

# Review

## Among the New Books

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### Ancient Biomolecules Initiative

*Ancient Biomolecules* 2:2–3. A Special issue marking the conclusion of the N.E.R.C. Thematic Programme, Ancient Biomolecules Initiative (A.B.I.): papers presented at the A.B.I. Grand Finale held at the Natural History Museum, London 7th January 1998. 184 pages, figures, tables. 1998. ISSN 1358-6122 paperback.

*Ancient Biomolecules* has reported on 13 of the 18 projects in the UK Natural Environment Research Council's Ancient Biomolecules Initiative (1993–8). The scheme was designed to investigate scope and methods for tracing the history of life, with particular emphasis on DNA. Likely to be of greatest interest to archaeologists are the papers on charred wheat (T.A. Brown *et al.*), on sorghum from Qasr Ibrim (W.J. Deakin *et al.*), on cattle extant and extinct (C.L. Turner *et al.*), on horse domestication (A.M. Lister *et al.*), and on methods of preparing bone for extracting collagen (M.J. Collins & P. Galley). Also included is C. Renfrew's address on 'Applications of DNA in archaeology', in which he considers research on human population movement, ethnic and kin affinities, and domestication of plants and animals.

See also BARHAM *et al.* in 'Bones', below.

### Egypt & Palestine

DOUGLAS J. BREWER & EMILY TEETER. *Egypt and the Egyptians*. xviii+218 pages, 81 figures, 3 tables. 1999. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 0-521-44984-7 paperback £35, \$54.95.

ERIK HORNUNG. *The ancient Egyptian Books of the Afterlife* (tr. David Lorton). xxiv+188 pages, 95 b&w figures, 1 map. 1999. Ithaca (NY) & London: Cornell University Press; 0-8014-8515-0 paperback \$16.95.

GUILLEMETTE ANDREU, MARIE-HÉLÈNE RUTSCHOWSCAYA & CHRISTIANE ZIEGLER (ed.). *Ancient Egypt at the Louvre* (tr. Lisa Davidson). 260 pages, 130 colour photographs, 2 figures. 1999. London: I.B. Tauris; 1-86064-043-5 hardback £35 & FF260.

BERNADETTE MENU. *Ramesses the Great: warrior and builder*. 160 pages, b&w and colour illustrations. 1999. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-30089-5 paperback £6.95.

BREWER & TEETER present a balanced, helpful and approachable summary of ancient Egyptian history

and daily life for the general reader and novice student. The core of the book comprises chapters on urbanism, government, religion, social conventions, language and writing, architecture, and arts & crafts. The presentation is systematic, the writing lucid, and the plans, maps and tables adroitly composed and distributed and clearly designed, although few of the photographs match that standard. The bibliography is ample but not daunting, and there is an aptly selected glossary.

Prof. HORNUNG points out that the ancient Egyptian Books of the Netherworld or Afterlife have received less attention than the spells in the Book of the Dead. The former describe the afterlife beneath the revivifying course of the Sun through night. Painted on the walls of tombs, they are rich sources on ideas of the cosmos and the soul. After summarizing the principal features of the Pyramid and Coffin Texts, the Book of the Dead, and the Books of Breathing, Prof. HORNUNG treats the form and contents of the nine main texts on the Netherworld in the presumed chronological order. He explains the change of symbolic emphasis following the Amarna period. The iconography is illustrated extensively with line drawings and a few photographs (the latter less clear, whether or not on account of the paper). He also provides a brief treatment of the Litany of Re, the Book of the Heavenly Cow and the Book of Traversing Eternity.

ANDREU *et al.* give a splendid impression of the Louvre's great collection of sculptures, wall paintings, bronzes, textiles, pottery etc. The text is arranged around the superb photographs. It is long enough, on each page, to provide both helpful remarks on the piece or pieces shown and a little background that helps to explain their significance. The presentation is chronological, running from the early 4th millennium to the Copto-Arabic period. The selection of items gives a sense of the different aspects of life and thought, although more pictures of the ruins, their sites and landscapes would have helped to put the selected exhibits into context. The book begins with an interesting history of the collections.

Dr MENU's summary of the life, times and cultural environment of Ramesses II is one of the oddly intense series of bright, jumbled 'New Horizons'

booklets on antiquities that Thames & Hudson have been turning out with Gallimard. A great deal of material is packed in with a lot of striking photographs and figures backed up with transcriptions and substantial lists of scholarly references; but the presentation is all the more feverishly busy on account of its beguilingly compact format (*cf.* AUGÉ & DENTZER, below).

See also RICE in 'Reference', below.

FRANK W. EDDY, FRED WENDORF & ASSCTES. *An archaeological investigation of the central Sinai, Egypt*. xxi+340 pages, 184 figures, 33 tables. 1999. Niwot (CO): University Press of Colorado/Cairo: American Research Center in Egypt; 0-87081-537-7 hardback \$75.

HAYIM LAPIN (ed.). *Religious and ethnic communities in later Roman Palestine* (Studies & Texts in Jewish History and Culture V). xi+298 pages, figures, tables. 1998. College Park (MD): University Press of Maryland; 18830-53-31-5 hardback \$35.

CHRISTIAN AUGÉ & JEAN-MARIE DENTZER. *Pétra: la cité des caravanes*. 128 pages, b&w and colour illustrations. 1999. Paris: Gallimard; 2-07-053428-6 paperback FF73.

Agricultural development along the upper Wadi Girafi is threatening the preservation of archaeological resources. Accordingly, EDDY *et al.* were commissioned to survey the district and to carry out sample excavations in 1996. It is characteristic of the region as a whole that the principal theme of their discoveries was pastoralism — camps, compounds, cemeteries and other sites including possible ritual sanctuaries and a game trap. The greater part of their evidence is from the Early Bronze Age but they have traced stock-keeping back to the Chalcolithic, and they suspect that levels from the latter period are obscuring Neolithic remains. Other discoveries included Upper Palaeolithic and Middle Palaeolithic sites (Levallois stonework) but very little of the Lower Palaeolithic material expected from this region on theoretical grounds; and there is evidence for Iron Age, Roman period and modern Bedouin reuse of older features. The research included geomorphology and studies of lichen and patination on stone. EDDY *et al.* sought to relate their findings on Chalcolithic and Bronze Age buildings and tombs to earlier work in the Sinai at larger scale by Beno Rothenberg *et al.* Their prompt report has been produced to a high standard.

Owing to its intense religious and ethnic history, Palestine is an exceptionally well documented region. Among so many other topics, it rewards archaeologists' interest in the definition of cultures, ethnic groups, communities and styles. The 11 papers in Dr HAYIM's book draw on various sources to consider distinguishing features — mainly among and between Jews, Christians and pagans — and the processes through which these distinctions devel-

oped. Some of the contributors assess influences from Rome and Byzantium too. The historical coverage stretches into the Byzantine and Islamic periods. ANTIQUITY readers are likely to be especially interested in the papers, on: style in buildings, architectural features and mosaics; diagnostic finds in housing (ritual features, animal bones, iconography) and tombs (wall decorations and lamps); supersession of temples and pagan cult sites by churches; partitions in synagogues; and epigraphy.

Even with a more tightly focussed subject, AUGÉ & DENTZER fall foul of the same faults that baffle the pharoah (MENU, above): again, the pictures are excellent in themselves — visionary, some of them — but the design is quite inappropriate for engaging with the substantial topics that the authors seek to open up — Nabatean history, the environment and economy, art and design. There's a sound text striving to surface here, bibliography and all, but can it be saved in such a stocking-filler format?

### The wider Mediterranean

BOGDAN RUTKOWSKI & KRZYSZTOF NOWICKI (ed.). *Aegean Archaeology 3* (Studies & Monographs in Mediterranean Archaeology and Civilization ser. II vol. 4). 94 pages, figures, tables, 6 b&w plates. 1998. Warsaw: Polish Academy of Sciences; ISSN 1233-6246 paperback.

W.G. CAVANAGH & S.E.C. WALKER (ed.). *Sparta in Laconia: the archaeology of a city and its countryside — proceedings of the 19th British Museum Classical Colloquium* (British School at Athens Studies 4). 171 pages, 152 figures, 5 tables. 1999. London: British School at Athens; 0-904887-36-7 hardback £26.50 (+p&p).

RUTKOWSKI & NOWICKI's papers are from half-a-dozen countries but all in readable English. A review of evidence ranging from Linear A texts to the settlement pattern concludes that Late Minoan IB settlements in Crete were largely autonomous. K.S. Christakis, assessing the Minoan period as a whole, suggests that potting was a specialized craft but that the potters were itinerant. Analysis of copper and silver from the Early Helladic cemetery of Manika, Euboea, confirms that the metals were imported. K. NOWICKI argues that the study of Bronze Age (and late Neolithic) Crete would be enhanced by shifting some attention from the famous palaces to remoter districts; and, with evidence from Turkey, H. Vanhaverbeke *et al.* argue for pursuing settlement archaeology through a sequence as long as 12,000 years. P. Taracha shows how to make sense of some of the British Museum's mid 19th-century finds from the Mycenaean chamber tombs at Ialysos, Rhodes.

