

Review

Among the new Books

ANTHONY SINCLAIR

with contributions from TIM INSOLL, CARL KNAPPETT, AUGUSTA MCMAHON,
KATE SPENCE & SIMON STODDART*

✍ The place of Lewis Binford in the history of the development of archaeology is of course assured. Every undergraduate struggles to learn the significance of the New Archaeology, often in my experience failing to appreciate how it went beyond simple analytical debate to deep personal commitment of those involved. One of the best ways to understand the personal nature of this change used to be the autobiographical sections from Binford's own collected papers, *An archaeological perspective* (1972). Now there is PAULA L.W. SABLOFF's *Conversations with Lew Binford: drafting the New Archaeology* (xv+108 pages, 11 b&w pictures. 1998. Norman (OK): University of Oklahoma Press; 0-8061-3059-8 paperback \$9.95) conducted in 1982, and published here seemingly completely. Some of these conversations are about the birth of the New Archaeology; the names, dates and events are well known. The influence of his early years at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute studying wildlife management and wildlife biology are clear to the course that he took for his New Archaeology, and his graduate years at the 'communist co-op' in Ann Arbor. Around this, however, are conversations of a rich and varied life; about childhood in Virginia; army life in the Officer's Candidate School, where he refused a commission because he could not lead troops into combat telling them they would survive when he knew their chances were slim; and his time as an interpreter in Japan, travelling around small agricultural communities. According to PAULA SABLOFF these conversations were intended for an article in a popular science magazine — but not submitted because one such editor was against interviews conducted between friends. But it is precisely the good relations between SABLOFF and Binford that makes this such a good read. In *An archaeological perspective* Binford comes across as arrogant and self-obsessed; a much more human and humane individual emerges from these pages. If

Binford was the teacher who inspired many to archaeology, who was *his* inspiration? A certain Mrs Henning, who inspired him to write poetry.

✍ A series of outstanding books on the archaeology and history of the state of Florida provide an almost exemplary introduction to the ways in which the archaeological, the ethnohistoric and the historic records can come together to present an account of the momentous changes that resulted from the contacts between the developed societies of Europe and indigenous societies in other parts of the world. By the time of the first raid in 1513 by Ponce de León, who had named Florida 'La Florida', some hundreds of Indian societies and perhaps 350,000 people lived in the Florida area. The Spanish invasion led to these societies becoming located close to Spanish mission towns along the main administrative route through the Spanish province or in fugitive groups beyond Spanish control. Throughout this period British-sponsored slave raiding and epidemics of diseases, such as bubonic plague, chicken-pox, dysentery and diphtheria, took their toll. By the time the Spanish left the fort of St Augustine in 1763, following a treaty with Britain, fewer than 100 Indians were left to depart with them to Cuba. JERALD T. MILANICH's *Florida's Indians: from ancient times to the present* (xi+194 pages, 19 colour plates, b/w figures. 1998. Gainesville (FL): University Press of Florida; 0-8130-1599-5 paperback \$19.95) provides a straightforward account of the development of the indigenous Indian societies in the Florida area, from the Palaeoindian period to their subsequent invasion by Europeans from de León to de Soto, and the impacts of missionaries and colonialists. Meanwhile, MILANICH's earlier publication on this later invasion period in Florida prehistory, *Florida Indians and the invasion from Europe* (xix+290 pages, 74 figures. 1998. Gainesville (FL):

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University Press of Florida; 0-8130-1636-3 paperback \$19.95), now benefits from publication in paperback. Between the pair of these two, an accessible account of the Native archaeology of Florida is available to all.

At a more detailed level still, JOHN E. WORTH's *Timucuan chiefdoms of Spanish Florida 1: Assimilation* (xxvi+280 pages, 22 figures, 18 tables. 1998. Gainesville: University Press of Florida; 0-8130-1574-X hardback \$49.95) and his *Timucuan chiefdoms of Spanish Florida 2: Resistance and destruction* (xiv+272 pages, 8 figures, 15 tables. 1998. Gainesville (FL): University Press of Florida; 0-8130-1575-8 hardback \$49.95) provide an account of one indigenous Floridan society, the Timucua, and their reaction to the Spanish invasion and missionization. Going beyond the simplicity of the missionary process as the spread of Christianity WORTH reveals how missionization was much more a secular process of conscious and intentional interaction between political leaders of both sides. As an alternative to the problems of integration posed by military conquest, missionization appears as a form of negotiated capitulation between unequal partners, in this case the local Timucua and the Spanish world system. The breadth of sources employed in this book, and the details they afford on the infrastructural changes brought about in Timucuan society, make this work a hugely impressive achievement.

Finally, GORDON R. WILLEY's *The archaeology of the Florida Gulf coast* (xxvi+599 pages, 60 b&w plates, 96 figures, 17 tables. 1998 (1949). Gainesville (FL): University Press of Florida; 0-8130-1603-7 paperback \$29.95 & £25.50), originally published in the Miscellaneous Collections series of the Smithsonian Institution, has been reprinted, though not reset. Whilst the feel of this publication is distinctly 'old-worldly', the contents of this publication still remain impressive.

✉ A problem faced by all cultural resource managers is that to develop management plans and put development-led archaeology in context requires an accurate knowledge of the state of the current database, and its strengths and weaknesses. In England, English Heritage is attempting to determine the nature of the database in a series of framework documents. For an example of what an ideal framework document might look like we need turn no further than to a series of volumes completed by the Arkansas Archaeological Survey; GEORGE C. FRISON & ROBERT C. MAINFORT's (ed.) *Archaeological and bioarchaeological resources of the northern plains* (206 pages, 55 illustrations. 1996. Fayetteville (AR): Arkansas Archaeological Survey Publications; 1-56349-078-1 paperback \$20), JACK L. HOFMAN's (ed.) *Archaeology and palaeoecology of the central great plains* (296 pages, 62 illustrations. 1995. Fayetteville (AR): Arkansas Archaeological Survey & US Army

Corps of Engineers Construction Engineering Research Laboratory; 1-56349-079-X paperback \$30), ELIZABETH D. BLENCHLEY, BLANE NANSEL, CLARK A. DOBBS, SUSAN M. THURSTON MYSTER & BARBARA H. O'CONNELL's *Archaeology and bioarchaeology of the northern woodlands* (370 pages, 23 illustrations, 57 tables. 1997. Fayetteville (AR): Arkansas Archaeological Survey Publications; 1-56349-083-8 paperback \$40), and *Archaeological literature of the north central United States*. (12,000 entries of substantive archaeological & bioarchaeological reports, colour and black & white maps with GIS layers.) 1996. Fayetteville (AR): Arkansas Archaeological Survey Publications; 1-56349-081-1 CD-ROM \$30). These volumes provide an overview of the archaeological and bioarchaeological (human skeletal remains and information from analyses upon them) from federal lands on states in the Central and Northern Plains. Each volume provides an overview of the resources within a particular area, detailing environmental information then archaeological information in chronological order. Concluding chapters summarize the database in terms of broad adaptation types. DOUGLAS W. OWSLEY & JEROME C. ROSE's (ed.) *Bioarchaeology of the north central United States* (400 pages, numerous illustrations & tables. 1997. Fayetteville (AR): Arkansas Archaeological Survey Publications; 1-56349-080-3 paperback \$30) in the same series provides an overview of the bioarchaeological remains for the whole area; for the 2919 mortuary sites and 25,717 human remains. Geographical plotting indicates that most remains are recovered from the area of the Missouri River. Data collected even reveals the state of analysis on these bones and the degree of analysis according to archaeological organization, and state; essential information for compliance with the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act. Stable isotope data collected from these remains, for example, reveals the trend to an increase in C¹⁴-rich maize with the advent of the Mississippian, especially for 'higher-status' individuals in Cahokia. These volumes will provide a first place of call for archaeologists needing to develop an 'historic context' prior to archaeological work associated with development. For readers in the USA this is an essential reference tool. For those of us outside the breadth of the project and the detailed contained is a lesson in resource management. Special offer from Arkansas Archaeological Survey Publications for a complete set of the above: \$150.

