

Review

New Book Chronicle

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December's chronicle concerns Neolithic and Bronze Age Europe, mostly north-western. Megaliths dominate the scene, but settlement and barrow excavations and studies considering the wider landscape are also presented. Different approaches, from analytical to phenomenological, will be evident and their effect on this reader briefly commented on.

Megaliths and other stones

ROGER JOUSSAUME, LUC LAPORTE & CHRIS SCARRE (ed). *Origine et développement du mégalithisme de l'ouest de l'Europe/Origin and development of the megalithic monuments of western Europe. Colloque international/International conference, Bougon, 26-30 October 2002*. 2 volumes, 832 pages, numerous illustrations & tables. 2006. Bougon: Musée des Tumulus de Bougon; 2-911743-22-9 paperback €38.

MAGDALENA S. MIDGLEY. *The megaliths of Northern Europe*. xiv+226 pages, 80 illustrations. 2008. London & New York: Routledge; 978-0-415-35180 hardback £60; 978-0-203-69855-6 e-book.

MARK GILLINGS, JOSHUA POLLARD, DAVID WHEATLEY & RICK PETERSON. *Landscape of the megaliths: excavation and fieldwork on the Avebury monuments 1997-2003*. xiv+402 pages, 225 illustrations, 83 tables. Oxford: Oxbow; 978-1-84217-313-8 hardback £40.

ROSEMARY HILL. *Stonehenge*. ii+242 pages, 34 illustrations. 2008. London: Profile Books; 978-1-86197-865-3 hardback £12.99.

From Poitou-Charente, the fiefdom of Ségolène Royal, come the proceedings of a specialist colloquium convened at the Musée des Tumulus de Bougon in 2002. *Origine et développement du mégalithisme de l'ouest de l'Europe* is by 75 contributors, two thirds French and a third from Britain, Ireland, Belgium, Luxemburg, Switzerland, Portugal, Spain and Morocco. Together they present 52 papers in 800 pages. This is not actually as daunting as it looks: 400 pages really, as the two

volumes are bilingual (about which more below). The first, longer, volume contains chapter 1, dedicated to overviews and reports on the megalithic funerary monuments of Scandinavia and north/north-western Europe, France (including Corsica with Sardinia co-opted), the British Isles and the Iberian peninsula. There perhaps the chapter contributed by the late Graham Ritchie makes the best case for *not* studying megaliths as a separate entity, since megalithic monuments *and* settlements in timber, earth and stone exist in all combinations in Scotland. If we study megaliths on their own 'we are studying stamp perforations rather than a broader picture' (p. 184). Amongst reports on new sites, the complex long mound C of Péré at Prissé-la-Charrière (Deux-Sèvres) is well presented by Laporte, Scarre and Joussaume, with good photographs (p. 367) and a summary of its sequence. Among regional specialities, note the small-but-perfect 'micromonumentality' from the Lake Geneva region of Switzerland (p. 405) or the fact that there is a type of mud-brick megalithism in the Meseta region of central Spain (p. 442). The shorter volume 2 contains three chapters. That on standing stones demonstrates again that they are not a class apart, since there is a multitude of possible associations and that timber structures or wooden predecessors are part of the phenomenon. Chapter 3 deals with megalithic art, and includes a paper by Bueno Ramirez and Balbín Behrmann insisting on the greater number of painted megaliths in Spain, a bit of a demolition job on Shee Twohig's 1981 overview, *The megalithic art of Western Europe*. The final section of the book, 'other megalithisms', is sparse with just two papers: a presentation of a Moroccan Neolithic (or Iron Age?) complex, and a very brief summary about India. Given the size of the undertaking, some blemishes are inevitable. The editors could have halved their troubles, however, had they decided not to publish a bilingual edition. Indeed, it is often in the translation that problems crop up (though, when Scarre does it himself, it is good): for an example of clumsy translation, see p. 246; some passages do not appear in one of the languages

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(e.g. p. 175) or sections get out of step with each other (e.g. p. 553-66). Finally the repetition of Bradley's summary and substitution for O'Sullivan's (p. 650 = p. 526) is unfortunate. Surely it is not essential to produce a bilingual text, since it will be mainly specialists who will buy the book and they should be able to cope with the three main languages of their area of study. But, as the duplicated set of papers only costs €38, it would be ungracious to complain.

