

Reviews

New Book Chronicle

Madeleine Hummler

By the time this chronicle appears *Antiquity's* reviews section will be in the hands of my successor, Robert Witcher. I wish him as much pleasure doing the job as I have had. It has been a great privilege to see thousands of books pass through and to pick a few to report on each quarter. In theory, it is Christmas every day: the post brings a new book, a fresh view from distant parts, on a period seldom familiar. In reality it has often been hard to say something which might interest the lay reader rather than the ordained specialist may want to know. I shall try once more, bringing dispatches from China and a violent Europe.

China

LI LIU & XINGCAN CHEN. *The archaeology of China. From the Late Paleolithic to the Early Bronze Age*. xxii+476 pages, 127 illustrations, 11 tables. 2012. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 978-0-521-64432-7 paperback £23.99, \$36.99; hardback £65 & \$99.

ROWAN K. FLAD. *Salt production and social hierarchy in ancient China: an archaeological investigation of specialization in China's Three Gorges*. xxvi+285 pages, 68 illustrations, 15 tables. 2011. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 978-1-107-00941-7 hardback £60 & \$90.

JAMES C.S LIN (ed.). *The search for immortality: tomb treasures of Han China*. xviii+356 pages, 470 colour & b&w illustrations, 4 tables. 2012. New Haven (CT) & London: Yale University Press in association with The Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge; 978-0-300-18434-1 hardback £45.

ANNETTE L. JULIANO with AN JIAYAO. *Unearthed: recent archaeological discoveries from northern China*. xvi+176 pages, numerous colour & b&w illustrations. 2012. Williamstown (MA): Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute; 978-0-875772-25-7; New Haven (CT) & London: Yale University Press; 978-0-300-17967-5 paperback £45.

VALERIE HANSEN. *The Silk Road: a new history*. xvi+304 pages, 58 illustrations, 16 colour plates, 6

tables. 2012. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 978-0-19-515931-8 hardback £20.

The opening up of the People's Republic of China and the rapid pace of development in that country since the end of the period of the Cultural Revolution in 1976 has brought the material remains of its past to Western popular consciousness, through major exhibitions and through announcements of spectacular discoveries such as that of the 'Terracotta army' in 1974. Over the past four decades research has also resulted in high-quality publications targeted at a Western readership: the five books summarised here (*The archaeology of China* by LI LIU and XINGCAN CHEN, *Salt production and social hierarchy in ancient China* by ROWAN FLAD, *The search for immortality* edited by JAMES LIN, *Unearthed* by ANNETTE JULIANO and AN JIAYAO, and *The Silk Road* by VALERIE HANSEN) are all excellent recent examples.

For archaeologists, *The archaeology of China* is a must, whether interested in the prehistory of China—the book covers the period from the later Palaeolithic to 1000 BC—or just curious about that country's past in general. Here is where you can really begin to grasp China's huge diversity, of regions, climates, economic strategies, cultures, materials, societies and spiritual outlooks. It is a brilliant textbook, cramming in vast amounts of information on the Neolithic and Bronze Age (7 out of the 10 chapters) and a worthy successor to K.C. Chang's *The archaeology of ancient China* which went through many editions between 1963 and 1986. A generation on, his students LI LIU and XINGCAN CHEN continue to champion the archaeology of China in a most lucid way, largely uncluttered (in the Bronze Age) from reference to the dynastic history of China (the main ones being Xia, Shang, Zhou, Qin and Han in the second–first millennia BC). Indeed they refrain from directly equating archaeological complexes with dynasties, preferring to stick with archaeological entities such as Erlitou and Erligang (pp. 258–59) to explain the formation of early states in the Bronze Age. And the book is the better for that, clear throughout but not eschewing complex explanations. This is in large parts due to its excellent structure: two

introductory chapters on the history of archaeology in China and its geography and a final chapter addressing the question of 'Chineseness' bracket eight chapters arranged chronologically (one on the later Palaeolithic, four on the Neolithic and three on the Bronze Age). These chapters are very well organised, starting with an exposition of the main questions and theories, following with regional overviews and site or assemblage summaries, which are then discussed, and ending with general conclusions. Each time everything is well summarised and flagged up (e.g. the location, time and mode of domestication of plants and animals in chapter 4), supported by maps and site plans and illustrations of assemblages.