The 15 papers on *Sparta* range from the Mycenaean to the Roman period, covering settlement archaeology and urbanism, craft production and iconography, architecture and mosaics, and also include a

couple on the history of research. T.G. Spyropoulos argues that the Mycenaean settlement, road and great tombs at Pellana show that this was probably Homer's Lakedaimon. Dr CAVANAGH & C. Mee report on intensive investigation among rural sites, and K. Wilkinson discusses preliminary findings from sediments in the district, and the site of the Roman theatre, in particular. The development of the theatre has been studied in detail by G.B. Waywell, J.J. Wilkes & Dr WALKER, also reporting here. P. Cartledge assesses the relation of town and country, and finds that Spartans did not live by the usual Greek model; but S. Hodgkinson argues that votive bronzes from sanctuaries do conform to common practice.

See also CHADWICK *et al.* in 'Writing', below.

ROBERT H. TYKOT, JONATHAN MORTER & JOHN E. ROBB (ed.). *Social dynamics of the prehistoric Central Mediterranean*. viii+281 pages, figures. 1999. London: Accordia Research Institute; 1-873415-19-2 paperback £32.

The papers assembled by Dr TYKOT & colleagues and introduced by A.J. Ammerman attempt to bring the benefit of the anthropological approach to their subject. That half of the contributors are Europeans is a sign of the maturing of this movement, which has owed so much to US archaeologists. It is a satisfyingly diverse collection: on technology and sociology in the Mesolithic–Neolithic transition along the Central Italian Adriatic; a widely ranging review of more than five millennia of development from the end of the Palaeolithic in Liguria, contrasting mainly for methodological reasons with the contention that the Sardinian economy remained unspecialized throughout later prehistory; on the state of the art in Sardinia & Corsica; on the reconstruction of a Late Neolithic building in Calabria alongside G. Shaffer's latest thoughts on his painstaking reconstruction of huts of wattle & daub in the same province; on leadership in Neolithic and Copper Age Italy; a pair of papers by S. Tusa and our own S. Stoddart on short-term and long-term history; one on Bronze Age pottery assemblages in Sicily; discussions of Bronze Age settlements in Sicily and at Coppa Nevigata; and M.J. Becker on skeletal evidence for population exchange between Greeks and locals on Ischia.

NERITAN CEKA. *Butrint: a guide to the city and its monuments*. 83 pages, 73 figures, 6 colour plates. 1999. London: Butrint Foundation; 0-9535556-0-7 paperback £5 (+£2.50 p&p) & \$16.

The guide to the Classical, Medieval and Early Modern site of Butrint arrived at ANTIQUITY with the following remark from Prof. Hodges: 'We . . . hope that it . . . will improve the chances of Butrint becoming a major tourist attraction . . . This is vital if Albania is to have any chance of becoming . . . economically viable and politically stable.' The smart, most elegantly illustrated booklet comprises: a his-

tory of the site and its neighbourhood from the Bronze Age to today; 'a walk around the monuments' — notably, magistrates' building, sacred street, sanctuary, temples, basilica and the great baptistery, theatre, stoa, baths, palaces and circuit wall; notes on sites in the surrounding district; and notes on access and facilities for visiting. The author, we learn, is son of 'the father of Albanian archaeology'.

I.P. STEPHENSON. *Roman infantry equipment: the later Empire*. 128 pages, 59 figures, 22 colour plates. 1999. Stroud: Tempus; 07524-1410-0 hardback £18.99 & \$29.99.

*Roman infantry equipment* is highly specialized but presented most attractively for a broad readership — how to explain the paradox? The focus is on the troubled period, AD 192–284. After a brief introduction, there follow 17 sections on particular sets of weaponry and armour and a short chapter 'On strategy and tactics'. Evidence is drawn from all parts of the Empire. The intrinsic keys to this book are the writing style and the pictures. The text is written deftly and simply. The pictures are especially striking: clear line-drawings and sketches, bright photographs of reconstructed equipment, and a very effective series of water-colours. The extrinsic key, of course, is that the topic has a wide following among hobbyists. Its shortcoming is that the bibliography does little to relate the topic to other aspects of the Romans' and their enemies' lives. Compare UNDERWOOD, next.

#### Northwestern Europe

RICHARD UNDERWOOD. *Anglo-Saxon weapons and warfare*. 159 pages, 83 figures, 25 colour plates. 1999. Stroud: Tempus 07524-1412-7 hardback £18.99, \$29.99.

Dr UNDERWOOD does for the Anglo-Saxons and their aficionados much what Mr STEPHENSON does for the Romans and theirs (see above). Most of the first half of the book deals with missiles, hand combat weapons and armour; but UNDERWOOD does go on to assess the social and economic context of war, including how the weapons were made. Like STEPHENSON, though at much better length, he considers strategy and tactics, including something of the sociology of battle, drawing on ancient Saxon, Gaelic and Scandinavian literature, and also pointing out, much more strongly than STEPHENSON, the landscape settings for attack and defence (including reference to archaeological sites). The illustrations are to the same excellent and effective standard as Mr STEPHENSON's, including reconstructions of both equipment and combat. A sound basic reading list is appended.

H. SARFATIJ, W.J.H. VERWERS & P.J. WOLTERING (ed.). *In discussion with the past: archaeological studies presented to W.A. van Es*. 349 pages, illustrations. 1999. Zwolle: Stichting Promotie Archeologie; 90-801044-4-2 hardback fl70.

W.A. van Es is best known, outside The Netherlands, for his first major research, the analysis of the buildings at Wijster, and for his investigation of Dorestad. It seems amazing that he has retired only recently! The 35 main papers (in English) assembled for his *Festschrift* by Dr SARFATIJ *et al.* cover the archaeology of housing (of course) and cemeteries, economic and environmental archaeology, analysis of finds, military archaeology and archaeological resource management, among many other topics. Ranging from the Early Bronze Age to the 19th century, the greater proportion are on sites in The Netherlands. E. Knol & X. Bardet describe the 8th-century weaponry from Godlinze rediscovered and recently conserved in Groningen Museum (*cf.* UNDERWOOD, above). M. Miedema's topographic analysis of *terp* villages will appeal especially to landscape archaeologists. Several papers deal with links abroad. B. Ambrosiani speculates on the apparent shift of commercial interest at Birka from Dorestad and the North Sea to the Baltic region in the late 9th century (*cf.* PILTZ in 'Exchange . . .', below). H. Hamerow and W.H. Zimmerman, on Saxon houses and the problems of feeding cattle over winter (*cf.* *Environmental Archaeology* in 'Journals', below), respectively, both draw implications for the Saxon colonization of England. J.A. Bakker considers the drawings of Stonehenge made by Willem Schellinks in 1662.

Two titles follow now on other aspects of rural landscape. Then come notices of two books and two booklets on urban sites.

ANDERS KALIFF. *Arkeologi i Östergötland: scener ur ett landskaps förhistoria* (OPIA 20). 163 pages, 59 figures. 1999. Uppsala: Uppsala University, Department of Archaeology & Ancient History; 91-506-1346-4, ISSN 1100-6358 paperback.

PETER FOWLER & IAN BLACKWELL. *The land of Lettice Sweetapple: an English countryside explored*. 160 pages, 32 colour plates, 71 figures. 1998. Stroud: Tempus; 07524-1415-1 hardback £18.99 & US\$29.99.

ANDERS KALIFF assembles new data from rescue work along with older information to reveal the development of Östergötland, south of Stockholm, from the Mesolithic to the Middle Ages. A longstanding view of this province as comprising three subdistricts is borne out. Population grew from the later Neolithic onward. During the Bronze Age, there were influences from south and east of the Baltic Sea. Dispersed farmsteads of the earlier Iron Age were subsumed in an increasingly hierarchical settlement pattern, with various specialized sites, which seems eventually to have centred on Linköping — although there may have been several more or less autonomous centres of power in the early Middle Ages. The author draws comparisons with Denmark and speculates about the political and economic processes. The Swedish

text is provided with a substantial summary, captions to the figures, and an abstract, all in English.

West Overton is in the classic archaeological region of Wessex. Living here 200 years ago, Ms Sweetapple witnessed the enclosure (privatization) of the common fields which, as in so many other places in England at the time, marked a major turning point in the development of the landscape. Prof. FOWLER has now completed a long study of the development of this and the neighbouring parish of Fyfield, and his book is due to be followed by a series of technical reports on the research. The larger part of the book summarizes the principal findings with discussion of his methods. Archival research, topographic and place-name analysis, varieties of survey, problem-directed excavation, and environmental archaeology are described briefly, illustrating the archaeology of boundaries, field systems, settlements and buildings. The latter part of the book sums up the story by means of a historical narrative from c. 8000 BC to the enclosure. The reading list is good on both the region in particular and landscape archaeology in general. Written in an easy, engaging style, this is one of only a handful of case studies in landscape archaeology and history published with beginners and the general reader in mind.