✉ According to common knowledge, Karl Marx is reported to have identified the age of the watermill with the political economy of the feudalism, the steam-engine with capitalism. Technology and society march together, hand tied to hand. In DONNA J. SOUZA'S *The persistence of sail in the age of steam: the archaeological evidence from the Dry Tortugas*

(xvi+189 pages, numerous plates & tables. 1998. New York (NY): Plenum; 0-306-45843-8 hardback \$42) we learn that, despite the successful implementation of steam propulsion for boats in 1785 and the rapid implementation of steam propulsion in military vessels in the 19th century, the use of sail persisted in the merchant marine until well into the 20th. Why this delay? Sailing is a complex technological process, requiring individuals who have acquired an in-depth understanding of the workings of rigging and ground tackle, and who could maintain rope, spar and sail. In the age of steam, such knowledge could be dispensed with. From her investigations, however, of ordinary merchant ships in the Dry Tortugas National Park off the coast of Florida, SOUZA shows that merchant ships did not ignore steam, but rather took to steam on deck, employing such machines as the 'Providence' steam capstan windlass, to assist shrinking crews in their manipulation of the complex machinery, ropes, rigging, masts of sailing ships, all now visible at shipwrecks, such as the Pulaski Site. With the use of steel in the hulls of ships, larger sailed vessels with steam-powered deck machinery could remain competitive with purely steam-driven ships. The society of sail adopted steam power as appropriate to their needs and the marriage of steam-engine to capitalism was not straightforward. Other evidence for the effects of competition from the wreck sites in the Dry Tortugas are that some of the ships had been overloaded, whilst all had been extensively repaired and even recaulked. Their common presence on the reefs of the Dry Tortugas indicates that many captains of merchant vessels chose to avoid the advice of navigation guides, such as the American Coast Pilot, and sailed close to the Tortugas saving themselves two days on a trip from Pensacola to Havana. That is, of course, if they finally made it there.

Of particular interest in SOUZA's work is the fact that the shipwrecks themselves were not excavated in the conventional sense: wreck sites were carefully recorded on the sea floor, certain pieces were brought to the surface for closer examination and then returned to the sea bed. Problems of conservation costs and the time commitments that this process involves were thus avoided.

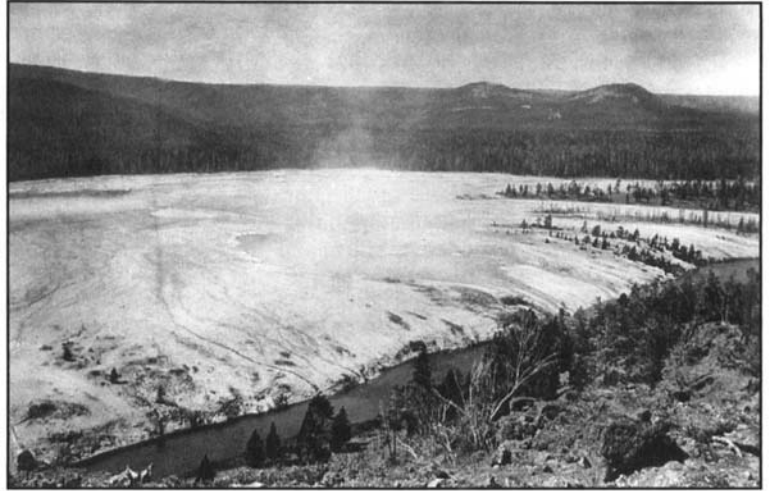
On another tack is VINCENT GABRIELSON's *The naval aristocracy of Hellenistic Rhodes* (254 pages, 8 plates, 3 maps. 1998. Aarhus: Aarhus University Press; 87-7288-430-6 hardback £24.95), which follows up on an observation made by the historian M.I. Rostovtzeff that part of the 'marvellous advance of the little island of Rhodes' might be attributed to the fruitful complementarity of her rule by an aristocratic élite that shared a mutual interest in matters naval. GABRIELSON then teases apart these fortunate relationships considering the naval and commercial infrastructure of Rhodes, the prosperous nature of their trade, the Rhodian navy and finally the local Rhodian power structure.

Prehistoric Europe

In an intellectual climate where centre-periphery studies are popular in the study of the 1st millennium, it is excellent to have some landscape data with which to assess these ideas. G.-J.L.M. BURGER's *Constructing Messapian landscapes. Settlement dynamics, social organisation and culture contact in the margins of Graeco-Roman Italy* (327 pages, 125 figures, 22 plates. 1998. Amsterdam: J.C. Gieben; 90-5063-508-3 hardback) provides such an opportunity. The work is a rare publication of a set of small-scale field surveys and more. Four Apulian field surveys (from the southeast of Italy) are placed within a discussion of Greek-Native contact and Romanization in this important area that draws on ethnographic analogy and broader theoretical discussions. The proceedings of a conference held in Zurich shows the potential for Sicily: HANS PETER ISLER, DANIEL KÄCH & OLYMPIA STEFANI (ed.). *Wohnbauauforschung in Zentral- und Westsizilien: Fünfundzwanzig Jahre Zürcher Ausgrabungen auf dem Monte Iato/Sicilia Occidentale e centro-meridionale: ricerche archeologiche nell'abitato: Venticinque anni di scavo dell'università di Zurigo a Monte Iato*. (175 pages, 12 tables, 15 figures, 1 fold-out plan. 1997. Zürich: Archäologisches Institut der Universität Zürich; 3-905099-12-7 paperback SF64). The acts of the conference — in Italian and German — concentrate on the 25 years of excavation at the indigenous and Hellenized centre of Monte Iato, with a brief indication of field survey in the local area. The publication assumes some knowledge of other work on the subject.

The term 'Celtic' is edged with controversy, as is apparent in the pages of ANTIQUITY and beyond. This epithet appears on the title-page of many books from north and south Europe which cover the 1st millennium BC. From the south of Europe, A.J. LORRIO's *Los Celtiberos* (449 pages, 143 figures, 2 tables, 8 plates. 1997. Alicante: Universidad de Alicante & Universidad Complutense de Madrid; 84-7908-335-2) provides an important overview of inland Spain in the 1st millennium BC. This detailed regional study is divided into thematic sections on settlements, burials, material culture, chronology, economy, politics, religion and language. From Central Europe, N. VENCLOVÁ's edited volume *Msecké Zehrovice in Bohemia: Archaeological background to a Celtic hero, 3rd–2nd centuries BC* (384 pages, 117 figures, 9 appendices. 1998. Sceaux: Kronos B.Y. Editions; 2-910652-04-1 hardback FF580) provides the context for the famous Celtic head found in 1943 in the Czech Republic. The volume collects together a synthesis of information on the La Tène rectangular walled enclosure of Msecké Zehrovice I, combining old and new (1978–88) investigations. The result is an interdisciplinary presentation of excavations, chronology, material culture, iron production, set within a broader central European perspective, with specialist reports on topics that include the plant and animal remains and the stone sculpture. From northwest Europe, a volume which studiously avoids the term

Yellowstone was first declared a National Park in 1872, and was systematically photographed almost from the beginning, amassing a huge photographic record of locations around the Park. The brilliance of the photographs in MARY MEAGHER & DOUGLAS B. HOUSTON's *Yellowstone and the biology of time* (xv+278 pages, 18 figures, 278 black & white plates. 1998. Norman (OK): University of Oklahoma Press; 0-8061-2996-4 hardback \$80) is not just their majesty, but the fact that the pictures show the same place from the same vantage point over these years. In batches of two or three photographs, the earliest date back to the foundation of the Park. Later pictures reveal the same scene 100 years later (in the 1970s) and provide a witness to the ecological and artificial changes that have happened in the Park since its opening. Separate chapters reveal how the floral and faunal systems have changed over the years. Of note is the increase in Bison, now ranging further than they did, using the Park's roads as easy migration routes, and the policy of the Park's wardens to allow forest fires. Indeed, in certain cases 'extra' photographs reveal the scene today, following the great fires of 1988, which covered more than 35% of the Park's area. In this scene, Midway Geyser Basin is viewed west-northwest from cliffs on the east side. Increases and decreases in the strips of trees reflect how changes in the hot water flow-patterns in these thermal basins may affect the covering vegetation.



