

Review

Among the New Books

N. JAMES

New editions

On the Reviews Editor's shelf, this quarter, are four new or supposedly new editions of introductions to core 'civilizations'.

W. STEVENSON SMITH (ed. William Kelly Simpson). *The art and architecture of ancient Egypt* (4th edition). xiii+297 pages, 420 figures. 1998. New Haven (CT): Yale University Press; 0-300-07715-7 hardback; 0-300-07747-5 paperback £22.50.

GINA L. BARNES. *The rise of civilization in East Asia: the archaeology of China, Korea and Japan* (2nd edition). 288 pages, 132 figures, 85 plates. 1999. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-27974-8 paperback £14.95.

D.N. JHA. *Ancient India in historical outline* (2nd edition). 216 pages. 1998. New Delhi: Manohar; 81-7304-266-7 hardback Rs250.

LIONEL CASSON. *Everyday life in ancient Rome* (2nd edition). x+170 pages, 1 map, 12 b&w photographs. 1999. Baltimore (MD) & London: Johns Hopkins University Press; 0-8018-5992-1 paperback & 0-8018-5991-3 hardback; £12.50 & £33.

SMITH is a well known introduction to Egypt first published by Penguin in 1958. Prof. Simpson produced a 3rd edition in 1981. Yale has now taken the title over and brought it out in a grand new format twice the former size. The text and illustrations remain much the same but the bibliography has been up-dated. Prof. BARNES' superb over-view of the Far East is now republished in paperback but the only substantive change is a minor modification of the title.

The Reviewer does not know the first edition of *Ancient India*, which came out in 1977. JHA covers the sub-continent from earliest times, moving swiftly up to the Harappan or Indus culture. Two chapters follow on Vedic culture and Jainism and Buddhism. The next two trace the rise of states, the impact of Alexander the Great, and the emergence of the Mauryan empire. The last two are longer chapters which take us up to the rise and decline of the Guptas in the second quarter of the 1st millennium AD. As to 'the myth of the Golden Age' of the Guptas, 'For the upper classes all periods . . . have been golden', concludes Prof. JHA, 'for the masses none'. His treatment is materialist, with an eye to social and economic development. The book would serve well as

background for archaeologists but it is a historian's work (cf. 'History and anthropology', below).

Everyday life in ancient Rome is an expansion and revision of Prof. CASSON's *Horizon Book of Daily Life* (1975). Unobtrusively but effectively and conveniently backed up with reference to both Classical sources and modern scholars, this elegant and engaging book covers social and industrial relations, town and country, work and play, and religion (cf. FELTON in 'History and anthropology', below). Focusing on the climactic 2nd century, the book concludes with an account of Emperor Hadrian.

Also out now in paperback but otherwise unchanged since 1993 is DONALD K. GRAYSON's monograph on the long and varied environmental history of the Great Basin of North America and the record of human responses there up to the mid 19th century: *The desert's past: a natural prehistory of the Great Basin*. xix+356 pages, 89 figures, 45 tables. 1998. Washington (DC) & London: Smithsonian Institution Press; 1-56098-933-5 paperback £19.50 & \$27.95.

Crafts

It is important to understand the production and uses of craft goods. So much of what archaeologists find was made by artisans. Theoretical principles can help to alert the archaeologist to functional and symbolic contexts; and it is always stimulating to read of new methods of analysis.

SARAH MILLIKEN & MASSIMO VIDALE (ed.). *Papers from the EAA third annual meeting at Ravenna 1997 IV: Craft specialization: operational sequences and beyond* (BAR International series S720). viii+184 pages, illustrated. 1998. Oxford: Archaeopress; 0-86054-897-X paperback £30.

CATHY LYNNE COSTIN & RITA P. WRIGHT (ed.). *Craft and social identity* (Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association 8). vii+182 pages, 29 figures, 4 tables. 1998. Arlington (VA): American Anthropological Association; 0-913167-90-8 paperback US\$22 (non-members).

KATHRYN BERNICK. *Basketry & cordage from Hesquiut Harbour, British Columbia*. viii+152 pages, 114 figures, 12 tables. 1998. Victoria (BC): Royal British Columbia Museum; 0-7718-9525-9 paperback Can\$14.95.

MILLIKEN & VIDALE present 20 papers given at the 1997 conference of the European Association of Archaeologists. Most of them are too short to be of great value in themselves but they do make a worthwhile collection together. All but two are based on European data but they range in topic from stone tools to bread-making and mining, and, in history, from the Upper Palaeolithic to the Middle Ages. There is one ethnoarchaeological study, one theoretical essay, and one on methodology. Although the theme of this collection is production, several of the papers explicitly or implicitly assess consequences for the social division of labour or for exploitation and 'alienation' (Marxism remains the principal paradigm). However, only a couple find scope for putting production into the context of other contemporary archaeological evidence.