ALISON TAYLOR. *Cambridge — the hidden history*. 159 pages, 82 figures, 31 colour plates. 1999. Stroud & Charleston (SC): Tempus; 0-7524-1436-4 hardback £18.99.

RICHARD HAYMAN & WENDY HORTON. *Ironbridge: history and guide*. 160 pages, 75 b&w figures, 25 colour plates. 1999. Stroud & Charleston (SC): Tempus; 0-7524-1460-7 paperback £14.99 & \$24.99.

What other town in the world is so well known to so many archaeologists as Cambridge? *Cambridge* traces a clear and fluently written narrative from the Mesolithic to 1900. The approach is topographic and archaeological but social history and the all-important history of the monastic and academic institutions are developed consistently. The most interesting chapter is on the Saxon period, in which the authoress breaks with a century of thought to suggest that the late Saxon town did not grow from nodes either side of the Great Bridge but was planned as a string of villages marked now by the old churches. There has been mumbling along these lines but this is the boldest statement yet, so it is a pity that more of the evidence is not laid out. There is a chapter on the great Midsummer and Stourbridge Fairs and one on Chesterton, Cherry Hinton and Trumpington. Details of early maps and 18th- and 19th-century drawings and paintings are used well; but members of Corpus will be puzzled to learn that they could have seen Pembroke College over the way in 1815 (Plate 21).

*Ironbridge* traces the history and archaeology of the hearth of the British Industrial Revolution in six short chapters on the industries and technologies

with one on the eponymous bridge and one on aspects of social history which points out that, for all of the masters' piety and paternalism, the work was dangerous and that both prayer and play were intense. The rest of the book leads the reader around the chief points of interest in Coalbrookdale, Ironbridge and the surrounding villages. Technical drawings, contemporary maps, portraits and documentary photographs illustrate the text to excellent effect.

CHARLES KIGHTLY. *Barley Hall, York*. 32 pages, colour and b&w figures. 1999. York: Barley Hall Trust; 0-9535394-0-7 paperback £3.95 (+£1 postage).

LINZI SIMPSON. *Temple Bar West: director's findings* (Temple Bar Archaeological Report 5). vi+34 pages, 21 figures, 24 colour plates. 1999. Dublin: Temple Bar Properties; 1-874202-15-X paperback IRL£8.95.

Around an alley that was once an internal corridor, the timber remains of a Medieval monastic hostel were discovered in the middle of York during the 1980s. It was recorded by the York Archaeological Trust, restored, and named for the architectural historian Maurice Barley. Mr KIGHTLY's brightly illustrated booklet explains the history of the site and of its discovery and reconstruction and describes aspects of the building technology and the textiles, crockery and cutlery that would have been used.

Close to the river in central Dublin, excavations in 1996–8 exposed housing and plough-marks which were covered over by village development in the late 9th century. In clear, accessible style, Ms SIMPSON describes the research, summarizes the sequence of the principal features discovered, and discusses the implications for domestic life. Amply illustrated and produced to a high standard, this leaflet is an excellent example of promotion to the general public – except that it must be too expensive to sell widely.

Here next is a couple of reprints/new editions (for the second, see ANTIQUITY 73, pp. 206–7).

MALCOLM TODD. *Roman Britain* (3rd edition). xi+252 pages, 38 figures, 4 plates. 1999. Oxford & Malden (MA): Blackwell; 0-631-21463-1 hardback £50 & \$59.95, 0-631-21464-X paperback £14.99 & \$26.95.

IAN ARMIT. *Scotland's hidden history*. 160 pages, 25 colour plates, 87 figures. 1998. Stroud & Charleston (SC): Tempus; 0-7524-1474-7 paperback £14.99 & \$24.99.

Prof. TODD's new edition is a refinement in improved format. The text has been expanded in places (e.g. speculation as to the whereabouts of the fleet granary in Scotland) and winnowed down for topics clarified by recent research (e.g. the 5th century). Figures have been replaced and added. The bibliography has been expanded, including additional older references. The book is now in larger format with a clearer design.

GINA JOHNSON. *Archaeology and forestry in Ireland*. 110 pages, 19 b&w and colour figures. 1998.

Kilkenny: Heritage Council; 1-901137-02-3 paperback IRL£7.

*Archaeology and forestry* is intended to raise awareness of issues in preservation. Over all, like the UK, Eire is comparatively bare of trees; but forestry development and policy in general appears to be lagging slightly behind the UK. The new document is timely, then. It surveys current practice and the policy context and includes comparison with the UK and, more specifically, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. It calls for 'consciousness raising' among organizations concerned with management and planting of woodland, urging the value of consultation with archaeologists. It warns that archaeological data bases are not reliable on the distribution and condition of sites in woodland. It recommends a series of measures for ensuring the preservation of resources, including consultation and survey prior to planting and consistent compliance with management plans. It urges that archaeological resources should be counted as assets and, in particular, recommends that forestry should be planned with not only site preservation in mind but also visual relationships between sites. The report recommends that samples of woodland should be studied with a view to developing policy.

There are two new booklets on small finds and one on rather big ones (details below). M.J. CUDDEFORD illustrates types of buckles from the Roman, Saxon, Medieval, Tudor & Stuart and Hanoverian periods. The Roman examples are drawn from both Britain and the Continent but cover of the later periods is mainly of England, with a few references to the Continent and colonies. The companion booklet has only a brief historical introduction. It deals with buttons by distinguishing those from military and civilian uniforms and ordinary civilian buttons from decorative ones. Both booklets are generously illustrated; and both include bibliographies (who would have imagined that they could be so long?). B.N. CURRYER covers the history of anchors from the Classical period on, mainly with reference to Britain — but, of course, British specimens are found the world over (cf. STANFORTH & NASH in 'Exchange . . .', below). She distinguishes different types, considers how they were made, and also touches on the cables and chains. The book is amply illustrated.

MICHAEL J. CUDDEFORD. *Identifying buckles*. 39 pages, b&w illustrations. 1996. Chelmsford: Mount Publications; 1-900571-01-3 paperback £4.95 (+55p p&p).

ALAN MEREDITH, GILLIAN MEREDITH & MICHAEL J. CUDDEFORD. *Identifying buttons*. 44 pages, b&w and colour illustrations. 1997. Chelmsford: Mount Publications; 1-900571-02-1 paperback £4.95 (+55p p&p).

BETTY NELSON CURRYER. *Anchors: an illustrated history*. 160 pages, b&w illustrations. 1999. London: Chatham; 1-86176-080-9 paperback £14.95.

## Americas

JOHN F. SCOTT. *Latin American art ancient to modern*. xxiv+240 pages, 163 b&w figures, 29 colour plates, 6 maps, 1 table. 1999. Gainesville (FL): University Press of Florida; 0-8130-1645-2 hardback.

Prof. SCOTT's new book is disappointing on four grounds. (1) Latin America began in the 1490s: to treat continental precolumbian history without the North is like teaching anatomy with a specimen lacking arms. Of course, the book is for students taking courses designed by others; but why perpetuate the concept? (2) There is not enough anthropology to make sense of the iconography or even some of the quality, let alone what art is and its role in history. How, for example, were Olmec or Chavín sculptures used in ceremonies? Or how much did the quality of Aztec arts depend on a most unusual patronage and manipulation of skills? Indeed, there is little or no discussion of what the Indians thought about 'art'. While the treatment is admirable, in general, for its compactness and simplicity, it descends, at points, to the simplistic: to sum up the last 800 years or so before Columbus as 'the Integration period' begs too many questions about sociological, economic and political conditions and processes. In general, for students of art history of all subjects, the phrase 'high culture' is very tricky. Where, on the other hand, the conceptual ground is smoother, Prof. SCOTT moves with cracking conciseness, as, for example, in the very interesting and discriminating passage on the 20th-century 'Mexican mural renaissance', replete with cross-reference to prehispanic motifs. (3) Some of the interpretations of critical details are inadequately qualified. Arguably, for instance, the central figure in La Venta Altar 4 is *not* restraining the lateral figure(s) — very important for understanding the development of Olmec government. (4) Although the design is nice and smart, there are hints of haste: unedited word-processing which creates real puzzles in places; and very variable quality of illustrations.

NICHOLAS J. SAUNDERS (ed.). *Icons of power: feline symbolism in the Americas*. xiv+298 pages, 75 figures, 6 tables. 1998. London & New York (NY): Routledge; 0-415-15327-1 hardback £35.