Celtic is A. GWILT & C. HASEL GROVE's edited volume *Reconstructing Iron age societies*. (Oxbow monograph 71. viii+311 pages, numerous figures, 1997. Oxford: Oxbow Books; 0-900188-04-X paperback £35). The editors emphasize the plurality of Iron Age Societies in the British Isles and demonstrate the vitality of modern studies of the Iron Age. The papers are based on a research seminar held in Durham with some new papers and external commentaries on a fine collection of papers. The geographical and thematic spread is rich and diverse, moving from Danebury to Shetland, from material culture to landscape. By contrast, BARRY CUNLIFFE's *The ancient Celts* (324 pages, 33 colour plates, 30 figures. 1997. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 0-19-815010-5 hardback £25) explicitly presents the Celts as part of 'a European protohistory', acknowledging but not having 'much sympathy' with those who might criticize the broad approach. The result is an immensely readable and well illustrated overview, linking history and archaeology, that traverses from the 'Atlantic Facade' to the 'eastern fringes'. Coverage of the southeastern border of Europe in the same period (and slightly later) is provided by IVAN MARAZOV's lavishly illustrated, edited volume *Ancient Gold: the wealth of the Thracians. Treasures from the Republic of Bulgaria* (256 pages, 221 colour plates, 39 black and white plates, 4 figures. 1998. New York (NY): Abrams; 0-8109-1992-3 hardback £32). The volume belonging to the 1994 United States exhibition does not differ greatly from presentations of similar finds in European exhibitions, but does provide an accessible English text — with a few words of introduction by Hillary & Bill Clinton.

The city state is still one cross-cultural category of political development that has some general acceptance in the academic world. In this spirit, D.L. NICHOLS & T.H. CHARLTON have edited *The archaeology of city states: cross cultural approaches* (xvi+335 pages, 83 illustrations, 14 tables. 1997. Washington (DC): Smithsonian Institution Press; 1-56098-746-4 hardback £46.75; 1-56098-722-7 paperback £27.25) in a volume which brings together North American scholars on this theme. The volume concentrates on Middle Eastern, Far Eastern, Eastern Mediterranean, Mesoamerican and South American examples. A very useful aspect of the volume is the concentration on the spatial dynamics of these complex societies to allow an overall comparative framework.

P.J. RUS' *Vulcientia Vetustiora. A study of Archaic Vulcian bronzes* (Det Kongelige Danske Videnskaberne Selskab Historisk-filosofiske Skrifter 19. 138 pages. b/w figures. 1997. Copenhagen: Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters; 87-7304-289-7, ISSN 0023-3307 paperback DKK360) is a useful overview of bronzes linked to the tripod series from Vulci, arranged and classified in different artistic traditions and placed chronologically. The first part

BENVOY K. BEHL. *The Ajanta Caves. 255 pages, 213 illustrations (189 in colour). 1998. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-23753-0 hardback £42. The Buddha's envious cousin Devadata attempted many times to kill the Buddha. On the third attempt Devadata and King Ajatashatru of Rajagraha took a ferocious elephant, Nalighiri, made him drunk with liquor and sent him rampaging through the streets of Rajagraha whilst the Buddha was passing. But when Nalighiri arrived at the Buddha, he immediately recognized his loving kindness, knelt before the Buddha, was stroked and cured of his madness. In this scene pedestrians scatter, shop-keepers close their doors and people look on in fear from balconies, as Nalighiri rampages the streets below. Discovered in 1819 by British soldiers on a hunting expedition, the Ajanta Caves are now a World Heritage Site. There are 28 caves set around a horseshoe-shaped gorge of the Waghora river. Individual caves, once with stairways down to the river below, have been sculpted with columns and beams to look like wooden buildings. On their walls are painted scenes from the jatakas — the previous lives of the Lord Buddha. In this book, natural light and long exposures have for the first time revealed the beauty of these scenes.*

of chapter 4 examines the known provenance of 150 objects and suggests reconstructions of the trade routes (by sea and land) and is in this way a contribution also to central European Iron Age archaeology.

The prehistoric Aegean

Whilst perusing the new Aegean books on the shelves at ANTIQUITY, I suddenly felt a flicker of anxiety. RODNEY CASTLEDEN's *Atlantis destroyed* (xiv+226 pages, fully illustrated. 1998. London & New York (NY): Routledge; 0-415-16539-3 hardback £25) leapt out at me, albeit for all the wrong reasons. Aegean prehistorians have only just grown back the hair they tore out on encountering CASTLEDEN's last such book, entitled *Minoans* (1993) and also published by Routledge. There is no denying that CASTLEDEN has a simple knack for composing dramatic passages that no doubt endear him to a popular readership (e.g. p. 129, 'then the tsunamis came to claim them'). What jars, though, is his willingness to throw necessary archaeological caution to the wind and produce spectacularly unfounded claims. For at least the first half of *Atlantis destroyed*, there is, however, little cause for alarm — CASTLEDEN appears to have changed his spots, as he delivers largely non-controversial accounts of the stunning discovery of the Bronze Age town at Akrotiri on Thera. Of course one should point out that his ultimate justification for painting this picture of Bronze Age life is that it represents the mythical world of Atlantis as described by Plato.



In his attempts to make it all add up, CASTLEDEN's reading of Plato is sometimes literal, sometimes figurative: he switches his approach at will to find the most convenient fit with the archaeological data. From chapter 8 onwards CASTLEDEN reverts to form as he

discusses 'Art, Religion and Society', and 'The Last Days of Akrotiri'. The flights of fancy flow freely, with goddesses, temples and tsunamis featuring prominently. The only consolation is that on the dustjacket the book is classified as 'Archaeology/

Mythology'. This book should rather be classified as a book on mythology that deals with the archaeology better than most, but which nonetheless fails to reconcile the one with the other. I could not help asking myself: is Bronze Age Thera not fascinating enough in its own right, without the attempt seen here to graft upon it once again the Atlantis myth? Atlantis needs Thera much more than Thera needs Atlantis.

On a more positive note, there is a collection of papers edited by KEITH BRANIGAN *Cemetery and society in the Aegean Bronze Age* (173 pages, 65 plates & figures. 1998. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press; 1-8505-822-0 paperback \$21.50 & £12.95). Of a high standard throughout, certain contributions nevertheless stand out. In their paper on the Early Bronze Age cemetery at Aghia Photia in East Crete, Day, Wilson & Kiriati discuss the Cycladic character of the tombs and their contents (pottery, metal, obsidian). The central question concerns the ethnicity of the people buried therein, dealt with most sensibly by the authors. Switching to mainland Greece in a later period, Voutsaki's paper covers a lot of ground very succinctly, as she discusses the ways in which the symbolic meanings of built tombs developed into a tradition over the long term, from Middle to Late Helladic. Most importantly, she stresses that the sociopolitical manipulation of Mycenaean mortuary ritual can only be understood against the background of this cultural tradition. Voutsaki (and indeed others in this book) makes the fashion for socio-symbolic interpretations work for rather than against her, with theory and data effectively articulated.

In CHRISTOPHER MEE & LOUISE STEEL's *Cypriote antiquities: the Cypriote collections in the University of Liverpool and the Williamson art gallery and museum* (Studies in Mediterranean archaeology 20:17. 70 pages. 54 plates. 1998. Jonsered: Paul Åströms Förlag; 91-7081-182-2 paperback SEK300) various objects are assembled which found their way to Liverpool in the earlier part of this century, mostly pottery, dating from the Early Bronze Age to the Roman period. Their useful summary of these periods in the introduction makes it easy to navigate one's way through the catalogue. Much the same sort of treatment is given by METAXIA TSIPOPOULOU in *Corpus of Cypriote antiquities* (Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology 20:15. 48 pages plus plates, 119 plates. 1998. Jonsered: Paul Åströms Förlag; 91-7081-166-0 paperback SEK250) to the Cypriote and Mycenaean vases from Laon in France.

Staying with Cypriote prehistory, the following volumes have also been received:

A. BERNARD KNAPP. *The archaeology of late Bronze Age Cypriot society: the study of settlement, survey and landscape*. xiii+108 pages, 7 illustrations, 4 tables. 1997. Glasgow: University of Glasgow; 0-85261-573-6 paperback £12.50.

PAUL ÅSTRÖM. *Hala Sultan Tekke 10: the wells* (Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology 45:10.) 150 pages, 287 figures. 1998. Jonsered: Paul Åströms Förlag; 91-7081-116-4 paperback SEK300.

LINDY CREWE. *Spindle whorls: a study of form, function and decoration in prehistoric Bronze Age Cyprus*. (vi+119 pages + appendix, 35 figures & tables. 1998. Jonsered: Paul Åströms Förlag; 91-7081-176-8 paperback SEK200.

