

Review

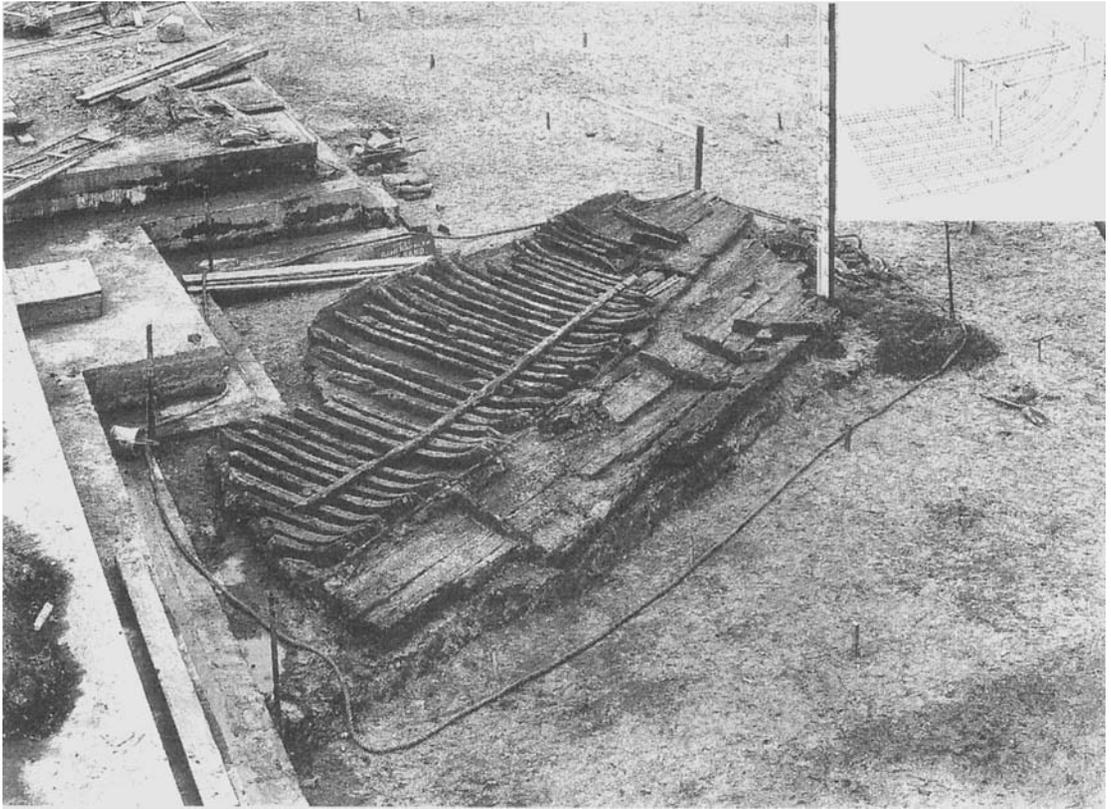
Among the New Books

ANTHONY SINCLAIR

☞ Had you been a young boy in the 1960s and wanted to try for yourself the psychedelic experience written about in books such as *The doors of perception*, how would you have acquired the necessary 'drugs'? PAUL DEVEREUX wrote to Aldous Huxley and amazingly Huxley replied. Whilst Huxley could not supply, in this case mescaline, he wished him well in his quest, and by his 21st birthday two small sugar cubes with LSD launched DEVEREUX on his first trip. So begins PAUL DEVEREUX'S *The long trip* (xix+298 pages, 78 figures. 1997. London: Penguin Arkana 0-14-019540-8 \$15.95 paperback); and indeed it is a trip of some length, from the entoptic images found on caves walls, to the ghost roads of Eastern Europe in the Middle Ages. *The long trip* is a traveller's guide to the psychedelic experience of others in the 'foreign countries' of time, combining linguistics, ethnobotany, biology and anthropology, and, for our own journey, bringing together dispersed research on the archaeology of the altered states of mind; Lewis-Williams and Dowson on Palaeolithic art, Dronfield on megalithic monuments, Sherratt on opium braziers of the Neolithic, Wasson and Richardson on magic mushrooms in the New World. The range of evidence for the use of hallucinogenic substances is astounding and undeniable. It includes the literary works of De Quincy, Coleridge and Greene, the bright frescoed images and the poppy goddess from the Palace of Knossos; perhaps even the flying carpet — a carpet whose designs were inspired by hallucinogenic visions and which then provided a seat itself for the visionary tripper. And these are but a few. DEVEREUX even goes on to suggest, perhaps not unsurprisingly and not completely convincingly, that the range of straight-line phenomena found in the New World (Chaco Canyon in the USA, La Quemada in Mexico and Nasca in Peru), and also in the Old World (the cursus monuments of the Neolithic, stone rows on Bronze Age, Dartmoor, perhaps even the Sweet Track in Somerset, and of course Ley Lines all over the place) allude to the tunnel 'vision' of a trip; some were perhaps even used as walking routes for shamans tripping. DEVEREUX ends *The long trip* where he began it, commenting on substance use in contemporary society. Is it not time for a sensible policy towards legitimate drug use, he urges, rather than that we now

follow. Violence and crime associated with the drugs industry is the price we pay for denying our own cultural history. The problem now is, following Sherratt's observations, that the West is an alcohol, not a drug, culture, and the two, as we are so often told, do not mix.

