Among the New Books

N. James with Stephanie Wynne-Jones

The practice: methods and ethics


Mitigation was commissioned to ‘categorise types of below-ground archaeological’ resources in England, to ‘produce an easy-to-understand guide to engineering and construction techniques and mitigation’, to ‘review the status of existing knowledge’ and to ‘produce an easily updatable … database of … sites in England’ with ‘preservation in situ schemes involving engineering’ (p. 1). With a detailed catalogue of ‘processes’, the report considers operations of engineering and sums up techniques for preservation (e.g. Rose Theatre, London). Added are notes on the planning system, a case study, and an amply annotated bibliography. The CD provides a well organised data base of sites and agencies.

For the USA, Terry Childs introduces a dozen thorough papers on collections and archives, on the management and use of collections, on ‘Native American issues’, on ‘incorporating public education into the curation process’, and on training, plus ‘a personal retrospective’ (W. Marquardt). Here too is good practical guidance. Also for the USA, and equally down to earth, is a new edition of T.F. King’s handbook, full of sensible, lightly written advice on a host of contingencies.


Renfrew & Bahn has been judiciously updated. Systematic, usable and effective, it should continue to thrive.

See too Rippon in ‘Britain & Ireland’, below.


Messrs Galaty & Watkinson introduce four papers on the Italians in the Fascist period (including O. Gilkes on Albania) and others on Franco’s Spain, Greece, and Ataturk’s Turkey. B.
Arnold rounds this thought-provoking collection off with a general essay. Dr Kane presents eight papers ranging from ‘the emergence of … Japanese nationalism’, ‘identity in interwar Albania’ (O. Gilkes again) and ‘Hellenistic Phoenicians in … Israel’ to ‘nationalism, and ancient America’ (F. McManamon) and ‘Pharaonic … hyperreality’. I. Hodder, who contributes to The politics too, has compiled 16 of his post-modernist essays (including two from Antiquity; and some defective editing).

Asian Studies


A succinct but thorough and comprehensive textbook, readable, clearly arranged and invitingly designed, The Indus is a most welcome guide to a topic widely known but not easy, until now, to learn more about. Prof. Possehl puts the Indus into the context of the ‘Middle Asian Interaction Sphere’, all across to the Euphrates.


For the earlier period, Dr Stein’s concise case study reviews the state of the art for ‘world-system theory’ and the application to archaeology before turning to, first, the Uruk evidence in general and then his own site, Hacinebi, in particular. Arguing that ‘The world-system model’ has been abused, he demands more detailed research in order to recognise agency at the ‘periphery’. Prof. Postgate introduces eleven papers, starting with Uruk itself (H. Nissen) and going on to cover Nineveh (R. Gut), Tepe Gawra (M. Rothman), Godin Tepe (V. Badler), and Brak (J. Oates). There follow reviews of evidence from northern Mesopotamia (M. Frangipane) and Hacinebi (Stein), the Levant (G. Philip) and Egypt (Toby Wilkinson), plus reports on pottery from the Middle and Upper Euphrates (F. Stephen & E. Peltenburg) and households at Jebel Aruda (G. van Driel). Dr Matthews has assessed the features and finds from Jemdet Nasr, including the pottery, sickles, and writing: ‘impressions on clay’ reveal ‘mats very much in the style employed to this day’; in all, ‘a hazy and shimmering picture’ of a site probably but one in ‘a loose network … engaged in … almost chaotic … co-operation’ (p. 35) ... To supplement previous publications, Dr Herrmann et al. have published hundreds of pictures of the ivories organised by the rooms in which they were found.

Sumer has been enhanced with more attention to the economy and a new chapter on Upper Mesopotamia.

From ‘Absolute chronology’, ‘Acemhöyük’ or ‘bead-rim bowls’ to ‘Lawrence, Thomas Edward’, ‘Muwatalli I’, ‘tin’ and ‘Zippalanda’, the latest of the *Historical Dictionaries* maintains the standards of the series (although the photographs add little). ‘Emerging from the ever-increasing body of data … is a kaleidoscope … on which unanimity is never likely to be achieved’ (p. xxxii).