And almost finally, J. CHADWICK, L. GODART, J. T. KILLEN, J. P. OLIVIER A. SACCONI & I. A. SAKELLARAKIS' *Corpus of Mycenaean Inscriptions from Knossos* (7998 pages. b/w figures. 1997. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 0-521-32024-0 hardback £150 & \$250). This is the third in the series of monumental volumes begun in 1986 by some of the world's foremost Linear B experts. Indispensable for Linear B scholars, to be admired if not understood by the rest of us mere mortals.

Also:

JAN BOUZEK. *Greece, Anatolia and Europe: cultural interrelations during the early Iron Age*. (Studies in Mediterranean archaeology 122.) 321 pages plus figures & plates, 34 plates, 317 figures. 1997. Jonsered: Paul Åström Förlag; 91-7081-168-7 paperback SEK750.

N. CLAIRE LOADER. *Building in Cyclopean masonry: with special reference to the Mycenaean fortifications on mainland Greece*. x+225 pages + maps, 6 figures, 2 tables, 9 maps. 1998. Jonsered: Paul Åströms Förlag; 91-7081-140-7 paperback SEK300.

JOHN G. YOUNGER. *Music in the Aegean Bronze Age*. xi+108 pages + plates, 25 plates. 1998. Jonsered: Paul Åströms Förlag; 91-7081-124-5 paperback SEK200.

The Near East

Mesopotamia, as the first region known to have experienced urbanism, and as an area in which cities are extraordinarily well-documented by texts and archaeology, is frequently hijacked for theoretical models of urban development by those only faintly familiar with it. The reality of Mesopotamian urbanism is that it is contradictory, multi-faceted and elusive. Some of this comes across in *The ancient Mesopotamian city* by MARC VAN DE MIEROOP (xv+269 pages, 19 figures. 1997. Oxford: Oxford University Press; hardback 0-19-8150628 £37.50). His comparison and contrast of southern versus northern cities and planned versus unplanned cities gives a sense of the complexity, and his intelligent analysis of the multiple loci of social power offers insights into the contradictions. However, he stresses continuities of Mesopotamian society rather than historical events and thus creates an image of a static institution, rather than recalling the dynamic and idiosyncratic entity each city certainly was. With writing in Mesopotamia being exclusively an urban administrative tool, it is logical that the focus here is first on what texts reveal, but frequent references

to archaeological material are well integrated. This book deserves a wide audience.

In a complicated wide-ranging volume, *Beyond the Tigris and the Euphrates Bronze age civilizations* (Studies by the department of Bible and ancient Near East 9. 286 pages, several illustrations. 1996. Jerusalem: Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Press; ISSN 0334-2255 hardback), CARL C. LAMBERG-KARLOVSKY offers an eloquent and erudite argument for study of 'the periphery' as well as 'the core'. Yet, somewhat surprisingly, he does not relabel those areas. If the so-called peripheries had such an impact upon the 'centres of civilization', should we not be seeking less loaded terms? 'World System', sometimes used in preference to core-periphery to describe the interaction of mis-matched zones, and the occasional reference here to a 'new world order', frankly have a distasteful flavour of totalitarianism. As well as oceans of facts, there is much philosophical musing here on the meaning of history and the nature of historical and archaeological writing. LAMBERG-KARLOVSKY comes down on the side of Collingwood and like philosophers, whose idea of history is admittedly self-centred and humanistic, while rejecting post-processualist agonizing about political agendas and multiple strands of truth. While much of the chapter on the growth of archaeology as a discipline has been seen elsewhere, the discussion, which ranges across colonialism, nationalism, ethnicity, ethics and economic modes, is worth another look. The reader will either already be one of the converted or will violently reject the ideas, but it should be impossible to remain neutral. Similar high-speed, information-filled treatment is accorded to the archaeological record of the proto-Elamites, the Early Dynastic city-states of Mesopotamia, and the Indus region and its social collapse. Some minor errors (Barbara (!) Bell for Gertrude Bell, E-Anna for the goddess Inanna), and some more important flaws (adherence to the idea that ownership of most land was in the hands of temples in 3rd-millennium BC Mesopotamia) may make those who do work in the 'core' twitch, but the thought-provoking and imaginative discourse is worth the effort.

A good hard look at another periphery (but one which does not admit to the term) is provided by HARRIET CRAWFORD's *Dilmun and its Gulf neighbours* (xiii+ 170 pages, 65 illustrations. 1998. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 0-521-5834-9 hardback £45; 0-521-58679-8 paperback £15.95). This region has seen a remarkable amount of archaeological work in the last 15 years, and this brisk comprehensive survey covers the latest discoveries in Bahrain, Arabia's Eastern Province, the Emirates and Oman, ranging from prehistoric remains through later domestic and religious architecture, burials and artefacts, incorporating and summarizing the current chronological arguments.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, JUDITH LITTLETON's *Skeletons and social composition: Bahrain 300 BC-AD 250* (BAR International series 703. ix+154 pages, numerous illustrations. 1998. Oxford: Archaeopress; 0-86054-886-4 paperback £27), analysis of human skeletons from two cemeteries on Bahrain, plunges into science, with measurements, statistics, crowded graphs and overflowing tables, and discussion of some quite gruesome aspects of palaeopathology (complete with photographs of choice examples). Yet even here, the study is couched in terms of the writing of a history, where demography is a tool for reconstructing a larger picture of past society. Although the focus is on the skeletons, the practice of burial is discussed, and there is some theorizing about the link between cemetery locations and patterns of land use and resource control. This is a worthy aim, but one which is ultimately lost under the onslaught of numbers and technical terms. Still, the many-pronged and carefully planned attack on the data is a model for the potentialities of this kind of study, and the final section on what the demographic profile actually means for the household economy and availability of labour is clear and to the point.

Part of a different spectrum entirely are the reports on the 2nd-millennium BC material at Tell Brak (DAVID OATES, JOAN OATES & HELEN MCDONALD with 18 other contributors. *Excavations at Tell Brak 1: The Mitanni and Old Babylonia Periods*. (xxii+296 pages, fully illustrated. 1997. Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research & British School for Archaeology in Iraq; 0-9519420-5-0 hardback £45 plus p&p) and the excavations at Khirbet Khatuniyeh (JOHN CURTIS & ANTHONY GREEN. *Excavations at Khirbet Khatuniyeh*. xii+120 pages of text & 97 pages containing 65 plates, 69 figures & Arabic summary. 1997. London: British Museum Press; 0-7141-1144-9 paperback £30). No theoretical musing about the nature of the field has been allowed in either volume, both of which get straight down to the presentation of data. The Tell Brak report is the first of several final reports from this long-term project in northeast Syria; it covers the Mitanni palace and temple and the adjacent houses and structures of Old Babylonian through Mitanni date. The architecture and pottery understandably receive the most coverage, with additional sections on inscribed and glyptic material, the important assemblages of glass, faience and metal objects, and a range of scientific analyses. The preliminary reports which have already appeared have been commendably rapid and comprehensive, but it is a delight to see this final synthesis of the very impressive results. For the small-scale and single-goaled Khirbet Khatuniyeh excavation, the architecture and stratigraphy, the objects, the pottery, and the faunal remains are each laid out clearly for inspection. The book is a valuable

reference for Neo-Assyrian and Hellenistic material in northern Mesopotamia.

The ethnographic study carried out during excavation of Cafer Höyük at a number of villages on the upper Euphrates (O. AURENCHE, M. BAZIN & S. SADLER. *Villages engloutis: Enquête ethnoarchéologique à Cafer Höyük*. 312 pages. b/w figures. 1997. Lyon: Travaux de la Maison de l'Orient; 2-903264-55-4 ISSN 0766-0510 paperback) complements previous archaeologically oriented ethnographic studies in the nearby Keban region and in Iran. Archaeologists in search of useful analogies will be drawn to the descriptions of construction techniques, interior installations and use of space (though some may reject the possibly overly elaborate system of house typology). Economic historians of the Near East may find useful information in the description of the organization of local irrigation systems. Both should shudder at the comparison of the natural, fortuitously arranged plans of the villages as they were with the rigid grid of the settlement destined to replace them when the Karakaya reservoir was filled.