Midgley's *The megaliths of Northern Europe* is an enjoyable overview of the megalithic phenomenon further north and east; it concerns the mortuary monuments erected by the communities of the TRB (or Trichterbecher/Funnel Beaker) culture on the North European Plain, from the Netherlands to Poland and from Bohemia to Denmark and southern Sweden between c. 4500/4000 BC and 2900/2700 BC. Though less well known than their Atlantic counterparts these structures are certainly not rare: some 12 000 have been recorded, a small proportion of a once much larger set. Two long chapters (3 and 4, on tomb building and the people represented, in body and ritual) take up half the book, prefaced by two shorter chapters defining the TRB culture and discussing distribution and location; they are followed by two further short chapters discussing symbolism and the place of the northern megaliths within the European megalithic sphere. This short book is clearly written and well illustrated – the line drawings and diagrams are well executed, the photographs (some milky) well chosen. Midgley writes in a largely factual style, tempered with some scepticism when it comes to phenomenological approaches to monumentality; however, she does not shy away from conjecture, in the last chapter for example. Her book shows the enormous variety in local megalithic manifestations while highlighting broader trends: from early agriculture and earthen long mounds, via closed dolmens to more open forms, culminating in passage graves and a shift from individual burial to commemoration of ancestors. One may perhaps have wished for a more extensive discussion of the role of children or of agriculture, and perhaps some more examples from the eastern part of her area of study. Nevertheless, this is an excellent introduction to the subject, making non-specialists feel they can join in the debate.

Landscapes of the megaliths (the title referring to a painting by Paul Nash) is the definitive report of a programme of excavation and survey between 1997 and 2003 centred on Avebury. The greatest

part of the work by the Universities of Leicester, Southampton and Wales (Newport), supported by the AHRC and the Society of Antiquaries of London, was around the Beckhampton area, with further fieldwork and excavation in a number of other locations. At Beckhampton the presence of a second avenue was confirmed and much detail could be added to a sequence that brought into play the two long barrows at South Street and Beckhampton, a Late Neolithic open enclosure (the Longstones enclosure), the Avebury circles, the two avenues (West Kennet and Beckhampton with its Cove) joining Avebury, Falkner's stone circle, the Sanctuary, the West Kennet enclosures and Silbury Hill. This sequence, which saw the most energetic monument building between c. 2600 and 2200 BC, is linked to the environmental conditions prevailing in the landscape between the Neolithic and Bronze Age presented in chapter 5 and supported by a series of detailed colour maps on pp. 185-92. Prehistorians might be tempted to stop reading on p. 224, the end of the prehistoric report proper. But that would be a shame as the post-prehistoric fate of the Avebury landscape, in particular the episodes of stone burying, stone destruction and burning during the later Middle Ages and seventeenth-eighteenth centuries (chapters 9-11) make captivating reading. The analysis and discussion illustrate most eloquently that the continuing story of Avebury and the complex reasons for dismantling parts of it are integral to understanding this monumental landscape. The discussion also highlights how unquestioningly certain interpretations and assumptions (i.e. that the stones were removed out of superstition, or because of the influence of the Christian Church, or simply for land clearance) appear in the secondary literature and are applied uncritically to other situations. The story is more complicated and, it seems, unique to Avebury (p. 363). GILLINGS, POLLARD, WHEATLEY & PETERSON are to be congratulated on a report that strikes an excellent balance between detailed description, discussion and interpretation. Minor quibbles are that the first map (Figure 1.1) could be more detailed and that the occasional typo has escaped proof reading (e.g. compliment for complement on p. 365).

ROSEMARY HILL quotes Jacquetta Hawkes's aphorism that every age 'has the Stonehenge it deserves – or desires' in her *Stonehenge* (p. 27). Her own Stonehenge would suggest that the turmoil of recent years has subsided a little, leaving time for new investigations to bear fruit (she brings the story up

to Parker Pearson *et al.*'s 2007 *Antiquity* article and to Wainwright and Darvill's intervention of March 2008) and hints that smaller but achievable measures for dealing with Stonehenge as a public monument (p. 197-8) are perhaps no bad thing. Her book is intended for a general readership: 210 pages of text, interspersed by some 30 archival monochrome illustrations, are supplemented by notes on further reading and an index in a small hardback format. Though she pays due attention to the archaeology in chapter 1 and on pages 198-203, this is not her main intention. She is 'concerned with what the monument is, physically, and what it has meant throughout historic times to those who have considered it, from medieval monks to modern archaeologists' (p. 2). This historiography takes us from antiquarians, architects (with a long apologia for Inigo Jones), through Druids (much about them) and New Age festivals to the concerns of present-day heritage managers. All in all, a readable narrative with some interesting asides on the architecture of Bath, Milton Keynes and roundabouts.