Dr Braun concludes that ‘Fitzgerald … in a manner acceptable’ in 1933, ‘gives us a picture of a series of … events that reflects the … progression of cultures’ at ‘one of the major sites of the southern Levant’ (p. 65). M. Aviam has compiled 21 of his own papers, taking the opportunity to revise most of them. They are a record of substantial, diverse and exciting investigation. *Banias* is a scholarly account, for the general reader, of the whole story from the Hellenistic period to destruction in 1967.

Dr Gibson reports personably, also for the general reader, his discovery, in 1999, of a system of channels, a tank, and the ornamented rock-cut cell that he interprets as the Baptist’s base, complete with signs of ‘strange rituals involving … stone circles, the breaking of large quantities of jugs and foot-anointing’ (p. 212) and even a possible schematic depiction of John himself. He goes on to consider the Baptist’s story and his cult more widely. The book is well designed and illustrated.


Working, like Braun, to bring earlier research to light, Dr Danti has compiled the results of digging, in 1956-62, on part of a large site near Lake Urmiyeh. It exposed a fortified village of the Mongol period, ill-fated in this region but archaeologically little known. The plan is revealed. Dr Danti considers doubts about attribution of local pottery. His concise report has been produced to the highest standard.

Presumably, the editors are right, introducing a dozen archaeological and iconographic case studies on Gender and Chinese archaeology, to claim that their book is a first. The papers range from the Neolithic to the Han period. While most of the contributors are evidently of Chinese descent, the majority are associated with Pittsburgh University. To accompany its current exhibition on China, the Metropolitan Museum has produced a big, splendid and amply annotated catalogue, very well illustrated.

**Review**

**Greeks & Romans**


*Ancient Greek religion* covers theology, cults and rites, sociology and some history and archaeology. Clearly written and organized, it will be appreciated by students. Dr Davies introduces twelve papers on the history, archaeology, iconography and literature of sports and festivals plus one on ‘Minoan bull sports’ and one on the Gonzagas’ Horses Room at Mantua. *Games and sanctuaries* is a superb production for the general reader: sumptuous and well conceived illustrations with an informative and readable text.

An extensive and rich corpus of architecture, mosaics and wall paintings, sculpture, pottery and metalware is examined thoroughly in *Roman banquet*, a topical theme (cp. *Behaviour in ‘Animal bones’, below*). The last two chapters reach into Late Antiquity, including the Roman catacombs. Keenly alert to the sociological functions, the scholarship is sturdy; and the production is excellent.

*Roman medicine* covers the Greek background, ‘materia medica’, buildings for ‘health and hygiene’, and cults and treatments before ‘Meeting the … patient’ and healers. The emphasis is on the Western Empire, with many examples from Britain. It is clearly written and well illustrated.


Alain Férière and colleagues introduce seventeen studies of Roman towns and their decline in the northwestern Continental Roman
Empire, along with single contributions on Cyrenaica and Syria. Generalisation is intriguingly difficult on account of regional and economic variations; nor does ecclesiastical history consistently resolve doubts about how urban institutions related to towns. N. Gauthier reviews the proceedings, pondering how definitions and assumptions affect interpretations of development or decline across a large and diverse area over several centuries. There follow succinct notes on forty towns. This is a most valuable review of the state of the art. The text is French, with one article in English; and abstracts of the articles are provided in French and English.


*A history of Rome* is a solid textbook. With a strong and (again) topical vision of the city’s political, military and cultural history, the empire is brought firmly into the picture. Dr Matyszak presents seventeen case studies, clearly written for the general reader.

See too ‘Britain & Ireland’, below, and, ‘Also received’, Jones, Osborne, Lane Fox, Mayhew, Buxton and de Bouchet and Kerisel.

The Byzantine tradition and its echoes


Byzantium steals the limelight, this quarter, a very big book to accompany a recent exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City. Introduced by H.C. Evans, the 355 entries are divided into five sections with up to four subsections, covering: Constantinople; religious features and implements; images in paintings, mosaics, steatite, precious metals and manuscripts; textiles and icons; relations with the Muslim world (S. Redford) and Christians in the Middle East; and reception of Byzantine art in Italy, France and northern Europe. Production and the illustrations in particular are superb. *Through a glass* is bravely illustrated too. It comprises 25 scholarly contributions plus the dedicatee’s bibliography. They begin with ‘A dandy dipper’, ‘Body-chains’ (C. Johns), ‘a universal sundial’ and ‘Visualising women’ (J. Elsner), to range on over art history, cultural history, economic history (K. Dark), and technology (I. Freestone et al. on red glass and enamel from the late Iron Age onward), concluding with studies of Victorian and Edwardian responses to the Byzantine tradition and on stained glass at Ely and Mildenhall (B. Singleton).

