

# Review

## Among the New Books

N. JAMES

### Palaeolithic

G.N. BAILEY, E. ADAM, E. PANAGOPOULOU, C. PERLÈS & K. ZACHOS (ed.). *The Palaeolithic archaeology of Greece and adjacent areas: Proceedings of the I.C.O.P.A.G. conference, Ioannina* (British School at Athens Studies 3). 375 pages, 175 figures, 70 tables. 1999. London: British School at Athens; 0-90-488734-0 hardback £43 (+p&p).

ALAIN GALLAY (ed.). *Comment l'Homme? À la découverte des premiers Hominidés d'Afrique de l'Est*. 408 pages, colour & b&w illustrations. 1999. Paris: Errance; hardback 2-87772-175-2 FF350.

Prof. BAILEY *et al.* present 34 papers by the star-studded cast of a conference in 1994. They are arranged in six sections: reviews of the Lower Palaeolithic in Greece and Turkey; studies of environ-



'A chip strikes a knapper from his own work.' O.W. 'BUD' HAMPTON (*Culture of stone: sacred and profane uses of stone among the Dani*. xxv+331 pages, 8 colour plates, 181 figures, 9 tables. 1999. College Station (TX): Texas A&M University Press; 0-89096-870-5 hardback) reports on extensive ethnography carried out over 19 months (1982–93) in highland western New Guinea. He aimed to study 'a complete, cultural inventory of stone tools and symbolic stones . . . before . . . metals had permeated the system' (p. xvii, sic). A wide if not comprehensive range of contexts and uses were studied, quarrying and manufacture, women's work, and trading; and distributions were assessed in relation to language — but Dr HAMPTON warns of problems arising from 'absence of an archaeologically workable definition of a cultural system' (p. 307). He points out too that, although dependent on gardens, the Dani lacked either pottery or basketry: they 'just had no need' for them (p. 307). Intensely detailed yet well organized and quite excellently illustrated, this book is going to attract a lot of interest.

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mental history in Epirus and on the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology there (including three papers on Klithi); reports and assessments of surveys and excavations of Lower, Middle and Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic sites, stratigraphy, assemblages and dates from Greece (two sections); and five papers on Upper Palaeolithic hunting, stone tools, and survey in the Balkans. Abstracts of various length are provided in English and Greek.

Students and other novices will find enjoyment and great satisfaction in the introduction by Dr GALLAY and colleagues to the geography of the East African Rift Valley, its Miocene, Pliocene and Pleistocene climates, zoology and primatology, and the palaeo-anthropology and Lower Palaeolithic archaeology. It is a long book, heavy with information yet designed most sensibly, attractively and sympathetically and illustrated quite superbly with photographs, reconstruction paintings, line drawings and diagrams. It includes reviews of theory, systematics and methods, and there is also a chapter on the earlier history of research. Geology and archaeology are summed up in compact appendices. There is a long bibliography.

See also the review of *La naissance de l'art* (pp. 237–9, below), and the following title.

### Rock art

CHRISTOPHER CHIPPINDALE & PAUL S.C. TAÇON (ed.). *The archaeology of rock-art*. xviii+374 pages, 205 figures, 11 tables. 1998. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 0-521-57256-8 hardback £50 & US\$80; 0-521-57619-9 paperback £17.95 & \$29.95.

STAN BECKENSALL. *British prehistoric rock art*. 160 pages, 28 colour plates, 131 b&w figures. 1999. Stroud & Charleston (SC): Tempus; 0-7524-1471-2 hardback £18.99 & \$29.99.

Drs CHIPPINDALE & TAÇON present a stimulating array of case studies. J. Clottes assesses the west European Upper Palaeolithic in the light of the discoveries at Chauvet, Cosquer and Cõa. Two papers on Norway and one each on the Sydney area and southern Africa consider evidence for culture change. R. Bradley reviews depictions of what look like Bronze Age weapons in western Britain and western Iberia, suggesting that they expressed boundaries (cf. OLIVEIRA JORGE, in the following section); but the only other paper to assess associations with land use as such is that of R. Hartley & A.M. Wolley Vawser on Utah. There are three papers on altered states of mind, including C.E. Boyd on the Pecos River region, Texas. The final piece is on graffiti from Sydney, 1855–1922. There are some methodological contributions, including Drs CHIPPINDALE & TAÇON on style and chronology. Throughout, the editors emphasize the complementary roles of archaeological methods and deployment of ethnography; but there are warnings by A. Solomon on projecting ethnographies into prehistory. S. Ouzman contributes a

thoughtful piece on foragers' concepts of landscape: 'we may have to learn to live with some ambiguity in our interpretations' (p. 39).

*British prehistoric rock art* reviews the iconography and provides a discursive gazetteer, replete with map references, of both sites of isolated petroglyphs and motifs carved on monuments (e.g. Long Meg, 'Passage Grave art'). Interesting patterns become evident. Why, for instance, are there so many petroglyphs in Galloway or so few in Cumberland? It is a compact, well-illustrated, highly informative book. (Cf. GONZÁLEZ BLANCO *et al.* in 'The Classical world . . .', below).

### Later prehistory of Europe

The reviewer's shelves sag, this quarter, with books on the Mesolithic and Neolithic, and the Bronze and Iron Ages of Europe. They include both reports of new discoveries and experimental reinterpretations of old ones. Economic archaeology more in the background now, social and cultural theory wafts through many of them like an ambivalent breeze in early spring (cf. "New world" . . ., below).

First, what was the nature of the transition to the Neolithic? Was the late Neolithic a time of greater change in some regions? Dr COUDART's assessment of early colonists' longhouses in central and western Europe is followed, here, by four titles on the Baltic, where, by contrast, sedentism and farming were not necessarily directly connected with immigration; and then follow two sets of books on Britain & Ireland.

ANICK COUDART. *Architecture et société néolithique: l'unité et la variance de la maison danubienne* (Documents d'Archéologie Française 67.) 240 pages, 194 figures. 1998. Paris: Editions de la Fondation de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme; 2-7351-0637-3 ISSN 0769-010X paperback FF265.

✉ The longhouses of the Early Neolithic are associated with farmers colonizing westward and northward. Dr COUDART's stimulating and compelling analysis produces implications for both the social anthropology of that process and the builders' and dwellers' symbolism. The approach is structuralist, *bien sûr*. Reviewing the evidence from the Ukraine to France, and drawing too on ethnography from both Europe and New Guinea, she concludes that, although there were local variations, a single tradition of design continued throughout and on into the Middle Neolithic. Noting that the houses occur in groups of up to half a dozen, she points out that one such 'community' and another seems to have been much the same but that, within the community, authority may have been differentiated. Note: six units is sometimes said to be a threshold beyond which a higher level of organization is needed for making decisions; and some anthropologists consider that segmentary social organization encourages or expedites coloni-

zation. Orientation, argues Dr COUDART, depended partly on prevailing winds but also on how the front of the building was to be seen from outside. She speculates about the social connotations of the three main parts of the house. She provides summaries in French, English and German. On colonists' material culture and imagery, cf. 'New World' . . ., below.

MAREK ZVELEBIL, ROBIN DENNELL & LUCYNA DOMAŃSKA (ed.). *Harvesting the sea, farming the forest: the emergence of Neolithic societies in the Baltic region*. xiii+258 pages, 121 figures, 26 tables. 1998. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press; 1-85075-648-1 hardback £50 & US\$85.

PER PERSSON. *Neolitikums början: undersökningar kring jordbrukets introduktion i Nordeuropa* (Kust till kust-böcker 1). 263 pages, 89 figures, 44 tables. 1999. Gothenburg: University of Gothenburg, Department of Archaeology/Uppsala: & University of Uppsala, Department of Archeology & Ancient History; paperback 91-973674-0-0 ISSN 1404-1251 & 0208-6860.

JACQUELINE TAFFINDER. *The allure of the exotic: the social use of non-local raw materials during the Stone Age in Sweden* (Aun 25). 182 pages, 153 figures, 13 appendices. 1998. Uppsala: Uppsala University, Department of Archaeology & Ancient History; paperback 91-506-1312-X ISSN 0284-1347.