*Icons of power* comprises nine enjoyable studies plus an introductory chapter. Most of the papers are archaeological but there are a couple of ethnographic ones, one that blends the two kinds of data, and one crossing between archaeology and history. The authors concur that the symbols only make sense in context but two or three allow themselves barely enough words to ground their observations. Elizabeth Benson explains that the jaguar 'is a symbol of the most important elements in . . . life . . . , of might on all levels' (p. 72) and A. Cordy-Collins argues that the prehistoric Cupisnique/Tembladera and Moche symbolism refers to shamanic access to this

power. P.G. Roe and T.D. Dillehay carry out varieties of structuralist analysis, concluding that images of the cats stalk through South American stories and rites both by design and through associations which elude deliberate control. J.H. Gunnerson describes the merger, among the Pueblos, of the puma icon with that of the bears of North America. G.R. Hamell deals with the lower Great Lakes and rounds the book off by responding to Dr Benson, in effect, with the suggestion that feline symbolism is a pan-American feature of shamanism (cf. LEWIS-WILLIAMS & BLUNDELL in 'Rock art', below). That, of course, is the sort of conclusion that everyone is straining for; and the contributors to this book have just held back from coming out with it fully. That is wise because it is such an important idea and so very difficult to demonstrate. The book looks carefully produced and has few glitches.

Next in the pile come a couple of case-studies in 'state formation' from Mesoamerica.

RICHARD E. BLANTON, GARY M. FEINMAN, STEPHEN A. KOWALEWSKI & LINDA M. NICHOLAS. *Ancient Oaxaca: the Monte Albán state*. ix+153 pages, 43 figures. 1999. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 0-521-57114-6 hardback £32.50 & \$49.95, 0-521-57787-X paperback £10.95 & \$17.95.

CARMEN VARELA TORRECILLA. *El Clásico Medio en el noroccidente de Yucatán: la fase Oxkintok Regional en Oxkintok (Yucatán) como paradigma* (Paris Monographs in American Archaeology 2, BAR International series 739). 324 pages, 151 figures, 45 tables. 1998. Oxford: Archaeopress; 0-86054-935-6 paperback £35.

The Valley of Oaxaca has become best known, in the English-reading world, as the hearth of the first state in the Americas and that is the topic of *Ancient Oaxaca*. It focuses on the period 1000–100 BC, taking care to explain key issues (social stratification, defence, commerce, the nature of government) and to relate them to wider theoretical concerns (earlier theories of state formation, world system theory, core & periphery — and cf. KRISTIANSEN & ROWLANDS in 'Exchange . . .', below). The integration of survey data at different scales with details of excavated sites, the sense of local and regional geography, and their alertness to the relevance of changes in the production and distribution of pottery remain typical features of the writers' thinking. It will be a pleasure to teach with this up-to-date little book.

Northwestern Yucatan was a distinctive province in the Late Classic period and survived the Maya 'collapse' better than other regions. Reviewing the evidence of pottery, stonework, and other materials, Dr VARELA now argues that the investigation at Oxkintok by the Spanish Archaeological Mission in Mexico (MAEM) has shown that there was steady development from the later Formative and through

the 'Middle Classic' period, by which time the elements of the local Puuc style were discernible (*cf.* HAYIM in 'Egypt & Palestine', above). By the Late Classic, state government seems to be established. It is interesting that she finds the concepts of 'peer polity interaction' and the 'Middle Classic' so helpful, since it has long looked as though exchange with Central Mexico may have been something of an Achilles' heel for the great cities of the Peten. Dr VARELA finds that the important exchanges in her district were with the southern Maya, not the west; but she does not allow that exchange opened the door to catalytic diffusion (see 'Exchange . . .', below). Did intenser exchange with remoter, perhaps more powerful, partners render kingdoms in both the Peten and the southern highlands susceptible to 'collapse' while gentler development without farther connections ensured greater stability in northwestern Yucatan?

✍ Next down the pile is a couple of ethnographic studies, the first also from Yucatan.

FABIENNE DE PIERREBOURG. *L'espace domestique maya: une approche ethnoarchéologique au Yucatan (Mexique)* (Paris Monographs in American Archaeology 3, BAR International series 764). xiii+356 pages, 150 figures, 44 tables, 34 b&w plates. 1999. Oxford: Archaeopress; 0-86054-975-5 paperback £36.

MARK D. ELSON. *Expanding the view of the Hohokam platform mounds: an ethnographic perspective* (Anthropological Papers of the University of Arizona 63). xi+145 pages, 33 figures, 8 tables. 1998. Tucson (AZ): University of Arizona Press; 0-8165-1841-6 paperback \$16.95.

Ms DE PIERREBOURG's very big study of traditional Maya house life ancient and modern is based on her own intensive surveys with controls from data collected by Mexican and French colleagues. She surveyed distributions of artefacts through villages as well as houses; and she studied yards and kitchen gardens as well as the dwellings. At the household level, she carried out archaeological surveys both of finds and of chemical residues. She draws careful comparisons with archaeological data from sites elsewhere in Yucatan and from Tonina. Ms DE PIERREBOURG now urges archaeologists to open wider areas of excavation for study, although she admits that the distribution of activities and artefacts is subject to many factors other than mere utility, which makes interpretation more difficult. There are lots of data packed in here, and it would be interesting to see how they can be used by other scholars.

'Platform mounds' are a type of archaeological feature long familiar in the Phoenix sub-region of Arizona but doubt persists as to whether they were domestic or ceremonial. Dr ELSON has scoured a sample of the literature on recent and historically documented chiefdoms in the Pacific, central Chile

and southeastern North America for 'ethnographic parallels'. He found that platforms may be both ceremonial and the sites of chiefs' dwellings — chiefs' lives are more public than indians', so to say. Turning back to the archaeology, he noticed that the 'platform mounds' vary in size, date and duration of use. Some of this variation correlates with aspects of local environment, including the onset of drier conditions after *c.* 1250. Dr ELSON concludes that the mounds were sites of authority which can be related to the management of agricultural opportunity.

✍ CHEVALIER *et al.* (details below) have assembled 10 short papers: on rock art and on animal bones in Brazil, on camelids and arable in the Andes, on Preceramic stone tools from the Central Peruvian coast and on settlements in northern Peru, on survey and excavation in Ecuador (arguing against immigration from the north), on the development of the Nasca phase in the Chincha Valley, Peru, and on the historical topography of Cuzco. They are in French, Spanish or English with short abstracts in the corresponding languages.

ALEXANDRE CHEVALIER, LEONID VELARDE & ISABELLE CHENAL-VELARDE (ed.). *L'Amérique du Sud des chasseurs-cueilleurs à l'Empire Inca: actes des journées d'étude d'archéologie précolombienne* (BAR International series 746). 138 pages, 72 figures, 3 tables. 1999. Oxford: Archaeopress; 0-86054-940-2 paperback £27.

### Exchange, trade — and diffusion?

Presumably on account of contemporary experience, there is a move afoot to rehabilitate the concept of cultural diffusion in prehistory, albeit on a more critical basis than obtained in a previous generation of research. The next three titles are on long-distance trade. They are followed by a pair on pilgrimage and the exchange of religious ideas; and by a theoretical tome (and, for another, *cf.* WEBBER in 'More megalithism?', below).

ELISABETH PILTZ (ed.). *Byzantium and Islam in Scandinavia: acts of a symposium at Uppsala University June 15–16 1996*. (Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology 126). 139 pages, b&w and colour illustrations. 1998. Göteborg: Paul Åström; 91-7081-151-2 ISSN 0081-8232 paperback £15.

JONATHAN M. WOODING. *Communication and commerce along the western sealanes AD 400–800* (BAR International series 654). iv+ 126 pages, 17 figures. 1996. Oxford: Tempvs Reparatum; 0-86054-843-0 paperback £26.

MARK STANFORTH & MIKE NASH. *Chinese export porcelain from the wreck of the 'Sydney Cove' (1797)* (Australian Institute for Maritime Archaeology Special Publication 12). viii+46 pages, 39 figures, 16 colour plates. 1998. 1-875-495-24-X, ISSN 0812-9444 paperback AUS\$20 (+postage) & US\$20.

Dr PILTZ has assembled a dozen papers (plus introduction and a brief conclusion) on historical, art-historical and archaeological evidence for direct and indirect contact from the east Mediterranean in Medieval Scandinavia. Between them, the authors assess trade, diffusion of agricultural technology, religious iconography and the arts. The papers of most interest to most readers of this journal are likely to be those of E. Mikkelsen on trade goods and coins from Birka and other sites (*cf.* SARFATIJ *et al.* in 'North-west Europe', above), J. Steen Jensen & A. Kromann and T. Talvio on Middle Eastern and Central Asian coins, E. PILTZ on runic, literary and numismatic evidence for exchange (with theoretical musings on the develop of markets), and (somewhat to the contrary) W. Duczko's reflections on the implications of Islamic coins in Scandinavia and Russia. All but two of the papers are in English (the others German and French).