Britain & Ireland: report & analysis, evocation & inspiration

On Britain, this quarter, we have received both technical site reports and, from Tempus, syntheses on districts for the amateur aficionado. Starting with the latter, we find, on one hand, two accounts arranged around conventional narratives stretching, in chronological steps, from the Mesolithic to today and, on the other, an experiment in
divining values for various eras in the same stretch of time. Then comes a thoughtful foil with a conventional presentation, another experiment on deducing values, and, to complement the whole set, a welcome contribution on methodology.


South Uist and Derwent are both approachable landscape histories. South Uist goes all the way with the emigrants to Canada and concludes with a creative and archaeologically informed essay on ‘tradition and change’, ‘innovation and retrenchment’ (p. 194), ‘mainstream or … margins’, ‘sunwise’ living, and the quality of life. The authors remark on technical discoveries too, including continuity of township sites over 2000 years. Derwent is less conceptually adventurous but also effective as a general introduction, if a little informal with the reader and, hence, vague on problems in the record. Strong, however, on the local history, it takes its story up to the Mass Trespass (1932) and the flooding of the valley by a dam, and concludes with a pointed summary of current scenarios for managing the area in future. Both books provide notes on sites to visit.

Langdales seeks to instil something of the Romantics’ reflectiveness (when others, like nephew WORDSWORTH [below] still sought ‘a changeless classical paradise’ over ‘volatile national boundaries’ [pp. 15, 13]). ‘What was it like?’, for Neolithic axe makers, woodsmen in the 1700s, or weekenders in the 1930s or, indeed, how is it today, to scale the rocks as sport and thought? Surely the Langdales were always ‘powerful’ (p. 92). The author’s fancies are unencumbered by archaeological technicality but, underneath his affected style, there is more to learn here about the Norse economy than in South Uist. On ‘understanding’ landscape, compare BEAVIS, like whom the author is worried about walkers’ depredations of the archaeology; and for this quarter’s most effective conceit, see Dr EDMONDS’s last two pages. Outstanding photographs and, as in Derwent, some clever graphics are related well to the text. The Langdales includes a good bibliography. Each of these books springs from substantial recent research of the writers’ own and their colleagues but Dr EDMONDS makes little explicitly of that. The core of Dorset’s World is a compactly produced, clearly written and observant guided walk supported by photographs which are, on the whole, effective, many of them annotated.
The author is very interested in the evidence of twentieth century warfare. The succinct ‘Chronological outline’ that he adds, and a solid bibliography, complement the topographic exposition. He adds an appendix on writing ‘about the past’: ‘“might”, “possibly”, “may well have”, “seems” are probably the most useful words’; we should be honest, ‘admit to fiction and simply try to construct it as rigorously as we can’; ‘It is … easy … to lose sight of … knowledge of the past itself’, ‘to suppose it lies in the virtuosity of source criticism and exposition’. Mr Beavis is satisfied with ‘the broadest generalisations’ (p. 147).

Stories seeks to develop phenomenological research. Most of the papers are scholarly and substantial but speculative. More than half is by Mr Chadwick himself. D. Hind’s approach to the Mesolithic–Neolithic transition around Bevan’s area is akin to that of Edmonds. There is also a series of short experiments, M. Giles, for example, on exposing archaeologists’ subjectivity through photographs and poems, and ‘We take memories into our spaces’, the Cambridge Women & Homelessness Group studying their own dig. B. Bevan here reflects on uneven exchanges of knowledge through intercontinental tourism.

Responding to both the current programme of research on ‘landscape characterisation’ and the wider field of landscape studies, a leading practitioner has produced, in Historic landscape, a technically and conceptually thorough, systematic and comprehensive yet detailed introduction to methods and techniques (phenomenology barely touched upon). The one problem is that too few students understand that the skills are pointless without theory: they need more direct guidance on methodological complexity; but that demands another book. Rich with examples, the emphasis is on England & Wales, but the principles apply throughout Britain & Ireland. Attractively produced, well arranged, readable and sensible, this little book is going to be warmly and widely appreciated by professional and amateur workers alike and it should be recommended to excursionists too.


