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# **E** DITORIAL

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In its present form the *European Journal of Archaeology* is in its sixth year of publication, but in reality there were of course five volumes of its predecessor the *Journal of European Archaeology*, which began in 1993. The *JEA*, along with the Inaugural Annual Meeting in Ljubljana in 1994, provided the launching pad for our European Association of Archaeologists. Indeed the next Annual Meeting, to be held in Lyon (France) in 2004, will be the 10th of the constituted Association and this birthday will be justly celebrated. For this reason, our 'Aims and Scope' are an important inspiration; these state that the journal '... seeks to promote open debate amongst archaeologists committed to a new idea of Europe in which there is more communication across national frontiers and more interest in interpretation'. They also announce that 'all periods are covered', and, as is customary, the articles in this issue span a wide of archaeological time.

Metalwork, the staple of traditional Bronze Age studies (and one of my own personal research themes) is out of fashion in some parts of Europe. However the rich metalwork record of Europe allows many interesting questions to be posed. Some workers have suggested that not all the artefacts were in fact utilitarian, some being used in prestige and symbolic systems (e.g. Bradley 1990; Pearce 1998). But whatever the impression that Bronze Age metalwork gives, use-wear analysis provides a key to the interpretation of artefacts – were they actually used as utilitarian tools? Indeed the technique aids us in the reconstruction of the activities of prehistoric people themselves. Since it was developed by S.A. Semenov (1964), use-wear analysis has largely concentrated on flint and bone, but work by Barbara Ottaway's research group has shown what can be done (though other workers, such as e.g. Kristiansen [1978; 2002] should not be forgotten). In the first paper in this issue, Roberts and Ottaway concentrate on identifying use-wear due to woodworking and metal on metal blows (which they equate with combat), though they freely admit that resharpening (particularly as their experimental axes were not hardened) would eradicate previous wear traces, so that 'the use-wear record is that of the final use of the axe before deposition' (p. 123).

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In the next paper, Theo Spek and his colleagues identify five stages in the development of a Celtic field in the Drenthe area in the north of The Netherlands, spanning from the late Bronze Age to the early Roman period. Celtic fields are characterized by their ridges, which they find were formed by clearance material from the plots during the later stages of their use. Indeed as the plots became lower, as after each fallow period the turves were removed and piled up on the ridges, and therefore waterlogged, cultivation eventually moved to the ridges, which were relatively wide. Their interdisciplinary approach integrates soil survey, phosphate analysis, excavation, stratigraphical and textural analysis, micro-morphology and palynology to show, amongst other findings, agricultural intensification in the late Iron Age and intensive manuring and import of topsoil or litter from elsewhere.

It may be argued that archaeology is about death and decay, but in reality very few of us come across the actual smells of antiquity (that 'pleasure' is reserved for our colleagues working in more recent periods or indeed forensic archaeology). László Bartosiewicz's paper was originally presented at the Lisbon EAA 6th Annual Meeting in 2000, and shows that ancient smells are susceptible to investigation, however archaeologically intangible they may appear. He emphasizes smell as a 'significant dimension of the human experience' (p. 189), indicating, with examples from sixteenth century Vác (Hungary), late Neolithic Saint Blaise-Bains des Dames (Switzerland) and Persian period Tel Dor (Israel), how they must have been all-pervasive and unavoidable. Indeed his figures for the deposition of manure in Muddy Street, Vác (Table 2), emphasize the dimension of smell in many societies. Like me, many visitors to the Jorvik Viking Centre, the successful full-size reconstruction of the Coppergate site in AD 975 run by the York Archaeological Trust (see <http://www.jorvik-viking-centre.co.uk/jorvik-navigation.htm>), will have found the smells one of their most enduring memories.

Our Journal's 'Aims and Scope' also emphasize the ethics of archaeological practice, and the Reviews section contains some important contributions to this debate. Peter Biehl and Alex Gramsch in their Bookmarks use the Nebra disk to discuss the use of metal detectors and artefact collecting. The growing commercial pressures on archaeology make their choice of books to be reviewed timely. And as Henry Cleere reminds us, it is up to us to get involved. The EAA has a Code of Practice (available at <http://www.e-a-a.org/codeprac.htm>), but too many archaeologists still become compromised in grey areas.

In his review of the *Archaeometry 98* proceedings, Mark Hall comments that 'engaging in "good" archaeological science means building up a database of results via routine studies' (p. 203); we might gloss this as 'engaging in "good" European archaeology means fostering that open debate with which we began this issue'!

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