This book is the next best thing to being a student on the authors' courses; by the end you feel better able to cope with the landscape—the Central Plain, Yellow River, Yangzi River, the south, the north including Xingjian in the north-west for example—and the myriad cultures and sites—e.g. the Peiligang, Yangshao or Longshan cultures in the Neolithic with sites such as Jiahu, Jiangzhai, Taosi and Liangzhu, or the Erlitou and Erligang cultures, with sites such as Yanshi, Zhengzhou or Panlongcheng for the Bronze Age. But far from being a mere chronological presentation, the text guides you through the formation of communities and societies, in increasing complexity but not necessarily in unilinear fashion. The authors balance continuity with innovation, for example among sedentary hunter-gatherer-collectors who had a well adapted broad-spectrum subsistence strategy but 'invented' pottery and 'domesticated' rice and pigs among others (up to the end of the Early Neolithic around 5000 BC). In the Middle Neolithic (5000–3000 BC) territorial and demographic expansion was accompanied by ideological control which underpinned the emerging elites. Early urbanism, warfare, state-level societies appear among the complex agricultural societies of the great rivers systems in the Late Neolithic (3000–2000 BC), while elsewhere small communities stuck to their broad-spectrum subsistence economy. Around 2000 BC a major collapse, perhaps environmentally triggered, occurred, which meant that in the ensuing Bronze Age, the territorial states relied heavily on a monopoly over material resources, which also led to colonisation, on hierarchical power and on the control of ritual. These trends are seen to evolve within a core/periphery framework, which, by the

closing centuries of the second millennium BC led to decentralisation and the rise of regional centres.

The authors end by asking whether the rise of civilisation in China has followed a unique trajectory in China, whether there is such a thing as 'Chineseness', and if so whether this was politically engineered or environmentally conditioned. Their position is that China's geography is certainly a determinant factor, but that contact with the peoples of Central Asia and the Eurasian steppe led to innovative adaptation in the Central Plain. China's ability to access a huge array of natural resources and control them through ritual practices led to a concentration of power, but changes in the core/periphery equilibrium also led to collapse. Li Liu and Xingcan Chen tend to agree with K.C. Chang's notion that Chinese civilisation rose through ideological control, as opposed to economic power. This theme aligns with current discussions of the importance of ideology in the rise of complex prehistoric civilisations elsewhere in the world. Conversely, for China and elsewhere, the core/periphery model has as much to do with economic realities as with hierarchy reinforced by ritual.

The archaeology of China is a fount of knowledge, supported by a 50-page bibliography. The first chapter, which gives a short history of archaeology in China and its main themes, is informative but, disappointingly, not illustrated. Here we could really do with some visual aids in the shape of images of excavations and archaeologists, maps, synoptic tables or timelines. Though in the period chapters detailed tables of cultures, sites and maps are reasonably plentiful, an initial visual overview would have helped immensely. Perhaps this will appear in the next edition which this book will undoubtedly earn.

The paucity of excavation pictures is not confined to *The archaeology of China*. Nearly all the books summarised here fail to deliver on this score. Though visually stunning, the two exhibition books (*The search for immortality* and *Unearthed*) have general maps of tombs but hardly any detailed plans—which would seem essential when discussing the disposition of burial goods—and there are very few 'action shots' from excavations which would help assess how the treasures of China were uncovered (there are some in *Unearthed*). Though a history book, Hansen's *Silk Road* at least gives a flavour of her sites' settings and she does include the occasional excavation photograph (e.g. of *stupa* excavations recently at Niya or at

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Rawak from Aurel Stein's archives). The general lack of information on recovery leaves an uneasy feeling: either readers are being patronised (why should methodology not be interesting to the general public?) or information is genuinely missing. This is understandable given the intense media pressure and the frantic development phase currently experienced by China. This is hinted at on p. 74 of *Unearthed*: an undisturbed, complex tomb, which ought to take weeks or months to excavate and record meticulously, was "excavated day and night for several days". To her credit, An Jiayao, in her essay in *Unearthed* on the development of archaeology in China over the past 90 years (a good complement to Li Liu and Xingcan Chen's first chapter), is not afraid to draw attention to the problems of archaeology in China today: 80 per cent of projects are infrastructure-led, there are too few trained archaeologists, looting is on the increase and "the intense media coverage has only made the situation worse". She ends with a plea for "more planned archaeological surveys and excavations coupled with the comprehensive multidisciplinary study of cultural relics and ancient sites" to present China's past "with increasing clarity" (p. 163). Such clarity is indeed needed.