Roman Surrey is a conventional and satisfying introduction for the general reader elegantly produced and well illustrated. Apt again for the visitor, as background, Housesteads now has some fine new illustrations. The text has been corrected and amplified in some details. York is thoroughly but approachably informative and has been up-dated and reorganised in the light of new interpretations since 1993. The previous edition of Druids, now reformatted and reillustrated, was reviewed for us in Vol. 74, pp. 454-5. The history of Wales’s castles is described and very well illustrated by John Norris.

MARTIN HENIG has provided an ample and very well illustrated catalogue raisoné of 200 specimens, arranged by district and by iconography or function. Many of the figures are decidedly ‘native’, and a lot of the ornamentation looks crude by metropolitan standards. The book’s production is first class.


DAN SWIFT reports on extramural Roman burials and evidence suggesting a sequence of contemporary roadside developments, including glass-making. The Medieval stratigraphy was truncated but ditches perhaps related to the priory near by. In the Early Modern period, ‘much of the area was … used for the disposal of rubbish and cess’ (pp. 64-5). HOWE & LAKIN cover excavation of part of the Roman fort at Cripplegate and relate it to previous investigation by W.F. Grimes. Noting that it dates to the Hadrianic period, peaceful here, they consider features both typical and unusual. They also report evidence for rebuilding and craftwork from c. 1200 on.

Mr HEARD covers excavation and documentary research to reconstruct the history of yards, wharves, ship-building and ship-breaking during that critical period of British maritime history since the mid 1600s. As well as parts of ships, massive timbers for both wharves and cranes were recovered, and there is discussion of other shipyards and their carpentry.

All three of these reports are well designed and illustrated. They come with summaries in French and German.


Pending full publication of the find at Dover, Mr CLARK introduces fifteen papers on other discoveries in England and France, on Scandinavian evidence and on experimental archaeology, plus contributions on anticipating further finds in Kent and ‘predictive’ heritage management in The Netherlands. *Boats* outlines the evidence, direct and indirect, from the Mesolithic to the 1900s, and adds a chapter on ‘Vernacular boats’ and appendices on sails and guns. It is a sound, systematic and approachable treatment. ‘Research must continue into these nautical artefacts but … recognise that that they are but … part of a far broader … mosaic’ (p. 156).


*Athens & Attica*, first published by John Murray (1836), is a glimpse of how Modern reception of Classical civilization took form. It was an exciting time, archaeologically, with research
under way on the Athenian Acropolis but Wordsworth remarks too on Greece’s desolate condition. He disseminated his learning not only by the publication but presumably too through his position – a ‘single honour’ [p. ix, sic] in one so young – as Cambridge University’s Public Orator and then, successively, head of Harrow and Bishop of Lincoln. Gerald Brisch has enhanced the book with a witty introduction, supplementary notes and bibliography.

Africa
By Stephanie Wynne-Jones


These two thematic volumes illustrate the potential of theoretically informed African archaeology to contribute to debates within the wider discipline. Reid & Lane attempt not only to give Africa a place within historical archaeology but also to redefine the sub-discipline in a way that enables African examples to be better understood. They seek to achieve this through a realisation of the temporality of all archaeology and of the material continuity between the past and the present. Their call for multivocality and dissonance in studies of the past invites a variety of responses, reflected in the breadth of approaches seen in the volume. Many of the contributions are excellent, with themes including the subversion of text-based and oral histories through a stress on individual experience in the creation and reproduction of tradition (Fleisher, Helm, La Violette) and the construction and maintenance of historical identities, particularly in the context of cultural interaction (Insoll, Reid, van Schalwyk & Smith). Thus the volume reinterprets historical archaeology variously, wisely avoiding a generalising definition of the subject matter.

In contrast, Widgrens & Sutton take an apparently narrow brief but they expand upon it to provide a discussion pertinent to scholars of many disciplines. The integration of archaeology, historical geography, anthropology and history allows an enhanced understanding of social landscapes, although the archaeological content is limited. The discussion touches upon environmental determinism/possibilism, catalysts for intensification and the various social mechanisms for mobilisation of labour. This last analysis ably illustrates the scope for lineage- and kin-based networks, as seen among the Marakwet (Östberg) and the Iraqw (Börjeson, Loiske) as well as hierarchical structures, such as that found at Konso, Ethiopia (Watson).