An edited collection is often a trigger for resentment, as there will probably be only one or two articles of relevance to any reader, and these will be perversely important. One book which retains its quality and usefulness throughout is DONALD O. HENRY's *The prehistoric archaeology of Jordan*. (BAR International series 705. xiii+192 pages, numerous illustrations. 1998. Oxford: Archaeopress; 0-86054-888-0 paperback £30). Collaborators have produced excellent, clear syntheses which cover the range of archaeological evidence from the Lower Palaeolithic through the Late Neolithic, with additional valuable chapters on environmental trends and land use. For those troubled by the apparent restriction of the studies to Jordan, rather than the wider Levant, there are contributions from west of the Jordan River, from Arabia and from Syria.

The edited volume on the Wadi al-Hasa, NANCY COINMAN (ed.)'s *The archaeology of the Wadi al-Hasa, West-Central Jordan I: surveys, settlement patterns and paleoenvironments* (Anthropological Research Papers 50. v+228 pages, 83 figures & plates. 1998. Tempe (AZ): Arizona State University; 0-936249-14-5 ISSN 0271-0641 paperback) also benefits from a unifying theme: regional survey and reconstruction of settlement patterns, concentrating on the Palaeolithic. Many of the contributions have already appeared in the Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan or elsewhere, but the formation of a picture of past activity through regional survey is as much a cumulative process as is excavation, and the variable sampling strategies and research designs over the years have asked and answered slightly different questions; these aspects make the re-publication and juxtaposition of those articles worthwhile. The final chapters, which develop a model

of settlement and review the geomorphology and chronostratigraphic sequence, provide an excellent summary of previous work and point the direction for the next phase of research in this area.

The published result of a 1997 colloquium on natural versus built space in northern Mesopotamia (M. FORTIN & O. AURENCHE (ed.). *Espace naturel, espace habité: en Syrie du Nord (10^e-2^e millénaires av. J.-C.)/Natural space, inhabited space: in Northern Syria (10th-2nd millennium BC)*. (Canadian society for Mesopotamian studies 33/Travaux de la maison de l'Orient 28) vi+304 pages. b/w figures. 1998. Paris: de Boccard; 2-903264-56-2 ISSN 0766-0510 paperback) does unfortunately call up that resentment. It is not that there is anything unworthy here, but the organizers flung their net very wide, gathering in contributions on the exploitation of the wider landscape together with the smaller-scale use of space within sites. The chronological range flits from the Epipalaeolithic, lingers in the Neolithic and then in the 3rd millennium BC, and travels on briefly to modern ethnographic observation; while lines of attack include climatic change, palaeobotany, zooarchaeology, lithic and ceramic analyses, soil micromorphology, regional survey, symbolic theory, and even traditional horizontal excavation and spatial analysis. This is strictly a book for a library, rather than an individual collection.

The single book out of the pile to be avoided is SAMUEL MARK's study of early trade routes in the Near East, *From Egypt to Mesopotamia: a study of predynastic trade routes* (xi+181 pages, 57 figures, 2 tables. 1998. London: Chatham; 0-89096-777-6 hardback £25). While this is an excellent idea for further study and contains useful synthesis of previous work and occasional insights, the author does not yet know enough about the archaeological record and landscape of Mesopotamia and Syria to weave a convincing argument. His grasp of the nature of and biases inherent in archaeological evidence also seems weak, and arguments based on absence of evidence or on single artefacts are fatal flaws.

Ancient Egypt

SALIMA IKRAM & AIDAN DODSON's *The mummy in ancient Egypt: equipping the dead for eternity* (351 pages, 37 colour plates, 448 black & white plates & illustrations. 1988. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-05088-0 hardback £29.95) takes a holistic approach to burial in ancient Egypt. Introductory chapters present a broad outline of the development of Egyptian tombs and burial practices and a brief history of the West's fascination with mummies. The main part of the book is a series of chapters dealing with mummification, jewellery and adornment of the body, wrappings, external ornaments, coffins, sarcophagi and canopic equipment: each chapter traces the development of that particular aspect of

burial over time. The final part is a short reference section. The book is a mine of fascinating information and is well presented and up-to-date — although many publications deal with mummification, much of the information on burial trappings and equipment is presented in accessible form for the first time here. My main criticism would be that its potential value as a reference volume is greatly reduced by the absence of notes or of a detailed bibliography arranged by subject matter. However, *The mummy in ancient Egypt* will doubtless do very well: it will be of interest to both specialists and amateurs and also to the many who will be fascinated by the ghoul-like portraits of the mummies themselves.

Gifts of the Nile: Ancient Egyptian Faience. ed. by FLORENCE DUNN FRIEDMAN (288 pages, 244 colour plates, 259 black & white plates & illustrations. 1988. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-23754-9 hardback £42) is a lavishly illustrated catalogue from an exhibition organized by the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence (RI). Five excellent short essays on the significance and use of faience and the technology of faience production, followed by colour images of many of the objects grouped thematically in sections such as 'faience and royal life', 'women's use and female-related themes' and 'funerary uses of faience'. Finally each object is discussed with full references.

Most faience does not immediately appeal to the modern eye: the lack of sharp detail makes it seem crude in comparison with much Egyptian art and the bright colour and shininess can seem rather tacky to tastes dulled by the possibilities of plastic and too many Christmas-tree decorations. Partly as a result of this, faience has often been interpreted as a cheap substitute for precious stones. Here it is shown clearly that faience was prized precisely because of its extraordinary (to the Egyptians) brightness and brilliance and was thought to have regenerative properties. This book is thus particularly successful in setting faience back within its cultural context and in illustrating the beauty and technical mastery of many of objects as well as the sheer range of designs.

DALE J. OSBORN & JANA OSBORNOVÁ's *The mammals of ancient Egypt*. (xii+213 pages, numerous black & white plates & illustrations. 1988. Warminster: Aris & Phillips; 0-85668-522-4 hardback £45 & \$95; 0-85668-510-9 paperback £35 & \$75) is a useful reference volume which identifies and discusses mammals known from the archaeological, textual and representational records of ancient Egypt. Each animal is described, its distribution and natural history outlined and its appearance in the Egyptian record discussed for both prehistoric and historic periods. Treatment of the symbolic and religious significance of the animals is weak but the text is well referenced, allowing such themes to be traced elsewhere.

T.G.H. JAMES' *A short history of Ancient Egypt:*

from Predynastic to Roman times. (168 pages, 161 colour plates, 10 maps. 1998. Baltimore (MD): Johns Hopkins University Press; 0-8918-5933-6 paperback £25) is an excellent popular introduction to the history of Ancient Egypt which fills a definite gap in the market. Up-to-date, reliable and well written, it manages to convey a sense of place and of the essential character of each period of Egyptian history without getting bogged down in endless historical detail. The book is illustrated by an unusual but highly successful combination of photographs of objects, landscapes and scenes of rural life in modern Egypt — the only disappointment is that they are so poorly reproduced.

A very readable popular account of the life and times of one of Egypt's most famous women is to be found in JOYCE TYLDESLEY's *Nefertiti: Egypt's Sun Queen*. (xvii+ 232 pages, 39 figures, 19 plates. 1998. London: Viking; 0-670-86998-8 hardback £16.99). It is surprising to discover just how little is actually known of the background, role and demise of one whose image is so familiar to us, but TYLDESLEY steers competently through the facts, interpretation, speculation and fiction associated with Nefertiti.

MICHAEL RICE's *Egypt's legacy: the archetypes of Western Civilization 3000–30 BC* (xiv+233 pages, 20 black & white illustrations. 1997. London & New York (NY): Routledge; 0-415-15779-x hardback £35 & \$49.95) tells of the emergence of the collective unconscious in ancient Egypt. This is regurgitated history (not entirely reliable) with a Jungian gloss.

ALESSANDRA NIBBI's *Some geographical notes on ancient Egypt: a selection of published papers, 1975–1997* (Discussions in Egyptology special number 3). 424 pages, black & white figures. 1997. Oxford: DE Publications; 0-9510704-9 paperback) is a collection of short papers dealing with the geography of ancient Egypt and its neighbours. NIBBI has a knack of asking pertinent questions and providing stimulating discussion. Some of her ideas are probably correct, others are not; most are controversial and the non-specialist reader is advised to proceed with great caution.