The papers assembled by COSTIN & WRIGHT also focus on production. They concentrate on one theme — who made what for whom. S.T. Childs traces technological, political and epistemological contexts of iron working among the Toro (Uganda). K.A. Spielmann considers relations between skill and political advancement in precolonial North America; and K.E. Sassaman affirms that the diversity of Archaic products in the Southeast indicates the play of social action (*cf.* BERNICK below). D. Reents-Budet, likewise, argues that Late Classic Maya fineware was painted with rhetorical gestures in the social competition that is now thought to have marked the time. She considers that the artisans were making claims as much or more for themselves as for their patrons; but WRIGHT explains that in Ur III Mesopotamia production was controlled such that there was no opportunity for such behaviour. In more normative vein, J.E. Clark & S.D. Houston argue that craft skill was a common criterion of personal identity in early Colonial Yucatan. COSTIN seeks to show that Inca textiles reveal the political dynamics of gender; but E.M. Brumfiel is too brief to say much new on Aztec specialization. P. Wattenmaker summarizes findings from northwestern Mesopotamia presented more fully in her recent monograph (reviewed last quarter, *Antiquity* 73: 225–7). Some of them converge with those of B. Lass, here, on Hawaii. C.M. Sinopli assesses epigraphic evidence for the development of specialists and their communities in and around Vijayanagara — a type of pattern for which there is also ample historical and ethnographic evidence in many regions of India.

BERNICK reports on the basketry and cordage recovered from burials and a midden of the mid 19th century around Hesquiat Harbour. The sites were explored at the request of the Hesquiat people, concerned about looting and vandalism. The report starts with a helpful discussion of attributes and techniques of manufacture of the types of artefact that BERNICK then distinguishes. She considers that some of the

variation in her sample springs from different social affiliations.

See also PRICE & COTTAM in 'Reference', below.

History and anthropology

It should go without saying that history and anthropology are allied disciplines or even the source of many ideas in archaeology; but most archaeologists in Britain & Ireland have to make special efforts to understand their cousin colleagues. ANTIQUITY is bound to encourage awareness across the disciplinary bounds.

✉ 'Ethnohistory' is the ambiguous and ambivalent term commonly used in America, now, for history of Native peoples. The word does not distinguish history told in indigenous ways from Western ways, although, of course, many of the sources are indigenous.

SUSAN KELLOGG & MATTHEW RESTALL (ed.). *Dead giveaways: indigenous testaments of Colonial Mesoamerica and the Andes*. viii+328 pages, 4 maps, 13 figures & tables. 1998. Salt Lake City (UT): University of Utah Press; 0-87480-579-1 hardback \$40.

RUSSELL J. BARBER & FRANCES F. BERDAN. *The emperor's mirror: understanding cultures through primary sources*. xvi+352 pages, 18 figures, 11 tables. 1998. Tucson (AZ): University of Arizona Press; 0-8165-1847-5 hardback \$45; 0-8165-1848-3 paperback \$24.95.

Despite the cataclysmic disruptions of the period, there were many telling cultural continuities among Native American communities in the Spanish empire (*cf.* BRICKER *et al.* in 'Reference', below). Much of their adaption to colonialism too was achieved by traditional means. KELLOGG & RESTALL present 11 papers on social, economic and religious history (more on Mesoamerica than on the Andes).

BARBER & BERDAN is designed to introduce students to methods for studying 'ethnohistorical' documents: palaeography, calendrics (Julian/Gregorian, Islamic etc.), analysis of vocabulary and lexicon, interpretation of place names and personal names, assessment of documents ('Was this . . . written at the date and by the author claimed?' p. 149), extracting quantitative data, and assessment of pictures and maps. There are short sections on oral history and archaeology. Each chapter is illustrated with brief examples or summaries of documents, hypothetical or real (drawn from various parts of the world but mostly the Americas). The final part of the book seeks to draw the strands together by considering research design; and it finishes with tips on using archives. In theory, this book is an excellent idea for students of history, historical archaeologists or anthropology working on archival sources, but the skills are only acquired by practice. There are other, shorter introductions to many of them. The main

merits here must be that BARBER & BERDAN do cover so many different aspects of the work and that they write in an encouraging, teacherly tone.

✉ We have received a couple of books on classic ethnographic regions. The North American Southwest is also a classic archaeological region but Melanesia is not yet so well known among archaeologists.

PETER M. WHITELEY. *Rethinking Hopi ethnography*. xiv+286 pages, 18 figures, 2 maps. 1999. Washington (DC) & London: Smithsonian Institution Press; 1-56098-857-6 hardback \$39.95 & £31.25; 1-56098-882-7 paperback \$18.95 & £14.75.

PAUL SILLITOE. *An introduction to the anthropology of Melanesia: culture and tradition*. xxiv+254 pages, 16 maps, 6 tables, 72 illustrations. 1998. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 0-521-58186-9 hardback £40 & \$59.95; 0-521-58836-7 paperback £13.95 & \$19.95.

The Hopi are among the few North American nations still occupying the country where the Europeans first found them. There are many analogies between archaeological features in the region and contemporary buildings; and archaeologists here have long immersed themselves in the ethnography. However, the Hopi have suffered from tactless appropriation of their culture by tourists and even anthropologists (not to mention outsiders' continuing depredations of their lands); and they have become wary of researchers. In order to overcome some of this alienation, Dr WHITELEY attempts a passage between a pair of controversial principles only too familiar to archaeologists of a certain feather as well as to ethnographers around the world: on one hand, he urges incorporation or adoption of the Hopis' own outlook in anthropological analysis — and, so far as it affects them, in everyday life and business; and, on the other, he argues that the Critical Intellectual tradition — acme of liberalism — can accomplish this feat with ethical integrity and without invalidating the role of the observer. He urges that the key, of course, is cooperation and consultation.

Melanesia is a common source of ethnographic inspiration for prehistorians' studies of middle-range societies the world over; and presumably ethnography will remain a 'baseline' for archaeology in the region itself. There have been surprisingly few introductions which cover both the various districts and the various issues that have been raised (technology, war, trade, cults, 'big men' and so on). Evidently written with undergraduates in mind, SILLITOE is approachable, even handed and coherently organized, and is of manageable length.