It is interesting to set ROWAN FLAD's investigation of a Late Neolithic and Bronze Age salt production site at Zhongba on a tributary of the Yangzi River in the Three Gorges Valley against the broad trends identified by Liu Liu and Xingcan Chen. Many aspects find corroboration or development in *Salt production and social hierarchy in ancient China*. Essentially Flad's work is a meticulous analysis of a square 10 × 10m in extent and 10m deep cutting through 59 stratified levels excavated between 1999 and 2002 in the mound of Zhongba. This was part of a larger rescue project conducted by Chinese archaeologists of the Sichuan Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology in collaboration with American universities in advance of flooding by the reservoir of the Three Gorges Dam. By 2006 nothing remained of the 7000m² mound, a specialist brine-salt evaporation site occupied from the mid third millennium BC to the twentieth century AD.

Admirable as Flad's analysis and synthesis from his intervention are, it is frustrating that the rest of the mound's excavation is reported only very summarily here. As a result, the detailed study of a deep box through the mound raises as many questions as it produces insights. The location of the living quarters of the workforce are unknown,

and even the spatial organisation and intensity of activity on the production site can only be partially understood from the sample. Much emphasis is placed on diversity, concentration, scale and context of production, but with so many imponderables (including different recovery strategies elsewhere on the mound), the sample is made to carry rather a lot of weight. For example, the persistent orientation of gullies (even taking two adjacent 10 × 10m squares into account) is interpreted as evidence for leadership, when other explanations (e.g. efficiency, routine renewal of structures, terrain or tradition) seem equally plausible. The tens of thousands of animal bones—pig, deer, many wild mammals and abundant fish—are interpreted as the residue from salting fish and meat, including pickled rhino (p. 197), presumably the defleshed bones discarded *in situ* on the salt evaporation site itself (?). One would have liked more on the deposition of such material, especially as rat bones (the most numerous) are all considered intrusive; in the absence of living quarters it is impossible to compare food consumption with meat salted for storage or trade. Finally the presence of hunted animals is interpreted as evidence for an increasing concentration on salt production (because hunting is less time-consuming than keeping domestic animals) but since we don't know what the supply mechanisms for the workforce were, this must remain conjectural.

Be that as it may, the author has teased much out of his stratified sequence: there are three phases of Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation in the form of pits, gullies, postholes and workshop floors dated to between 2470 and 200 BC by 31 radiocarbon dates (p. 77), in which three successive kinds of briquetage vessels were recovered by the thousands. Oracle bones (burnt and modified plastrons of turtles; the practice even has a name, pyroplastronomy) are frequently found in the third, Late Bronze Age phase and interpreted as evidence of ritual power controlled by specialists in uncertain times. The sequence starts with low-level salt production, perhaps seasonal and community or kin-based in the Neolithic, to become a controlled, quasi-industrial exploitation carried out by specialists producing salt and salted produce for trade during the Bronze Age. There is much to commend in this book, for example the diary entries in the prologue and epilogue setting the scene most vividly, and some frustrating elements such as the lack of excavation photographs already mentioned, over-reduced sections (e.g. on p. 71) and, above all,

wanting to know more about how the rest of the site functioned. For that, we shall have to wait for the final report by Sun Zhibin.

Rowan Flad's account ends with the beginning of the Han dynasty who ruled an empire covering most of China between 206 BC and AD 220. Han, for many, is "quintessentially Chinese", a period in which "what has come to be considered the Chinese 'way of life' coalesced... [into] a system of imperial government... the adoption of 'Confucian' principles of respect and duty in court life and administration... a mixed state-private economy including long-distance trade, a qualified openness to foreign ideas, arts and beliefs, and a conception of the emperor [as having] a semi-divine right to rule" (Timothy Potts, p. 3). Thus begins the first of 12 essays in *The search for immortality*, the catalogue accompanying a major exhibition of over 350 objects from Han China staged at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge in 2012, most ably edited by James Lin. The book is sumptuous, as was the exhibition (some still virtually visible at <http://www.tombtreasuresofhanchina.org/>).