ANN SEGERBERG. *Bålinge Mossar: kustbor i Uppland under yngre stenåldern* (Aun 26). 243 pages, 130 colour and b&w figures, 3 tables. 1999. Uppsala: Uppsala University, Department of Archaeology & Ancient History; paperback 91-506-1385-5 ISSN 0284-1347.

✉ From a meeting in 1992, Dr ZVELEBIL *et al.* have compiled 30 papers on social and technological developments at the end of the Mesolithic and beginning of the Neolithic in western Russia, around the Baltic Sea and in Norway. Three cover problems of definition — important because, as well known, in general, the transition was very slow. Most are on economic archaeology. Five assess persistence of Mesolithic economy through much or all of the Neolithic period in Pomerania and Poland, ascribing it to the physical environment. Animal husbandry seems to have been taken up very slowly in the lake country of northeastern Poland ('Paraneolithic', p. 108). S. Welinder argues, on the other hand, that environmental conditions and long-distance exchange allowed both horticulture and herding in southern Sweden by 3000 BC. P. Rowley-Conwy argues that the Ertebølle cemetery of Skateholm I marked a relatively large community in continuous occupation of a comparatively small territory but that the way of life was not fully sedentary. O. Grøn argues for a continuously rising trend in the size of settlements and housing through the Mesolithic into the Neolithic. Specific problems with radiocarbon dates are rehearsed in the assessment of Zealand by C. Meiklejohn

*et al.*, who also review funerary evidence for social status and diet. There are also articles on physical anthropology from cemeteries in Russia and Lithuania and on evidence for climate. This valuable collection of papers could be complemented by comparisons with eastern North America and the northern Far East. For Denmark, Schleswig-Holstein and Skåne, Dr PERSSON considers the same issues of technology, technological diffusion from farming colonists to the south, population change, and radiocarbon chronology. He provides a substantial abstract in English.

With a view to assessing social differentiation, Dr TAFFINDER studied imported materials in Mesolithic and Neolithic burials from Sweden and Denmark and slate implements from south and central Sweden, Öland and (briefly) Gotland. She developed her very widely researched argument with reference to the work of M.W. Helms in Central America and to a rapid perusal of ethnography. That the cemeteries did yield imports — 'prestige goods', presumably, including copper from the early Neolithic onward — supported the proposition that there were distinctions but Dr TAFFINDER reasons that differentiation increased significantly during the late Neolithic, not before. Late Neolithic 'battle axes', she argues, were in a long series of bone and stone artefacts 'emulating' admired prototypes — but she holds that, as for their 'seams', imitation was not necessarily accurate. Artefacts of red slate have been interpreted in the same way but her X-ray diffraction analyses show that this material could be local, not 'exotic'. The book is of interest well beyond Scandinavia, not least in the Americas, North and South, as well as Central (and cf. FORENBAHER, below). The presentation is admirably orderly but an index would have helped.

Dr SEGERBERG assesses archaeological and palynological evidence from a bog in eastern Sweden for settlements in the Early and Middle Neolithic, including results from her own excavation at Anneberg. Fishing and hunting remained important in both periods, she argues, but, during the early period, cereals were probably grown on eskers, and, later, herds were kept. She relates the local sequence to regional change in sea level and draws comparisons with archaeology from elsewhere in Sweden. A substantial summary is provided in English.

✉ GORDON J. BARCLAY & GORDON S. MAXWELL. *The Cleaven Dyke and Littleour: monuments in the Neolithic of Tayside* (SAS Monograph 13). xviii+146 pages, 100 illustrations, 17 tables. 1998. Edinburgh: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland; 0-903903-13-X ISSN 0263-3191 paperback £28.

Long associated with the Roman fortress of Inchtuthill, the Cleaven Dyke's 2 km of bank and ditches have been shown, through survey and excavation by BARCLAY & MAXWELL and colleagues, to

date from the earlier Neolithic. They have reinterpreted the previous work and present their own findings of features, soils and pollen along with a discussion of similar monuments from elsewhere in the region and in England. The Dyke looks like a cursus (see CLEAL & MACSWEEN, below) but BARCLAY & MAXWELL have discovered that it was not originally constructed in one stretch. They mull over possible associations with other sites in the neighbourhood, notably burial mounds. The Dyke itself seems to incorporate — or imitate — at least three mounds of different forms! (Cf. BARCLAY & HARDING, below.) They also excavated a contemporary wooden enclosure about 250 m from the Dyke. They report on the features and finds. Using measurements of Caesium 137, they have attempted to calculate loss of soil from the site through erosion; and they warn that other sites on similar soils must be prone to the same process. They relate their findings to the literature on the symbolism of field monuments in Britain (see the following titles). They also assess technical problems in the preservation of such sites in woodland and arable. For substantial discovery, innovative investigations full of implications beyond, sane appraisal of the state of the art in research elsewhere, and efficient, well-organized and modest reporting, BARCLAY & MAXWELL deserve this quarter's laurels.

GABRIEL COONEY. *Landscapes of Neolithic Ireland*. xv+276 pages, 10 plates, 67 figures. 2000. London & New York (NY): Routledge; 0-415-16977-1 paperback £16.99.

MARK EDMONDS. *Ancestral geographies of the Neolithic: landscapes, monuments and memory*. xi+173 pages, 64 figures. 1999. London & New York (NY): Routledge; 0-415-20432-1 paperback £15.99.

JULIAN THOMAS. *Understanding the Neolithic*. xi+266 pages, 71 figures. 1999. London & New York (NY): Routledge; 0-415-20767-3 paperback £19.99.

Prof. COONEY's book is fascinating. Bringing a broad range of recent approaches to bear on a story not presented in its own right before, he makes of Ireland a very satisfying case study. His synthesis of the evidence puts social and symbolic life in charge of the agrarian transformation. He does not give the Mesolithic much shrift (cf. ZVELEBIL *et al.*, above), tending to favour the general principle that Neolithic culture was derived from the east. Ireland comprised 'local worlds linked by exotic elements' (p. 232) (cf. 'New World' . . ., below). In part, this is a case in point of COUDART's principle of variation (above) and, in part, Prof. COONEY is referring to the research (to which he has contributed much) on the stone 'axe trade' linking to Britain and the Continent. Good use is made of comparisons with Britain. However, he stresses that people must have perceived the world — marked out in monuments (cf. BARCLAY & MAXWELL, above) — in local terms. The treatment

is enlivened by anthropological theory and some ethnography (Henry Glassie's included). One suspects, however, that, in due course, the contribution of economic archaeology will have to be reemphasized, that, for instance, not enough is made, here, of field systems. On presentation: the photographs are poor but the drawings clear and elegant; and the text is apt for the wide readership that it merits. Some of this book's buoyancy can be understood by comparing 'Ireland . . .' (pp. 232–4, below and the picture review of *Irish art*; and see COONEY & GROGAN in 'Also received', below).

Dr EDMONDS' treatment of England shows many of the same intellectual inclinations but the approach is focused more particularly on reconstructing 'what it was like' at the time. Here too, people lived in 'small-scale societies . . . with extensive social geographies' (p. 160). More, apparently, than in Ireland, it was a landscape of monuments, this one haunted by ancestors. The key assumption is that the people were herders: ancestors symbolized interests in access to pasture. The argument is learned and replete with references to the Continent; but without more rounded treatment of the economy and of political or social organization, it lacks conviction, and his outline of culture change is limp. In places, there is a paucity of close reasoning. The bibliography is fine — but no references are used. A cardinal feature is lengthy novelistic evocations of peoples' activities. Dr EDMONDS talks about these imaginary vignettes and about his reluctance to deploy abstract argument or to generalize. He 'wanted to write a less "academic" book' (p. 157).

Prof. THOMAS shares much the same idea about pastoralism and some of the same predilections about respect for local diversity. The first pages of his book on southern Britain provide a litany of certain recent figures in French philosophy. Chapter 2 covers the economy. Except for the one on pottery (cf. CLEAL & MACSWEEN, below), most of the next 8 chapters of the 10 are on monuments, rites and symbolic goods. It is an attempt to find out about the world view. The book up-dates *Rethinking the Neolithic*, which was reviewed by Zvelebil — with results perhaps too predictable (cf. ZVELEBIL *et al.*, above) — in ANTIQUITY 66: 811–14.

