The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Butrint (ancient Buthrotum), a port city from Hellenistic to Ottoman times situated in south-western Albania. Shown here is the theatre, one of the most impressive public buildings of the ancient city. Image by Roxani Vlachopoulou, Greek Ministry of Culture.

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https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003598X00101048 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Aerial archaeologist Dr Bob Bewley writes: "From time to time there is an unexpected sight (and site) visible because of the conditions; I was flying on Sunday 16 February 2014 and saw this field of medieval ridge and furrow highlighted because of the floods on the River Thames, south of Fairford. The field is at Sterts Farm in Wiltshire". © *Bob Bewley.*

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https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003598X00101048 Published online by Cambridge University Press

EDITORIAL

Climate change and archaeology

Climate change has recently been much in the news, with the publication of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, following a northern hemisphere winter that has seen heavy snowfall in North America and severe flooding in Western Europe (for first-hand evidence see our second frontispiece image, opposite). Australia, at the other extreme, experienced summer temperatures that broke all existing records. Not everyone agrees that individual weather events or even emerging seasonal patterns can be linked to climate change, still less to humanly induced global warming. But to archaeologists the notion of climate change comes as no great surprise. University students are taught routinely about Oxygen Isotope Stages and pollen zones, the Medieval Warm Period and the Little Ice Age. Climate change has been invoked (not always convincingly) to explain historical phenomena as various as the fall of the Roman Empire and the success of Genghis Khan's armies. So far, however, archaeologists have been less prominent in the discussion about current climate change, despite our privileged perspective on the deep historic and prehistoric past. What can archaeology contribute? One recent book is devoted entirely to the subject: *Climate change archaeology* by Robert Van der Noort identifies 'adaptive pathways' through which coastal communities have dealt with changes to coastal wetlands in a diversity of global settings. But archaeology no less than environmental science has difficulty reaching consensus on causes and consequences. There are almost as many opponents as adherents to the view that third millennium drought caused the demise of the Harappan civilisation, or that a similar event in the first millennium AD caused the Maya cities to fall. Clearly the interaction between society and climate is complex, but as populations grow in size the systems that support them become increasingly fragile and vulnerable to change.

As sea levels rise and storminess increases, however, some of the major impacts are not on theories of past human interactions but on the impacts on cultural heritage at the present day. We have covered some of the effects in *Antiquity*, in articles about snow melt revealing prehistoric artefacts. The European Research Council has recently launched a new 'Heritage Plus' funding programme specifically targeted on the protection of cultural heritage in the face of climate change. UNESCO too has a centre devoted to climate change and world heritage, with sea-level rise an area of particular concern. The winter storms that lashed the Atlantic coast of Europe hastened processes of coastal erosion and retreat in many areas, exposing vulnerable archaeology. Submerged forests appeared or reappeared, and prehistoric monuments were stripped of their protective mounds. Areas long reclaimed from the sea became wetlands once again as heavy rainfall swelled the rivers and high tides pushed inland. This is clearly an area where archaeology does have something important to say about public policy and public perception. But as well as protecting people and their homes and livelihoods, we must also protect the past.

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ANTIQUITY 88 (2014): 359–362 http://antiquity.ac.uk/ant/088/ant0880357.htm

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003598X00101048 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Controversy and debate

☙ Controversy and debate are key ingredients of archaeological research, encouraging us to think harder and to explore new ideas. In recent issues of *Antiquity* we have developed the Debate section to include articles with comments and responses: on the origins of Pacific deep-sea fishing (September 2013), on infant sacrifice at ancient Carthage (December 2013) and on the date of the Santorini eruption (March 2014). In the current issue, we debate another controversy: the proposal that around 20 000 years ago, Upper Palaeolithic Europeans travelled along the edge of the North Atlantic ice sheet to colonise North America. This claim was set out by Dennis Stanford and Bruce Bradley in their 2012 book *Across Atlantic ice*, where they argued that the Solutrean of Western Europe was ancestral to the Clovis point technology found at many of the earliest Palaeoindian sites in North and Central America. Whether the distinctive and elegantly worked Clovis points were indeed made by the first settlers who crossed the Bering Straits has increasingly been challenged by evidence for an earlier pre-Clovis phase. Stanford and Bradley's proposal comes at this question from a new direction, suggesting not a pre-Clovis phase but a direct transfer of Clovis technology from the Solutrean of Western Europe. Not everyone is convinced. In this issue of *Antiquity*, Michael O'Brien and colleagues challenge Stanford and Bradley's argument, and Stanford and Bradley respond to their critique.