✉ The archaeological study of exchange, 'trade' and diffusion, and of social development in general, benefits from grounding in economic and social anthropology. In this connection, there have been a

few fruitful studies of 'networks' among sites. Although its details are specialized, the following title shows the scope and the implications of this kind of approach with the ampler data of ethnographic case studies of kinship and economics from all parts of the world, including papers by P. Hage & F. Harary and P. Weissner, writers familiar to some archaeologists.

THOMAS SCHWEIZER & DOUGLAS R. WHITE (ed.). *Kinship, networks, and exchange*. (Structural Analysis in the Social Sciences 12.) viii+338 pages, figures. 1998. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 0-521-59021-3 hardback £35 & \$54.95.

✉ History and anthropology are good sources of the 'weird and arcane' (B. Sherman). K.V. Flannery once attempted to explain yellow stains in the archaeological record of Mexico. Could the following title — a fascinating scholarly study of folklore, literature and cosmology in its own right — help in the interpretation of this phenomenon in Classical contexts? The two titles after that are for the really doughy.

D. FELTON. *Haunted Greece and Rome: ghost stories from Classical antiquity*. xx+148 pages. 1999. Austin (TX): University of Texas Press; 0-292-72508-6 paperback \$12.95.

HEIDI PETER-RÖCHER. *Mythos Menschenfresser: ein Blick in die Kochtöpfe der Kannibalen*. 180 pages, 11 figures. 1998. Munich: C.H. Beck; 3-406-42062-1 paperback DM19.80.

RICHARD KIECKHEFER. *Forbidden rites: a necromancer's manual of the fifteenth century*. viii+384 pages, 2 tables, 28 plates. 1998. University Park (PA): Pennsylvania State University Press; 0-271-01750-3 hardback, 0-271-01751-1 paperback.

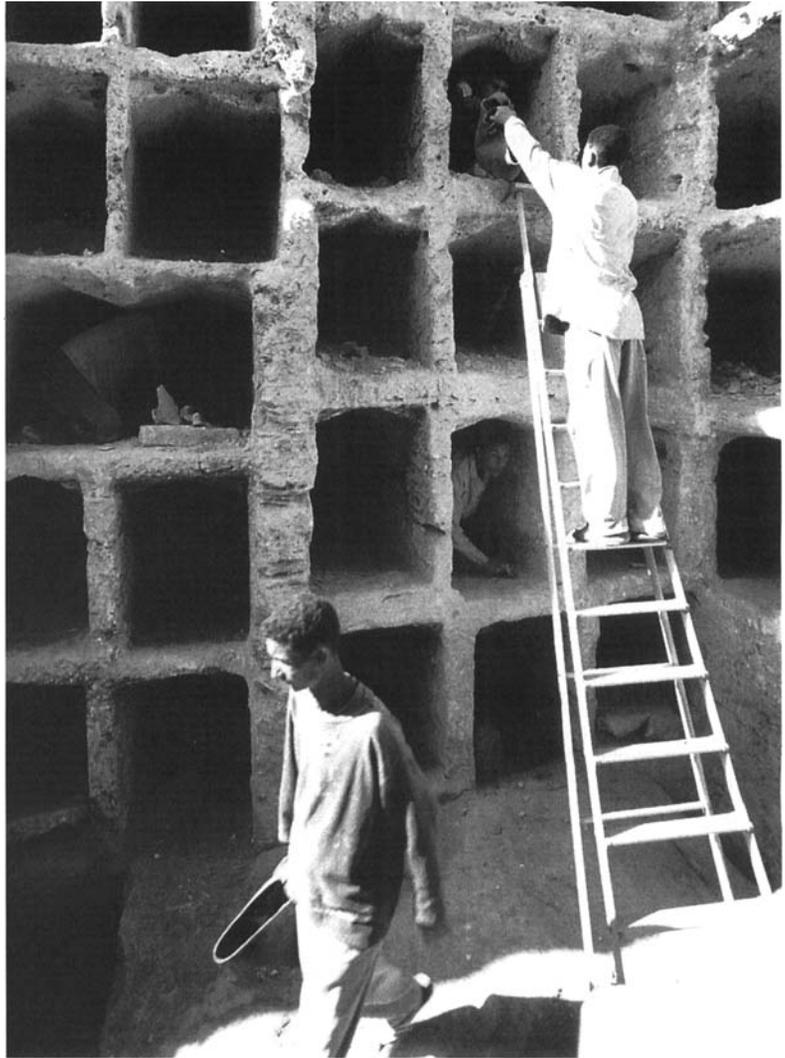
Dr PETER-RÖCHER's study reappraises ground familiar to readers of Stuart Piggott's history of antiquarianism, including pictures by de Bry of the Tupinamba chewing their enemies. The authoress is an archaeologist and must be pleased that her subject has recently reached the head-lines with claims for ancient cannibalism in Colorado. Prof. KIECKHEFER argues that his source illuminates 'tendencies in late medieval culture' and helps 'us to see how ritual could be perceived and perverted' (p. 188).

✉ *Recherché*: history: PATRICK VOILLOT. *Diamonds and precious stones*. 127 pages, 101 illustrations. 1998. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-30086-0 paperback £6.95.