These two collections represent some of the most recent research on the archaeology of Africa. *Researching Africa’s past* presents 19 papers of diverse content, from climatic change in the Later Stone Age (Herries & Latham) to cultural resource management in Shire, northern Ethiopia (Finneran). The volume’s diversity betrays its origins in a conference, which has also facilitated the inclusion of work by less established scholars alongside better known figures. This fulfils the aim of showing the strength of African-based scholarship, the dynamic nature of which is demonstrably being maintained by the next generation of researchers. In contrast, *East African archaeology* is a series of papers by established scholars, seeking to summarise and present current thinking in the region. Nevertheless, many of the contributions challenge traditional thinking. Mabulla examines the validity of using ethnographic data to understand past societies; Wandibba presents an overview of Kenyan ceramic production that questions archaeologists’ assumptions; and Kusimba, Killick and Mapunda all argue for a greater emphasis on the practice of iron production in the study of the East African Iron Age. The result is an excellent volume which presents the reader with well presented information on a variety of topics.

**Americas**


*The Olmecs* is a very welcome addition to T&H’s list of authoritative introductions, comprehensive, up to date and superbly illustrated. The principle here is the traditional one, that the Olmecs were a distinct people who influenced others in Mexico. *Cahokia* is a sane review of the development and decline of social and political organisation and ideology in the late pre-Columbian central Mississippi valley. Considering so much research during
recent decades, this too is welcome and will prove valuable and stimulating to students, although it is too fashionable in its comparative neglect of the economy.


*North American Indian art* replaces C. Feest’s contribution to the series, ‘World of Art’ (1992). It is well illustrated and pithy. The coverage by region is welcome but attention to the pre-Columbian period is brief again.

**Macregional multiperiod views …**


The twelve papers on the border lands take stock of the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age now that most of the region is more accessible. Introducing them, the editors identify three persistent themes: concern over appropriate scales at which to study aspects of culture; ethnicity, seen here as ‘situational’ (of course) rather than essential and perduring; and exchange of recent results of research, unusually difficult in the Caucasus, as they point out, on account of diversity of colleagues’ languages. Predictably and intriguingly, the contributors, from Armenia, Georgia, Turkey, the USA, Australia and Italy, illustrate various guiding concepts and approaches, newer and older, but most of their results, from archives and excavations, look substantial. Some of the drawings could have been printed more economically. The region merits the same kind of treatment for earlier prehistory and the historic period too.

The papers in *Side-by-side* are salutory. The first are on method: ‘can we compare sherd density figures?’ (M. Given); under-representativeness of data from surface survey, ‘hidden landscapes’ (J. Davis); ‘The paradox of global trends and local surveys’ (N. Terrenato); and a struggle with how to make sense of surface finds. Studies on regional comparison follow, on Italy, Crete (integrating survey and excavation for the Bronze Age), the Bronze Age Peloponesos, and a review of 19 projects in Tunisia. E. Fentress et al. consider African Red Slipware as ‘a key illustration of the connected and integrated nature of the Roman economy’ (p. 161) but warn that the data remain ‘woefully’ slim (p. 160). Converging with aspects of the first papers, R. Osborne gnaws at that old bone of deducing demography from *survey*: ‘archaeologists need to focus upon site hierarchy and the density of … occupation’, ‘historians … the very different … hierarchies … emerging in different areas’ (p. 171); and D. Mattingly & R. Witcher, also impatient with ‘minutiae’ (p. 173), calibrate archaeological data against the great Barrington Atlas. To close are a consideration of ‘trends in settlement pattern in the northern fertile crescent’ (T.J. Wilkinson, J. Ur & J. Casana) and a comparison between the Mediterranean and Mesoamerica (R. Blanton). Appended is an amazingly long
‘preliminary’ list of ‘Internet resources for Mediterranean regional survey projects’.