ROSAMUND CLEAL & ANN MACSWEEN (ed.). *Grooved ware in Britain & Ireland* (Neolithic Studies Group Seminar Papers 3). vi+206 pages, 72 figures, 12 tables. 1999. Oxford: Oxbow; 1-900188-77-5 paperback £35.

ALISTAIR BARCLAY & JAN HARDING (ed.). *Pathways and ceremonies: the cursus monuments of Britain & Ireland* (Neolithic Studies Group Seminar Papers 4). x+154 pages, 59 figures, 6 tables. 1999. Oxford: Oxbow; 1-900188-42-2 paperback £28.

CLEAL & MACSWEEN present 15 papers and a gazetteer reviewing the state of the art in studies of the groove-decorated pottery of later Neolithic Brit-

ain & Ireland. Although the convention on four sub-styles seems to hold up, this ware appears to be a case in point of Prof. COONEY's observation (see above) about links between widely separated communities. There are valuable regional surveys of distribution and dating and there is new information from Hendre (Flintshire), Ilkley Moor, Noltland (Orkney), and the Boyne Valley. There is also a couple of papers on refinements of general patterns of chronology. BARCLAY & HARDING present 14 papers on the linear monuments known as 'cursuses'. Following the editors' review of issues comes a paper on dating and three on symbolism and rites. The remaining ones are on particular sites or districts (on pastoral economy, ritual and everyday life in the upper Thames valley, on defining cursuses in the Ouse valley of Cambridgeshire, on eastern England more widely, on the Cleaven Dyke — cf. BARCLAY & MAXWELL, above — on Holywood, Dumfriesshire — by J. Thomas — and on Co. Meath, along with wider reviews of Scotland — by K. Brophy, who also contributes to BARCLAY & MAXWELL — Wales, and northern France — I. Kinnes).

STAŠO FORENBAHER. *Production and exchange of bifacial flaked stone artifacts during the Portuguese Chalcolithic* (BAR International series 756). viii+173 pages, 47 figures, 44 tables. 1999. Oxford: Archaeopress; 0-86054-960-7 paperback £25.

KATIE DEMAKOPOULOU, CHRISTIANE ELUÈRE, JØRGEN JENSEN, ALBRECHT JOCKENHÖVEL & JEAN-PIERRE MOHEN (ed.). *Gods and heroes of the European Bronze Age*. xi+303 pages, b&w and colour illustrations. 1999. London & New York (NY): Thames & Hudson; 0-500-01915-0 hardback £42.

SUSANA OLIVEIRA JORGE (ed.). *Existe uma Idade do Bronze Atlântico?* (Trabalhos de Arqueologia 10). 294 pages, illustrated. 1998. Lisbon: Instituto Português de Arqueologia; 972-97903-0-2 ISSN 0871-25 paperback.

SEBASTIANO TUSA with LUIGI LENTINI, IGNAZIO VALENTE & ROSARIA DI SALVO. *L'insediamento dell'età del bronzo con Bicchiere Campaniforme di Marcita*. 106 pages, b&w and colour figures, 1 table. 1997. Trapani: Soprintendenza per i Beni Culturali e Ambientali di Trapani; hardback.

STEFAN WIRTH. *Grabfunde der späten Bronzezeit und der Urnenfelderzeit von Augsburg-Haunstetten und Friedberg in Bayern: ein Beitrag zur vorgeschichtlichen Besiedlung des unteren Lechtals* (Augsburg Beiträge zur Archäologie 1). 298 pages, b&w figures, 4 colour figures, 1 table. 1998. Augsburg: Römisches Museum & Stadtarchäologie der Stadt Augsburg; 3-89639-121-6 paperback.

MICHAEL L. GALATY & WILLIAM A. PARKINSON (ed.). *Rethinking Mycenaean palaces: new interpretations of an old idea* (Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Monograph 41). v+119 pages, 32 figures, 3 tables. 1999. Los Angeles (CA): Cotsen Institute of Archaeology; paperback 0-917956-94-X \$30.

Dr FORENBAHER assesses the evidence of arrowheads, larger points, and blades in an attempt to work out how political centralization and social hierarchies developed during the Copper Age of Portugal. He shows that technical specialization and economic centralization changed comparatively little but that the relatively rare larger points required special skills and much preparation. Found almost exclusively in burials, they may have signalled a strategic role in social development (cf. TAFFINDER, above). The treatise is cogently argued and backed up with ample data.

The Council of Europe's travelling exhibition on 'Gods and heroes' evidently seeks to show strands of ancient tradition common across the subcontinent. The big book of DEMAKOPOULOU *et al.* presents the catalogue along with 50 nicely illustrated notes by archaeologists and other scholars (established ones and rising stars) covering physical anthropology and clothing, domestic life among villagers and aristocrats, burials, travel — 'Ötzi' and others tracing routes by foot or horseback to bind peoples to (or attack) each other — shrines, stelae and religious offerings, iconography, and the emergence of the state in the Aegean. The book provides some context for the exhibits but most of the emphasis is on noteworthy finds rather than sites and landscapes. In contrast to FORENBAHER, the authors seem not to have been briefed to pay much attention to social change.

Dr OLIVEIRA JORGE presents 25 papers of various lengths and five of the discussions from a meeting in 1995, also sponsored by the Council of Europe, about whether there was a distinct Bronze Age of 'Atlantic Europe' (11 of the papers in English, 7 Portuguese, the others French and Spanish). Most of the attention falls in the west, of course, but, logically enough, there is reference to Central Europe too. Unlike *Gods and heroes*, much of the discussion here turned on commensurability of different classes of evidence, on processes of exchange, and on cultural identity; but, while discourse between archaeologists from various traditions of thought was fruitful, there were problems of definition. On the whole, the papers were broadly researched and very thoughtful; but the discussions make less sense to the reader than they would have to the participants, partly because not all of the papers given at the time are reproduced here.

Dr TUSA has assembled data on finds from the Early Bronze Age cemetery at Marcita-Castelvetrano, Sicily, to produce a well-illustrated and elegantly designed book. Along with brief descriptions of the site and its environment and a note on the skull in one of the burials, the greater part of this useful volume is devoted to descriptions of a beaker pottery assemblage with accompanying stone tools and ornaments.

Pottery, metal utensils, and ornaments and finds of other materials from two Late Bronze Age cem-

eteries in Bavaria are presented, illustrated in detail, and discussed by Herr WIRTH along with a *catalogue raisonné* of bone fragments by M. Kunter. The finds are treated by type, with substantial assessments of the construction and forms of the pottery; and the grave assemblages are listed separately too. The burials at Haunstetten were distinctly more generously accompanied than those at Friedberg. The author suggests that the community from the former flourished by exploiting trade along the Lech valley. He is concerned to refine the chronologies of Müller-Karpe and L. Sperber. He provides a summary in French.

GALATY & PARKINSON present 10 articles and a couple of notes in an effort to span the disciplinary divide between archaeological and anthropological approaches to the interpretation of Mycenaean 'palaces'. There are discussions of room functions, palace plans, and finds from single sites and comparison among different ones, and there are a couple of assessments of palaces' roles in the surrounding territories. J.T. Killen comments on some of the other papers with information from tablets in Linear B. J.F. Cherry & J.L. Davis remark on the emergence of common ground among some of the articles, not least by virtue of respectful attention to empirical detail rather than general analogies and theorizing.

OLIVIER BUCHSENSCHUTZ, JEAN-PAUL GUILLAUMET & IAN RALSTON (ed.). *Les remparts de Bibracte: recherches récentes sur la Porte du Rebut et le tracé des fortifications* (Collection Bibracte 3). 319 pages, figures, colour plates, tables. 1999. Glux-en-Glenne: Centre archéologique européen du Mont Beuvray; 2-909668-13-4 (ISSN 1281-430X) paperback FF160.

BILL BEVAN (ed.). *Northern exposure: interpretative devolution and the Iron Ages in Britain* (Leicester Archaeology Monographs 4). vii+288 pages, 40 figures, 6 plates. 1999. Leicester: University of Leicester School of Archaeological Studies; 0-9510377-9-X paperback £18.