Calendrics

DAVID EWING DUNCAN. *The calendar: the 5000-year struggle to align the clock and the heavens — and what happened to the missing ten days*. xxii+360 pages, 13 figures. 1998. London: Fourth Estate; 1-85702-721-3 hardback £12.99.

'Rehearsing Wasps'; 'Rousing guests at the Hotel Nippon' — readers' guesses were clever. Closest, perhaps, was 'Seminar on mortuary ritual at University College, London'; but, no, these are workers of JEAN-YVES EMPEREUR's in the Gabbari necropolis, shown in Alexandria rediscovered (253 pages, 200+ colour illustrations. 1998. London: British Museum Press; 0-7141-1921-0 hardback £28.50), which summarizes for 'the wider public' his 'experiences' (p. 12) during 10 years of mostly rescue research. The original city wall remains elusive but there may have been two early phases of planning among the streets. The centre seems long to have been dominated by grand, sumptuously appointed houses (cf. MICHAELIDES in 'The Mediterranean world');



of the system for supplying them with water and draining it have been documented. Described here too are the discoveries at Gabbari and also the Roman catacombs, the wonderfully carved walls of which show not syncretism, argues EMPEREUR, but a mix of Classical and Pharaonic ideas. He has also investigated several of the monuments, including sunken remains of the lighthouse, the Pharos, which, he argues, exhibited both Hellenistic and Pharaonic traits.

ALAN BUTLER. *The Bronze Age computer disc*. 190 pages, figures. 1999. London & New York (NY): Quantum; 0-572-02217-4 hardback £16.99 & \$24.95.

Mr EWING DUNCAN gives a popular and thorough account of the development of calendrical systems throughout the world. Spinning off from the Phaistos Disc, ALAN BUTLER takes us on a most imaginative and entertaining exploration of Minoan cosmography.

The Mediterranean world

Our review of the Mediterranean, this quarter, begins in the Lebanon and moves out first to Cyprus,

then to the Aegean. It rounds off with Rome and the Empire.

JEAN-LUC BISCOP. *Deir Déhès — monastère d'Antiochène: étude architecturale* (Bibliothèque Archéologique et Historique 148). vii+94 pages, 140 plates. 1997. Beirut: Institut Français d'Archéologie du Proche-Orient; 2-7053-0565-3 paperback.

The ruins of Deir seem to have lain more or less undisturbed since the 6th century. J-L. BISCOP describes the basilican church with its masonry fittings, including mortuary vault, the domestic quarters and hermits' tower (cf. Simon Stylites). There were

oil presses and the monks eked plantations of olives out of the rocky pavement surrounding the site and built cairns of the stones in order to scratch into the meagre soil. A brief pottery report is included and a list of architectural fragments. Among the excellent drawings, the axonometric reconstructions of the architectural ensemble are very satisfying.

FRIEDA VANDENABEELE. *Figurines on Cypriote jugs holding an oinochoe* (Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology 120). 234 pages plus 133 plates. 1998. Jonsered: Paul Åströms Förlag; 91-7081-198-9 paperback SEK750.

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS & WORKS *Report of the Department of Antiquities Cyprus, 1998*. vi+304 pages, figures, 34 plates. 1998. Nicosia: Cyprus Dept. of Antiquities; ISSN 0070-2374 paperback £C28.

F. VANDENABEELE analyses the chronology, development, function, forms and manufacture of *oinochoe* jugs from Archaic, Classical and early Hellenistic Cyprus. Her dense and highly detailed report is followed by equally detailed catalogues of 19 types of vessel, most distinguished by variant forms of the attached figurine or figurines (or the animal equivalent).

The Cyprus Antiquities Department's latest bulletin is a lively set of 21 reports, essays and discussions covering excavations and surveys, finds, laboratory work, and issues, ranging from the Aceramic Neolithic to the Middle Ages. Most are in English, three in Greek, one in Italian, and one in French. S. Pickles & E. Peltenberg consider the possibility that, as has been shown for Tell Brak, Syria, iron was first produced in the course of working copper. A. Anastasiades assesses evidence for the cult of Arsinoe Philadelphos and the implications for links with Egypt. J.V. Luce speculates as to whether Homer visited Cyprus.

J.A. MACGILLIVRAY. *Knossos: pottery groups of the Old Palace period* (British School at Athens Studies 5). 351 pages, 46 figures, 156 b&w plates. 1998. London: British School at Athens; 0-0904887-32-4 hardback £49 (non-subscribers non-Friends +p&p).

THANASIS J. PAPAPOPOULOS. *The Late Bronze Age daggers of the Aegean I: the Greek mainland (Prähistorische Bronzefunde VI:11.)* x+100 pages, 29 plates. 1998. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner; 3-515-06152-5 hardback DM102.

JARI PAKKANEN. *The temple of Athena Alea at Tegea: a reconstruction of the peristyle column* (University of Helsinki Department of Art History Publication 18). vi+192 pages, photographs, 29 figures. 1998. Helsinki: University of Helsinki Department of Art History; 951-45-8407-4, ISSN 0357-4164 paperback Fim180.

Dr MACGILLIVRAY's assessment of the sequence of ceramics from the first major period of the palace at Knossos entailed detailed scrutiny of the records

of Arthur Evans and his colleagues as well as study of the pottery itself at museums in Crete and England. He sought to relate the palace to other sites in the district and to assess the historical significance of evidence for influences from Egypt and the Levant. He provides a catalogue of 1049 vessels.