☞ ADRIAN BAILEY, however, in *The caves of the sun: the origins of mythology* (312 pages, 14 plates, 52 figures. 1997. London: Jonathan Cape; 0-224-030063-9 hardback £17.99) argues that the psychological turn has been nothing but detrimental to the study of mythology. Understanding lies not within but outside in the environment staring us in the face. It is, of course, the sun, as had been recognized before Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung led us off in another direction. When we look at the evidence for ritual practice, from Neanderthal cave-bear cults to Stonehenge, BAILEY suggests, we see the impact of our relationship with the sun, and our appeal for its life-giving force. Not being expert with the later prehistoric record I thought I would look at BAILEY'S interpretation of the earlier evidence. Neanderthals, for instance, made symbolic use of the cave bear because, like the sun, the bear went down in winter and rose again in the spring. Cave-bear rituals, such as those evidenced at Drachenloch and Wildkirchli in the Swiss Alps, were therefore about the regeneration of the sun. In *Trois Frères*, one of the 'vomiting bears' is covered with small circles, numbering some 189, the number of days 'or suns' from the summer solstice to the winter one — give or take a day or two. In cave art, the horse is commonly represented, yet did not contribute to the diet. The reason for its representation is its association with water: Indo-European mythology associates horses with water, in Greek mythology horses bring forth water when they strike their feet. Some painted horses in cave art have meanders at their feet, and these meanders, noted Alexander Marshack, are water symbols. "A French proverb asks, 'what is swifter than a horse, crosses water, yet never gets its feet wet? The sun' (p. 64). This is a remarkably broad-brushed book, and it is between the brush strokes that the cracks appear. We might point to the taphonomic problems of cave-bear bones and bear cults in caves, though some asso-



The construction of County Hall in London, on the banks of the River Thames, and opposite the Houses of Parliament, reveals the remains of a fascinating late Roman ship. The story of this wreck is related in PETER MARSDEN's *Ships and shipwrecks* (128 pages, 11 colour plates, 85 illustrations. 1997. London: English Heritage & Batsford; 0-7134-7536-6 paperback £15.99), a well-illustrated introduction to maritime archaeology in Britain. The carvel construction method of this boat, where the planks, joined by mortice and tenon, were laid first and the ribs inserted later is of the Mediterranean ship-building tradition, yet the oak from which the boat was made was locally acquired. Tree-ring examination reveals that the boat was constructed in AD 300 and abandoned shortly thereafter. Clearly not a merchant vessel, the County Hall Ship was built after the re-establishment of Roman rule in the province in AD 296 by Constantinus Chlorus, and is similar in form to others associated with Roman forts. A form of maritime Romanization perhaps?

ciations do seem real, such as at Grotte Chauvet. The sun does not over-winter in caves like the bears; it rises each day, though for less time in winter. Horses did contribute to the diet, as at Solutre, and see LEVINE this issue (pp. 90–100). Not all horses have meanders at their feet. It is easier to play with the evidence that does fit, than to deal with that which does not.

✉ For those interested in landscape history, there are two new books on Yorkshire to whet the appetite. The modern doyen of landscape interpretation, RICHARD MUIR has just released *The Yorkshire countryside: a landscape history* (250 pages, 140 illustrations. 1997. Edinburgh: Keele University Press;

1-85331-198-7 paperback £17.95) whilst ROBERT WHITE has just produced *Yorkshire Dales* (128 pages, 16 colour plates, 89 illustrations. 1997. London: English Heritage & Batsford; 0-7134-7561-7 paperback £15.99). Landscape books on the whole follow a set pattern: a discussion of the physical landscape and its long-term changes (Pleistocene through to Holocene) sets the scene for a chronological discussion. This is the format for MUIR's book and WHITE also follows the chronological order. Both look in turn at the evidence for prehistoric occupation, including strikingly photogenic hill-forts such as Ingleborough, the landscape presence of Roman rule, and the development of the Middle Ages and enclosure. Whereas MUIR essentially ends at this point

WHITE goes further and ends with the striking quantity of industrial archaeology that covers the Yorkshire countryside from coal and lead mining amongst other activities, and their associated waste. Yorkshire lends itself to such books. It is a rich and arresting landscape, diverse in its cultural and industrial history, with a climate that offers plenty of opportunity for atmospheric weather-filled photographs, and the landscape historian's dream of snow. Moreover, in an English context Yorkshire is a landscape of which everyone possesses an image. It is also incredible, at least from my essentially Palaeolithic perspective, to see how that image contains sometimes subtle, sometimes not, effects of human occupation in environmental terms. This is the rich legacy of environmental historians in the British Isles. Particularly interesting was ROGER WHITE's final chapter which considers how the Dales landscape might be conserved within the context of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It will be interesting to see whether other forthcoming landscape volumes in this series, relating to areas where no such National Park status and regulations exist, continue this dialogue on conservation and management. This is clearly the case with the conservation of industrial history often evidenced by its waste, so revealing in historical terms, and even romantic to look at in a photograph, but in reality considerably damaging.