Prehistory in the Netherlands

PIETER VAN DE VELDE (ed.). *Excavations at Geleen-Janskamperveld 1990/1991* (Analecta Praehistorica Leidensia 39). ii+278 pages, 164 illustrations, 103 tables. 2007 [2008]. Leiden: Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University; 978-90-73368-22-4 paperback €55.

HARRY FOKKENS, BRYONY J. COLES, ANNELOU L. VAN GIJN, JOS P. KLEIJNE, HEDWIG H. PONJEE & CORIJANNE G. SLAPPENDEL (ed.). *Between foraging and farming: an extended broad spectrum of papers presented to Leendert Louwe Kooijmans* (Analecta Praehistorica Leidensia 40). x+286 pages, 105 illustrations, 19 tables. 2008. Leiden: Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University; 978-90-73368-23-1 paperback €50.

S. ARNOLDUSSEN & H. FOKKENS (ed.). *Bronze Age settlements in the Low Countries*. iv+202 pages, 150 illustrations, 19 tables. 2008. Oxford; Oxbow; 978-1-84217-307-7 hardback £40.

The excavation of 69 Linearbandkeramik houses, radiocarbon-dated to c. 5220-5000 BC at *Geleen-Janskamperveld* in the province of Limburg near Maastricht, a rescue intervention led by Leendert Louwe Kooijmans and colleagues in 1990-91 on a settlement of 4.5 ha, is reported in Analecta

Praehistorica Leidensia 39, edited by PIETER VAN DE VELDE, the author of the ceramic studies and the sequencing of the whole site. This thorough report – which also includes a chapter on the Iron Age and Roman remains found there – is an excellent example of the Dutch analytical approach; it manages to tease out much fine detail out of a mass of postholes, wall trenches, outer trenches, quarry pits, storage pits ('kettle pits') and palisaded enclosures. This allows the excavators to propose that the settlement consisted of c. 20-25 houses at any one time, organised along 'virilocal residence rules crossed with matrilinear heritage titles' (according to the pottery decoration; chapter 15). Each household had around 10 pots, 3 for the table, 4 for cooking and 3 for storage. This level of detail is achieved by impressive analytical and statistical studies, also applied to the archaeobotanical remains and the procurement, distribution and use of flint and stone adzes and querns. The report introduces more subjective elements too, e.g. that the houses were oriented towards Flombornia, 'the Land of the Ancestors' (p. 33), or that two ceramic sherds may represent a figurine linked to an ancestor cult (chapter 10), or that querns were ritually decommissioned at the end of their lives (p. 203). Impressive as it is, there are some unsettling aspects to the report. First, the analytical approach leads to segmentation: nowhere, for example, is a whole plan of the excavation with all its features shown. Instead, the report, after preliminary chapters, plunges straight into the presentation of the houses and their development (figures on pp. 34-62). We have to wait until page 71 until we are shown the pits and page 81 until we see the palisaded enclosures (but then not the pits). Secondly, it seems that at times the fragility of the archaeological evidence gets forgotten in the grand analytical scheme. For example, we are told on p. 79 that 60 (out of 98) 'kettle pits' (storage pits) are 'part of' 34 *Längsbruben* (quarry or side pits). This leads to a very short discussion of the relationships between these features, which obviously has implications for their further relationships with the houses. The ambiguity is underplayed later on: on p. 88 the 'kettle pits' are 'cellars', and a 'weak tendency towards two (probably non-simultaneous) cellars per house' is observed, although 38 (out of 69) houses have no storage pits. To evaluate this question, more detailed plans and particularly sections (conspicuously absent) of intercutting features should be provided. Nevertheless Geleen-Janskamperveld is a site of huge importance and this report a great achievement.