Being a catalogue (pp. 85–320), the book inevitably dwells more on the superb craftsmanship, art and ideology embodied in the artefacts from a series of nine royal tombs or underground palaces carved into the hills around Xuzhou on the Central Plain of China and from one spectacular tomb found intact in southern China in Guangzhou, the tomb of the king of Nanyue, than on extreme manifestations of power like the 15 sacrificed concubines, servants and kitchen staff that accompanied him. The catalogue is organised along themes for the tombs of the kings of Chu at Xuzhou—relatives of the Han emperors whose mausolea have not been excavated—therefore containing "the highest level of material culture available for study". To list these items would take pages; just think of everything including the kitchen sink, stone lavatory, bathroom, dance hall (with exquisite earthenware figurines of dancers and musicians, pp. 126–35), weaponry, the accoutrements of officialdom, the earthenware guardians to the tomb and the jade coffin, suits, veils, orifice plugs and pendants designed for immortality. For the king of Nanyue's tomb, the exposition presents the layout of the tomb, from its pathway to the antechamber, 6 chambers and storeroom, with artefacts described and depicted thereafter. Highlights include another jade suit, silk printing plates and a lacquer folding screen. Apart from showing off prodigious wealth and power, the Han burial goods were assembled

not simply to ensure the well-being of the king in the afterlife but to make sure that the ethereal and the bodily spirits of the dead (the *hun* and the *po*) were kept happy in an incorrupt body, protected by jade. This is well explained by James Lin in an essay on protection in the afterlife. He also contributes another two essays on hierarchy and jade suits in the Chu kingdom and on the place of the king of Nanyue in the Han empire. These, as well as an essay by Jessica Rawson on artefacts, contacts and influences from Han China's neighbours (Central and Western Asia, Iran) are among the most illuminating essays. Somewhat disappointing were those on discoveries and excavations in the kingdoms of Chu and of Nanyue; I hoped to finally find out how such incredibly complex sites were tackled but my curiosity was left unsated.

Unearthed: recent archaeological discoveries from northern China is a more modest exhibition. It showcases just 16 objects from 5 sites dating to the mid and later first millennium AD following the Han period: three tomb sites—the burials of Song Shaozu of the Wei dynasty (died in AD 477), of Lou Rui of the Qi dynasty (died in AD 570) and a Tang dynasty tomb of the eighth century AD from Fujiagou village—are complemented by two Buddhist objects of the sixth and tenth centuries AD, a polychrome stele and a stone reliquary. After *The search for immortality*, which brings a whole new meaning to the label 'made in China', it is difficult to be stunned by anything. Nevertheless the 2.4m high and 3.5m wide stone sarcophagus of Song Shaozu built like a perfect timber house and the beautifully naturalistic earthenware figures of oxen and camels from the tomb of Lou Rui and Fujiagou village hold their own. What *Unearthed* lacks in quantity, the book makes up in quality, with a good extended commentary by ANNETTE JULIANO and the overview on 90 years of archaeology in China by AN JIAYAO mentioned above. Reproduction is excellent, maps are detailed, and there are even (small) excavation photographs! The impetus for the exhibition and accompanying book was the centenary of an expedition by Sterling Clark (of Singer sewing machine fortune) who travelled 2000 miles from Taiyuan in Shanxi to Lanzhou in Gansu in 1908–1909, collecting information on wildlife and geography on the loess plateau of northern China. But unlike some of his contemporaries, most famously Aurel Stein, Clark did not excavate or collect anything, confining himself to surveying, photographing and keeping

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notebooks. The opportunity for the Art Institute in Massachusetts which Clark founded to celebrate the work of an expedition leader chiming with current thinking about indigenous heritage was too good to miss, and the juxtaposition of Clark's journey with recent archaeological discoveries more or less along his route works well. Above all it is the melding of cultures and beliefs in northern China through the Silk Road with elements of ancestor worship, nomadic traditions, Confucianism, Buddhism and Daoism that comes across most clearly.