✍ 'Archaeology in the field is not a very glamorous pursuit. The best sites are generally in tropical or semi-tropical climates, and the archaeologist must prepare to perspire a great deal. Most of his time is spent in waiting, or in digging, or in the most taxing form of drudgery. Obviously archaeologists find their profession a rewarding one, but most of us would prefer to savour its pleasures vicariously.' ROBERT SILVERBERG, in the introduction to this reprint of the 1964 book *Great adventures in archaeology* (xiii+402 pages, 48 illustrations. 1997. Lincoln (NE): Nebraska University Press; 0-8032-9247-3 paperback \$16.95), is happy to admit to being an armchair archaeologist, and from that armchair he introduces us to the vicarious pleasures of archaeology in the Valley of the Nile via the endeavours of Belzoni, Flinders Petrie and Howard Carter, Heinrich Schlieemann at Troy, and John Lloyd Stephens in the New World.

Longer pleasures from the armchair are to be found in THOMAS GANN's *Mystery cities of the Maya*. (Archaeology & adventure in Central America! Mystic travellers series. 252 pages, 51 illustrations. 1997. Kempton (IL): Adventures Unlimited Press; 0-932813-17-8 paperback \$16.95 & £12.99). GANN was a fellow of the Royal Geographic Society, a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute, a member of the Maya Society, a qualified surgeon and friend of the great British adventurer Mike Mitchell-Hughes,

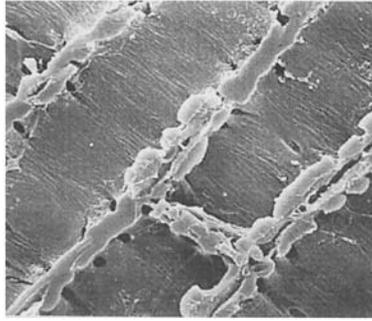
finder of the crystal skull. The perspiration pours freely in this account, first published in 1925, as GANN travels to and into Central America, avoiding pirates, manatee ('mermaid') hunters and the miserable earth-eating inhabitants of San Francisco. He shares the excitement of excavating at the lost city of Benque Viejo, revealing beautifully made obsidian artefacts and pottery. Those for whom perspiration is not enough need look no further than the account of Marcelino Velasquez, retold by GANN. Velasquez has been followed by some mysterious noise as he made his way back to his village. Having just about arrived, 'I congratulated myself on the riddance, laughed at my foolish fears, and, stepping out briskly, soon reached the trail to the village . . . I had not got more than fifty paces from the turn when suddenly, without the slightest warning, some heavy body landed on my shoulders pulling me forcibly backwards, but fortunately not quite upsetting me. Instinctively I drew the machete with my right hand, and endeavoured to turn on my assailant, whom I felt to be slipping from my shoulders, when suddenly I experienced an awful burning, tearing sensation all down the side of my face and neck. Maddened with pain and nearly blinded with blood, I turned half-round and with all my force dealt my assailant a furious thrust, straight from the point of my machete. It released its grip at once and with a curious gurgling groan falling away from me. I felt my head going round and tried to steady myself, but it was no use, my legs gave way under me and I fainted. I don't know how long I lay, but it must have been fully an hour . . . When I came round I found myself lying across the track, cheek by jowl with a dead, half-grown jaguar, with my machete sticking out of its chest. The left side of my face was horribly stiff and painful; I could not see out of my left eye; and my coat, torn to ribbons at the back, was saturated with blood, a pool of which lay beside me. At first when I tried to get up I felt like fainting again, but a good shot of neat rum soon pulled me round and, tying a handkerchief round my wounded face, I staggered on into the village'. Velasquez lost his left eye and spent the next eight weeks in hospital, but, contrary to logic, rum is clearly something for the first-aid kit of every tropical traveller.

✍ Work by scholars such as Meg Conkey, Joan Gero and Janet Spector, amongst others, has drawn attention to the structural problems that women have faced, and still face, in attempting to do archaeology in a world organized for and unthinkingly male. JOYCE TYLDESLEY's *Hatchepsut: the female pharaoh* (xvii+270 pages, 17 black & white plates, 43 figure, 2 maps. 1997. London: Penguin; 0-14-024464-6 paperback £8.99), now reprinted in paperback, is an illuminating account of that process within an an-

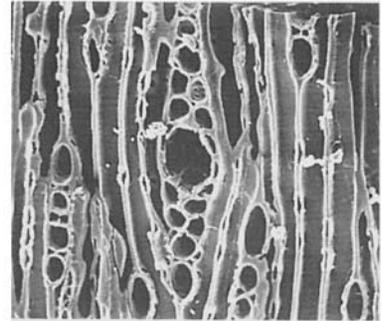
A series of S.E.M. photographs reveal the different structures of preserved carbonized wood fragments for six different species.

LUCIE CHABAL's *Forêts et sociétés en Languedoc (Néolithique final Antiquité tardive): L'antracologie, méthode et paléo-écologie* (189 pages, 64 figures, 14 tables. 1997. Paris: Éditions de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme; 2-7351-0635-7 paperback Ffr215)

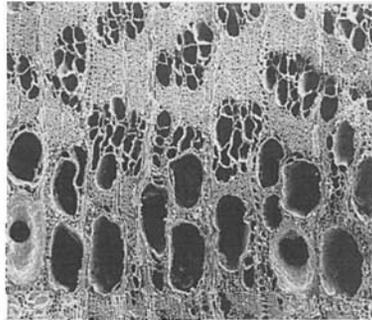
utilises this form of evidence to investigate the manner of deforestation in the Languedoc region from the end of the Neolithic to Antiquity. The advantage of this evidence over pollen analysis is the clear link to human activity, if carbonized materials are collected from archaeological deposits. Moreover, with proper sampling, collection and preparation one can determine, not just species, but to distinguish between domestic firewood (from hearths and their dumps) and wood used for other purposes (from other localities). Samples of more than 300–400 fragments from each stratigraphic level of long-occupied sites reveal the development of Mediterranean oak-groves, and the permanent clearance of trees for agricultural land in the plains area from the Iron Age.