Leendert Louwe Kooijmans was the excavator, with others, of Geleen-Janskamperveld but passed on the reins for that particular report to Pieter van de Velde because he was busy, amongst many splendid achievements, producing the monumental *Prehistory of the Netherlands* (Amsterdam University Press 2005) with P.W. van den Broeke, H. Fokkens & A.L. van Gijn (reviewed in *Antiquity* 81: 230-1). FOKKENS, BRYONY COLES, VAN GIJN and a host of other editors join forces to honour Louwe Kooijmans, one of the foremost figures in European prehistory in *Between foraging and farming*. 23 chapters by 33 colleagues, half of them from the Netherlands, the others from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Poland, France, Britain and Ireland highlight aspects of the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in northern and north-western Europe. 'Neolithisation' is the overarching theme, although there are some papers addressing later developments (e.g. Alison Sheridan's contribution on the Dutch-style Beaker grave from Upper Lachie in western Scotland). Just to list the contents of the *Festschrift* would exceed the word limit for this short entry. Suffice to say that this excellent collection is a worthy tribute to Louwe Kooijman's wide but always focused interests. This 'excavator, coordinator of research, model maker, critical and careful editor' (p. ix) can be proud of having inspired the authors of such a stimulating bunch of papers. Aspects of chronology, neolithisation as seen in the cultural, archaeobotanical and archaeozoological record, procurement and exchange, as well as methodological approaches are showcased. All papers are worth reading, stemming from a deep and thoughtful engagement with the material, Louwe Kooijman's lasting (and continuing) legacy.

FOKKENS reappears with ARNOLDUSSEN as editor of a collection, this time 15 chapters dedicated to *Bronze Age settlements in the Low Countries*. The aim is to make the results of the new, vastly increased opportunities for fieldwork and excavation occasioned by development in the Netherlands over the past decade or so available to a wider non-Dutch speaking audience. Though many aspects of settlement in the varied settings of the Low Countries are reported, it is houses and three-aisled house types that have the lion's share (for a useful overview, see chapter 2 by the editors). In all, 12 sites are presented, some single-period, others multiperiod, undergoing changes in occupation and land-use: the site of Eigenblok (chapter by Jongste) particularly caught my attention, as did a study of changing patterns

in the Oer-IJ region (chapter 12 by Therkorn) and one on the relationship between houses and barrows (chapter 3 by Bourgeois and Fontijn). The collection will be an invaluable resource for non-Dutch prehistorians; it is just a pity that none of the sites have a location map other than a local one (if that). Surely, if a wider readership was targeted, the editors could have put together a map showing us where these new sites are located.

Fleming and after

ANDREW FLEMING. *The Dartmoor Reaves: investigating prehistoric land divisions*. xvi+224 pages, 96 b&w & colour illustrations. New extended edition 2008 (first published by Batsford in 1988). Oxford: Oxbow (Windgather imprint); 978-1-905119-15-8 paperback £20.

PAUL RAINBIRD (ed.). *Monuments in the landscape*. 256 pages, 64 illustrations. 2008. Stroud: Tempus; 978-0-7524-4283-9 paperback £25.

GORDON NOBLE, TESSA POLLER, JOHN RAVEN & LUCY VERRILL (ed.). *Scottish odysseys: the archaeology of islands*. 190 pages, 60 illustrations, 6 tables. 2008. Stroud: Tempus; 978-0-7524-4168-9 paperback £18.99.

JONATHAN LAST (ed.). *Beyond the grave: new perspectives on barrows*. iv+180 pages, 73 illustrations, 5 tables. 2007. Oxford: Oxbow; 978-1-84217-258-2 paperback £35.

VICKI CUMMINGS & ROBERT JOHNSTON (ed.). *Prehistoric journeys*. viii+152 pages, 102 illustrations, 4 tables. 2007. Oxford: Oxbow; 978-1-84217-250-6 paperback £35.

BARBARA BENDER, SUE HAMILTON & CHRIS TILLEY with ED ANDERSON, STEPHAN HARRISON, PETER HERRING, MARTYN WALLER, TONY WILLIAMS & MIKE WILMORE. *Stone worlds: narrative and reflexivity in landscape archaeology*. 464 pages, 104 illustrations, 12 colour plates, 3 tables. 2008. Walnut Creek (CA): Left Coast Press; 978-1-59874218-3 hardback £50; 978-1-59874-219-0 paperback £29.99.