African archaeology

A number of publications concerned with Africa have built up in the ANTIQUITY office (hopefully indicating the healthy state of research in the continent!). Amongst these is RICHARD PANKHURST's *The Ethiopians* (xx+300 pages, 24 figures, 6 maps. 1998. Oxford: Blackwell; 0-631-18468-6 hardback £45 & \$59.95). This volume is part of 'The Peoples of Africa' series, and provides 'a history of the Ethiopians from pre-history to the present day'. Among sections of interest is a brief summary of recent paleoanthropological discoveries in the Ethiopian Rift Valley. A similar summary is provided on the Aksumite kingdom, though unfortunately very lit-

tle is mentioned about recent archaeological research in Aksum itself. This is in part rectified by two publications from the recently completed archaeological project at this site by the British Institute in Eastern Africa (and other institutions): DAVID W. PHILLIPSON's *Ancient Ethiopia* (176 pages, 14 colour plates, 60 black and white illustrations. 1998. London: British Museum Press; 0-7141-2539-3 hardback £20), and also his edited volume *The monuments of Aksum* (201 pages, 279 illustrations. 1997. Addis Ababa: Addis Ababa University Press & the British Institute in Eastern Africa; 1-8725-6611-1 paperback £45). The former provides an overview of Aksumite civilisation and draws upon the results of the large-scale excavations at Aksum and is valuable in this respect, though one would hope that greater detail will be provided in the final report. The latter offering is an annotated English translation of 'the first major attempt' at recording the monuments of Aksum by a German expedition in 1906. Amongst these is the stela removed by the Italians to Rome under Mussolini's orders in 1937 (and due for repatriation this year — if not already completed). It forms an important historical document and is well illustrated.

LÁSZLÓ TÖRÖK's *The kingdom of Kush. Handbook of the Napatan-Meroitic civilisation* (589 pages plus appendix, 6 maps, 31 figures, 14 plates. 1997. Leiden: Brill; 90-04-10448-8 hardback Gld321 & \$189) is a weighty volume which presents a 'survey of the rich textual, archaeological and art historical evidence for this Middle Nile Region kingdom of Kush'. It certainly provides an exhaustive evaluation of the various types of evidence, and a reconstruction of Kushite society and history including those of the Napatan and Meroitic dynasties, thus covering over 15 centuries worth of material.

From further north in the continent we have JAMEL ZOUGHLAMI, ROBERT CHENORKIAN & MOUNIRA HARBI-RIAHA's *Atlas préhistorique de la Tunisie 11: Kairouan* (158 pages & pull-out map. 1998. Rome: École Française de Rome; 2-7283-0521-8, ISSN 0223-5099 paperback). It forms part of a series covering pre- and proto-historic archaeology throughout Tunisia. This volume provides brief descriptions of a variety of sites in the Kairouan region and illustrates, through the lack of citations for other work, the apparent absence of detailed archaeological research in this region prior to this project.

Finally, there are two works concerned with West Africa. RODERICK JAMES MCINTOSH's *The peoples of the Middle Niger* (xxviii+346 pages, 22 figures, 20 maps. 1998. Oxford: Blackwell; 0-631-17361-7 hardback £45 & \$59.95) is another volume from 'The Peoples of Africa' series, but this is where any comparisons with the previously mentioned volume end. Obviously, subject matter and styles are different, but so appear to be the aims of the authors. MCINTOSH as an archaeologist exploits this source of evidence

to the full in discussing the Middle Niger and the Mandé, but equally admits to writing part of the book 'in a novelistic style'. This is an unusual departure and the success of the ensuing sections of 'historical imagination' is difficult to gauge from a quick reading. Related, but only in region — West Africa — and loosely through subject (the Gonjas were according to tradition originally Mandinka–Mandé) is J.A. BRAIMAH, H.H. TOMLINSON & OSAFROADU AMANKWATIA's *History and traditions of the Gonja* (African Occasional Papers 6. viii+184 pages, 3 maps. 1997. Calgary: University of Calgary Press; 1-895176-38-7 \$15). Though of specialist historical and anthropological interest to those working in the immediate region, the archaeological content is almost non-existent in this study of the Gonja state in Northern Ghana. In summary, this is a diverse range of volumes whose quality and much else varies. However, it is satisfying to see these products of new research and synthesis from what is still an archaeologically neglected area of the world.

Monographs

It has been regularly assumed that central Europe was abandoned during the last glacial maximum. Dates from sites now show that not to have been the case. In *Local organizational adaptations to climatic change* (BAR International series 698. vii+101 pages, numerous illustrations. 1998. Oxford: Archaeopress; 0-86054-884-8 paperback £22) JEFF T. WILLIAMS has analysed the remains from the site of Grubgraben in Austria, a site that had occupation across the Last Glacial Maximum, to see how people coped. His findings show clear evidence of adaptation to climatic severity — increased manufacture of clothing, use of more 'marginal' body parts. Yet he argues that lifestyles prior to the LGM had enough elasticity in them to cope with such organizational changes without dramatic change themselves.

It had also been thought that the Szeletian industries from the Bukk region in Central Europe provided evidence for an *in situ* technological transition from Middle to Upper Palaeolithic. BRIAN ADAMS' *The Middle to Upper Palaeolithic transition in Central Europe: the record from the Bukk mountain region* (BAR International series 693. vi+175 pages, numerous illustrations. 1998. Oxford: Archaeopress; 0-86054-877-5 paperback £28) shows this not to have been the case. ADAMS' work reveals the Szeletian to be a local variant of a more encompassing Early Aurignacian technological tradition, and a sharp boundary between these Palaeolithic periods has been restored.

WILLIAM H. WALDREY's *The Beaker culture of the Balearic islands: an inventory of evidence from caves, rock shelters, settlements and ritual sites* (BAR International series 709; Western Mediterranean series 1. iii+375 pages, 11 colour & numerous black &

white illustrations. 1998. Oxford: Archaeopress; 0-86054-890-2 paperback £57) is a thorough review of the evidence of beaker-associated archaeology on the Balearic Islands, much of which has been excavated by WALDREN himself over the last 20 years. The sites of Son Matge, Ferrandell-Oleza and Son Mas are treated in some detail, but a series of secondary and tertiary sites are also covered. The volume concludes with an inventory of all the Beaker pottery from the Balearics. An essential reference tool.

GEORGE NASH. *Exchange, status and mobility: Mesolithic portable art of southern Scandinavia*. (BAR International series 710. xiii+192 pages, numerous illustrations. 1998. Oxford: Archaeopress; 0-86054-891-0 paperback £33.) An analysis of the portable art from the Maglemose and Ertebølle periods leads Nash to argue that during the Maglemose, portable art was symbolically associated with maleness, virility and male prowess. By the Ertebølle abstract motifs on portable pieces express not just individuality but also group identity and are involved in individual-to-individual webs of exchange.

JOHN MULLER. *Mississippian political economy: interdisciplinary contributions to archaeology*. xiii+455 pages, 60 illustrations, 40 tables. 1997. New York (NY): Plenum; 0-306-45675-3 paperback \$39.50. Taking an avowedly materialistic stance, Muller has attempted to take the study of the Mississippian archaeological remains back to its evidential roots. To understand the Mississippian one needs to look at it from the perspective of Political economy, looking at the production of technology, the social organization of production, the development of élite groups and the appropriation of surplus labour and the characteristics of social reproduction. This is an area-wide survey of the evidence, attempting to break through the problems of the previous schools of culture history, minimalist processualism and 'power-centred' post-processual approaches. An extensive bottom-up view. Mississippian economy built on what went before and on the basis of the domestic economy. Everything domestic, not specialized. Not classes but élites.

THOMAS FIGUEIRA's *The power of money: coinage and politics in the Athenian empire* (xix+627 pages. 1998. Philadelphia (PA): Pennsylvania State University Press; 0-8122-3441-3 hardback \$49.95 & £46.95) examines the place of the Athenian Coinage Decree in the development of the Delian League in the 5th century BC. FIGUEIRA argues that the Decree, rather than exerting the will of Athens over her allies, in fact codifies common monetary practice prior to its creation.