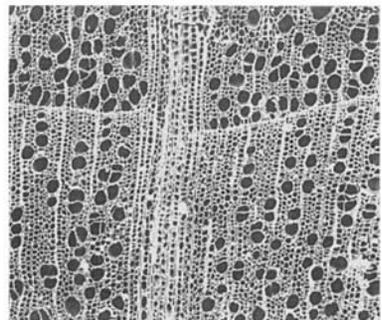
1



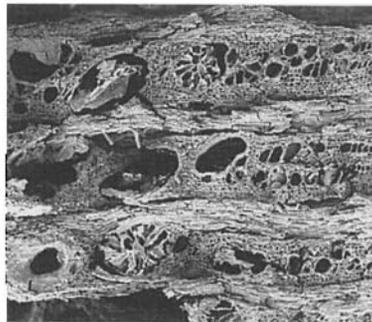
2



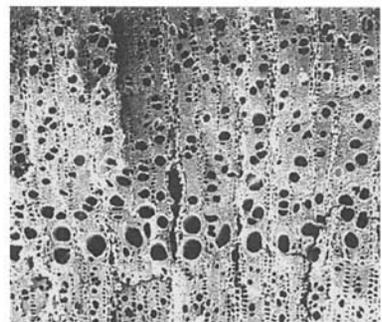
3



4



5



6

cient context, the 18th Dynasty of the Egyptian New Kingdom. Daughter of a powerful pharaoh, Tuthmosis I, influential queen to the pharaoh Tuthmosis II, and then co-regent to her son Tuthmosis III; between the second and the seventh year of her co-regency Hatchepsut had transformed herself, against all tradition, into a true Pharaoh in her own right. Manipulating, as did all the best Pharaohs, the techniques of kingship to secure her position, she instigated great building works to emphasize her relationship to her greatly respected father, yet play down her

period as queen. Images created represented her as a male pharaoh, with pointed pharaonic beard and all, and play up her semi-divine status as pharaoh, with images of her (as a male) being raised by the gods. Her 20-year rule was one of prosperity and peace; by all parameters a reign of success. Yet her very existence was almost lost. Within 20 years of her death, her monumental propoganda was vandalized and almost completely destroyed, her name and image literally obliterated from the record by her son Tuthmosis III, who himself set out to secure

his memorial by re-conventionalizing his ancestry. Since her re-discovery, TYLDESLEY notes, Hatchepsut has been seen as a strong Queen, by Victorian age scholars, used to such a monarch, as a scheming manipulator of her son in the earlier 20th century, and as a heroine to feminist scholarship. A fascinating book.

Reference

When an undergraduate student, in the early 1980s, I remember using a smallish, pink handbook of archaeologists and archaeological resources in Britain. Published in 1977 and already out of date in numerous places, it was still often consulted, though to be truthful, this was more due to the fact that nothing similar had since been published. The 20-year wait is now over. A 'must-have' for all archaeological departments, institutions and, I would hope, reference libraries in Britain is CHERRY LAVELL's *Handbook for British and Irish archaeology: sources and resources* (xii+421 pages. 1997. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press; 0-7486-0764-1 paperback £29.95). For this we have not just LAVELL but also the Leverhulme Fund to thank. The present book is divided according to six sections; (i) guides to published sources, (ii) unpublished sources, (iii) periodicals, (iv) organizations, institutions and societies, (v) photographic sources and (vi) a select archaeological bibliography. Each is further subdivided and reasonably exhaustive. For instance, the select bibliography has sections on introductory texts, guides to sites, regional survey, lists of monuments, heritage management, conservation of buildings, scientific archaeology, periods of archaeology (from Palaeolithic to Industrial) and the history and theory of archaeology. Inevitably certain sections are weaker than others, archaeological theory for example, but the overall range is indeed impressive. From my university-based perspective, the sections on organizations, institutions and societies and the guide to photographic sources were particularly useful, as others will find other sections useful. In the next few months and possibly years this book will see constant service in the ANTIQUITY office, but if it is not to go the way of other such reference works, it must be regularly updated; but how, and more importantly, how often will it be updated? Certain sections will date more quickly than others. There are already small bits of information that are now out of date on legislation; for example, reference is made to the Act of Treasure Trove, which was replaced by the Treasure Act in September 1997, and planning regulations regularly change. An obvious answer is, of course, to place newer editions on the World Wide Web. Much of the information in this volume is already dispersed out there, as detailed by Sara Champion (ANTIQUITY 71: 1027–38), but such a handbook on the Web would gather it together. An alternative would be to provide updates on CD-ROM. I await with interest.

J.P. MALLORY & D.Q. ADAMS' *Encyclopedia of Indo-European culture* (1997. xlvi+829 pages. London & Chicago: Fitzroy & Dearborn) is a weighty tome indeed. A huge range of entries fall into two sorts, those aimed at reconstruction of various Proto-Indo-European words, and those covering aspects of archaeology, cultural topics or the various Indo-European language stocks. Archaeological and cultural topics are treated in short essay format, linguistic entries are concerned with derivation, use and history of the word. Alphabetical and thematic indexes provide easy entry into the encyclopedia. The entry on 'Henbane', for example, notes that the original form of this word cannot be reconstructed, but its existence is certainly assured since the plant was indigenous across most of Europe and Asia; it was even used by Danish chicken-thieves to stun their victims, though we are not told quite how.