JOHN DAVIES & TOM WILLIAMSON (ed.). *Land of the Icení: the Iron Age in northern East Anglia* (Studies in East Anglia History 4). 217 pages, 68 figures, 3 tables. 1999. Norwich: University of East Anglia Centre of East Anglian Studies; 0-906219-47-7 paperback £14.95.

BUCHSENSCHUTZ *et al.* claim that the main entrance to the *oppidum* of Mont Beuvray is the biggest among all Celtic hillforts. Analysis of the excavations of 1868 and 1984–96 shows that it was rebuilt or modified several times but the authors disagree with the original excavator's view that this had to do with enemy action. Rather, they consider that it shows both critical assessments of the military engineering and availability of plenty of labour. Possible workshops were found. The evidence corresponds to the 1st century BC. Survey of the ramparts showed that they ran about 7 km and included

more than a dozen other entries. Geophysical survey seemed to confirm the presence of the iron spikes associated with this type of rampart (*murus gallicus*). Another possible rampart was discovered within the main enclosure. Abstracts are provided in English and German.

Dr Haselgrove observes, in assessing the 14 other papers in *Northern exposure*, that, north of the Midlands, Iron Age Britain has long been dismissed as a backwater. The core of this refreshing book comprises critical reviews of districts and regions, opening new approaches to evidence for social organization and symbolism as well as more traditional topics such as trade. For instance, where A. Chadwick suggests radical approaches to studying patterns of cropmarks, R. Hingley usefully complements recent ideas about the symbolic location of hillforts with a review of 'reuse of Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age monuments' (cf. OTTAWAY, below), and A. Piccini assesses museum presentations of Iron Age Wales.

The 9 papers presented by Drs DAVIES & WILLIAMSON also challenge earlier interregional generalisations; but this book is more conventional (field archaeology, environmental archaeology, numismatics etc.) and less experimental, and may, therefore, appeal to more archaeologists. One of its strengths is a sustained assessment of the nature of the archaeological sample for the area. (See also WEBSTER in 'The Classical world . . .', below.)

BARBARA S. OTTAWAY. *A changing place: the Galgenberg in lower Bavaria from the fifth to the first millennium BC* (BAR International Series 752). xiii+289 pages, 177 figures, 87 tables, compact disc. 1999. Oxford: Archaeopress; 0-86054-950-X paperback £43.

The Galgenberg has witnessed many of the developments of the last seven millennia. It is still a popular spot but/and it earned its name from a gallows. Soil marks and magnetometer survey revealed ditches which Dr OTTAWAY has dated by excavation to the Middle and Late Neolithic and the Iron Age. The main occupations were in the latter two periods. The first of two Late Neolithic occupations was surrounded by a ditch & palisade. The ditch and a couple of pits yielded plentiful domestic debris. The second Neolithic occupation was protracted. The site was enclosed by a ditch and bank. The entry and two phases of foreworks were studied intensively: whitewashed daub and loom weights testified to thriving households but a great many arrowheads were found here too and there were several conflagrations. Dr OTTAWAY argues that the Galgenberg is now a key site for the 'Cham culture'. In the Iron Age (later Hallstatt) period, there were six enclosures dating to at least two phases and including at least two homesteads. Whether on account of the comparative ease of reinvesting earlier features or (as Dr OTTAWAY does suspect but without explaining adequately; cf. Hingley in BEVAN, above) out of respect

for predecessors, many of the ditches exploited ditches and pits of the terminal Neolithic occupation. For the finds, there are long reports on the pottery. There is a substantial summary in German.

### Northern Atlantic Europe in the earlier Middle Ages

JANE HAWKES & SUSAN MILLS (ed.). *Northumbria's Golden Age*. xii+452 pages, 14 colour photographs, 106 figures. 1999. Stroud: Sutton; 0-7509-1685-0 hardback £30.

D. TWEDDLE, J. MOULDEN & E. LOGAN with DAVID ROLLASON & PATRICK OTTAWAY. *Anglian York: a survey of the evidence* (The Archaeology of York 7:2). vi+207 pages, 92 colour & b&w figures. 1999. York: Council for British Archaeology; 1-902771-06-0 paperback £30.

ANDREW REYNOLDS. *Later Anglo-Saxon England: life and landscape*. 192 pages, 84 figures, 25 colour plates. 1999. Stroud & Charleston (SC): Tempus; 0-7524-1432-1 hardback £19.99 & \$32.50.

*Northumbria's Golden Age* covers northern England in the third quarter of the 1st millennium and its links to other parts of Britain (and Willibrord's mission to Holland). There are a dozen papers on the archaeology of cultural identity, settlements (n.b. West Heslerton and Flixborough), experimental work on buildings and ships, burials (S. Lucy, with a gazetteer), and ecclesiastical activity; there are 15 papers on sculpture and carving, jewellery and manuscripts; and there are seven on aspects of Bede. This scholarly and chunky book is produced to a suitably high standard. Would a more international perspective have enhanced the treatment (cf. *Ireland and Scandinavia*, below) or is the regional view necessary for appreciating a distinct culture here (see BEVAN and DAVIES & WILLIAMSON in 'Later prehistory of Europe', above)? See also the review of *The St Andrews sarcophagus*, pp. 244–5, below.

The review by TWEDDLE *et al.* of evidence for York from the Roman period to the Viking conquest was prompted by the paradox that scanty archaeological evidence seemed to belie a sense, from written sources, of the city's importance. The best of the sub-Roman evidence is cemeteries. From the 7th century, two foci within the Roman defences became predominant and a village may have coalesced at the confluence of the Foss with the river. In the 9th century, the whole area became busier. Throughout, the clearest evidence is ecclesiastical. The report includes a review of the literary sources, topographical analyses, summaries of the archaeological sites and finds, and an apt assessment of Modern period development and the growth of awareness about the city's archaeology. There are summaries in French and German.

Dr REYNOLDS introduces the archaeology and historical sources for England from c. AD 600 to the

11th century by reviewing the history, the sociology, economic, military and political organization, the settlement pattern, and the development of trade and towns. The themes of state origins and urbanization emerge coherently without the theorizing that usually attend these topics; and he deftly avoids the tangles characteristic of funerary and ecclesiastical archaeology. Yet he does justice to all the main methods of research. The one topic on which the balance rests a bit heavily is the judicial system. Provision of references is not sufficiently comprehensive.

RODNEY CASTLEDEN. *King Arthur: the truth behind the legend*. xiv+265 pages, 46 figures, 23 plates. 2000. London: Routledge; 0-415-19575-6 hardback £19.99.

FRAN & GEOFF DOEL & TERRY LLOYD. *Worlds of Arthur: King Arthur in history, legend & culture*. 160 pages, 52 b&w illustrations. 1999. Stroud & Charleston (SC): Tempus; 0-7524-1475-5 paperback £9.99.

Mr CASTLEDEN's substantial but approachable assessment of the evidence for King Arthur looks thorough and even-handed. It finds an apt complement in *Worlds of Arthur*, now in paperback, reviewing the legend and myth of the British hero as well as his history. (See also WEBSTER in 'The Classical world . . .', below.)

HOWARD B. CLARKE, MÁIRE NÍ MHAONAIGH & RAGHNALL O'FLOINN (ed.). *Ireland and Scandinavia in the early Viking age*. xxiii+468 pages, 64 figures, 9 tables. 1998. Dublin: Four Courts; 1-85182-235-6 hardback IRL£25.

BRIAN LALOR. *The Irish round tower: origins and architecture explored*. 247 pages, b&w photographs, 20 figures. 1999. Cork: Collins; 1-898256-64-0; hardback; IRL£20.