When *The Dartmoor Reaves* came out twenty years ago, it was a blast of fresh air. In my case, it made me lift my nose off the trowelling line; I had never dreamt that a book about Bronze Age boundaries in upland south-west Britain could be so exciting, thanks to Fleming's effortless writing. So, it is a pleasure to greet the second edition of this classic, as fresh

as before, but now expanded by two new chapters. Also new are the illustrations, the old monochrome ones having been replaced by full colour versions. The new images, mostly the same views, are sharper and the cropping much better. See for example Figure 54 (Figure 53 of 1988): lengthening the perspective sets Holne Moor Site B so much better into the landscape. Fleming has lost none of his verve: to introduce the lack of attention paid in 1988 to the mindset of the prehistoric builders of the reaves, he tells us that ‘academic ears are finely tuned to ominous critical silence’ (p. 162), and then proceeds in his new chapter 10 to address such concerns, not without reiterating some of his *Antiquity* (2005: 921–32) and *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* (2006: 267–80) critique. His phenomenologically-minded younger colleagues have ‘over-reached themselves . . . deliberately “gone beyond” the archaeological evidence – to an unacceptable degree’, but he concedes that ‘if we can . . . approach these questions with humility as well as fresh thinking, there probably is a level at which we can write about “meaning”’ (p. 162). His other new chapter, chapter 9, deals with coaxial field systems, drawing particularly on the work of David Yates in southern England (2005, reviewed in *Antiquity* 81: 1109–10) and that of other colleagues in East Anglia and elsewhere in Britain. Yet, to Fleming, ‘Dartmoor can’t be bettered’ (p. 186). His book, on the other hand, just has.

Andrew Fleming, who is semi-retiring from the University of Lampeter, is honoured in a collection of 20 short chapters edited by PAUL RAINBIRD, *Monuments in the landscape*. Together they reflect the many interests of Fleming – upland landscapes, coaxial field systems, monumentality as constructs, ‘marginality’ – which inspired the contributors into conducting their own enquiries. Arranged roughly chronologically, the chapters range in time from the Neolithic to the modern period. Geographically the focus is largely on Britain (England, Wales, the Hebrides, the Isles of Scilly) but there are also offerings on the choreography of megalithic monuments in Portugal (Canavilhas), a contrast between landscape archaeology in Britain and France with some applications in the Auvergne (Collis), a reflection on the use of photography in creating monuments in Classical Athens (Hamilakis) and a stimulating essay on the construction of recent landscapes in central Sicily (Pluciennik). For Britain, I found Parker Pearson’s return to the question of whether chiefdoms are a valid concept for Neolithic Wessex (the answer

is ‘yes, but’, p. 48) and Dodgshon’s contribution on dairying in the Scottish Highlands and Islands most engrossing. This wide-ranging collection offers good snapshots of new ways of thinking about places, including, even, phenomenological approaches.

It is Fleming again who introduces *Scottish odysseys*, a collection of 10 chapters emanating from a Scottish Archaeological Forum conference on islands held in 2005. He starts by asking what makes islands so fascinating before embarking on some reflection about ‘islandness’ from his own experience of working on St Kilda and then takes us on a trip around islands in fiction. What emerges is the view of – or the temptation to view – islands as microcosms, with tales to be told, either fact-based or fictional or something in between. This leads to another (muted) salvo from the sage of Lampeter, warning against ‘going beyond the evidence’ and urging us ‘to think about not just the nature of the story, but also how it is to be told’ (p. 20). Music to this reviews editor’s ears! There is in fact little straying in the nine chapters that follow. The book is an enjoyable collection of archaeological, structural and historical vignettes on Shetland (West Voe, Houss, Foula, Jarlshof), Lewis (Dùn Èistan), Mull, Bute, Rathlin Island in the Irish Sea and the Blasket island of the coast of western Ireland. In the best of landscape archaeology tradition, these contributions are well rooted in fieldwork and excavation and the papers which deal with more recent island experiences are just as informative and captivating.

If only some of the earnest participants in TAG (Theoretical Archaeology Group) sessions could follow Fleming’s lead and match their good ideas with equally good writing. There is plenty of the former in the two TAG session volumes here (*Beyond the grave: new perspectives on barrows*, Lampeter 2003, and *Prehistoric journeys*, Glasgow 2004), but rather less of the latter. The impetus for the barrows session came from a wish to ‘move beyond the grave’. The editor, JONATHAN LAST, rejoices at recent advances in research on two fronts: greater insights into mortuary rites, human remains and grave goods on the one hand, better understanding of barrows within their landscapes on the other. But ‘there seems something missing’, a full integration between the two (p. 10). This is what the contributors tackle in their several ways, and on the whole achieve. Themes repeatedly addressed are trees and fertility (Noble, Healy and Harding), pre-barrow structures (McFayden, Lewis, Peterson, Last), chronology (with a critical paper by