T.J. PAPAPOPOULOS presents a typological analysis of 140 daggers (and short dirks) from later Middle and Late Bronze Age Greece, assessing their materials, manufacture and decoration, affinities, distribution and chronology. He points out that there are few good indications about how they were used or by whom — some were found in the graves of women.

Mr PAKKANEN reports the result of his attempt to reconstruct the peristyle columns of a 4th-century BC temple in the Peloponnese from 49 fallen sections or drums. The distinctive feature of his study is the use of statistical modelling and a set of computer programs including a series designed specifically for analysing column shafts. He assesses the merits and shortcomings of this procedure.

DEMETRIOS MICHAELIDES. *Excavations at Sidi Khrebish, Benghazi (Berenice)* Volume IV.1, *The mosaic and marble floors* (Libya Antiqua Supplement V). xiv+220 pages, 16 plates, 110 figures, 8 tables. 1998. Tripoli: Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahirya Secretariat of Education Dept. of Antiquities; paperback.

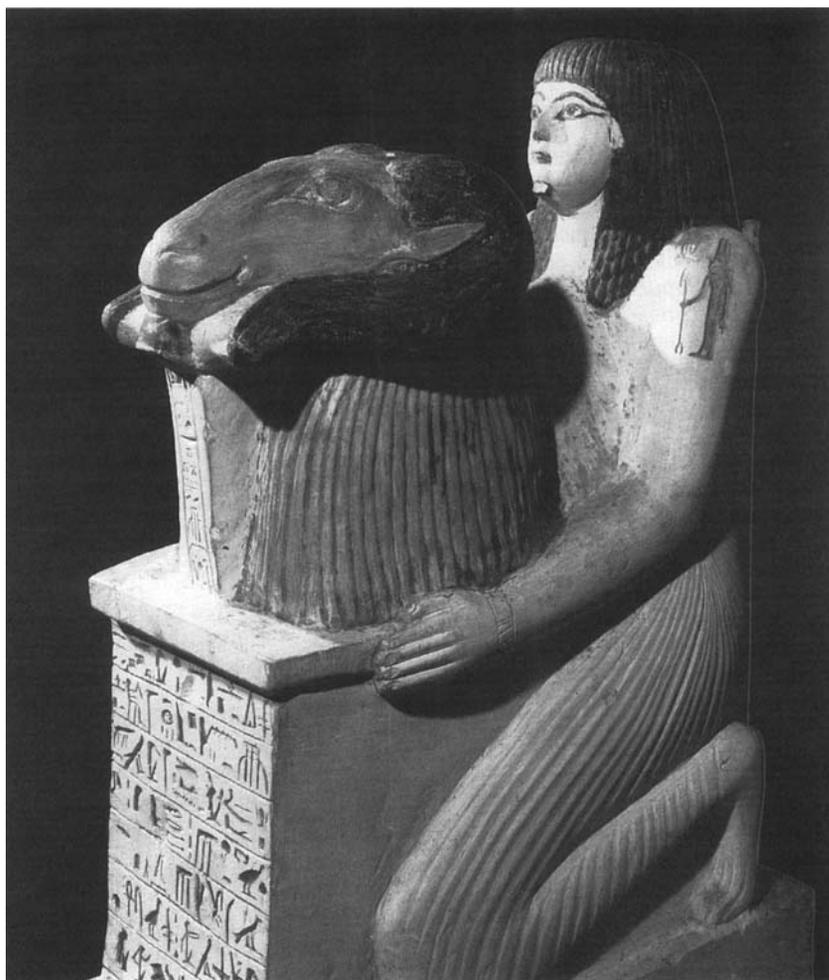
COLIN FORCEY, JOHN HAWTHORNE & ROBERT WITCHER (ed.). *TRAC 97: proceedings of the Seventh Annual Roman Archaeology Conference*. iii+172 pages, figures. 1998. Oxford: Oxbow; 1-900188-59-7 paperback £16.

NIGEL BAGNALL. *The Punic wars: Rome, Carthage and the struggle for the Mediterranean*. xii+348 pages, 7 maps. 1999. London: Pimlico; 0-7126-6608-7 paperback £12.50.

Prof. MICHAELIDES presents a catalogue and commentary on 34 mosaics found in the Roman town of Berenice, now covered by Benghazi. Most of them were in private houses (*cf.* the picture review of *Alexandria rediscovered*). He includes notes on the context of each, the design and motifs, technical description, and ample discussions of construction and iconography. He concludes that there was a distinct tradition of mosaics in Cyrenaica with some links to Italy but much stronger ones with the east Mediterranean.

TRAC 97 comprises 15 papers, mostly on regions of the Western Empire, especially Britain. The main emphasis is on ideology, acculturation and social change (prestige goods and food, architecture, cults and rites). HAWTHORNE points out that the importance of fine wares was not just how and where they were made but perhaps more what they were used for. D. Dungworth speculates that the nails of Inchtuthill and elsewhere may have been ritual para-

PASCAL VERNUS, in *The gods of ancient Egypt* (202 pages, 177 colour photographs, 2 maps. 1998. London & New York (NY): Tauris Parke; 1-86064-270-5 hardback £39.50), coherently and lucidly introduces one of the best documented but most complicated aspects of Pharaonic, Hellenistic and Roman Egypt with splendid photographs by Erich Lessing. He begins by explaining that much of the apparent plethora of deities can be accounted for in reference to distinctions and combinations discerned in Nature, that so many of the deities were provincial or local spirits, and, of course, that worship varied in different periods. He goes on to draw out basic principles of 'divine ontology' and of the relation between mortals and the spirits, including discussion of the key concepts of death and the hereafter. The picture shows a XIX Dynasty devotee presenting a shrine with a ram's head.



for. D. Dungworth speculates that the nails of Inchtuthill and elsewhere may have been ritual paraphernalia; and P. Rush muses on the phenomenology of roads. N. Terrenato considers the influences of romanists' own ideologies on their interpretations of romanization. E. Scott assesses the position of women among academic romanists employed in Britain.