Though an artery for contact between China and the Western world since perhaps around 2000 BC (see Li Liu & Xingcan Chen, pp. 337–44), the Silk Road is probably best known in the first millennium AD because it brought the Roman and Byzantine empires into (remote) contact with the Chinese Han and Tang empires. Particularly appealing to the imagination is the Central Asian stretch from the autonomous Uighur region of Xinjiang to Samarkand, conjuring up images of caravans carrying bolts of silk and desiccated mummies in the Tarim Basin. The Silk Road is a famous misnomer coined in 1877 by Ferdinand von Richthofen, since it is not a road but a network. Here it is shown, by VALERIE HANSEN in *The Silk Road: a new history*, to have been “one of the most transformational super highways in history” (pp. 5 and 234) both at once. This companionable but also scholarly history of the Silk Road is written by a historian with an eye for landscape and the material past. Although based on documents primarily, archaeological documentation is not neglected and her approach is one that archaeologists will find appealing: the book, which covers the period from the second to the eleventh century AD, focuses on seven locales, Niya and Loulan to the south of the Taklamakan Desert, Kucha and Turfan to the north of it, Sogdian Samarkand in Uzbekistan, the Tang capital of Chang An (Xi'an) in China, the library caves of Dunhuang, and finally Khotan which gives her the opportunity to explore the meeting of Buddhism with Islam. It is packed full of information conveyed with a light touch, weaving into the exposition evocations of the local scene or accounts of the adventures of explorers from Marco Polo to Aurel Stein. The riches of the sources are there to be appreciated, from letters recycled into funerary artefacts (e.g. shoes in the Astana graveyard near Turfan), accounts of bolts of silk used as currency (p. 103) to the heady mix of languages and scripts including Sanskrit, Khotanese,

Tibetan, Uighur, Sogdian, Chinese, and beliefs such as Manichaeism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Buddhism, Daoism, Islam and Christianity. The Silk Road was indeed a most influential cultural conduit, but, at least from a historian's point of view, perhaps more of ideas and technologies than of volume of goods. Hansen is particularly keen to convey that silk was but one commodity along with ammonium chloride, aromatics and spices, sugar and metals, and that paper may have had greater currency than silk. She insists that the Silk Road trade “was often local and small in scale” (p. 238), down the line from oasis city to oasis city rather than in huge caravans over vast distances. Nevertheless, trade, particularly with Iran, did take place, bringing the East to the West and vice versa.

Cumulatively the five books summarised here have made China more understandable to Western scholars, thanks in particular to Li Liu and Xingcan Chen's magnificent effort for prehistory. *Antiquity* has also done its bit in recent years, publishing articles on the bone flutes from Jiahu (2004), the ornamental trousers from Sampula (2009), on Erlitou (2007) and bone-working at Anyang (2011), on the sites of Sanzudian (2011) and Sanyangzhuang (2012), on Palaeolithic China (2011, 2012), later hunter-gatherers and Bronze Age settlement systems in southern China (both 2012), elite tombs at Majiayuan (this issue) and a number of much-discussed contributions to the literature on early agriculture since 2007, including the site of Jiahu in this issue. If these publications have rendered China less ‘Oriental’, less ‘mysterious’, so much the better; it nevertheless remains one of the places on earth where manifestations of power over people and ideas were expressed at their most extravagant.

Violence

RICK SCHULTING & LINDA FIBIGER (ed.). *Sticks, stones and broken bones: Neolithic violence in a European perspective*. xxvi+392 pages, 146 illustrations, 33 tables. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 978-0-19-95730-6 hardback £80.

MAGS MCCARTNEY. *Warfare and violence in the Iron Age of southern France* (British Archaeological Reports International Series 2403). viii+148 pages, 113 illustrations, 31 tables. 2012. Oxford: Archaeopress; 978-1-4073-0998-9 paperback £29.