Dr LANE's topic has been somewhat neglected of late, as he explains. After reviewing the literature of the past century, he considers the geography of the western seaboard and the technology of sailing. Then the core of the book is devoted to reviewing the literary references and the evidence of pottery and glass for exchange between Britain and Ireland, Gaul and Spain. He concludes that the case for diffusion is weak and draws the moral that future work on this theme must rest on critical appraisal of the archaeological evidence. See also the picture review of *Wonderful things*.

STANFORTH & NASH describe the types of porcelain vessels recovered off Tasmania from a ship bringing booze from Calcutta. They describe the Chinese export industry and the historical evidence for the wares in Australia as well as earlier archaeological evidence there and in South Africa. They urge that such material deserves to be recorded in detail for what it shows of how 'attitudes were established ... communicated, maintained and mediated' in the young colony (p. 42).

PETER YEOMAN. *Pilgrimage in Medieval Scotland*. 128 pages, 92 b&w figures, 12 colour plates. 1999. London: B.T. Batsford; 07134-8174-9 paperback £16.99.

KWANGSU LEE. *Buddhist ideas and rituals in early India and Korea*. 196 pages. 1998. New Delhi: Manohar; 81-7304-221-7 hardback Rs400.

The larger part of Mr YEOMAN's very interesting and attractive book describes the main shrines by region. There is a brief introduction to the principles of Medieval pilgrimage, a chapter on the pilgrimages of King James IV, and one on pilgrimages abroad. Appended is a list of 26 destinations which can be visited in Scotland and Orkney and a good list of books for further reading. The illustrations of sites and paraphernalia are well-chosen and varied.

Dr LEE bases his study on documents, not archaeology, but the book looks most interesting. With due

attention paid to rites and the institutional background, it is full of implications for a study of the material evidence. There was little direct contact between India and Korea, we are told, but there were clear correspondences. (See also THOMPSON at the end of this article.)

✉ It is an exciting combination, the selected papers of KRISTIANSEN & ROWLANDS (see below). Participating sympathetically but critically in research on the big old issues about social development and evolution, one of the main themes that they have developed — independently, and with other colleagues (two included in the new book) — is the role of exchange between societies. The 16 papers now gathered have all appeared before (1978–95) except for the discursive and reflective theoretical introduction and a short review, by Prof. ROWLANDS, of the nature of colonialism and of archaeological approaches to it. The papers are grouped under the headings of 'social transformation', 'Centre–periphery' (mostly KRISTIANSEN) and 'Contact and colonialism' (ROWLANDS).

KRISTIAN KRISTIANSEN & MICHAEL ROWLANDS. *Social transformations in archaeology: global and local perspectives*. x+438 pages, 44 figures, 37 maps, 5 tables. 1998. London & New York (NY): Routledge; 0-415-06789-8 hardback £65 & \$110.

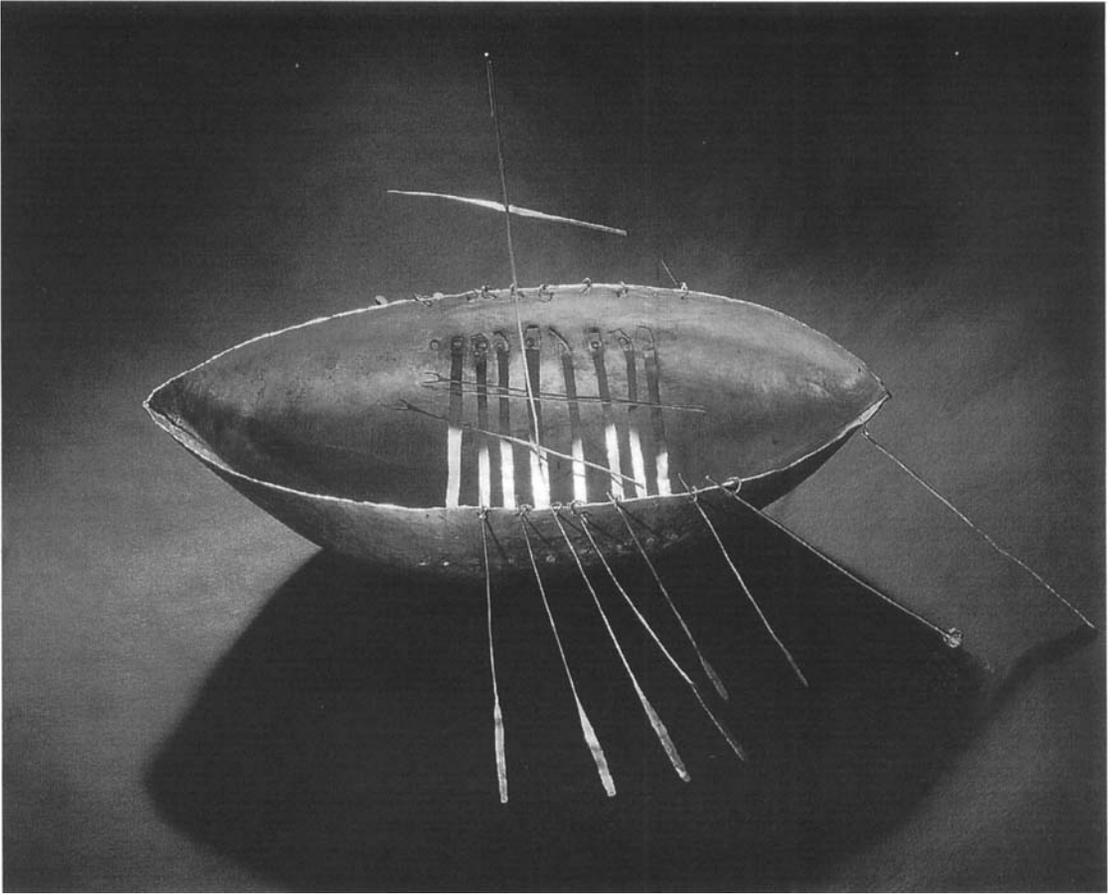
### Environmental opportunity and hazard

B.V. ERIKSEN & L.G. STRAUS (ed.). *As the world warmed: human adaptations across the Pleistocene/Holocene boundary*. (*Quaternary International* 49/50 (1998)). iv+200 pages. 1998. Oxford: INQUA/Elsevier Science; ISSN 1040-6182 paperback NLfl334 & \$192.

C.M. MILLS & G. COLES (ed.). *Life on the edge: human settlement and marginality* (Symposia of the Association for Environmental Archaeology 13). xii+188 pages, figures. 1998. Oxford: Oxbow; 1-900188-57-0 paperback £30.

✉ Archaeologists have argued, during the past 20 years, as to what kinds of social and historical causes matter most. Depending on the answer, they will tend to work at one scale or another, temporal and, or, spatial. The contributors to the next title sought to examine regional responses to 'global warming' at the end of the Pleistocene. Those to the second were scrutinising small or very precise samples of evidence for strictly local developments. Then, on specific events, read on to 'Catastrophe!'.

The volume on climate change at the end of the Ice Age (ERIKSEN & STRAUS) opens with the recommendation by Prof. Müller-Beck that if (as their readings of ethnography suggest) events and small group interaction do matter, then archaeologists must refine their control of chronology and insist on more



*This gold model of a seagoing ship from Broighter, Ireland, is shown in PAUL G. BAHN (ed.), Wonderful things: uncovering the world's great archaeological treasures [256 pages, colour illustrations. 1999. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson; 0-297-82327-2 hardback £25]. He has gathered a fine team of contributors to provide brief but fruitful accounts of 'treasures', assembled in groups from Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe and the Americas and backed up by a bibliography. Imaginative and complicated, the book's design gives an appropriate sense of luxury and achieves a delicate balance between archaeology and the publisher's evident assumption about readers' fetishism. In his preface, Dr BAHN explains that 'mindless greed and destruction ... continue ... to feed the ever-increasing hunger of the worldwide antiquities trade' (p.9).*

detailed horizontal recording in excavation. Yet he admits that the technical decisions on what to record, and how much, should be informed by consensus among practitioners. There follow two papers on the recolonization of the British Isles, and three on successive colonizations and strategies of adaption in adjacent regions of the Continent, including assessment of conditions for preservation of remains and gaps in the record, such as the relative or, indeed, absolute lack of evidence for the Mesolithic in the Rhineland. J.E. Aura *et al.* show that the oscillations of settlement were less pronounced in Spain and Portugal. P. Mitchell and colleagues report on regional varieties of hunting and exchange in south-

ern Africa. Two papers summarize the increasing but still comparatively crude evidence for occupation and successive strategies of hunting and gathering in Siberia, China and Tibet; and three on North America show that here too, whether or not on account of relatively lower population at the time, the grain of information about changing ways of life and technologies is coarser than for western Europe but that, needless to say, research is lively. R.G. Cooke assesses the state of the art in studies of stone tools and technology in Central America and northern South America. L.A. Borrero *et al.* show that research is moving apace in southern South America but they have yet to make sense of the relation between the

new environmental evidence and the artefact assemblages. In short, the volume corresponds to several of Prof. Müller-Beck's recommendations by throwing up many implications for comparisons, some of which indicate ways for research to catch up in certain regions. All the papers in this valuable review are in English.