From their conference (1995) on exchange between Ireland, Scandinavia and Iceland and around the Irish Sea, CLARKE *et al.* present the nine papers on archaeology and seven on history. Readers of ANTIQUITY will find plenty of interest especially in the former set. It transpires from such a broad review that mortuary evidence bulks large and that there is a dearth of landscape archaeology and more extensive excavations (cf. TWEDDLE *et al.*, above); but it is probably inevitable, with this theme, that the emphasis for the archaeology is on artefact distributions and classification rather than on functional contexts. On the other hand, Dr CLARKE's comparison of urbanization in Ireland and Britain greatly helps to make sense of the economic and political processes prompted by contacts around the north-east Atlantic. The oft-drawn contrast between Ireland and supposedly more sophisticated organization in England is criticized by him and two other contributors. Reappraisal of Irish organization is clearly due. Grounding is also provided by wide-ranging reviews of the archaeology in Norway and Scotland (B. Myhre, E. Wamers and C. Morris) and an inter-



The west side, shown here, of the early 10th-century Cross of the Scriptures, at the ruin of Clonmacnoise Cathedral, shows scenes from Christ's Passion and His Resurrection. A generation on from Françoise Henry's Irish art, PETER HARBISON (*The Golden Age of Irish art: the Medieval achievement 600–1200*. 368 pages, b&w and colour illustrations. 1999. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-019274 hardback £55) aims to show how research stands now. He surveys the field chronologically, from early ornament in jewellery, sculpture and books to the high crosses and the early churches (*Gallarus, Skellig Michael, Glendalough Cathedral etc.*) and the round towers (cf. *The Irish round tower in 'Northern Atlantic . . .'*) to the metalwork, churches and crosses of the 12th century. 'Ireland has always been a part of Europe — but a very individualistic one'

(p. 349; cf. COONEY in 'Later prehistory of Europe' and Diatripta in 'The Classical world . . .'). The book is superb — suitably monumental, absolutely outstanding photographs.

esting general account of Norwegian history (K. Helle). Compensating for the lack of 'thicker' description, it is stimulating to compare the distributions of Scandinavian material in Ireland with those of Irish finds overseas. There is a couple of papers on sagas, which can be rich sources of inference.

The round towers of Ireland were for church bells. The core of Mr LALOR's book is a gazetteer of 73 towers and a couple of carved images of the buildings. He also lists literary references to towers now lost. Accompanying the lists are chapters on the functions

and sites, forms and construction of the towers, on the types and chronology, and on comparisons in England and on the Continent — from which it transpires that the Irish round towers are *sui generis*. Mr LALOR assesses the prehistoric background in 'archaic architecture'. The book opens with a summary of the historical setting in Ireland. Most attractively and elegantly designed, the treatment includes plenty of excellent photographs of the towers, including pictures of landscape contexts and architectural details; and there are analytic draw-



ings and diagrams. The gazetteer includes route directions and notes on access.

See also 'Ireland . . .' (pp. 232–4, below), and the picture review of *The Golden Age of Irish art*.

### The Classical world and its development

As usual, there are lots of new titles on the Greeks & Romans. The first is a treasure chest assembled in honour of Prof. Sir John Boardman. Next comes a pair on the Greeks in France. There are half a dozen on material culture. The survey rounds off with the Romans, including a treatment of *The later Roman Empire* by Dr Reece which also emphasizes material culture.

G.R. TSETSKHLADZE, A.J.N.W. PRAG & A.M. SNODGRASS (ed.). *Periplous: papers on Classical art and archaeology presented to Sir John Boardman*. 416 pages, 174 figures, 6 tables. 2000. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-05097-X hardback £38.

*Periplous* is a suitably grand volume comprising an introduction, no less than 47 articles and notes contributed from all over Europe and beyond, and the very long list of Prof. Boardman's publications. It must suffice here to mention the main themes: colonization, trade and diffusion from Syria to Italy, England and the Sea of Azov (and see the following two titles); pottery design, functions and trade; studies of objects ranging from scarabs to statues; iconography and the interpretation of ritual and myth; contextual studies of architectural ornament; and others ranging from epigraphy to epistemology. In a note on tardy excavation reports and the trade in antiquities, R.M. Cook suggests that ANTIQUITY might list digs awaiting publication so that 'offenders could be pilloried' (p. 69)!

ANTOINE HERMARY, ANTOINETTE HESNARD & HENRI TREZINY (ed.). *Marseille grecque 600-49 av. J.C.: la cité phocéenne*. 184 pages, colour and b&w figures. 1999. Paris: Errance; 2-87772-178-7 hardback FF260.

A. TREVOR HODGE. *Ancient Greek France*. viii+312 pages, 131 illustrations. 1998. London: Duckworth; 0-7156-2796-1 hardback £45.

PHILIP DE SOUZA. *Piracy in the Graeco-Roman world*. xv+276 pages, 5 maps, 4 plates. 1999. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 0-521-48137-6 hardback £37.50 & \$59.95.

GRAHAM SHIPLEY. *The Greek world after Alexander, 323-30 BC*. xxxi+568 pages, 65 figures. 2000. London: Routledge; 0-415-04618-1 paperback £19.99.

If Anglian York is long on recorded references but short on archaeology ('Northern Atlantic Europe . . .', above), Classical Marseilles, Prof. HODGE points out, is the opposite. His substantial and absorbing treatment is personable, illustrations are deployed well, and the ample footnotes are arranged so as to permit different levels of study. He places Marseilles in the wider geographical setting and ranges out to the Riviera and Languedoc, over to Corsica, and into

the hinterland, where he assesses the colonists' effects on the Gauls. The brightly designed, abundantly illustrated and approachable book by Prof. HERMARY *et al.* describes for hastier readers the political and economic history of Marseilles and its ancient topography and archaeology from the time of its foundation by the Greeks to its capture by Julius Caesar.

Dr DE SOUZA explains that piracy was a problem from Cyprus to Britain; but, assessing its fluctuating prevalence from the Archaic period to the Byzantine, and the measures adopted by successive powers, he finds that, at times, official accounts made more of the problem than was merited — like exploitation of terrorism in recent history? His evidence is principally literary and epigraphic but archaeology too comes into play (e.g., the Saxon Shore).

Dr SHIPLEY's big but readable introduction to the Hellenistic world works from a summary of the history — with special attention to development of political institutions — to assessments of world view (formal religion and philosophy, in effect), literature and science. There are separate chapters on Egypt, Asia Minor, and the rise of Rome. This too is a historian's work, with comparatively little use of archaeological evidence.

See too *Allegory* in 'Also received', below.

ERICH KISTLER. *Die Opferrinne-'Zeremonie': Bankettideologie am Grab, Orientalisierung und Formierung einer Adelsgesellschaft in Athen*. 239 pages, 30 plates, 2 figures. 1998. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner; 3-515-07367-1 hardback DM96.

Dr KISTLER assesses evidence of pottery for the idea of a sacrificial rite of feasting associated with funerals at the Haghia Triada site in Athens between the 8th and late 5th centuries BC. He associates it with the 'orientalizing' fashion. Careful to note the site of the cemetery by what was to become the Agora, he argues that the rite represented the social or political aspirations of an affluent minority.

OLGA PALAGIA & J.J. POLLITT (ed.). *Personal styles in Greek sculpture*. (Yale Classical Studies 30.) xii+188 pages plus 131 plates. 1998. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 0-521-55187-0 hardback £40 & \$70; 0-521-65738-5 paperback £13.95 & \$22.95.

HANS PETER ISLER, ELENA MANGO & ADRIAN STÄHLI. *Drei Bildnisse* (Archäologische Sammlung der Universität Zürich 1). 75 pages, 18 plates. 1999. Zurich: Archäologische Institut der Universität Zürich; 3-905099-19-5 paperback.

LÂTIFE SUMMERER. *Hellenistische Terrakotten aus Amisos: eon Beitrag zur Kunstgeschichte des Pontosgebietes* (Geographica Historica 13). 232 pages, 66 plates. 1999. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner; 3-515-07409-0 paperback DM164 & S1197.

☞ *Personal styles* comprises critical studies of Pheidias, Polykleitos, Praxiteles, Lysippos and Damophon. It is difficult to allow for distortions of later reproduction in their oeuvres but prior assump-

tions and interpretations can be refined, claim the authors — and hasty attributions and interpretations exposed — by wider iconographic, sculptural, historical and archaeological evidence of concepts, production, and cultural and political contexts. The most elegant booklet by ISLER *et al.* comprises essays on three busts in Zurich, including portraits of Euripides and Antoninus Pius.