This is a poignant time for a book on regional war. Gen. BAGNALL explains that the Punic Wars taxed the resources and the populations of both Carthage and Rome. What lessons are there for the relations between generals and politicians? BAGNALL seems to draw on his experience of the issues as well as his understanding of military strategy and tactics. He includes helpful maps both of the theatres of war and of battles.

Northwestern Europe

J.M. BOND & T.P. O'CONNOR. *Bones from Medieval deposits at 16–22 Coppergate and other sites in York* (The Archaeology of York 15:5). xxxii+133 pages, 18 figures, 6 plates, 20 tables. 1999. York: Council for British Archaeology; 1-872414-93-1 paperback £16.

KENT ANDERSSON (ed.). *Suionum hinc civitates: nya undersökningar kring norra Mälardalens äldre järnålder* (Occasional Papers in Archaeology 19). 275 pages, 93 figures. 1998. Uppsala: Uppsala University Dept. of Archaeology & Ancient History; 91-506-1320-0, ISSN 1100-6358 paperback.

HEATHER SEBIRE (ed.). *Guernsey connections; archaeological and historical papers in honour of Bob Burns*. 175 pages, illustrations. 1998. St Peter Port: La Société Guernesaise; 0-9518075-8-7 paperback £16 plus p+p.

MARTIN COOK. *Medieval bridges*. 64 pages, 37 illustrations. 1998. Princes Risborough: Shire; 0-7478-0384-6 paperback £4.99.

CHRISTIAN THEUREAU. *La population archéologique de Tours (IV^e–XVII^e siècle): étude anthropologique*. (*Recherches sur Tours 7/Revue Archéologique du Centre de la France* supplement 14.) 88 pages, 53 figures. 1998. Tours: FERAC/ADEAUT; 2-913272-00-2, ISSN 0769-8755 paperback Ffr95.

DCMINIQUE VIVENT. *Le site de Tours et son environnement: l'approche palynologique* (*Recherches sur Tours 8/Revue Archéologique du Centre de la France* supplement 15). 96 pages, 32 figures, 12 tables. 1998. Tours: FERAC/ADEAUT; 2-913272-01-0, ISSN 0769-8755 paperback Ffr100.

BOND & O'CONNOR summarize and review the evidence of animal bones recovered from Medieval contexts in York, with detailed attention to the large collection from the Coppergate site. They argue that butchers' deposits can be distinguished from those of households. They distinguish the main food animals and note variations between sites. The religious community at The Bedern had distinct patterns of consumption of calves, sheep and fish. Comparison with results from Beverley help to point up the main features of the pattern at York.

Dr ANDERSSON presents a review of recent research on the Iron Age of Uppland and Västmanland, in Sweden. He holds that this work, which includes extensive excavations of settlements and intensive studies of houses, as well as investigations of burials, has substantially changed our understanding of the Early part of the period in particular. A substantial picture of a variegated settlement pattern is emerging. It is interesting to follow the discussions of changing concepts — a process very familiar in recent and current settlement studies in Britain too. All but one of the papers are in Swedish with substantial summaries in English; the other is in English.

Guernsey connections was published to mark the retirement of a man credited with much of the vision behind what B. Cunliffe, in his Foreword, hails as a revolution in archaeological knowledge of the island during the 20 years to 1995. Contributors from the island, from England and from France (including P.-R. Giot) cover topics ranging from the megalithic tomb of Les Fouaillages (I. Kinnes) to Medieval and modern glass from an urban site. Other papers range as far as Southampton, and even an assemblage of pottery from the Other Island.

Medieval bridges is in the Shire Archaeology series and maintains the usual standard of these trusty little guides. It covers all of England. It deals mainly with standing structures, however, not the archaeology of lost bridges. Mr COOK summarizes the pre-Medieval history of bridges and then distinguishes the Medieval ones century by century. He illustrates

the engineering principles and their development, and describes the variety of ancillary structures (causeways, chapels, houses etc.). He rounds off with a consideration of how the bridges have fared and been adapted since the Middle Ages.

THEUREAU summarizes the physical anthropology of skeletons from graves dating from the 4th to 17th centuries recovered in Tours. VIVENT reviews the results and the methods of palynological research in the same city. Compare BELLET *et al.* and GALINIÉ & ROYO in 'Regional guides and atlases' (below).

Southern Africa

JIMMY JONSSON. *Early plant economy in Zimbabwe* (*Studies in African Archaeology* 16). 141 pages, 30 figures, 59 tables, 11 plates. 1998. Uppsala: Uppsala University Dept. of Archaeology & Ancient History; 91-506-1321-9 ISSN 0284-5040; paperback.

MARIA M. VAN DER RYST. *The Waterberg Plateau in the Northern Province, Republic of South Africa, in the Later Stone Age* (BAR International series S715/Cambridge Monographs in African Archaeology 43). viii+158 pages, 3 maps, 10 tables, 37 figures, 5 plates. 1998. Oxford: Archaeopress; 0-86054-893-7 paperback £27.