The two dozen papers assembled through the Association for Environmental Archaeology by MILLS & COLES concern geographical marginality. The book is not just an investigation of environmental determination although most of the papers are studies of farming or climate in places that would have been considered, in some sense, remote (eight on Scotland, four on the Northern Isles, three on Ireland, three or four on England, one on Holland, a couple on the Red Sea). A few examples may serve to indicate what a lively collection they make. S. Stallibrass assesses the likelihood that different patterns in assemblages of Romano-British cattle bones measure native cultural continuity or acculturation. I. Armit reports that Iron Age coastal brochs were built in the Western Isles at the time that habitability of the islands' interiors was declining. J. Bell describes agricultural intensification by peasants in Ireland c. 1740–1840 and warns that it would be very difficult to understand on the basis of archaeological evidence alone. With both botanical and faunal evidence, J. Bond and L. van Wijngaarden-Bakker demonstrate that scope was found to select for aspects of farming in Orkney c. 500–900 and in Iron Age Holland, respectively. M.G.L. Baillie assesses climatic conditions and economic fluctuations from the evidence of tree rings (536–545, 648–720, 780–1030, 1340s, 1740s, 1840s; and see 'Catastrophe!', below); and C. de Rouffignac summarizes new evidence suggestive of anthropogenic degradation in the Welsh Marches. J. Tierney reports on ethnoarchaeology of tree management for fodder in Greece. (Cf. *Environmental Archaeology* in 'Journals', below.) K.J. Edwards & G. Whittington contribute a methodological paper on interpreting pollen data.

### Catastrophe!

BENNY J. PEISER, TREVOR PALMER & MARK E. BAILEY (ed.). *Natural catastrophes during Bronze Age civilisations: archaeological, geological, astronomical and cultural perspectives* (BAR International series 728). 252 pages, illustrated. 1998. Oxford: Archaeopress; 0-86054-916-X paperback £36.

DAVID KEYS. *Catastrophe: an investigation into the origins of the modern world*. xvi+360 pages, 34 b&w figures. London: Century; 0-7126-8069-1 hardback £16.99.

ROBERT M. BEST. *Noah's Ark and the Ziusudra Epic: Sumerian origins of the Flood Myth*. 303 pages, 13 figures, 10 tables. 1999. Fort Myers (FL): Enlil; 0-9667840-1-4 hardback \$38.

With 'panic-stricken screams . . . grown men — after taking laxatives — had to dirty themselves' (*Natural catastrophes* p. 172): G. Heinsohn ascribes the origins of religious blood sacrifice and other violent rites to the first experience of terror among survivors of crashing comets. The general message of this paper and its 18 companions is that it is merely beams & motes in the eye that prevent recognition of the world's susceptibility to disaster. Archaeological evidence is marshalled to show that earthquakes and volcanoes, meteorites and comets have often wrought havoc before, so that there is no ground for complacency about the future. It is pointed out that, all around the east Mediterranean and as far as Akkad, the Indus and even China, cultures collapsed in the later 3rd millennium BC. M.G.L. Baillie collates dendrochronology, data from ice cores and ancient myths and chronicles to confirm that regional or global disasters do seem to have occurred then and about 500 and again a thousand years later as well as in about AD 540 (cf. MILLS & COLES in 'Environmental opportunity and hazard', above). Stonehenge, argues D. Steel, was not originally 'luni-solar' [*sic*] but 'a cometary catastrophe predictor' (cf. BURL in 'More Megalithismus?', below), while long barrows were really a sort of air-raid shelters. E.W. MacKie, reviewing a range of evidence from the later prehistory of France and Britain, suggests, among other things, that the vitrified forts of Scotland could have been designed, originally, to withstand earthquakes. However far tongues are in cheek here, it is true, as Stephen Jay Gould has stressed repeatedly, that we tend to find what we expect to see. So watch out — and see 'Bones', below.

Like Prof. Baillie, DAVID KEYS, the well-known journalist, has latched onto the mid 6th century and collated and compared evidence of simultaneous disturbances in several parts of Europe, the Far East, Mesoamerica and Peru. Not only did civilizations collapse, he argues, but also there were various consequences in other regions. Many of his findings are derived from academic research; but he has the vision and stamina (and the consultants, no doubt) for a more inclusive view than most scholars can obtain. On the other hand, of course, he vaults blithely over the evidence in several places where the academics stumble on interpretive doubts and methodological provisions.

More comforting, Mr BEST claims to have worked out that the story of Noah is really a Sumerian legend about the king of Shuruppak, who performed a sacrifice of thanksgiving for the survival of a bargeful of grain, beer and, of course, livestock. This barge, he thinks, had been caught in a flood of the Euphrates. The argument is set out minutely and backed up with excerpts from sources including the Book of Genesis and the Epic of Gilgamesh plus a long bibliography of secondary sources.

Many a student of palaeography has noticed ruefully that later Medieval hands are often harder to decipher than earlier ones. FRANCIS NEWTON explains that Monte Cassino Abbey developed a fine, distinctive script which reached its greatest influence under the two abbots of 1058-1105. He argues that the script owed much to the clear technique of the scribe, Grimoald, and goes on minutely to probe his secrets and the hands of his successors. Prof. NEWTON's *The scriptorium and library at Monte Cassino, 1058-1105* [xxvi+421 pages, 82 figures, 4 colour plates, 212 b&w plates. 1999. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 0-521-58395-0; hardback; £110, US\$175] is a big book produced to high standard and generously illustrated. Our picture is taken from the copy of Orosius's *Historiae adversus Paganos*.



### Writing

MARC VAN DE MIEROOP. *Cuneiform texts and the writing of history*. xvi+196 pages, 6 b&w plates, 4 tables. 1999. London & New York (NY): Routledge; 0-415-19533-0; paperback £13.99 & \$22.99.

J. CHADWICK, L. GODART, J.T. KILLEN, J.-P. OLIVER, A. SACCONI & I.A. SAKELLARAKIS. *Corpus of Mycenaean inscriptions from Knossos* (Volume IV; *Incunabula Graeca* 88). 296 pages, illustrations, 2 tables. 1998. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (and Istituti Editoriali e Poligrafici Internazionali); 0-521-32025-9 hardback £150.

VAN DE MIEROOP points out that, for various reasons of modern cultural history, the Western atti-

tude to Mesopotamia is ambivalent and riddled with anachronistic and ethnocentric assumptions. He explains the scope of cuneiform documents first by distinguishing their contents (administrative, chronicles, letters etc.). He discusses Mesopotamian attitudes to writing. Then he shows how historians can glean both official views and faint indications of the illiterate majority. A great part of Mesopotamian writing concerns economics, so Prof. VAN DE MIEROOP considers different approaches to the topic among historians and anthropologists before discussing the example of texts from Ur III Lagash. He rounds off the main part of his treatment with a discussion of gender: pointing out that 'women were active as public

figures' (p. 159), he warns readers not to be as surprised by this as were the Greeks and Romans.

CHADWICK *et al.* complete the inventory of Linear B tablets at Iraklion Museum with items 8000–9947 and a cumulative index of scribes, series and sets for the present volume and its three predecessors, along with addenda and corrigenda to the latter, a concordance to tablet numbers, a list of the inventory numbers of the sealings in the Museum, a list of 46 other tablets in seven collections in England, plus a tablet in Athens, and tables of syllabograms and ideograms. Photographs and drawings are presented for each inscription — or just a sketch for those that could not be traced — with transcriptions and notes provided alongside. The book is produced to the highest standard, as befits both the subject and the way that these volumes are likely to be used by specialists for generations to come. So this one wins ANTIQUITY's laurels for the quarter!

### Rock art

A.N. MAR'JAŠEV, A.A. GORJAČEV & S.A. POTAPOV. *Kazakhstan 1: Choix de pétroglyphes du Semirech'e (Felsbilder im Siebenstromland)* (Répertoire des pétroglyphes d'Asie Centrale 5). 142 pages, 4 maps, 182 figures. 1998. Paris: de Boccard; 2-907431-12-9 ISSN 0989-5817 paperback.

DAVID LEWIS-WILLIAMS & GEOFFREY BLUNDELL. *Fragile heritage: a rock art fieldguide*. viii+224 pages, b&w and colour figures, colour plates, tables. 1998. Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press; 1-86814-332-5 paperback.