Dr SUMMERER has studied the collection of Hellenistic terracottas from Amisos, on the north coast of Turkey. After assessing accompanying finds, she classifies the pieces in seven groups of forms. Briefly, she appraises the site of discovery, the technique of manufacture, and style. A catalogue is appended. A summary is provided in Turkish.

AIMILIA YEROULANOU. *Diatrita: gold pierced-work jewellery from the 3rd to the 7th century*. 320 pages, b&w and colour illustrations. 1999. Athens: Benaki Museum; 960-8452-62-7 paperback.

BETTINA HEDINGER. *Die frühe Terra sigillata vom Monte Iato, Sizilien (Ausgrabungen 1971–1988) und frühkaiserzeitliche Fundkomplexe aus dem Peristylhaus I (Studia Ietina VIII)*. 720 pages, figures, tables. 1999. Lausanne: Payot; hardback 2-601-03213-8 SF152.

STUART J. FLEMING. *Roman glass: reflections on change*. xii+208 pages, b&w and colour figures. 1999. Philadelphia (PA): University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology; 0-924171-73-1 paperback \$30 (hardback \$50).

ROSEMARIE LIERKE *et al.* *Antike Glaspöferei: ein vergessenes Kapitel der Glasgeschichte*. 156 pages, 347 colour & b&w figures. 1999. Mainz: Philipp von Zabern; 3-8053-2442-1 hardback DM68 & €34.77.

What research! Dr YEROULANOU has assembled an illustrated catalogue of 629 known jewels of gold or gold with other materials from 102 museums in 26 countries. She assesses technique of manufacture, distinguishes the forms by function (brooch, earring etc.), and then analyses them in detail (vegetal forms, linear forms, figures). Little enough of the corpus is from known contexts and some of the pieces are known at all only from older records; but Dr YEROULANOU argues that it bears witness to gradual development of technique and illustrates exchange among workshops or their clients all around the Mediterranean and beyond. She relates some of the developments to the history of Christianity. The 7th century was at once the most prolific and the least innovative. It brought the end of the tradition. Her big book is produced to a suitably splendid standard. (*Cf.* the picture review of *The Golden Age of Irish art*.)

Ms HEDINGER describes the varieties of Samian ware found in a house in the Roman town at Monte Iato, Sicily, according to their fabrics, forms and associated stamps, graffiti, and special surface treatments. She reports the results of chemical analyses. She goes on to provide a detailed analysis of the

finds contexts in six rooms. Relating the data to wider patterns, she reassesses the chronology. Catalogues are provided of the forms and stamps and associated finds. A summary is provided in Italian.

To accompany the exhibition at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology, *Roman glass* describes the historical and cultural context in the Eastern and Western Empires and outlines the history of making glass, adding an appendix on the technology. References are provided to the literature in English. The book is generously designed and illustrated. The history of modelled surface decoration on glass is outlined by Ms LIERKE *et al.* with special attention to the technology, including experimental archaeology. The focus is on the Roman Empire but connections are shown to Persia (Begram) and beyond, and Ms LIERKE shows that the technology continued to develop in Germany, Central Europe and the Islamic world. Very effective illustration is provided by plenty of photographs and diagrams.

JANET HUSKINSON (ed.). *Experiencing Rome: culture, identity and power in the Roman Empire*. xv+378 pages, 96 figures, 4 maps. 2000. London: Routledge; 0-415-21284-7 paperback £16.99.

SUSAN E. ALCOCK (ed.). *The early Roman Empire in the East*. x+212 pages, 79 figures, 2 tables. 1997. Oxford: Oxbow Books; 1-9001-8852-X paperback £24.

RICHARD REECE. *The later Roman Empire: an archaeology, AD 150–600*. 192 pages, 24 colour plates, 73 b&w figures. 1999. Stroud & Charleston (SC): Tempus; 0-7524-1449-6 hardback £19.99 & \$32.50.

Dr HUSKINSON's topical volume has been prepared for the Open University — normally, as here too, a recommendation in itself. The topics covered are: media of communication; Rome as symbol; the dominant or approved culture, and status; gender; the symbolism of work (favoured jobs) and the ramifying effects of urbanism; religion; dissent; the jewry; and 'concepts of peace'. The treatment is both sound and critical — as much the topical awareness of cultural diversity as the emphasis on symbolism (*cf.* COONEY, EDMONDS, THOMAS and BEVAN in 'Later prehistory of Europe', above).

Although it was long neglected by comparison with the Western Empire, Dr ALCOCK's dozen interesting papers herald some redress for the vast world of the Eastern Empire. They comprise a couple of papers on towns (G. Woolf generalizing, and an assessment of Achaia), four studies of regions (Syria, Judaea and the Arabian Gulf), and five on 'images and identities' (the imperial cult, Hellenism in the Pontic, J. Elsner on pilgrimage, and two on tombs), plus 'a view from the west' by M. Millett.

Pointing out that, partly because there were relatively few trusted historians for the times, the general reader has few introductions (any?) available on the later periods of the Roman Empire, Dr REECE recommends that an art historical approach to the

culture and its development can aptly serve to introduce the principal themes. Accordingly, he provides chapters on sculpture and portraiture, mosaics and wall paintings (tombs and churches), illuminated manuscripts, churches, silver, coinage (and the information that it provides on the economy), and one chapter on other materials (from pottery to jewellery to the distribution of animal bones). A final chapter sums up the history. The approach is original but it makes sense — and it is all written very approachably indeed.

GUY DE LA BÉDOYÈRE. *The Golden Age of Roman Britain*. 194 pages, 91 figures, 27 colour photographs. 1999. Stroud & Charleston (SC): Tempus; 0-7524-1417-8 hardback £25 & \$29.99

GUY DE LA BÉDOYÈRE. *Companion to Roman Britain*. 288 pages, 87 figures, 2 maps. 1999. Stroud & Charleston (SC): Tempus; 0-7524-1457-7 hardback £25 & \$37.50.

MARILYN E. RAYBOULD. *A study of inscribed material from Roman Britain: an inquiry into some aspects of literacy in Romano-British society* (BAR British Series 281). viii+365 pages, 37 figures, 80 tables. 1999. Oxford: Archaeopress; 0-86054-986-0 paperback £37.

GRAHAM WEBSTER. *Boudica: the British revolt against Rome AD 60* (2nd ed.). 152 pages, 24 plates, 8 figures. 1999. London: Routledge; 0-415-22606-6 paperback £16.99.

Turning to Roman Britain, a couple of other titles, from the prolific Mr DE LA BÉDOYÈRE, remind us that approachability is the general mark of his prolific publisher. Like the ALCOCK book and REECE, this book has been needed. With just a couple of chapters on the history of 4th-century Britannia at the beginning, Mr DE LA BÉDOYÈRE moves on to consider, in order, towns, the countryside, religion, and then villa life. The last two chapters revert to the province's history and the evidence (mostly archaeological) for the dissolution of Roman control. He provides appendices on sites to visit, on classical sources, and on epigraphy, and a very helpfully annotated bibliography. He also contributes, with his *Companion*, to a fine tradition of handbooks on Roman Britain, setting out deftly introduced and amply annotated lists of epigraphy (and, where appropriate, Classical writers' references) on: the army; civilian organization; offices and occupations; the emperors; buildings; roads (milestones); spirits and cults; and people (Vespasian to Stilicho, Togidubnus to Pelagius, nor forgetting Flavius Cerealis out on Hadrian's Wall). There is a separate section on women; and one on coins. Useful technical appendices and a bibliography are provided too.

Dr RAYBOULD has assembled and reviewed a vast body of data in order to assess literacy in Roman Britain. It includes religious dedications, official inscriptions and workers' marks, funerary dedications, marks of ownership, inscriptions on walls or

floors, petitions and curses, and the correspondence at Vindolanda. The army, she thinks, was the main vector of literacy. She considers that a great many people did use writing but that few had — or needed — great competence. Even many military inscriptions were rather rough. Yet she finds that much of the writing expressed personal or ethnic identity or aspiration. She has found telling mistakes in the Latin but also, she thinks, evidence for language change. Almost half of the report is given over to listing her data — a fascinating resource for further research. See also GONZÁLEZ *et al.*, below.