Controversies of this kind often generate strong feelings on all sides, but *Antiquity* has always been open to carefully argued and reasonably held archaeological interpretations. In some cases, history may eventually show one side in a debate to have been wrong; in others, the final conclusion may be more in the nature of a compromise; in others again, no convincing resolution may be found. Yet it is through debating the issues that we edge towards a better understanding. And new evidence continues to accumulate. A debate feature in the March issue of *Antiquity* focused on the tree-ring dating of olive tree wood caught up in the Santorini eruption. In April, a new translation of the Egyptian 'Tempest Stela' (Ritner & Moeller, *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 73: 1–19) suggested that the Egyptian dynastic chronologies used to argue for a 'low' date for the Santorini eruption might need to be revised upwards by 30–50 years. Recovered in fragments from the Temple of Amun at Karnak, the Tempest Stela records storms, floods and unusual weather events that might have been caused by a major volcanic eruption in the eastern Mediterranean. From this and other evidence, Moeller and other specialists have drafted a response to our March debate setting out the case for the 'high' Egyptian chronology. That will feature in our September issue.

Stonehenge and Antiquity

☙ A highlight of the current issue is the multi-authored review of the new visitor arrangements at Stonehenge. Long criticised as a national disgrace, the famous stone circle has at last been reunited with its avenue by the suppression of the A344 that used to pass close by the Heel Stone. The visitor centre built in the 1960s has been demolished and the area landscaped. A new visitor centre has opened 1.5 miles from the stones themselves, which are now reached either by a shuttle bus or a 10-minute walk. Described as "a sensitively designed modern building", the new visitor centre won't please everyone although it does have outstanding displays of material related to the site; and, above all, it is a long way

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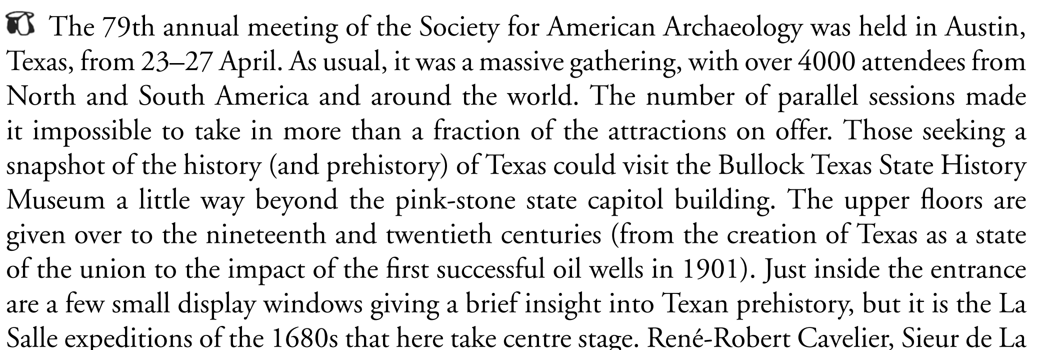
Antiquity*'s original Stonehenge logo, by Ellis Martin (left) and Brian Hope-Taylor's 1959 revision (right), showing several stones that were re-erected in 1958.*

from Stonehenge. That must be a good thing. A leisurely walk across the chalk downs is much to be preferred to the traffic, car park and urban-style underpass that used to greet the visitor. At the same time, we should be aware of the new image of Stonehenge that we are creating—devoid of modern clutter, in a peaceful (but twenty-first century) rural setting, an escape perhaps from the concerns of present-day city dwellers? The appeal of a romanticised past remains very powerful.