MAR'JAŠEV *et al.* present a catalogue of 182 rock-art sites in Kazakhstan, grouped by district and period (Bronze Age, Iron Age (Scythian) and Early Turkic). Most are illustrated with simple ink drawings but some are shown with black & white photographs. The pictures are mostly of animals but hunting scenes are common, and there are some of charioteering and what look like combats. Among the Bronze Age motifs are anthropomorphic figures with large heads and strange features. The authors assess themes, iconography, styles and chronology. Apparently, many of these carvings are published here for the first time or have only appeared before in sources difficult to trace.

Prof. LEWIS-WILLIAMS claims that the rock 'art of Africa is taking its place as a . . . heritage of all humankind' (p. 4). He explains that most of the finest examples in South Africa are thought to date from about 2000 years ago back to as early as 25,000 BC. Most of it is San, then, and, with the help of ethnography, he explains that it seems to illustrate features of San world view, notably shamanism (notably, a theme of transformation between people and antelope — *cf.* SAUNDERS in 'Americas', above). The art takes various forms. The guide describes 32 sites

and six museums, province by province. Basic information is provided on access, facilities and conditions but, in the interest of preservation, in many cases, precise directions are withheld so that visitors must consult the wardens first. A list of a dozen more-or-less recent books is appended. The guide is a very attractive handbook most stylishly produced and quite superbly illustrated.

### Language

ROGER BLENCH & MATTHEW SPRIGGS (ed.). *Language change and cultural transformation (Archaeology and language IV, One World Archaeology 35)*. xxii+253 pages, 32 figures, 39 tables. 1999. London & New York (NY): Routledge; 0-415-11786-0 hardback £75.

The last of BLENCH & SPRIGGS's quartet comprises eight studies (for our review of volumes I & II, see pp. 708–9, below). Dr BLENCH reassesses the derivations of the African languages, proposing a scheme of three phyla, including the Chadic languages as a branch separated from the Cushitic through migration with herds. He is sceptical about the proposal that common items of vocabulary among the pygmies indicate a lost language, preferring to regard the pygmies as relatives of the neighbouring cultivators. He suspects, in stead, that a number of languages now isolated around the rain forest are derived from a population dispersed by immigrants bearing the major phyla. In a short text with hefty data appended, V. Blažek suggests that the enigma of Elamitic could be resolved by recognising it as not Dravidian but Afro-Asiatic. His proposition entails consequences for the classification of Sumerian. C. Ohiri-Aniche assesses affiliations among the non-Yoruba languages knotted together in Àkókó, Nigeria. With the aid of the Comparative Polynesian Lexicon (POLLEX), J. Marck reassesses the relation of Eastern Polynesian to Proto-Polynesian, drawing new implications for the process of Pacific colonization; and J. Lynch seeks common ground beneath the linguistic diversity of southern Melanesia, while J. Waddell & J. Conroy have a crack at the origin of Celtic in Ireland. B. Tikkanen studies implications in the distribution of retroflexive consonantal articulation for relations among early languages in northwestern South Asia, a critical region, of course, for understanding the history of the Indo-Aryan and Dravidian languages. In an *amazing* synopsis ranging across to Southeast Asia, Polynesia and around the Indian Ocean, W. Mahdi identifies phases in the history of Austronesian languages in India and Sri Lanka by reference to religion, myth, legend, rites and literature, navigation technology and the spice trade, the distribution of crops, and archaeology (including megalithic construction — but of course), as well as linguistic data. Implications are drawn for the diffusion of Indian

culture to Southeast Asia during the earlier 1st millennium AD.

### Bones

LARRY BARHAM, PHILIP PRIESTLEY & ADRIAN TARGETT. *In search of Cheddar Man*. 160 pages, 82 figures. 1999. Stroud & Charleston (SC): Tempus; 0-7524-1401-1 paperback £9.99.

ANN STIRLAND. *Human bones in archaeology* (2nd edition). 64 pages, 19 b&w plates, 17 figures, 2 tables. 1999. Princes Risborough: Shire; 0-7478-0412-5 paperback £4.99.

CLARK SPENCER LARSEN. *Bioarchaeology: interpreting behavior from the human skeleton*. xii+461 pages, figures, tables. 1997. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 0-521-65834-9; paperback £55, \$85.

LÁSZLÓ BARTOSIEWICZ, WIM VAN NEER & AN LENTACKER. *Draught cattle: their osteological identification and history* (Annales Sciences Zoologiques 281). 148 pages, illustrations. 1997. Tervuren: Musée Royale de l'Afrique Centrale; 90-75894-20-1 paperback.

'Archaeology tackles big issues, it asks what makes us human and how we came to live and behave as we do today' (BARHAM *et al.* p. 7). With great clarity and a relaxed, approachable style, Dr BARHAM proceeds, accordingly, to sum up the state of the art in these issues, tracing, with deft selectivity, the development and migration of *Homo sapiens* by the multiregional pattern and the historically shallower 'Out of Africa' pattern through to the northwest European Mesolithic and Neolithic. A great deal of substantive information is packed in alongside a range of methodological background, all backed up by a good list of references. The book rides on the widespread excitement stirred, two years ago, by the news that ADRIAN TARGETT, of Cheddar, had been identified, through his mitochondrial DNA as the relative of a person buried 9000 years ago in the near-by Gorge. The text is interwoven with chatty commentary by PHILIP PRIESTLEY, director of a television documentary on the discovery, and with remarks from Mr TARGETT about 'what it was like' to have his pedigree identified and made famous. This fidgety experiment in presentation is akin to the scramble in the Gallimard booklets (see 'Egypt & Palestine', above). With a writer of Dr BARHAM's skill, it is quite unnecessary.

Dr STIRLAND's accessible and sensible booklet is a most basic introduction to the preservation, identification and recording of human bones. It has particular sections on pathology and cremation and the 'casebook' at the end picks up an interesting variety of problems (including the ambiguous matter of the Princes in the Tower). Prof. LARSEN's book, now issued in paperback, was reviewed in *ANTIQUITY* 72 (1998): 462–3.

BARTOSIEWICZ *et al.* used a collection from Romania to make macroscopic, microscopic, radiographic and magnetic resonance measurements of the morphological effects of work on parts of the skeletons of cattle. They sought to allow for variation in load, harness, shoeing, teaming, amount of work (days), and terrain, and for age. They also tried to discriminate between bulls, oxen and cows. They compared their results with an assemblage from a Roman site in Namur.

### Reference

KAREL R. VAN KOOIJ (ed.). *ABIA South and Southeast Asian art and archaeology index* (Volume 1). xxxiv+597 pages. 1999. London & New York (NY): Kegan Paul International; 0-7103-0625-3 hardback £95 & \$161.50.

JEREMY HART. *Research in geomancy 1990–1994: a bibliography* (2nd edition). PC format (Word 6.0/95), (.DOC), (.RTF), (.TXT), 3.5" disc. 1999. Loughborough: Heart of Albion; 1-872883-52-4 £5.95 (+80p p&p).

GWENDOLYN LEICK. *Who's who in the ancient Near East*. xx+229 pages, 4 maps. 1999. London & New York (NY): Routledge; 0-415-13230-4; hardback £19.99 & \$29.99.

MICHAEL RICE. *Who's who in ancient Egypt*. lxi+257 pages, 2 maps. 1999. London & New York (NY): Routledge; 0-415-15448-0; hardback £19.99 & \$29.99.

The Annual Bibliography of Indian Archaeology (ABIA) index covers research in the different countries of South and Southeast Asia, each under a series of headings (e.g. prehistory, historical archaeology, ancient art history, material culture, numismatics & sigillography). The annotations vary from one sentence to several, many amounting to substantial abstracts — a remarkable and very valuable achievement. There are references to work in neighbouring regions (e.g. East Asia and the Pacific as related to Southeast Asia). Two articles are included, E. Sedyawati on 'Research by Indonesian archaeologists 1977–1997' and Prof. VAN KOOIJ on '... recent viewpoints on meaning in early Buddhist art'.

Not unlike the present article, Mr HART remarks on papers and books under 106 headings grouped by topics such as 'famous places', 'cosmology', 'the city in ritual', 'symbolic landscapes', or 'energies'. No doubt, the ultimate purpose is barmy but the assessments are sane and even-handed. Julian Richards, for example, is credited with carrying out 'pure archaeology' around Stonehenge, Richard Bradley with distinguishing continuity of form there from changes in meaning. Cover of England is stronger than for other countries but the review ranges out to Delphi, Nazca, Easter Island etc. Sources run from ANTIQUITY to the *Journal of the English Place-Name Society*, *World Archaeology*, *Third Stone* and *Fortean Times*. It is a valuable resource.