Dr Sand introduces 31 papers and R. Shutler’s ‘Reminiscences’ about E.W. Gifford. There are three on Melanesia, Australia and ‘Rock art and ceramics in East Borneo’, the latter proposing the emergence of a new ‘cornerstone for prehistory’ (p. 51). Then come eleven on ‘The Austronesian spread’, including eight on ‘The Lapita sphere’. There are four on chronology. There are papers on rock art, ‘mortuary and biological features’ at Lapita, an owl midden (cf. ‘Animal bones’, below), ‘Dynamic landscapes and episodic occupations’ at the Sigatoka Dunes, and ‘Human impact on … nearshore marine ecosystems’. Four consider Polynesian colonisation, history and household organisation. Last comes a valuable foursome on public relations, outreach and indigenous ‘reception’ of archaeological discoveries. Well produced and full of ‘top names’, it is a book to be proud of.

… and exponents


The volumes for Renfrew are a suitably monumental celebration by a good selection of his many colleagues and students from around Europe and beyond. Explaining social change has L.R. Binford on ‘Beliefs about death’, C. Gamble on ‘Social archaeology … of the Palaeolithic’ and, on chiefdoms, A. Fleming, P. Mellars on ‘Stage 3 climate … in Europe’, and I. Hodder on ‘Neo-thingness’, and ranges on to ‘obsidian use … in … Papua New Guinea’ (R. Torrence), South Uist (M. Parker Pearson – cf. ‘Britain & Ireland’, above), ‘exchange … in … Mesopotamia’ (J. & D. Oates), and the Mekong (C. Higham), among ten others. Traces comprises a dozen papers, covering methods (L. Cavalli-Sforza, M. Lahr, P. Bellwood, M. Zvelebil and R. Foley), and case studies of Bantu, Jews (N. Bradman et al.) and ‘MtDNA markers for Celtic and Germanic … in the British Isles’, of early farming, and of linguistics (a ‘Proto-Algonquian numeral suffix’ and M. Spriggs on ‘the origins of English theatre’). The fun continues with twelve splendidly illustrated papers in Material engagements, contributed by, among others, the artists, R. Long, A. Gormley (with C. Renfrew himself), and M. Dion, and by A. Snodgrass (on the Parthenon Marbles), R. Hodges (‘post-Stalinist archaeology in Albania’ – cf. Gilkes in ‘The practice’ above), C. Evans (shamans meeting in Nepal), and N. Brodie & J. Doole (‘US art museum collections of Asian art and archaeology’). The diversity speaks for itself!


The twenty chapters for Randi Haaland range from ‘The origins of Modern … behaviour’ and early plant use in the Libyan Desert to heritage management in Mozambique and ‘Bantu ideology’, ‘gender archaeology’ and ‘Gender in the Nubian A-Group’, rock art in Finland and (yes, it’s good) ‘Sex pots of ancient Peru’. There are some descriptive reports on recent exploration and analysis, and a series of papers on technology (including P. Rowley-Conwy comparing ‘Hunter-gatherer intensification’ in Australia and northwest Europe; and cf. KUSIMBA & KUSIMBA in ‘Africa’, above). Terje Østgaard contributes more theoretical musings on corpses in Nepal; and P. Sinclair considers ‘Production of archaeological knowledge’ (cf. Hodder in ‘The practice’, above). Twenty go to S.A. Immerwahr too, on Aegean prehistory, the ‘Anatolian Apollo’ and Neo-Assyrian stelae, and on Classical iconography (including ‘what is “Classical”?’ [p. 288]) and inscriptions on pots and buildings. Her book has been produced finely.

Preservation

Our picture, this quarter, shows some of the ‘unparalleled numbers’ of wooden finds, among much pottery and other materials, made in peat in a suburb of Cologne, in 1973, that have needed until now to study and report under Hans-Eckart Joachim in Porz-Lind: ein mittel- bis spätlatènezeitlicher Siedlungsplatz im ‘Linder Bruch’ (Stadt Köln) (Rheinische
Ausgrabungen Vol. 47; iv+381 pages, 72 figures, 11 tables; 2002 [Mainz: Phillip von Zabern; 3-8053-2904-0 hardback €61.21]). They seem to belong to a Late Iron Age farmstead at the edge of a settlement. Pots and carpentry match evidence elsewhere in the region. Potting was probably carried out on site. The economy looks mainly pastoral – among the finds were remains of wooden churns. Trees were exploited intensively within 10 km. Comparisons are drawn with the Glastonbury Lake Village and elsewhere. The report has been produced to the highest standard, including a full range of excellent illustrations. It comes with summaries in English and French.

