. 1987. London & New York: Simon & Schuster; ISBN 0-671-52688-X hardback £14.95.