Ahab to Xerxes and more before and after are covered in entries from a couple of lines to a page long by Dr LEICK. She provides a brief introduction on sources, a glossary of place-names, tribes, and specialist terms, including chronology, four useful indexes, and a bibliography. . . . Ahmose to Ukhhotep IV (and Xerxes) are covered by M. RICE along with a substantial introduction, a glossary and useful lists of entries by occupation (e.g. king, high priest, sculptor, even criminal), entries in chronological sequence, and museum collections in Europe, Egypt and USA.

### Journals

*Environmental Archaeology* 1. iii+126 pages, b&w figures. 1998. Oxford: Oxbow; 1-900188-60-0 ISSN 1461-4103 £24 & US\$45.

*Journal of Iberian Archaeology*. Vol. 0. 1998. 254 pages, b&w and colour figures. ISSN 0874-2677.

*Archaeology's Dig* 1:1. 40 pages, colour figures. 1999. Escondido (CA): Archaeological Institute of America; ISSN 1524-4458 \$3.95.

The Association for Environmental Archaeology (UK) launched its journal, *Environmental Archaeology*, with 15 archaeological, historical and ethnographic articles and notes on fodder (*cf.* MILLS & COLES in 'Environment . . .', above). The range and quality of the papers (which are refereed, of course) is stimulating and confidence-inspiring and the journal looks carefully considered, edited and produced.

The *Journal of Iberian Archaeology* is produced by the Association for the Improvement of Cooperation in Iberian Archaeology (ADECAP). It comprises articles and notes by contributors from five countries, all in English. The pilot issue carries a dozen articles and two notes of news. There are three papers on rock art, a couple on megaliths and one on stelae, one on monuments as landmarks, two on Roman archaeology, and two interim excavation reports.

'Are-key-ahl-o-gee . . . this word is not a lot of fun to say', admits the editor, but *Archaeology's Dig* is a hectic and jaunty mix of news (e.g. 'Kid discovers dinosaur!'), oddments of information ('the oldest piece of chewing gum' has been dated to 3500 BC — *cf.* pp. 579–84, above), features (e.g. a long and excellent piece by Dr Dig on 'What is archaeology?'), projects, games and a comic strip about 'The adventures of Chip & Pliny the Platypus'. It bristles with lively photographs and graphics. It is published every other month.

### More Megalithismus?

JEAN-PIERRE MOHEN. *Standing stones: Stonehenge, Carnac and the world of megaliths* (tr. Dorie B. & David J. Baker). 176 pages, b&w and colour illustrations. 1999. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-30090-9 paperback £6.95.

AUBREY BURL. *Great stone circles: fables, fictions, facts*. viii+200 pages, 25 figures, plates. 1999. New Haven (CT) & London: Yale University Press; 0-300-07689-4 hardback £19.95.

TERENCE MEADEN. *The secrets of the Avebury stones — Britain's greatest megalithic temple*. vii+152 pages, b&w figures. 1999. London: Souvenir; 0-285-63501-8 paperback £12.99.

EDWARD PETERSON. *Stone Age alpha*. x+204 pages, 139 figures, 15 colour plates. 1998. Auchterarder: P.C.D. Ruthven; 0-9526998-1-8 hardback £27.

ROGER WEBBER. *From past to future life*. ii+181 pages, 26 figures. 1999. Chieveley: Capall Bann; 186163051-4 paperback £9.95.

Dr MOHEN reviews for the general reader the state of the art in studies of prehistoric megalithic settings and ritual buildings with particular attention to how they may have been constructed and then used but not ignoring French folk history, the responses of artists, and the ethnography of the Toradja or our own Druids (*cf.* p. 487, above). Although the emphasis is on Stonehenge and Carnac, he also considers the other well-known sites in Britain & Ireland, briefly pointing out too that there are such structures in many parts of Europe and as far afield as Korea and Colombia. It is a small book but lavishly illustrated (not to say busily — *cf.* AUGÉ & DENTZER in 'Egypt & Palestine', above) and replete with a good bibliography.

AUBREY BURL too reviews facts and fables accumulated during recent centuries about some of the best-known megalithic rings in England, plus Woodhenge. The first part of his book covers the Rollright Stones, Long Meg & Her Daughters, Stanton Drew, Woodhenge, and Boskedan, Tregeseal, Boscawen-Un and the Merry Maidens in Penwith; the second is devoted to Stonehenge; and the third to the Swinside circle. For Stonehenge, he dwells on whether the bluestones were borne by men or a glacier, and considers ceremonial, symbolic and astronomical interpretations of the Heel Stone and Slaughter Stone, and the likelihood that Bretons designed the 'horse-shoe'. At Swinside, he detects 'something of the builders' 'intricacies of mind . . . beliefs', astronomy, arithmetic and 'awareness of a living world' (p. 185). Some of this work has appeared before in local journals but it is amplified here and provided with fine illustrations (the colour photographs especially so) and all bound up to Yale's customary excellent standard.

*The secrets* argues that the Avebury stones are wrought all over with 'human-head profiles or body parts' (p. 146) intended to be revealed at special times by the light of the Sun. Dr MEADEN deduces that they served a fertility cult also detectable at Stonehenge and elsewhere in the district. Indeed, we learn that the River Kennet used to be known as the Cunnet. Dr MEADEN traces much the same complex of sym-

bols as far afield as India. Widely read, he claims merely to be taking things that bit further than the likes of Alasdair Whittle. The difference, of course, is that MEADEN does not consistently root himself in the archaeological context. His book illustrated with carefully composed photographs, the devil seems to be in the detail, as for BURL — it is a pity that the latter did not review Dr MEADEN's earlier publications.

By a freely selective method like MEADEN's, and, again, presenting copious illustration, Mr PETERSON urges that the evidence of a cult of sea mammals stares us in the face on monuments and megalithic tombs (recognized ones and others yet to be acknowledged) all over the British Isles (including Avebury, of course) and on Guernsey, from the gorgeous scrolls on the Desborough and Birdlip mirrors and other metalwork and jewellery of the time, on Pictish stelae and from the walls of brochs. Apparently, the key symbol of this cult is enshrined in the *vesica piscis*

design too — used by the Church of Scotland, he points out, and by Balliol College, Oxford . . .

For Dr WEBBER, megaliths, many early cave paintings etc. raise the old issue: diffusion, convergence between civilizations, or transfer of ideas 'over time and distance by a mechanism we cannot explain' (p. 79)? He favours the third, and, although he cannot explain it yet, he has worked out a mechanism: the collective unconscious and 'additional evolution'. His book is learned and imaginative (but poorly edited).

#### Also received

PAUL BAHN. *Bluff your way in archaeology* (2nd edition). 64 pages. 1999. London: Oval; 1-902825-47-0 paperback £2.99.

MEL THOMPSON. *Eastern philosophy*. vii+243 pages, 2 figures. 1999. London: Hodder & Stoughton Educational; 0-340-72126-X paperback £8.99.

## Review articles

### Redirected light on the indigenous Mediterranean

SIMON STODDART\*

P. VAN DOMMELEN. *On colonial grounds*. 296 pages, plates, figures and illustrations. 1998. Leiden: Leiden University, Faculty of Archaeology; 90-76368-02-3 paperback f85.

ROBERT LEIGHTON. *Sicily before history: an archaeological survey from the Palaeolithic to the Iron Age*. viii+312 pages, 148 illustrations, 4 tables. 1999. London: Duckworth; 0-7156-2764-3 hardback £40, 0-7156-2770-8 paperback £14.95.

ALBERTO MORAVETTI (ed.). *Papers from the EAA third annual meeting at Ravenna 1997 III: Sardinia*. (BAR International series S719.) iv+152 pages, illustrations. 1998. Oxford: Archaeopress; 0-86054-896-1 paperback £26.

ARTURO RUIZ & MANUEL MOLINOS (tr. Mary Turton). *The archaeology of the Iberians*. xiv+335 pages, 99 illustrations. 1998. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 0-521-56402-6 hardback £40.

The characterization of the indigenous is a current concern of many archaeologists with a global vision (Funari *et al.* 1999). In the Mediterranean, the di-

rect and indirect, explicit and implicit power and authority of the colonizer have dominated historically. Text has been master over other classes of material culture. Change has been sought in the exotic. Furthermore, whereas inroads were made into this attitude of mind for Mediterranean prehistory, the study of the last two millennia BC has continued to be profoundly affected by this approach (Boardman 1999: 190; see Boardman 1999: 275–6; Van Dommelen 1997; De Angelis 1998).

In spite of this background, the study of the later prehistory of the Western Mediterranean has changed appreciably in the last decade through new evidence and new ideas. More intensive research has been undertaken on those indigenous communities. A new conceptualization of interaction has been developed which is at last giving credit to the contribution of long-lasting indigenous communities. This has involved the identification of local identities that are not submerged in some Hellenic or Phoenician wave of advance. Diverse elements of this trend are visible in all the books reviewed here. They cover the

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