Field surveys and reports

It is a pleasure to see reports on two major pieces of fieldwork in Ireland published: the sites of Tara and

Knowth. CONOR NEWMAN's (ed.) *Tara: an archaeological survey* (Discovery Programme monograph 2. xxx+376 pages, 40 colour & black & white plates, 108 colour and black & white figures. 1997. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy; 1-874045-47-X hardback IR£28) is a report on the intensive research programme of topographic, geophysical, aerial, geochemical and paper surveys of the Hill of Tara itself and some 100 sq. km of the surrounding landscape. Most of the 30 monuments on the Hill of Tara can be identified as ritual monuments, with settlement evidence coming from the surrounding area. The so-called 'Royal' sites are those ritual monuments that stayed active into the Iron Age, whilst many of the others fell out of use from the middle of the Bronze Age. Following a detailed account of the archaeological monuments on the Hill itself, the volume takes a comparative approach examining local sites and then the broader landscape. Final chapters consider the development of the Tara complex and the genesis of the myth of Tara as the seat of the High Kings. Special mention must be made of the quality of the supporting illustrations, ranging from aerial photographs to a whole series of astounding map-format figures including 'wire-mesh' models, hill-shaded mesh-models from plan and perspective angles and, of course, contour maps, and combinations of the above. Many are further highlighted by judicious use of colour lines. It is a form of illustration to which the earthwork monuments of Tara lend themselves perfectly. This volume is a delight to look at and use.

The site of Knowth preserves evidence for pre-historic occupation from the earlier 'Western' Neolithic through to the beaker, with a marked absence of material from the Bronze and Iron ages. In *Excavations at Knowth* (2) (xxii+311 pages, 12 colour & 18 monochrome plates, 54 figures, 32 tables. 1997. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy; 1-874045-49-6 hardback IR£24.), GEORGE EOGAN & HELEN ROCHE present six periods of occupation of the site, though not that from the large passage-tomb which will be published separately. One of the highlights on the site has been the discovery of a circular wooden structure contemporary with the deposition of Grooved Ware on the site. A series of proposed reconstructions of this structure and accompanying comments are published as a separate appendix.

PETER LEACH. *Great Witcombe Roman villa, Gloucestershire: a report on excavations by Ernest Greenfield 1960-1973*. (BAR British series 266.) x+141 pages, numerous illustrations. 1998. Oxford: Archaeopress; 0-86054-879-1 paperback £27. At Great Witcombe, built on a grand design close to AD 200, Greenfield's excavations have revealed evidence for the use of the Villa for the latter half of the Roman occupation of Britain. It is clear that the occupation of the villa was scaled down after AD 380, although

the exact date in the 5th century when the villa was finally abandoned is unclear.

MARTIN TINGLE. *The prehistory of Beer Head: field survey and excavations at an isolated flint source on the South Devon Coast*. (BAR British series 270.) 117 pages, 6 plates, 64 figures & 29 tables. 1998. Oxford: Archaeopress; 0-86054-885-6 paperback £25. A study of the evidence for flint extraction at this raw material source on the southwest coast. Results from fieldwork have shown that small-scale extraction of flint from the cliff face occurred from Neolithic times onwards.

ANTONIO BENAVIDES CASTILLO. *Edzna: a Pre-Columbian city in Campeche*. 225 pages, 62 illustrations, several tables. 1997. Pittsburgh (PA): Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia & University of Pittsburgh; 970-18-0021-4 paperback. A bi-lingual account of this Mayan urban settlement some 50 km from the city of Campeche. The stone buildings at Edzna today comprise a fraction of the settlement in the area, much of which would have been made of perishable materials. Edzna then would have been visited on special occasions, and would have acted as a regional capital concentrating ritual and political power in the area.

J. BOUZEK, M. DOMARADZKI & Z.F. ARCHIBALD (ed.). *Pistorosi: excavation and studies*. 240 pages, 52 b&w plates, 123 figures, 4 tables. 1996. Prague; Charles University Press. 80-7184-182-X \$40 incl p&p. Available from Prof. J. Bouzek, Institute of Classical Archaeology, Filosofické fakulty University Karlovy, 11000 Prague 1, Celetná 20). An inscription found at the site tells of a grant by a local ruler allowing Greeks from Thasos to set up a trading colony — *Emporion Pistoros*. Since 1988 over 2 hectares have been excavated of this important pre-Macedonian site. The present volume contains an interim report of the 1988–94 excavations, accounts of the small finds, geophysical studies, scientific analyses of the small finds, and a discussion of the historical background to the site.

RICHARD C. LANGE. *Prehistoric land use and settlement of the Middle Little Colorado River Valley: the survey of Homolovi Ruins State Park Winslow, Arizona*. (Arizona State University archaeological series 189.) xii+191 pages, 31 figures, 37 tables. 1998. Tucson (AZ): University of Arizona Press; 1-889747-67-x paperback \$17.95. Undertaken when the Homolovi Ruins State Park was formed, the survey has revealed more than 500 loci of human activity, mostly prehistoric, and more than 53,000 artefacts, mainly ceramics. On the basis of these sites and finds a regional cultural history is offered for the Park in this area of the middle Little Colorado Valley.

Conference proceedings

LENA HOLM & KJEL KNUTSSON's (ed.) *Third Flint Alternatives Conference at Uppsala* (Opia 16. 206 pages,

illustrated. 1998. Uppsala: Uppsala University; 91-506-1267-0 paperback) contains 12 papers on various aspects of lithic technology and cultural analysis.

TIMOTHY R. PAUKETAT & THOMAS E. EMERSON (ed.). *Cahokia: domination and ideology in the Mississippian world*. ix+360 pages, 3 plates, 91 figures, 9 tables. 1997. Lincoln & London (NB); University of Nebraska Press; 0-8032-3708-1 hardback \$55 & £52.50.

NINA SWIDDLER, KURT E. DONGOSKE, ROGER ANYON & ALAN S. DOWNER (ed.). *Native Americans and archaeologists: stepping stones to common ground*. 289 pages, 5 maps. 1997. London: Sage; 0-7619-8900-5 hardback £39.95; 0-7619-8901-3 paperback £19.95.

WIM M.J. VAN BINSBERGEN (ed.). *Black Athena: ten years after*. (TALANTA: Proceedings of the Dutch archaeological and historical society. J.P. Stronk & M.D. De Weerd (ed.) volume xxviii–xxix/1996–1997.) 272 pages, some illustrations. 1997. Hoofddorp: Dutch Archaeological & Historical Society; 90-72067-07-x, paperback Gld103.90.

Reprints

Two classic texts by one of the pioneer local and landscape historians, MAURICE BERESFORD, are reprinted as part of a new series of History Handbooks. *The lost villages of England*. (xxxvii+445 pages, 16 plates, 15 figures, 18 tables. 1998. Stroud: Sutton Publishing; 0-7509-1848-9 paperback £14.99), first published in 1954, in many ways started the study of deserted villages in England, recognizing that it is only by taking account of the deserted villages as well as those surviving that a full appreciation of the medieval settlement system can be made. Amongst the 10 chapters, three consider the occasions, motives and locales of destruction, whilst a further two consider the methods by which those interested might set out on the search for their own lost villages. Much of what BERESFORD wrote then is valid today, even if recent research has refined many of his details. His *History on the ground* (256 pages, 30 illustrations, 17 black & white plates. Stroud: Sutton Publishing; 0-7509-1884-5 paperback £14.99) looks at the contributions which documentary evidence, and in particular old maps, can make to an understanding of local landscape history. A series of chapters take journeys along boundaries to Elizabethan and deserted villages, and to Elizabethan Market Places.

Festschrifts

NICK ASHTON, FRANCES HEALY & PAUL PETTITT. *Stone age archaeology: essays in honour of John Wymer*. (Oxbow Monograph 102/Lithic Studies Society Occasional Paper 6). 239 pages, 80, figures, 32 tables. Oxford: Oxbow; 1-90018866-X hardback £40. The outstanding contribution of John Wymer to the Palaeolithic archaeology of Britain and to the world, through his work at Klassies River Mouth. Wymer's own work interests the earliest Palaeolithic in Brit-

ain, and its geological context, to the most recent of the Mesolithic, and from excavations to recording and re-analysis of existing collections. The 29 papers in this volume reflect this diversity. It is a testimony to Wymer's continuing infectious enthusiasm and support for others that papers have been presented by so many of the leading archaeologists of the period in Britain and of all ages. A bibliography of Wymer's writings completes this very full publication.