JONSSON has collated evidence for uses of plants in Zimbabwe from the 14th millennium BC to 150 years ago. It seems to be the first review of the kind for this country. He documents the transition to agriculture and detects the more recent climatic changes. He assesses data from four caves which appear to indicate that the first farmers collected a wider array of species than the earlier gatherers — owing, JONSSON suggests, to their exploitation of more diverse environments. He traces farming communities' responses to the 'Medieval Warm Epoch' and 'Little Ice Age'. More concentrated settlement during the latter period seems to have caused local environmental degradation. At the same time, the economic stress appears to have encouraged trade in foodstuffs.

Ms. V.D. RYST seeks to document the transition to the Iron Age in northern South Africa. San colonisation seems to have been late. It may have been related to contemporary Bantu expansion. Cultural exchange does seem to have run both ways — Bantu perhaps adopting certain San sacred sites and rites — but the new way of life gradually prevailed. The concise text of this report is accompanied by extensive summary data on artefacts, rock art, animal bones and environment.

Regional guides and atlases

DAVID J. BREEZE. *Historic Scotland: 5000 years of Scotland's heritage*. 128 pages, colour photographs. 1998. London: B.T. Batsford; 0-7134-8394-6 hardback; £14.99.

ANGIOLO DEL LUCCHESI & ROBERTO MAGGI (ed.). *Dal diaspro al bronzo — l'Età del Rame e del Bronzo*

in *Liguria: 26 secoli di storia fra 3600 e 1000 anni avanti Cristo* (Quaderni della Soprintendenza Archeologica della Liguria 5). 205 pages, colour and b&w photographs and figures. 1998. La Spezia: Luna; paperback.

MICHEL-EDOUARD BELLET, CHRISTIAN CRIBELLIER, ALAIN FERDIÈRE & SOPHIE KRAUSZ. *Agglomérations secondaires antiques en Région Centre* (Vol. 1; Revue Archéologique du Centre de la France Supplement 17). 224 pages, 59 figures. Tours: FERAC; 2-913272-03-7 paperback Ffr200 (+Ffr30 p&p).

HENRI GALINIÉ & MANUEL ROYO (ed.). *Atlas des villes et des réseaux de villes en Région Centre (3)*. i+68 pages, illustrations. 1999. Tours: FERAC; 2-912610-01-X paperback (folder) Ffr70 (+Ffr25 postage).

Historic Scotland is a 'coffee-table book' with superb, bright pictures of some 70 sites, buildings and monuments as diverse as Skara Brae, Tantallon Castle, Gen. Haig's grave and the Dallas Dhu distillery, selected from among the properties in the care of 'Historic Scotland' (of course). Each is provided with a caption of some 40 to 300 words. A list of general references is provided.

The Ligurian Superintendency's historical atlas (DEL LUCCHESI & MAGGI) appears to be designed for popular edification. It comprises two articles providing a technical archaeological summary of the later prehistory followed by 43 short articles on particular sites, sub-districts or topics. The book is brightly illustrated, although the quality of the line drawings and photographs is inconsistent, and the artist's attractive impressions of daily life are a little puzzling. Whether or not by design, the maps would be very difficult for visitors to use. For lack of enough attention to how non-specialists can understand archaeology, this worthy gesture is unlikely to help much in cultivating informed public appreciation.

Carefully pitched, by contrast, for the studious general reader or undergraduate are the two atlases of the Central Region of France, around Tours. BELLET *et al.* have assembled 32 scholarly entries on Roman and sub-Roman sites, each with summaries of historical references and previous research, long bibliographies, and discursive notes on topography and geographical context as well as on the archaeology. There are lots of maps; and simple aerial photographs and plots are included too. The information looks really useful and usable. This atlas is a terrific resource which seems likely to stimulate a lot of interest. GALINIÉ & ROYO's atlas of towns and settlements is a folder with seven pamphlets covering the region from the 1st century to the mid 16th. Pitched for a slightly less studious readership, they are presented simply but elegantly. The discursive texts are full of information yet concise withal and accompanied by distribution maps. These publica-

tions are a remarkable experiment which should be studied by educational organizations elsewhere. It would be very interesting to know how these very reasonably priced volumes are being taken up and whether the cost will be recouped. (Cf. *Recherches sur Tours* in 'Northwestern Europe', above.)

Reference

IAN SHAW & ROBERT JAMESON (ed.). *A dictionary of archaeology*. xvi+624 pages, 61 figures, 30 maps, 19 tables. 1998. Oxford & Malden (MA): Blackwell; 0-631-17423-0 hardback £75 & \$99.95.

MICHAEL LAPIDGE, JOHN BLAIR, SIMON KEYNES & DONALD SCRAGG. *The Blackwell encyclopaedia of Anglo-Saxon England*. xviii+538 pages, 21 figures, 24 plates, 12 maps. 1999. Oxford & Malden (MA): Blackwell; 0-631-15565-1 £80 & \$99.95.