Now reprinted is Dr WEBSTER's study of Boudica, the rebel 'queen'.

A. GONZÁLEZ BLANCO, M. MAYER OLIVÉ, A.U. STYLOW & R. GONZÁLEZ FERNÁNDEZ (ed.). *El balneario romano y la Cueva Negra de Fortuna (Murcia): homenaje al Prof. Ph. Rahtz* (Antigüedad y cristianismo XIII). 566 pages, 21 colour plates, b&w figures. 1999. Murcia: Universidad de Murcia; ISSN 0214-7165 paperback 5000ptas & US\$50.

The walls of La Cueva Negra (the Black Cave), in southeastern Spain, are covered with no less than 45 texts in Latin. Vol. 13 of 'Antiquity & Christianity' comprises 16 papers on the cave and seven on the Roman spa of Fortuna, near by, with which, it is thought, the cave was associated — and at which Prof. Rahtz, to whom this volume is dedicated, worked with his Spanish colleagues. The main article on the spa is a long comparative review by E. Oró of the therapeutic functions, logistical plans and religious associations of Roman spas. The following papers are on the archaeology of the Fortuna spa (including a contribution by Prof. Rahtz & L. Watts). Most of the second half of the volume covers Cueva Negra, its form and geology, and the texts. They display phonetic adaption of Hispanic Latin (*cf.* RAYBOULD, above). It is perplexing, however, that no contemporary material has been found in association here (M. Amante). Included in the volume are articles on Prof. Rahtz's archaeology by Ms Watts and on southwestern Britain in 'late antiquity' by Prof. Rahtz himself. Brief abstracts of the main papers are provided in English.

### 'New World' historical archaeology

Has 'historical archaeology' a common agenda? Where it seems that the principal concern in South America is cultural identity, the books on the USA and Australia argue that historical archaeology is about the development of capitalism. Kluwer Academic/Plenum are contributing a lot of weight to the field.

ROSS W. JAMESON. *Domestic architecture and power: the historical archaeology of Colonial Ecuador*. xvii+244 pages, 33 figures, 19 tables. 2000. New York (NY): Kluwer Academic/Plenum; 0-306-46176-5 hardback \$75.

DANIEL SCHÁVELSON. *The historical archaeology of Buenos Aires - a city at the end of the world* (tr.

A. Lomonaco). xvi+187 pages, 43 figures, 7 tables. 2000. New York (NY): Kluwer Academic/Plenum; 0-306-46176-5 hardback \$72.

PEDRO PAULO A. FUNARI (ed.). *Cultura material e arqueologia histórica*. 317 pages, illustrations. 1998. Campinas: Campinas State University Institute of Philosophy & Human Sciences; 85-86572-04-7; paperback; R\$8 & \$10.

✍ Dr JAMIESON has studied the secular buildings and material culture of Cuenca and its direct hinterland (haciendas) during the Colonial period. Cuenca seems to have replaced the Inca site of Tomebamba. He assessed layout and features of design in houses in different parts of the town, collated inventories of the period, and made small excavations. Although he concentrated more on Spanish sites, Dr JAMIESON distinguishes Spanish and Native traits and argues that Kathleen Deagan's model of cultural polarity at St Augustine, Florida, fails to account, at Cuenca, for a blurring of material distinctions between Native and European. Was that partly on account of comparatively high Native population in this part of the Andes?

Dr SCHÁVELSON shows that, for the three centuries from 1580, the myth that Buenos Aires is a European town was ill founded. Excavation has shown that the contents of houses belied the determinedly classical street plan: from the mid 19th century, it was a city of intense diversity. Dr SCHÁVELSON argues that archaeology has contributed to an understanding of the city's historical topography. Evidence of earlier periods is scant, however. The considerable African presence known from documentary sources is difficult to detect archaeologically. Yet Native pottery shows clearly in earlier levels even though the sources indicate that Indians were never numerous. Dr SCHÁVELSON summarizes the results of excavations in 13 houses of diverse social status, a hostel, a workshop built over the site of a convent, the town hall, tunnels, and surveys of parks. The chapter on finds explains that, although ground conditions are inimical to preservation of bone, more affluent households were great meat eaters (their scraps were sent off to Fray Bentos, no doubt). The translation is not wholly reliable — *vecinos*, for instance, were not merely neighbours.

The 10 papers (8 Portuguese, 2 in English) in *Cultura material e arqueologia histórica* explore Brazil. Dr FUNARI opens the book with a pithy but very widely ranging review of the relation of archaeology to history in particular reference to South America. The themes among the accompanying papers cover towns, exploration of Brazil's interior, gender in the home, Indian smoking pipes, pottery of the independent African enclave of Palmares, and the roles of museums for preservation and education. Two of the papers concentrate especially on style and three on images of socio-political identity.

HEATHER BURKE. *Meaning and ideology in historical archaeology: style, social identity, and capitalism in an Australian town*. xvi+276 pages, 87 figures etc.. 1999. New York (NY): Kluwer Academic/Plenum; 0-306-46066-1 hardback \$79.95.

LORINDA B.R. GOODWIN. *An archaeology of manners: the polite world of the merchant elite of colonial Massachusetts*. xx+233 pages, 25 figures. 1999. New York (NY): Kluwer Academic/Plenum; 0-306-46156-0 hardback \$75.

PAUL R. MULLINS. *Race and affluence: an archaeology of African America and consumer culture*. xiv+217 pages, 18 figures, 5 tables. 1999. New York (NY): Kluwer Academic/Plenum; 0-306-46089-0 hardback \$69.95.

MARK P. LEONE & PARKER B. POTTER JR. (ed.). *Historical archaeologies of capitalism*. xiv+248 pages, 6 tables. 1999. New York (NY): Kluwer Academic/Plenum; 0-306-46067-X hardback \$110.

✍ For Armidale, NSW (and some of its hinterland — cf. JAMIESON, above), from the 1840s to the 1920s, Dr BURKE's engrossing book assesses the significance of exterior woodwork and metalwork on public and private buildings, glasswork in churches, and streetside planting. Taking account of sociology and mapping variations across the town, she argues that there was a developing rhetoric of presentation (semiotics) that depended on associations of style for asserting capitalist identities. She also considers recent work on the amenity value of the town's heritage as part of the same process. She relates carefully to sociological and some cultural studies treatments of ideology as well as the more recent archaeological literature — but not to the archaeologists' long-running theme of style. There remains the question, common for prehistorians, as to whether meanings that she imputes were read as she argues. One technique that could have helped is townscape analysis: how did the buildings address each other and passers-by visually? The concern with image is like the South Americans' but, here the question is less 'Who we are' than 'What we do'.

The next two books deal with meaning more successfully (as Dr BURKE would agree) by using contemporary literary evidence. 'Manners are simultaneously barriers and bridges' writes Dr GOODWIN (p. 12). Her excavation of a 17th–18th-century house in Salem, Mass., led her to investigate its cultural context. As well as the occupants' archives, she studied correspondence among other families in Salem and back in London and Liverpool. She assesses portraits and studies of the contemporary material culture, descriptions of the daily life, and literature of the period in England, including Richardson and Fielding, *Spectator*, and *Tatler*. Home country manners were adopted for New World aspirations, she argues. Among the theoretical sources for this witty and thoughtful book loom P. Bourdieu


and E. Goffman. Likewise, Dr MULLINS' assessment of Annapolis from the mid 19th century to the second quarter of the 20th participates in topical debates about classification and construction of social groups and about domestic consumption as expressive culture and social strategy. Drawing on local history, commercial data and journalism as well as household inventories and excavation, he explains that, despite White attempts to control who bought what, middle class African Americans have proved elusive in the archaeological record. Is that a token of their success?