Garwood), sequence (most papers), construction and deposition activities (Mullin, Nowakowski, Owoc), complexity and variability (Healy and Harding, Last, Bradley). Of the two volumes *Beyond the grave* appears the meatier, perhaps because there is more to get to grips with and possibly because the contributors had more time to bring their thoughts to maturity. In *Prehistoric journeys* the editors, CUMMINGS & JOHNSTON, assemble 13 chapters about Palaeolithic Scandinavia, caribou hunting in Greenland, Mesolithic Ireland, Neolithic Britain and the Isles of Scilly, funerary texts from Middle Kingdom Egypt, or Iron Age and Romano-British England to explore what moving through a landscape entails and how it can be approached from a phenomenological standpoint. The case studies are varied, some using material culture as their starting point (procurement and movements of raw materials), some linking mortuary structures to the natural landscape, some pointing out that the journeys themselves are of interest, rather than the points of departure or arrival: for example, Price asks 'what if the group VII stone axes [from Graig Lwyd in North Wales] were not the cause but the consequence of the popularity of the site?' (p. 85). Perhaps the most original of the contributions is one by Garrow, comparing the Neolithic pits found at Hurst Fen and Kilverstone in East Anglia, only 17km apart. Having asked how phenomenological approaches could be relevant to excavated sites, he found little inspiration in the actual journey between the two sites, but his analysis of the pit clusters and their assemblages lead to a convincing argument that the sites were not permanent but repeatedly occupied.

What happens when you let archaeologists, anthropologists and sociologists loose on Bodmin Moor in Cornwall is recounted in great detail in *Stone worlds*, whose principal writers and editors are BARBARA BENDER, SUE HAMILTON & CHRIS TILLEY. The book is about survey, excavation and engagement with the landscape of Leskernick carried out between 1995 and 1999 by a team of professionals, local volunteers and students, the latter mainly from University College London. It is a reflexive narrative weaving together what was investigated and the results of this investigation; how it was done, how the survey element contributed to a more meaningful understanding of this Bronze Age upland landscape; how different people connected with the landscape, through environmental art, poetry, photography and exhibitions. Further it is about the people

involved in the project, from their diaries and through sociological observation. The elements of the Leskernick landscape are first the hills, tors, clutter, slopes and valleys and then the man-made elements, the Propped Stone, the great cairn, stone row and circles, the Middle Bronze Age settlement, houses and enclosures, some excavated by the team. These are the bare bones of a 'book that opened in many directions, that crossed disciplinary boundaries and that questioned long established conventions on how scientific work should be presented' written by people who set out 'to undermine the closure that usually occurs when findings are reported and interpreted'. This is about as far as the objective presentation of the book will go. After that it is a matter of opinion, and readers must discover for themselves whether they are attracted or stimulated by this way of presenting fieldwork. In keeping with the spirit of the work, I shall indulge in giving you my own reaction to the book.

First, production details. The book is attractive at one level – the lay-out is imaginative and the illustrations, particularly of the wrapped stones, are arresting – but also confusing, probably deliberately so. In this new way of thinking about landscapes, it takes work to get your bearings: the only map that has contours is the map from Johnson and Rose's 1994 Bodmin Moor survey volume reproduced on p. 33. All the other maps are 'flat', which seems incredible in a work that places so much emphasis on relating to the landscape. Second, I find the very extensive anecdotal elements irritating. I don't want to know about the contents of Hamilton's sandwich tin, or the passage of a pair of Tilley's jeans from lecturing jeans to site jeans (and being told 'through a gradual transition across a value-laden boundary of acceptability Chris's jeans are status reassigned from "appropriate to teaching" to "project"' adds insult to injury) or read Benders's remarks on 'Christel taking notes in her rather mysterious Germanic handwriting and Pippa annotating the plan – her thoughts occasionally slipping away' (p. 60). Nor do I want Tilley's musings on trowel size as status indicator or the fact that a Hobnob biscuit went missing. Every field project has its folklore, every group of people left together in a remote location will develop cabin-fever, every excavation has field diaries and every undergraduate I have taught kept a record of their learning. Why elevate this into print? I am unconvinced that this amounts to a serious sociological study. This is on a par with bad educational research, and even the 'educationists'