The number of dictionaries of archaeology published defies the view that the field has lost its coherence. Even if the need for a dictionary is symptomatic of specialization, the demand for an over-view evidently stretches beyond this journal's readership. Archaeology is a small but diverse discipline, and it must be difficult to compile a dictionary that is both coherent and reliable. SHAW & JAMESON have assembled a roster of authoritative and readable contributors to cover sites, cultures, regions worldwide (even continents), concepts and theories, methods and techniques. On the whole, the quality of the entries is very high — 'human evolution' in less than four pages is excellent, for example, the almost three on 'aerial photography' equally. Perfection is unattainable, of course. The wretched British misunderstanding of binfordian 'middle-range theory' infects more than one important entry. It was carefully decided not to cover Classical archaeology. Likewise, perhaps, cover of Medieval India is uneven. Other omissions are difficult to understand, however: why nothing on typology, for instance? Nor is conservation or heritage management covered. On the other hand, references are provided throughout, building on the strengths and compensating for most of the weaknesses. The cross-references to complementary entries are very valuable. There is the odd minor but silly typing error.

Blackwell's too is LAPIDGE *et al.* on *Anglo-Saxon England*. This is a timely volume; but, equally, it is risky to publish such a book in a field developing so quickly. The length of the entries is less judiciously varied than those of SHAW & JAMESON. It does seem to be empirically comprehensive but it is weak — at best — on theory: rank and class are conflated; 'the small farming communities of the migration period look like rather flat little societies' (p. 424) belongs in '410 & All That'; and there is but a page-and-a-bit on state formation ('Kings and kingship'). The fault probably lies not with the editors or their

contributors but with the field as a whole — which will probably soon be more theoretically limber. Comparing the prices with SHAW & JAMESON shows that British readers are expected to pay more for this one.

JENNIFER PRICE & SALLY COTTAM. *Romano-British glass vessels: a handbook* (Practical handbook in archaeology 14). vi+234 pages, 96 figures, 30 colour photographs, table. 1998. York: Council for British Archaeology; 1-872414-96-6 paperback £9.50.

PRICE & COTTAM's book comprises a taxonomically arranged selection of types, described, discussed (including distribution and chronology), illustrated and fully referenced, all preceded with a long introduction to the industry and manufacture, find contexts, terminology and vessel attributes, and decoration. Although presented with modest simplicity, it seems to be a signal achievement of scholarship. It must be *the* handbook. As such, one problem may be that it needs a hard cover.

VICTORIA BRICKER, ELEUTERO PO'OT YAH & OFELIA DZUL DE PO'OT. *A dictionary of the Maya language as spoken in Hocabá, Yucatán*. xxvi+410 pages. 1998. Salt Lake City (UT): University of Utah Press; 0-87480-569-4 paperback.

BRICKER *et al.* are in a long tradition of Mesoamerican dictionaries which have proved invaluable for ethnographers, historians and, more recently, epigraphers. As in some of the earlier works, many of the entries include variants which alert the reader to the scope of application, formal and infor-

mal. Many technical words are provided with explanations as well as definitions (e.g., *sutup*, a tree and also a 'Spiral fruit placed in child's mouth . . . so that child will . . . speak properly'). Appended are a botanical index and a long 'sketch of Maya word morphology and inflections'. The language has adapted to colonial and modern conditions; and the authors point out that major economic changes have taken place even during the 14 years of the fieldwork toward this book. Many Maya cultures have adapted repeatedly since long before the European intrusion.

Fiction

Ancient legend is a source of insight to the social, political and economic history of the Celts. PETER BERESFORD ELLIS has rewritten 37 tales from Ireland, Scotland, the Isle of Man, Wales, Cornwall and Brittany with delightful simplicity in *The chronicles of the Celts: new tellings of their myths and legends*. 536 pages, b&w illustrations. 1999. London: Robinson; 1-85487-887-5 hardback £16.99.

Finally, we have received three 'mysteries of ancient Rome' by STEVEN SAYLOR:

Catalina's riddle. vii+466 pages. 1998. London: Robinson; 1-85487-889-1 paperback £6.99.

A murder on the Appian Way. xvi+397 pages. 1998. London: Robinson; 1-85487-891-3 paperback £6.99.

The Venus throw. xiii+368 pages. 1999. London: Robinson; 1-85487-584-1 paperback £6.99.

Review articles

Landscape: gleaning the meaning

CAROLINE MALONE*

RICHARD BRADLEY. *The significance of monuments: On the shaping of human experience in Neolithic and Bronze Age Europe*. xii+178 pages, 52 figures. 1998. London & New York (NY): Routledge; 0-415-15203-8 hardback £45 & \$75; 0-415-15204-6 paperback £14.99 & \$24.99.

RICHARD BRADLEY. *Rock art and the prehistory of Atlantic Europe: Signing the land*. xiv+238 pages, 57 figures, 32 tables, 40 plates. 1997. London & New York (NY): Routledge; 0-415-165350 hardback £65 & \$110; 0-415-16536-9 paperback £22.50 & \$34.99.

Landscape archaeology has become trendy — and when not purely descriptive, it has tended towards

the fantastic and phenomenological approaches. A host of 'touchy feely' landscape experiences have recently dominated the bookshelves, and one is left gasping at the insights and unconventional methodologies employed, but is little wiser on the detailed evidence that an intellectual experience of the past seems to demand. Thus I am thankful to Richard Bradley for providing two sane, but at the same time deeply perceptive, volumes on the whole business of examining prehistoric landscapes and the structures and carvings that adorn them. Bradley's landscapes focus on the recognition of monument groups, their topography, 'viewsheds' and the subtle interrelationship of broadly contemporary ancient

* New Hall, Cambridge CB3 0DF, England. catm20@cam.ac.uk