In *Historical archaeologies*, Mullins reviews a wider range of evidence for the same pattern but, here, Dr LEONE's piece on pottery in Annapolis from the mid 18th century to the early 20th suggests (with hefty references to J. Deetz, E.P. Thompson and Foucault) that such adaption was, in fact, capitulation to the broader demands of capitalism. M. Pursler's paper on settlers in Nevada a century ago describes a cycle from innovative yet dependent pioneering to creative local adaption and then to (re)absorption in 'the system'. C.E. Orser reflects on ambiguities in the archaeology of farm tenants during the same period in the Southern USA — such a critical period here — warning (*cave* Mullins) that there was probably regional variation. Considering the ambiguities and ambivalences, it is appropriate that the other papers in this book dwell on questions of theory and method (LEONE and POTTER on working assumptions about capitalism, T.W. Epperson on abiding doubts over cultural identity in the Commons of lower Manhattan — including the African Burial Ground — A. Wylie on philosophy, and M. Johnson's reflections from Britain).

ANNALIES CORBIN. *The material culture of steamboat passengers: archaeological evidence from the Missouri River*. xvii+237 pages, 66 figures, 20 tables. 2000. New York (NY): Kluwer Academic/Plenum; 0-306-46168-4 hardback \$95.

STANLEY SOUTH. *Historical archaeology in Wachovia: excavating eighteenth-century Bethabara and Moravian pottery*. xvii+442 pages, 318 figures, 7 tables. 1999. New York (NY): Kluwer Academic/Plenum; 0-306-45658-3 hardback \$90.

Ms CORBIN has analysed the remains of five boxes of luggage recovered in the two excavations of the steamers that plied the upper Missouri in the second quarter of the 19th century. With reference to historical literature, including a long catalogue of the other river boats as well as lists of the finds, she argues that the contents illustrate aspects of the sociology and economics of White colonization. The presentation and argument is very orderly and well illustrated but retains the wooden character of its origin as a dissertation.

 Bethabara, North Carolina, was founded by German and Scandinavian brethren of the Moravian

church in 1753. After flourishing for about 15 years, the site has persisted as 'a small farming community' (SOUTH, p. 10) to this day. An ample archive provided interpretive guidance for Prof. SOUTH's research among the surrounding fields, where he found and dug the men's house, meeting house, communal kitchen, bakery and dining hall, storehouse, business supervisor's house, five workshops, the surgery, the apothecary, a couple of smaller dwellings, the wells, and the fort built in the French & Indian (Seven Years) War. The first half of his report covers these investigations and describes how ruins were stabilized and the site prepared for visitors. The second half covers a pair of potteries, their products, their antecedents in Germany and England, and, briefly, links to later wares in Old Salem, near by, and in South Carolina. Just a dozen copies of this tome were produced in 1975. The present edition has some new notes and the maps have been adapted. Pretheoretical, perhaps, but strong on method and evidence, and remarkably clear, well illustrated and readable, for many readers, *Bethabara* would be the pick of this quarter's titles in historical archaeology. See also 'Historical archaeology', pp. 234–6, below.

Context is all, argues Dr GOODWIN, but how does one distinguish and articulate the layers of world society, local society, economics, of intention and constraint? The problem vexes anthropologists, sociologists and historians too. It is aired thoughtfully by Dr BURKE. Would the Latin Americans agree with the Anglos that behind concerns with cultural image lay broader yet still discernible processes of capitalism? Like some US prehistorians now, most of the latter authors imply that a large-scale, 'processualist' approach is necessary as well as the eye for agency.

### The general reader

CORINNE DEBAINE-FRANCFORT. *The search for ancient China*. 160 pages, b&w and colour illustrations. 1999. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-30095-X paperback £6.95.

CHRIS SCARRE (ed.). *The seventy wonders of the ancient world: the great monuments and how they were built*. 304 pages, b&w and colour illustrations. 1999. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-05096-1 hardback £24.95.

CHRISTOPHER WALKER (ed.). *Astronomy before the telescope*. 352 pages, 20 colour plates, 116 b&w figures. 1999. London: British Museum; 0-7141-2733-7 paperback £14.99.

ANDREW ROBINSON. *The story of writing*. 224 pages, colour and b&w illustrations. 2000. London: Thames & Hudson; paperback 0-500-28156-4 £9.95.

GEORGES DUBY. *Art and society in the Middle Ages* (tr. Jean Birrell). iii+119 pages, 16 figures. 2000. Cambridge: Polity; hardback 0-7456-2173-2 £40; paperback 0-7456-2174-0 £12.99.

*The search for ancient China* is both a history of research and a general view of finds from sites ranging from Choukoutien to the Great Wall. It includes excerpts from the writings of pioneer archaeologists and recent Western books and from an interview with K.C. Chang. Intensely illustrated, the book seems to draw the reader right into the trenches and museums. With a picture of the Clintons, it points out that foreign heads of state are taken to 'the terracotta army'. This interesting booklet is provided with a goodly list of further reading.

A roster of experts contribute pithy passages to *The seventy wonders* on famous monuments from all over the world boldly illustrated with photographs and diagrams. If the book encouraged wonder and excitement in youngsters then that would be fine, but how much understanding is this treatment likely to impart? Also world-wide in scope, equally entertaining but more coherent are *Astronomy before the telescope* and *The story of writing*, both published now in paperback.

In a different league, of course, is GEORGES DUBY. His assessment is of 'high art' in the same sense that Prof. HARBISON deals with art (see the picture review). Prof. DUBY seeks to take account of how the art illustrates world view and also takes care to point out where the middling sorts of people took part in commissioning minor works. His treatment too is arranged chronologically; and it is complemented by a very full multilingual bibliography.

#### Also received

GABRIEL COONEY & EOIN GROGAN. *Irish prehistory: a social perspective* (2nd ed.). xiii+276 pages, 78 figures. 1999. Dublin: Wordwell; paperback 1-869857-28-3 IRL£14.95.

ROGER TRAVIS. *Allegory and the tragic chorus in Sophocles' Oedipus at Colonus*. xii+243 pages. 1999. Lanham (MD): Rowman & Littlefield; hardback 0-8476-9608-1 £43; 0-8476-9609-X paperback £17.95.

## Review articles

### New perspectives on — and for — southern Africa

BRIAN FAGAN\*

GILBERT PWITI (ed.). *Caves, monuments and texts: Zimbabwean archaeology today* (Studies in African archaeology 14). viii+159 pages, 23 illustrations. 1997. Uppsala: Department of Anthropology & Ancient History, Uppsala University; 91-506-1246-8, ISSN 0284-5040, paperback SEK125+SEK25p&p.

PAUL LANE, ANDREW REID & ALINAH SEGOBYE (ed.). *Ditswa Mmung: the archaeology of Botswana*. 263 pages, 77 figures, 23 colour plates, 4 tables, 1 appendix. 1998. Gaborone, Botswana: Pula Press 99912-61-58-3/Botswana Society 99912-60-39-0 hardback 80 Pula.

African archaeology has enjoyed somewhat of a resurgence in the 1990s. At the same time, many archaeologists working elsewhere have realized just how much sub-Saharan Africa has to contribute to our understanding of such issues as the rise and fall of chiefdoms and states. The two volumes reviewed here summarize research for a broad audience in two important areas: Zimbabwe and Botswana.

*Caves, monuments and texts* is the first survey of problems in Zimbabwean archaeology to appear in a generation. Five of the authors in this edited

volume are black Zimbabweans, which makes for interesting perspectives on the past. Two chapters cover the Stone Age. Nicholas Walker & Carolyn Thorp survey the Early to Late Stone Age. The chapter bristles with obscure culture names such as Nswatugi and Amadzimba, of interest only to those with arcane specialties. Peter Garlake contributes an essay on the history of rock-art research in Zimbabwe, from Theodore Bent to Elizabeth Goodall. Unfortunately, his story ends in 1970 without mention of his own work.

The Iron Age chapters range widely over a variety of important issues, including contemporary concerns and attitudes to archaeology in Zimbabwe. Gilbert Pwiti writes about settlement and spatial archaeology since the late 1950s. He surveys the potential of GIS and other technologies for studying settlement contrasts between the Early and Late Iron Age. Innocent Pikirayi examines ceramics, starting with the basic systematics and culture history of the 1960s. He draws attention to the growing importance of style analysis and symbolism in this field, but clearly finds pottery typology a somewhat limiting approach. Godfrey Mahachi and Webber Mondoro address Great Zimbabwe and the issue of

\* Department of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Barbara CA 93106, USA. [brian@brianfagan.com](mailto:brian@brianfagan.com)