JOANNA BIRD, MARK HASSALL & HARVEY SHELDON. *Interpreting Roman London: papers in memory of Hugh Chapman*. (Oxbow Monograph 58). 268 pages, 116 figures, 16 tables. 1996. 1-900188-02-3 hardback £35. 28 papers celebrate the life and work of Hugh Chapman who died in 1992 at the unfortunately early age of 46. Papers range in coverage from discussions and interpretations of aspects of the architecture of Roman London to the interpretation of new finds from archaeological sites throughout London. Papers also cover the cemeteries of Roman London, an analysis of bone collections and ends with a discussion of the contributions of another great Roman Londoner, 'Stony Jack' — G.F. Lawrence.

Popular

A series of short introductory volumes to the archaeology of Scotland is to be found in BILL FINLAYSON's *Wild harvesters: the first people in Scotland* (64 pages, numerous colour & black & white plates & illustrations. 1998. Edinburgh: Cannongate Books & Historic Scotland; 0-86241-779-1 paperback £5.99), GORDON BARCLAY's *Farmers, temples and tombs: Scotland in the Neolithic and early Bronze Age* (64 pages, numerous colour & black & white plates & illustrations. 1998. Edinburgh: Cannongate Books & Historic Scotland; 0-86241-780-5 paperback £5.99), RICHARD HINGLEY's *Settlement and sacrifice: the later prehistoric people of Scotland* (64 pages, numerous colour & black & white plates & illustrations. 1998. Edinburgh: Cannongate Books & Historic Scotland; 0-86241-782-1 paperback £5.99) and, finally, GORDON MAXWELL's *A gathering of Eagles: scenes from Roman Scotland* (64 pages, numerous colour & black & white plates & illustrations. 1998. Edinburgh: Cannongate Books & Historic Scotland; 0-86241-781-3 paperback £5.99). A combination of thematic and chronological approaches, richly illustrated with artefacts and colour reconstructions, lead readers to an archaeological world, that the authors assure us was very different from today. A common example given of this difference is provided by both BARCLAY and HINGLEY in the possible practice of 'sky' burials before the bones are buried underground. As is to be expected the stone age is a time of environmental adaptation, the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages times of symbolic landscapes and power, and the Roman World is largely military. Each is accessibly written; indeed GORDON MAXWELL's is more

than a little craftily contrived, with the book containing a series of letters between Magnus Maximus, a pretender to the office of Emperor, and his friend Justinus, in which Maximus asks his old messmate to prepare a report for him on the military state of the province, how it came to be that way, and how many troops Maximus might be able to take with him in his attempt to win the Empire, without leaving the province out of control. These books sit perfectly between the longer Historic Scotland/Batsford type monographs and smaller site guides, and well illustrate the great breadth and excellence of the Scottish archaeological record. I particularly enjoyed the images of painted, hedonistic Mesolithic foragers eating shellfish and collecting hazelnut shells on sunny Scottish days, so closely juxtaposed to pictures of wet and somewhat forlorn archaeologists, wrapped in waterproofs, pulling yet another microlith from a peat bog. Indeed it was better in the old days; except for Maximus, of course, who lost his head.

Archaeological sites do not get much more photogenic than those of Mexico, and MARIA LONGHENA's *The splendours of Ancient Mexico* (292 pages, 468 colour plates & illustrations & 24 in black & white. 1998. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-01852-9 hardback £32) makes maximum use of the gasping beauty of the area. Following in the format of earlier volumes by this publisher on *Ancient Egypt* and the *Splendours of Ancient Greece and the Roman World*, earlier sections cover the well-known peoples of Mesoamerica, and then deal with aspects of the daily lives, art and religions of these people. A final major section provides a series of lavishly illustrated archaeological itineraries of the region. Whilst not a travel itinerary in the sense of being a Blue Guide, there can be little doubt that these breathtaking guides to sites, complete with reconstructional drawings, will be luring plane-loads of tourists to the archaeological riches of Mesoamerica. Not bad for whetting the imaginations of interested students too!

In *Hall of the Gods* (xii+420 pages, illustrated. 1998. London: William Heinemann; 0-434005010 hardback £16.99), NIGEL APPLEBY pursues a personal quest to discover ancient knowledge. To be more precise, it is the so-called Hall of Records, the location close to the Pyramids on the Giza Plateau where the knowledge of the civilization of the lost city of Atlantis was buried. APPLEBY has uncovered the location of the Hall of Records using four independent codes derived from DNA, the projection of the stars upon ancient sites and mathematical alignments. Those familiar with this new work on the alignments of the Pyramids, such as *The Orion Mystery*, will understand that when the stars of Orion's Belt line up over the pyramids the location of the projection of the planet Sirius onto the Giza Plateau will mark the spot. This book is a prelude to Operation Hermes,

an expedition conducted by APPLEBY in July of this year to locate the Hall itself. As the prologue says, 'The wait is nearly over . . . If the records contained within the Hall of Records prove to be what the myths and legends claim, then we shall know where we originate from, our true past history, who the gods of antiquity really were and where we are heading . . . Only time will tell.' Move over Olduvai Gorge. Fortunately there is a website homepage for Operation Hermes at <http://www.Inter.com/Hermes> for us to see how the project has got on. I tried checking up on 13 October, but the page is now down.

RICHARD RUDGLEY's *Lost civilisations of the Stone Age* (xi+308 pages. 28 plates, b/w figures. 1998. London: Century; 0-7126-7785-5 hardback £17.99) sets out to prove that the primitive societies of the Stone Age were not what they are claimed to be. Cranial surgery, mining, pyrotechnics, sophisticated technology and art, fossil hunting, a belief in an afterlife and writing all can trace their roots back to the Stone Ages; Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic. Nicely written, it says what many Stone Age archaeologists have been trying to convey for years.

CD-ROMs

Sudan: ancient kingdoms of the Nile (SINDBAD MULTIMEDIA LTD, INSTITUT DU MONDE ARABE & EDITIONS FLAMMARION. IBM-PC compatible 486 or Pentium, 12Mb RAM, Windows 95/NT, 256 colours,

sound card or Apple Macintosh compatible 68040 or PowerPC 8Mb RAM, system 7.0 or later, 256 colours. 4xCD-ROM drive. 1997) accompanies an exhibition of the same name currently under way in Egypt. It is a sort of interactive guidebook in which we are offered the chance to take a Voyage in Time, or visit the Kingdoms of the Nile. In each case 'Ancient Egyptian' music whisks us off to a choice of archaeology from the Neolithic to the final Kingdom of Meroe, visiting sites now mostly covered by Lake Nasser. Each text panel is illustrated by a number of photographs of artefacts from the exhibition, each of which reveals its vital statistics when covered by the cursor. A glossary provides information on the most difficult terms, and a slide-show allows viewers to download pictures of artefacts to disc in a variety of formats. Quite clever, but the music gets on your nerves very quickly. Fortunately it can be turned off.

Also

ALICE BECK KEHOE. *Humans: an introduction to four-field anthropology*. xi+244 pages, numerous plates & illustrations. 1998. London: Routledge; 0-415-91985-1 paperback £12.99. An introductory textbook to anthropology in the American sense, with chapters on primates and human evolution, prehistoric archaeology and analysing modern societies in terms of (i) cultural ecology, (ii) economics, (iii) social regulation and (iv) religion.

Review articles

Chalk and cheese at Stonehenge

MIKE PARKER PEARSON*

BARRY CUNLIFFE & COLIN RENFREW (ed.). *Science and Stonehenge. (Proceedings of the British Academy 92.)* xiii+362 pages, 122 illustrations, 19 tables, 5 colour plates. 1997. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 0-1972-6174-4 hardback £29.95.

BARBARA BENDER. *Stonehenge: making space*. xiv+254 pages, 52 figures, 31 cartoons. 1998. Oxford: Berg; 1-85973-903-2 hardback £39.99; 1-85973-908-3 paperback £14.99.

Here are two books, ostensibly on the same subject, which encapsulate the two extremes of writing archaeology. One is the epitome of archaeology as high culture, the solid, beautifully bound book edited by the Oxbridge professors, produced from papers given

at a conference at the Royal Society and published with colour plates and inserts by Oxford University Press for the British Academy. Not only is 'science' in the title, but the editorship reflects professional standing regardless of specialization. The other book is a paperback with cartoons, transcripts of taped discussions, a photograph of one archaeologist with his babies and an irreverent approach to the 'masculinist hegemony' of control over landscape, people and thought that the other book embodies. It is a book for reading anywhere and for scribbling in (it even has a page to write notes and comments), whereas the other seems to be one for the bookshelf; it impresses with its solidity and inaccessibility.

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