CHARLES ANDREW HOFLING & FELIX FERNANDO TEUCUN. *Itzaj Maya–Spanish–English dictionary*. 928 pages, 1 map. 1997. Salt Lake City (UT): University of Utah Press; 0-87480-487-6 paperback \$75. Over 20,000 entries are detailed in this trilingual dictionary of English, Spanish and Itzaj Maya. The authors note that when the dictionary (and grammar — to be published later) project was started in 1988, Itzaj Maya was close to extinction, and so this dictionary represents a real and vital attempt to save this language. Three appendices cover the taxonomies of flora, fauna and body parts, and there are brief guides to pronunciation and grammar which begin the work.

Monographs

Archaeology and the capitalist world system: a study from Russian America (xii+286 pages, numerous illustrations. 1997. New York (NY): Plenum; 0-306-45669-9 hardback \$49.50) by ARON L. CROWELL comes from the same stable of work as Kent Lightfoot's excavations at Fort Ross in California, mentioned in the last issue of ANTIQUITY, and examines further archaeological evidence of the Russian colonial involvement in North America. CROWELL's study is from the other end of the continent, Kodiak Island in Alaska, and is a conscious attempt to examine some of the concepts of Immanuel Wallerstein's World Systems Theory and its criticisms by Eric Wolf in his classic work *Europe and the people without history*. CROWELL notes that there is a crucial difference in the nature of the colonial encounter between the Russian mercantile colonialists and the British, Dutch, French and American. In simple terms, the Europeans follow the Wallerstein model of industrialization in the core and the transformation of those at the periphery into labourers producing raw materials to be transformed in the core. The labour of the fur trappers to the Europeans was paid for by the exchange of mass-produced commercial goods. This was possible because of the transport routes into

the territories of the sub-Arctic. The Russian case was different. Such transport infrastructure for the transport of consumer goods was lacking. Moreover, the pursuit of sea mammals was best done by the indigenous populations and their native technology. The Russian approach to this problem was direct colonial conquest and the demand of tribute from the indigenous communities in the form of furs, etc. Excavations at Three Saints Harbour by CROWELL supports this in the form of a marked separation of material remains between Russian colonial residences and those of the natives.

RICHARD E. W. ADAMS' *Ancient civilisations of the New World* (xiii+158 pages, 5 figures, 9 maps, 1 table. 1997. Boulder (CO) & Oxford: Westview Press; 0-8133-1382-1 hardback \$49.95 & £37.95, 0-8133-1383-X paperback \$14.95 £10.50) is a brief, essay-sized introduction to the 'state civilizations' of the New World from someone who has made significant contributions to its study. After a brief review of the salient features of the civilizations of the Old World — noting the importance, to us in a secular society, of religion as a unifying and motivating mechanism — ADAMS then looks, chronologically in turn, at the civilizations of the New World, Olmec to Inca. Most of these, ADAMS argues, are less like states in the Old World sense and more like extensions of the major cities, La Venta, Teotihuacan, Tenochtitlan, etc., with the exception of the Inca empire, which he suggests is a real civilization.

REINHARD BERNBECK'S *Theorien in der Archäologie* (402 pages, several figures. 1997. Tübingen & Basel: A. Francke Verlag; 3-8252-1964-X paperback SFr37) is the first book that I have seen in the last couple of years by a German author on the subject of archaeological theory. Three major sections cover recent developments in archaeological theory since 1960. The first looks at the New Archaeology, including discussions of middle-range theory, analogies and systems theory. The second covers methodologies, including economic archaeology, regional archaeology typological and stylistic analysis. The third and final section looks at the impact of Post-processualism, Marxism and feminism in archaeology today.

MARIE-ODILE LAVANDHOMME & VINCENT GUICHARD'S *Rodumna (Roanne, Loire), le village gaulois* (369 pages, 133 plates, 155 figures, 14 tables. 1997. Paris: Éditions de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme; 2-7351-0619-5 paperback Ffr315) is a detailed report on the 2nd- and 1st-century BC Gallic settlement of Roanne, allowing comparison with other recent finds from the local area. Sections on material culture are accompanied by faunal analysis and other contributions to an understanding of the processes of nucleation and subsequent Romanization.

CHRISTINA PEEGE. *Die Terrakotten aus Bootien: der archäologischen Sammlung der Universität Zu-*

rich. 68 pages, 62 plates. 1997. Zürich: Archäologisches Institut der Universität Zürich; 3-905099-13-6 paperback SFr36. The central part of PEEGE's catalogue is a chronological listing and illustration of Beotian terracottas in the Zurich university collection (Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic), accompanied by a thought-provoking discussion and detection of forgeries through the offices of the TL laboratory at Oxford. It is an interesting reflection on the art market that over half the collection is false, concentrated on imitations of the Hellenistic phase. The catalogue also contains sections on the history of the collection (including the forgeries) and a short analysis of the manufacture, decoration, typology and dating of the originals.