Animal bones (ICAZ)


The Council’s conference proceedings comprise more than 60 substantive papers plus some introductions and methodological disquisitions. Most are case studies, drawn from every part of the world and, in *Behaviour* and *Colonisation*, almost every period of prehistory and history but for a paucity on the Palaeolithic. They are contributed by scholars from many countries.

A selective list can give some sense of the imaginative variety. *Behaviour* contributes to the theme of values in eating (‘Beyond calories’), including JONES O’DAY with some ethnography from Fiji, R. Cooke on Coclé semiotics (Panama), a couple of papers on Egypt, and an investigation of Phoenician acculturation on Malta. The second part of the volume considers social contexts, including Cooke again on Coclé, dog in West Africa, kosher in Medieval Buda, and Native and slave diets in the USA. *Colonisation* includes several studies from the Americas, from Arctic to subantarctic with the Colonial Chesapeake on the way, while G. Bar-Oz *et al.* report on ‘faunal exploitation’ in the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic of the Caucasus. A.J. Legge ruminates on the collection, picking out A. Outram on fats in northerly latitudes: ‘followers of the ... “Atkins” diet ... are reinventing the wheel, but not necessarily to ... best advantage’ (p. 118). *The future* is a distinctive and satisfying collection, including ‘fish management’ (E. Reitz), ‘sexual segregation and cub mortality in periglacial cave bear’, education on palaeontology near Mexico City, ‘turtles of the past: a vision for the future’, ‘law enforcement and ... conservation in ... South Africa’, ‘Bone diagenesis’, and papers on professional practice – not to ignore ‘Hunting in Medieval Moldavia’.

972
Stone tools: variation and continuity


*A record* reviews materials and production, methods and techniques of study, and typology before considering the history of study. Conclude the authors (p. 315) ‘An improved understanding of the behavioural information … in the … artefact record will come from investigations of the reasons that recurring … forms exist … Such studies will require investigation into the contexts in which … assemblages are found and the patterns of association between different types of assemblages, other … material remains, and their landscape settings’. The CD gives a lot of excellent colour photographs.

Dr KNARRSTRÖM’s dissertation reviews evidence for use of flint in Scania from the Mesolithic, through the startling (he argues) introduction of bronze and declining use up to the 1900s (for guns). He concentrates on particular sites (Tågerup and later). With the same method, A. Högberg adds an appendix on the Malmö area. There is a summary in Swedish.

Culture and its origins


Twelve years since first publication, Prof. FALK considers again research on the evolution of the human brain: ‘it is the over-all choreography … that is unique, not its individual … steps’; and it depended on certain ‘serendipitous coincidences’ in connection with bipedalism (pp. 7-8). *Braindance* is a scholarly book, blithely and invitingly written for the general reader. Also written deftly and personably, for the same readership, *The first idea* skims through physical anthropology, primatology, archaeology, linguistics and psychology plus a little social anthropology. The authors leave less space than FALK for chance. They speculate about the development of ‘pattern recognition’ and pursue implications up to the Modern era and into speculations about an emergent ‘psychology of global interdependency’. They must have anticipated that it would be difficult for them consistently to convince scholars in the respective disciplines.

Mr LANGKJER’s search takes him through the archaeology, mythology and iconography of the Near & Middle East and beyond, and on a selective review of the Bible. He adds brief excursions into Nordic, Harappan and early Indian ideas.

Washburn & Crowe introduce nine rich and detailed methodological, ethnographic and archaeological studies of weaving, embroidery, beadwork and pottery, covering cases from the Andes, Amazonia, sub-Saharan Africa and Turkey. Pattern, they aver, reveals cognition and the organisation of behaviour. Dr Washburn argues that Dorothy Menzel’s corpora show that ‘the Ica-Inca pottery used by the local elites was redecorated with some new Inca features but restructured within the local structural system’ (p. 227). This is a fine book very well produced.

Reprints


The text of the first came out under a different title in 2002 and is now splendidly enhanced with new illustrations (some shown or annotated incorrectly). The second is newly printed this year (and see the next three titles).

Also received