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Stuff happens in the Neolithic. Prehistoric flower power has been losing ground for decades, with perhaps just the odd compassionate Neanderthal hanging on in the literature. Famously the Minoans got nasty and the once placid European first farmers were just as capable of aggression, as mounting reports tell. Behind the euphemisms of newspeak—interpersonal violence, conflict—or the ghastly evocation of brutal events—think of television documentaries where slow motion, rivers of blood and high-pitched wailing are apparently obligatory—or the clinical reporting of trauma—depressed fracture of the cranium, healed or not—there is the reality of murder, vendetta, raid, rape, abduction, honour and ritual killings, and (still debated for the Neolithic) war. The evidence of that reality is extremely difficult to gather comprehensively and interpret unequivocally. *Sticks, stones and broken bones* (a good title) makes this amply clear: the scholars gathered together by RICK SCHULTING and LINDA FIBIGER pore over the question of violence in the Neolithic all over Europe, from the Baltic to Greece and from Poland via Germany to western and Atlantic Europe. Their excellent contributions are quite narrowly focused on the physical and material evidence; but that focus, mainly on cranial lesions and arrowheads embedded in bone, is a strength. Only in this way can we get nearer to understanding the scale and modes of conflict, whether “endemic interpersonal violence” occurring frequently (e.g. in central Germany or the Netherlands, chapters 10–11), “sporadic” clashes “between young males” in Greece (chapter 14) or a “real climate of collective violence” but not fully-fledged war (in France, chapter 12), perhaps fostered by the “youth bulge” (for example among the Pitted Ware communities of Gotland, chapter 2). Well-known massacre sites such as those at Talheim in Baden-Württemberg and Asparn/Schletz in Lower Austria and the less well known site of San Juan ante Portam Latinam in northern Spain are treated carefully in their respective chapters (5, 6 and 15) as are the signs of manipulation of cadavers after death, for example in the Lengyel culture of Poland (chapter 4) and at Herxheim in Rhineland-Palatinate (chapter 6, which contains a strong refutation of arguments for cannibalism made by Boulestin *et al.* in *Antiquity* in 2009). Allied to such manipulations is scalping, for which traces have been found in the eastern Baltic (chapter 3). Often signs are ambiguous, making it almost impossible to distinguish between bellicose intent or accidental death (e.g. in Portugal, chapters

16–17), but it may be that regional, comparative and contextual approaches to the problem, advocated by Rick Schulting and exemplified in his overview of cranial trauma in monumental and non-monumental assemblages from the British Isles outside the south (chapter 13), is the way forward.

That warfare existed in the Iron Age is of course not a matter of discussion, yet, despite plenty of documentary and other sources referring to war, it is still difficult to trace it in the archaeological record, even in a region quite well known for bellicose events. This is what Mags McCartney attempts to investigate in *Warfare and violence in the Iron Age of southern France*, part of a doctoral dissertation submitted to the University of Belfast in 2007. The book came out in 2012, but it looks as though she has taken little time to update her bibliography (apart from inserting a couple of references to her own work) beyond 2003, omitting for example Michael Dietler's *Archaeologies of colonialism: consumption, entanglement, and violence in Mediterranean France* which appeared in 2010. I don't agree with her claim that the Iron Age of southern France is relatively little known to the English-reading public: for warriors and head cults it is likely to be *the* best known, as shown for example by Ian Armit's *Headhunting and the body in Iron Age Europe* published in 2012 and reviewed by Katharina Rebay-Salisbury in this issue of *Antiquity*. Finally the southern France of her title is a bit of an overstatement, as her study focuses quite specifically on the Bouches-du-Rhône. But this is no bad thing, since, as Schulting suggested for the Neolithic, a local, contextual approach is more likely to tease out evidence for warfare. McCartney's search, after preliminary chapters and an overview of the documentary sources in chapter 4, takes the form of 10 case studies of indigenous settlements dated to between *c.* 600 and 100 BC—Martigues, Roquepertuse and Entremont being probably the best known among them—where she seeks out direct evidence for hostilities (destruction levels, fires, violent deaths), indirect evidence for aggression (defences) and signs of ‘socialisation for mistrust’ in the form of fragmentation of households or difficulty of access for example. She then reviews the iconographic and osteological data in chapters 6 and 7 (the famous heads, niches, carvings, sculptures and seated warrior statues of Provence and Languedoc), ending with two short chapters of discussion and conclusions where she concludes that “levels of warfare in the Lower Rhône Valley remained broadly constant during the

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sixth and fifth centuries, began to rise during the fourth and third centuries, and reached a peak in the second century” (p. 119). The book has the advantage of being short, with information presented in tabular form, but the author’s fragmented text makes it difficult to read (and untangle chickens from eggs). A work in progress, certainly not a finished book.

In many ways the problems of assessing violence in pre- and protohistoric societies epitomise the joys and travails of archaeological research: our data are samples from an unknown universe, inconsistent, incomplete, biased by deliberate and accidental deposition, open to equivocal readings, and yet still able to tell compelling stories. How much nastiness and fully-fledged warfare there was in pre-literate Europe and elsewhere, time, increasingly accurate dating, better understood assemblages and better physical, chemical and genetic investigations will tell.

Books received

The list includes all books received between 1 September and 1 December 2012. 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

KENT FLANNERY & JOYCE MARCUS *The creation of inequality: how our prehistoric ancestors set the stage for monarchy, slavery, and empire*. xiv+631 pages, 72 illustrations. 2012. Cambridge (MA): Harvard University Press; 978-0-674-06469-0 hardback \$39.95 & £29.95.