ARTHUR SEGAL. *From function to monument: urban landscapes of Roman Palestine, Syria and Provincia Arabia*. (Oxbow monographs no. 66) 184 pages, 207 illustrations. 1997. Oxbow: Oxford; 1-900-188-13-9 paperback £???. In examining the form of Roman cities in the Eastern empire SEGAL points to the two major influences of the deliberate use of Neo-Classical features by Roman emperors, such as Augustus and Hadrian, to create unity across the Empire, as well as the aspirations of city officials to emulate the heart of the Empire itself, Rome. But, asks SEGAL, was there also a secondary 'purpose' to this? Did this similarity also serve, like the proliferation of common, fast-food restaurants in any modern city, to orientate a mobile populace?

Short but sweet is CATHERINE SWIFT'S *Ogam stones and the earliest Irish Christians* (Maynooth monographs series minor 2.) vi+150 pages, 2 colour & 3 black & white plates, 3 figures, 7 maps, 4 tables. 1997. Maynooth: Cardinal Press; 0-901519-98-7 paperback). SWIFT provides an archaeological account of Ogam, taking the argument from the study of language (and its chronological development) to the context of the stones as an aid to reconstructing the patterns of society at the time of the historical figure of Patrick. She proposes that the development of Christianity can be traced by the distribution of formulae and iconographic elements.

Conference proceedings and edited volumes

R.E. TAYLOR & MARTIN J. AITKEN. *Chronometric dating in archaeology*. (Advances in archaeological and museum science 2.) xix+395 pages, numerous figures & tables. 1997. New York (NY): Plenum; 0-306-45715-6 hardback \$95. According to the editors (and who can argue with them?) it is now impossible for one person to be authoritative on more than two techniques of dating. Thus they have gathered a collection of chronological experts to provide the definitive summary of progress made in the last 30 years, and especially the last five. Twelve main dating techniques are covered, ranging from climatostratigraphy through obsidian-hydration to surface dating using

rock varnish. Obviously this will be a standard reference work for the next few years.

The congress *Grégoire de Tours et l'espace gaulois: actes du congrès international Tours, 3–5 novembre 1994*. (13th supplément à la Revue Archéologique du Centre de la France. 364 pages, several figures, 2 colour tables. 1997. Tours: Association Grégoire; 2-9511419-0-4 paperback Ffr210), edited by NANCY GAUTHIER & HENRI GALINÉ was held in 1994 on the 1400th anniversary of his death in his home town. The proceedings draw together historians and archaeologists in the analysis of various spatial themes: Gregory of Tours himself, the real and imagined space of 6th-century Gaul, political, administrative and religious space and the impact of Gregory of Tours' national French space. Four of the 27 published papers draw extensively on field archaeological evidence for spatial organization, including an up-to-date assessment of excavation in the city of Tours, evidence for 6th-century rural settlement, a reconstruction of what survives of Gregory's religious landscape and a fascinating statement of the evidence for wooden churches in the 6th century AD.

IAN JENKINS & GEOFFREY B. WAYWELL (ed.). 1997. *Sculptors and sculpture of Caria and the Dodecanese*. 272 pages, 20 colour plates, 250 black & white plates, 50 illustrations. 1997. London: British Museum Press; 0-7141-2212-2 hardback £65. Twenty-one papers given at a conference in 1994 celebrate the centenaries of the death of Sir Charles Newton and the birth of Professor Bernard Ashmole, both Keepers of Greek and Roman Antiquities in the British Museum. Scholars from Britain, Italy, Turkey, Greece and Scandinavia present a synthesis of current research into the marble sculpture of the southeast Aegean, including reviews of existant collections and presentation of newly excavated finds.

Field reports and surveys

SARA E. BON & RICK JONES (ed.). *Sequence and space in Pompeii*. (Oxbow monograph 77.) viii+157 pages, 65 figures. 1997. Oxbow: Oxford; 1-900-188-30-9 paperback £20. A monograph resulting from the new work at Pompeii started in 1994. Twelve papers and a preface consider all aspects of this recent archaeological work, but focus in particular on an understanding of space by looking at particular buildings such as the House of the Surgeon in Insula VI, 1 or the House of Joseph II, or on more general topics such as private toilets in Pompeii. Of particular interest is the interpretation of new environmental evidence gained from the site, as well as the beginnings of the analysis of structures significantly predating the disaster.

SHEILA M. ELSDON. *Old Sleaford revealed: a Lincolnshire settlement in Iron age, Roman, Saxon and Medieval times: excavations 1882–1995*. (Oxbow monographs 78: Nottingham studies in archaeology

2.) xiv+202 pages, 21 plates, 91 illustrations, 13 tables. 1997. Oxford: Oxbow; 1-900-188-32-5 paperback £18. With the publication of this report on more than 100 years of archaeological work, Old Sleaford comes to light as a major Late Iron Age settlement that existed as a central place, according to Cunliffe in the introduction, in a developed network of settlements in Lincolnshire, and in a key position on the navigable stretch of the river Slea. Particular attention is paid to the important debris from the mint found on the site, which included some 4000 fragments of coin moulds and more than 250 pieces of crucible. The volume is also a testament to the great work of Margaret Jones in the 1960s.

ANDREW ROGERSON, ALAN DAVIDSON, DAVID PRITCHARD & ROBERT SILVESTER's *Barton Bendish and Caldecote: fieldwork in South-west Norfolk*. ((EEA 80.) x+96 pages, 11 plates, 50 figures, 10 tables. 1997. Dereham: Norfolk Museums Service; 0-905594-21-5 paperback £11.50) is an example of the high standard of landscape fieldwork undertaken in co-ordination with Norfolk Archaeological Unit (Norwich, UK). The two intensive, relatively small-scale field surveys (Barton Bendish and Caldecote) give accurate details of fieldwork method and intensity and the chronological distribution of finds on a clearly articulated series of maps. In the case of Barton Bendish these are in turn integrated (for the later periods) with historical records. The illustrations are to be commended for their clear presentation of varying intensities of human activity.