usually manage a few statistics, usually to do with the frequency of free school meals. Third, I am also unconvinced by some of the engagement with the landscape (why is re-shaping a spoil heap to mirror the profile of a nearby hill meaningful?). The book is written by twenty-first-century, educated people who have the full benefit of the National Health Service, good nutrition and waterproof boots. How can their attempts at entering the mindset of prehistoric people be more than fabricating? They do not have a raging toothache, a huge boil on their neck and wet wool for cover; they do not have to worry whether their seventh child will make it through the day or whether the sky will fall on their heads. Why give prominence to whether Brown Willy (a hill) is visible through a doorway when perhaps it was more important to keep an eye on little Willy and his brothers and sisters, assuming of course that there was someone in the house? The modern landscape fanciers come across as Romantics, pursuing vistas because the tors and hills are still there but the people have gone. And all is couched in a portentous style crossed with touchy-feely verbiage.

Imagination and imaginative ways of communicating have an important part to play in archaeological writing, and there are good examples of that in the archaeological literature. When it is successful, it seems that it is because the end goal is kept in sight: to communicate something and stimulate, not annoy the reader by producing books that appear written for those already in the club.

Books received

The list includes all books received between 1 June and 1 September 2008. Those featuring at the beginning of New Book Chronicle have, however, not been duplicated in this list. The listing of a book in this chronicle does not preclude its subsequent review in *Antiquity*.

General

R. ALEXANDER BENTLEY, HERBERT D.G. MASCHNER & CHRISTOPHER CHIPPINDALE (ed.). *Handbook of archaeological theories*. vi+590 pages, 38 illustrations, 12 tables. 2008. Lanham (MD): AltaMira; 978-0-7591-0032-9 hardback \$179.95.

NATHAN SCHLANGER & JARL NORDBLADH (ed.). *Archives, ancestors, practices: archaeology in the light*

of its history. xx+356 pages, 89 illustrations. 2008. New York & Oxford: Berghahn; 978-1-84545-066-3 paperback £45.

BARBARA J. MILLS & WILLIAM H. WALKER (ed.). *Memory work: archaeologies of material practices* (School for Advanced Research Advanced Seminar Series). xiv+304 pages, 46 illustrations, 21 tables. 2008. Santa Fe (NM): School for Advanced Research Press; 978-1-930618-88-6 paperback £34.95.

JAMES CUNO. *Who owns Antiquity? Museums and the battle over our ancient heritage*. xl+228 pages, 6 illustrations. 2008. Princeton (NJ) & Oxford: Princeton University Press; 978-0-691-13712-4 hardback \$24.95.

DIMITRA PAPAGIANNI, ROBERT LAYTON & HERBERT MASCHNER (ed.). *Time and change: archaeological and anthropological perspectives on the long-term in hunter-gatherer societies*. x+158 pages, 28 b&w & colour illustrations, 10 tables. 2008. Oxford: Oxbow; 978-1-84217-320-6 paperback £30.

YORKE M. ROWAN & JENNIE R. EBELING (ed.). *New approaches to old stones: recent studies of ground stone artifacts*. xvi+380 pages, 149 illustrations, 32 tables. 2008. London & Oakville (CT): Equinox; 978-1-84553-044-0 hardback £80.

HANS BARNARD & WILLEKE WENDRICH (ed.). *The archaeology of mobility: Old World and New World nomadism* (Cotsen Advanced Seminars 4). xii+604 pages, 134 illustrations, 25 tables. 2008. Los Angeles (CA): Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, University of California Los Angeles; 978-1-931745-50-5 hardback \$89.95; 978-1-931745-49-9 paperback \$55.

ARNOLD ASPINALL, CHRIS GAFFNEY & ARMIN SCHMIDT. *Magnetometry for archaeologists*. x+208 pages, 83 b&w & colour illustrations, 5 tables. 2008. Lanham (MD): AltaMira; 978-0-7591-1106-6 hardback.

European pre- and protohistory

HARALD FLOSS & NATHALIE ROUQUEROL (ed.). *Les chemins de l'art aurignacien en Europe/Das Aurignacien und die Anfänge der Kunst in Europa: colloque international/Internationale Fachtagung, Aurignac 16-18 septembre 2005*. 476 pages, numerous colour & b&w illustrations, 7 tables. 2007. Aurignac: Musée-forum d'Aurignac; 978-2-9527-444-2-3 hardback €59.

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