Antiquity has had a long association with Stonehenge, one that is manifest in the logo that was adopted by O.G.S. Crawford, founder of *Antiquity*, in 1927. A version of the same logo has appeared on every subsequent issue. But it has not remained unchanged. In 1959 the then editor of *Antiquity*, Glyn Daniel, commissioned a new, crisper version of the Stonehenge logo from his Cambridge colleague Brian Hope-Taylor, an Anglo-Saxon specialist and an accomplished archaeological draughtsman. The reason was the recent restoration work undertaken at Stonehenge, which in changing the appearance of the stones made the earlier logo inaccurate (*Antiquity* 33: 51). When he succeeded Glyn Daniel as editor in 1986, Christopher Chippindale took the Hope-Taylor image, enlarged it, chopped off the base, and printed it in grey on cream. Subsequent changes to the cover design in 2003 and 2013 have reproduced the Hope-Taylor version in various forms.

SAA 2014



The 79th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology was held in Austin, Texas, from 23–27 April. As usual, it was a massive gathering, with over 4000 attendees from North and South America and around the world. The number of parallel sessions made it impossible to take in more than a fraction of the attractions on offer. Those seeking a snapshot of the history (and prehistory) of Texas could visit the Bullock Texas State History Museum a little way beyond the pink-stone state capitol building. The upper floors are given over to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (from the creation of Texas as a state of the union to the impact of the first successful oil wells in 1901). Just inside the entrance are a few small display windows giving a brief insight into Texan prehistory, but it is the La Salle expeditions of the 1680s that here take centre stage. René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La

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https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003598X00101048 Published online by Cambridge University Press

La Belle *during excavation. Photo, Texas Historical Commission.*

Salle, was a French explorer in the reign of Sun-King Louis XIV who had established forts and settlements around the Great Lakes in Canada. He then set out to confront Spanish power in the region by founding a rival French colony and trading port at the mouth of the Mississippi. The venture wasn't a great success: he overshot his target, landing in Texas, and all of his vessels were eventually lost or shipwrecked. One of them, *La Belle*, was discovered and excavated in the 1990s and many of the interesting items are displayed here. A personal touch is added by the pewter plate with the initials 'LG' belonging to one of La Salle's followers fatally bitten by a rattlesnake. La Salle himself was eventually murdered by one of his men, and the group's survivors were killed in a raid by the Karankawa, leaving their fort with its cannon, which were later discovered by the Spanish and buried for safe keeping. There they remained until they too were rediscovered by archaeologists in the 1990s. It's a fascinating story of a failed colonial enterprise.

Antiquity *prizes*

Once again, it is with great pleasure that we announce the winners of the annual *Antiquity* prizes. There are three of these: the Antiquity Prize for best article published in our four 2013 issues; the Ben Cullen Prize for the runner-up; and the Antiquity Photographic Prize, for the best of the images published before the Editorial in each issue in 2013.

The Antiquity Prize 2013 goes to David Mattingly and Martin Sterry for their study of early towns in the central Sahara (*Antiquity* 87: 503–18). The image of camel caravans criss-crossing the dusty Sahara has now to be pushed back far beyond the rise of Islam. The Ben Cullen Prize is awarded to Jean-Jacques Delannoy and colleagues for their comparative study of caves and rockshelters in Australia and Mediterranean France (*Antiquity* 87: 12–29). The Antiquity Photographic Prize 2013 goes to Yann Béliez for his well composed and intriguingly lit photo of graffiti-recording at the monastic site of Ganub Qasr al-'Aguz in Egypt. The most downloaded article in 2013 was, perhaps not surprisingly, "'The king in the car park': new light on the death and burial of Richard III" by Richard Buckley and colleagues (*Antiquity* 87: 519–38).

All in all, it has been a privilege and a pleasure during my first year as editor to have handled such a fascinating and diverse range of material. I would like to take the opportunity here to thank authors, reviewers and readers for their invaluable support of *Antiquity*.

Chris Scarre
Durham, 1 June 2014

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