MICHAEL SHANKS. *The archaeological imagination*. 168 pages, 25 illustrations. 2012. Walnut Creek (CA): Left Coast; 978-1-59874-361-6 hardback; 978-1-59874-362-3 paperback \$21.50; 978-1-61132-784-7 e-book.

BJØRNAR OLSEN, MICHAEL SHANKS, TIMOTHY WEBMOOR & CHRISTOPHER WITMORE. *Archaeology: the discipline of things*. x+255 pages, 26 illustrations. 2012. Berkeley, Los Angeles (CA) & London: University of California Press; 978-0-520-27416-7 hardback; 978-0-520-27417-4 paperback £24.95.

ETHAN E. COCHRANE & ANDREW GARDNER (ed.). *Evolutionary and interpretive archaeologies: a dialogue*. 361 pages, 28 illustrations, 7 tables. 2011.

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Walnut Creek (CA): Left Coast; 978-1-59874-426-2 hardback; 978-1-59874-427-9 paperback \$27.95; 978-1-59874-660-0 e-book.

NICHOLAS BANNAN (ed.). *Music, language, & human evolution*. xii+345 pages, 16 illustrations, CD. 2012. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 978-0-19-922734-1 hardback £75.

KNUT ANDREAS BERGSVIK & ROBIN SKEATES (ed.). *Caves in context: the cultural significance of caves and rockshelters*. viii+271 pages, numerous colour & b&w illustrations & tables. 2012. Oxford & Oakville (CT): Oxbow; 978-1-84217-474-6 hardback £45.

Ю.Б. ЦЕТЛИН/У.В. ТСЕТИН. *Древняя керамика. Теория и методы историкокультурного подхода/Ancient ceramics: theory and methods of historical-and-cultural approach*. 380 pages, numerous illustrations. 2012. Moscow: Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Archaeology; 978-2-94375-134-9 hardback.

JACQUES CONNAN. *Le bitume dans l’antiquité*. 269 pages, numerous colour & b&w illustrations & tables. 2012. Arles: Errance; 978-2-87772-504-0 paperback €35.

European pre- and protohistory

ROMUALD SCHILD, HALINA KRÓLIK, ANDRZEJ JACEK TOMASZEWSKI & ELŻBIETA CIEPIELEWSKA. *Rydno, a Stone Age red ochre quarry and socioeconomic center: a century of research*. 468 pages, 310 b&w & colour illustrations. 2011. Warsaw: Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences; 978-83-89499-90-5 hardback 120zł.

MARTIN OLIVA. *Pravěké hornictví v Krumlovském Lesě: vznik a vývoj industriálně-sakrální krajiny na jižní moravě/Prehistoric mining in the “Krumlovský Les” (southern Moravia): origin and development of an industrial-sacred landscape* (Anthropos, Studies in Anthropology, Palaeoethnology, Palaeontology and Quaternary Geology 32 N.S. 24). 440 pages, numerous illustrations & tables, 160 colour plates. 2010. Brno: Moravské Zemské Muzeum; 978-80-7028-360-5 hardback

ALAIN TESTART. *Avant l’histoire: l’évolution des sociétés, de Lascaux à Carnac*. 550 pages, 43 illustrations, 9 tables. 2012. Paris: Gallimard; 978-2-07-013184-6 paperback €25.

MATS ROSENGREN. *Cave art, perception and knowledge*. xiv+169 pages, 6 illustrations. 2012.

Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan; 978-1-137-27196-9 hardback £55.

KAREN RUEBENS, IZA ROMANOWSKA & RACHEL BYNOE (ed.). *Unravelling the Palaeolithic. Ten years of research at the Centre for the Archaeology of Human Origins (CAHO, University of Southampton)* (British Archaeological Reports International Series 2400; University of Southampton Series in Archaeology 8). iv+176 pages, 100 b&w & colour illustrations. 2012. Oxford: Archaeopress; 978-1-4073-0995-8 paperback £30.

CHRISTOPHER PRESCOTT & HÅKON GLØRSTAD (ed.). *Becoming European: the transformation of third millennium northern and western Europe*. x+181 pages, 52 illustrations. 2012. Oxford & Oakville (CT): Oxbow; 978-1-84217-450-0 paperback £35.

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