J. EMILIO AURO TORTOSA's *El Magdalenense mediterráneo la Cova del Parpalló (Gandia, Valencia)*. (Serie de trabajos varios: núm. 91. 216 pages, 12 plates, 131 figures. 1995. Valencia: Diputación Provincial de Valencia; 84-7795-977-3 paperback) is a detailed study of the lithic industries of the Magdalenian period from this key site in southeastern Spain, an area that takes second place to the more publicized Cantabria. An essential contribution to the Palaeolithic archaeology of this area and the Mediterranean more generally.

Continuing series

Still expanding is the Batsford/English Heritage/Historic Scotland series of books. New additions this quarter include NICHOLAS BARTON's *Stone Age Britain* (144 pages, 16 colour plates, 135 illustrations, 7 tables. 1997. London: English Heritage & Batsford; 0-7134-6846-7 paperback £15.99). Eight chapters introduce readers to the basics of stone-tool knapping and understanding Pleistocene environments and then follow the archaeology through from the earliest evidence for occupation in Britain at Boxgrove and High Lodge and end with the last of the reindeer hunters whose remains were left in Gough's Cave. The emphasis is upon how these mobile societies successfully exploited their environment. This

is now the most up-to-date introduction to this period in Britain.

PAUL BIDWELL's *Roman forts in Britain* (128 pages, 12 colour plates, 92 illustrations. 1997. London: English Heritage & Batsford; 0-7134-7100-X paperback £15.99) notes the incredible presence of Roman forts in England, Scotland and Wales, 298 in all, and considers the functions of forts, their insides, outsides and supply. He concludes with the end of forts in Britain and tops and tails the book with discussions of the beginnings of Roman fort studies and modern approaches to their archaeology. Standard approach and a useful introduction.

TREVOR ROWLEY's *Norman England* (144 pages, 12 colour plates, 94 illustrations. 1997. London: English Heritage & Batsford; 0-7134-8060-2 paperback £15.99) considers the impact of Norman rule on preceding Saxon England. Special focus is placed upon the impact of the Normans in the construction of castles and palaces, developments in town life and the appearance of the Norman church. A final chapter looks at the Norman impact upon the landscape in general and in particular at their penchant for the creation of forests and parks.

IAN ARMIT's *Celtic Scotland*. (128 pages, 15 colour plates, 79 illustrations. 1997. London: Historic Scotland & Batsford; 0-7134-7538-2 paperback £15.99) considers the rich remains of Iron Age Scotland, a place, along with Ireland, where the Celts had enough time, without interruption by all those Roman forts and the like, to develop some form of recognizable state. Chapters deal in turn with aspects of Celtic life: ancestral lands, house and home, identity and power as well as death and belief.

Another of the excellent Shire guides to archaeology is to be found in PAUL R. SEALEY's *The Boudican revolt against Rome*. (64 pages, 31 plates & figures. 1997. Princes Risborough: Shire Publications; 0-748-0352-8 paperback £4.99). From the Icenean grievances to the destruction of Colchester, and ending with the final battle, most probably at Mancetter, SEALEY notes that the destruction of the Iceni set the stage for the next 350 years of Roman rule in Britain. Some archaeological repercussions are considered, such as the predominance of hoards to be found in the area of East Anglia. As is usual in these Shire guides it ends with useful information on museum collections to see and sites to visit.

Second editions, reprints and paperbacks

Ten years has passed since CHRISTOPHER HITCHINS' *The Elgin Marbles: should they be returned to Greece?* (xii+138 pages, 1 illustration. 1997. London & New York [NJ]: Verso; 1-85984-220-8 paperback £11. Available from March) was first published. Since that time popular opinion in Britain, as evidenced by a Channel 4 survey, has overwhelmingly moved in favour of the return of the Marbles; the restoration of the

Acropolis has proceeded; millions of dollars has been spent on the Parthenon itself. Yet debates in the House of Lords — the upper chamber of the British Parliament and the locus of sound reason in contrast to the populism of the House of Commons — remain shallow and repetitive, as ably demonstrated by quotations from Hansard in HITCHINS' second introduction to this book. This book is once again a sage reminder of the need for a resolution of this problem.

LINDA CORDELL's *Archaeology of the Southwest* (2nd edition. xiii+522 pages, 132 illustrations. 1997. San Diego (CA): Academic Press; 0-12-188225-X hardback £58, 0-12-188226-8 paperback £29.95), although entitled a 2nd edition, is almost a new book. The great increase in new evidence and the extensive revision and expansion and amplification of its subject once again makes this the best current synthesis of the archaeology of the Southwest. In particular, expansion has been made to the archaeology of the pre-ceramic periods, and there is a much broader discussion of the origins of agriculture.

JEAN WILSON. *The archaeology of Shakespeare*. xii+211 pages, 89 illustrations. 1997. Stroud: Sutton Publishing; 0-7509-1727-X paperback £12.99. Jean Wilson considers the material evidence for Shakespearean theatre, making important linkages between the visual presentation of this literary world and the graphic presentation of that world on such media as tombs. She ends with a discussion of the recent archaeological work at the Rose and Globe theatres. Having won the Archaeological Book of the Year award in 1996, this excellent book is now more accessible in paperback form.

MIRANDA GREEN. *Celtic Goddesses*. 224 pages, numerous plates & figures. 1997. London: British Museum Press; 0-7141-2312-9 paperback £9.99. A paperback imprint of a 1995 book; 9 chapters begin with the role of women in Celtic society and then consider in turn at the aspects of Celtic life over which their Goddesses presided.

Introductory books and guides

MICHAEL D. COE AND JUSTIN KERR's *The art of the Maya scribe* (240 pages, 280 illustrations, 117 in colour. 1997. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-23745-X £45) is a lavishly and colourfully illustrated large-format introduction to Mayan writing, from a calligraphic perspective. As stressed in the preface, this is a collaboration between one of the leading Mayanists and a photographer who has in turn become a Mayan scholar. The book moves from a study of the context of the Maya through a study of the character and origin of the Mayan script, the scribes themselves, their materials and styles, their surviving books and finally the fate of Mayan writing after the conquest.

FURIO DURANDO. *Splendours of ancient Greece*. 292 pages, 390 colour & 40 black-&-white illustra-

tions. 1997. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-01824-3 hardback £29.95. With black and white only to be found in the frontispiece and endpiece, colour abounds in this volume. Broad sections deal with aspects of the history, cultural achievements and art of ancient Greece. Two final sections lead the reader on an archaeological itinerary of Greece and Asia Minor and then Magna Graecia. Numerous reconstructional pictures bring the ruins back to life.

NATHANIEL HARRIS' *Hamlyn history of ancient Egypt: culture and lifestyle of the ancient Egyptians* (192 pages, numerous colour & black-&-white plates. 1997. London: Hamlyn; 0-600-591981 hardback £18.99) is a glossy but brief guide to aspects of Egyptian civilization. Chapters consider everyday life — with sub-sections on such topics as being at school, food and drink and looking good — rulers and warriors, mighty monuments, artists and craftsmen, etc.

DOMINIQUE COLLON (ed.). *7000 years of seals*. 240 pages, 10 colour plates, 319 illustrations. 1997. London: British Museum Press; 0-81659-093-7 hardback £25. A well-illustrated history of seals from their first use in the Near East to the present day.

DAVID HATCHER CHILDRESS' *Ancient Tonga & the lost city of Mu'a: including Samoa, Fiji and Rartonga* (216 pages, numerous illustrations. 1997. Kempton (IL): Adventures Unlimited Press; 0-932813-36-4 paperback \$15.95 & £11.99) is a mixed guide to the islands of Tonga, Fiji and Easter Island. Some mention is given to the Lapita-centred colonization of the islands, the extinction of megafauna and the visits of travellers such as Captain Cook. I am looking forward to getting hold of other volumes from the Adventures Unlimited catalogue. In particular, *The free-energy device handbook*, and *The anti-gravity handbook* intrigue me. A route to the long trip without a letter to Aldous Huxley, perhaps?

Paradise Lost

JOHN MCNABB*

MICHAEL PITTS & MARK ROBERTS. *Fairweather Eden: Life in Britain half a million years ago as revealed by the excavations at Boxgrove*. 356 pages, 34 plates, numerous figures & tables. 1997. London: Century; 0-7126-7686-4 hardback £17.99.

When I went to the Institute of Archaeology in 1981 British Middle Pleistocene studies were still in their age of innocence. The Clactonian was the earliest securely provenanced stone-tool culture in Britain. It occurred in the Hoxnian interglacial and was about 250,000 years old; dating was typological or relative to pollen-based terrestrial sequences; two interglacials separated three full-on glaciations, and well made ovates were a stage in a developmental trajectory. When I left in 1992 all this had been swept aside and more than 200,000 years had been added to our past. The 1980s were nothing short of a revolution, and Boxgrove was an intimate part of this. Throughout this decade Boxgrove was one of the most talked-about sites in British archaeology, and this despite only one or two publications. If all that talk served to make Boxgrove a self-generating legend, then the site itself was its own best PR exercise. It never failed to impress.

Mike Pitts and Mark Roberts have written an account of the Boxgrove excavation, from its inception in the early 1980s through its numerous

transmutations to the final phase of its life — the Boxgrove hominid project in 1995 and 1996. Pitts' prose is easy to read and competently reduces complex issues to manageable proportions. The book is well written, well laid out and excellently illustrated. If much of its detail is rather sketchy this is because it has been written for the burgeoning popular science market. It does not substitute for an academic monograph, but then hopefully it will not have to do so (trout season notwithstanding). Since it is not targeted at a specialist market we should look at what it is this book is trying to achieve, and whether or not it succeeds.

Firstly it tries to convey what Boxgrove as a site was about and to place it in its broader archaeological context. At this level the book works very well. Soundbites of archaeological history are inter-cut with slices of the site's history. I felt this approach did work, though many colleagues seem to disagree. Secondly, the book tries to convey what goes into the making of a site, and the range of people and specialisms that blend (or often not!) to create interpretation. Here again the book scores a hit; I was left with the impression that all concerned with the project got the chance to chip in with their ten flakes' worth, even if the Young Turk thing was a bit overdone. But here my first reservations surface. I did not get the impression that dissenting voices were given

* School of Archaeology, Classics & Oriental Studies, University of Liverpool, William Hartley Building, Brownlow Street, Liverpool L69 3BX, England. scarab@liverpool.ac.uk.