

# Review

## Among the New Books

N. JAMES

### Archaeology and society

*Raison présente* 142. 111 pages. 2002. £10.20.

Most of the current number of *Raison présente* is devoted to seven short papers arising directly and indirectly from a meeting, in March 2002, of the journal and the Union Rationaliste, 'On civil society and archaeology'. The editors point out that archaeology has developed hand in hand with changes in its social and cultural environment. In the first piece, V. Charpentier assesses public images of archaeology with particular attention to the growth of the profession within France – more than fifteenfold – since 1976. Today, he asserts, they are sadly inaccurate by comparison with the image in Britain (cf. ASTON in 'Methods', below). J.P. Demoule considers 'Archaeologists' responsibilities in the construction of modern nationalism' in Europe (cp. ANTIQUITY 73 pp. 190ff); and C. Goudineau follows with ironic reflections on the popular image, in France, of the Gauls. With examples from the world over, G. Fussman and A. Schnapp mull over unconformities between archaeology and monument management present and past. C. Ruby considers 'heritage and contemporary art'. The collection is completed by notes from D. Espinat and G. Fussman on the work of Alfred Foucher in Afghanistan soon after British acquiescence in the autonomy of that embattled country.

### The Mediterranean world

DIANE BOLGER & NANCY SERWINT (ed.). *Engendering Aphrodite: women and society in ancient Cyprus* (American Schools of Oriental

Research Archaeological Report 7). xvi+457 pages, 122 figures, tables. 2002. Boston (MA): American Schools of Oriental Research; 0-89757-059-6 hardback \$99.95 & £70.

Drs BOLGER & SERWINT introduce 26 chunky papers grouped by theme: social organization from Neolithic to Middle Bronze Age (introduced by A. le Brun and with contributions by E. Peltenburg, BOLGER, and J. Webb) and from Late Bronze Age to the Middle Ages; personal and ethnic identity (including L. Talalay & T. Cullen on 'Sexual ambiguity in Plank Figures'); jobs (including an interesting attempt by J. Smith to identify workshop production); and worship (including N. SERWINT on Aphrodite in the Near East). There follow three methodological contributions and a discussion on 'Equity issues in archaeology today'.

BERIT WELLS (ed.). *New research on old material from Asine and Berbati in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Swedish Institute at Athens* (Skrifter utgivna av Svenska Institutet i Athen 8° 17, Acta Instituti Atheniensis Regni Sueciae ser in 8° 17). 155 pages, 77 figures, 3 tables. 2002. Jonsered: Paul Åström; 91-7916-043-3 (ISSN 0081-9921) paperback Kr275.

ANNETTE RATHJE, MARJATTA NIELSEN & BODIL BUNDGAARD RASMUSSEN (ed.). *Pots for the living* (Acta Hyperborea: Danish Studies in Classical Archaeology 9). 320 pages, 77 figures, 12 tables, 23 colour photographs. 2002. Copenhagen: Museum Tusulanum Press; 87-7289-712-0 (ISSN 0904-2067) paperback.

*New research* comprises ten papers of various lengths on aspects of discoveries at Bronze Age (and later) Asine and Berbati, including burials and bones, craft production and (WELLS) the detection of cult from finds at Asine. Dr WELLS also contributes an account of the development of Swedish interest in the archaeology of Greece. The main part of *Pots* is a selection of ten papers from workshops on pottery, held at Copenhagen University since 1995. They cover economic, technological and iconographic aspects of material from the Aegean and Black Sea, Cyprus, Italy (four papers), and the trade up the Rhône.

FRANÇOIS CHAMOIX. *Hellenistic civilization* (3rd ed.; tr. Michel Roussel with Margaret Roussel). xii+452 pages, 38 figures, 1 table. 2003. Malden (MA): Blackwell; 0-631-22241-3 hardback & 0-631-22242-1 paperback.

Prof. CHAMOIX's substantial and detailed but elegant textbook is in two parts. The first covers the history of the Hellenistic world, and the second features of the culture – urban life and amenities, the monarchy, the military, religion, and the arts. 'It was an age that .... had its sombre aspects ... and ... also many zones of light' (p. 394).

RAYMOND VAN DAM. *Kingdom of snow: Roman rule and Greek culture in Cappadocia*. ix+290 pages. 2002. Philadelphia (PA): University of Pennsylvania Press; 0-8122-3681-5 hardback.

There is a certain topicality about the strain that Prof. VAN DAM discerns between inner Anatolia's regional tradition and the Romans. The emphasis of this highly scholarly book is on the concerns of the aristocrats, with particular attention to the reception, manipulation and maintenance of Hellenistic culture, the political significance of the Roman presence, and the development of Christianity, particularly under the Emperor Julian.

PAT SOUTHERN. *Pompey the Great*. 192 pages, 18 figures. 2002. Stroud & Charleston (SC): Tempus; 0-7524-2521-8 paperback £17.99 & \$29.99.

WERNER ECK with SAROLTA A. TAKÁCS. *The age of Augustus* (tr. Deborah Lucas Schneider). ix+166 pages, 2 maps, 1 table. 2003. Malden (MA): Blackwell; 0-631-22958-2 paperback.

*Pompey* fills out PAT SOUTHERN's learned account of 'Caesar's age'. Here again are the rounded and judicious perspective, clarity and readability that should appeal to a broad general readership. She was not to know that one of the earlier books on Pompey would be republished shortly before (ANTIQUITY 76: 1137). Following a brief 'overview' and discussion of the *Res gestae* (also discussed and transcribed in an appendix), Prof. ECK accounts for his subject in 14 concise and incisive chapters. This book too reads well.

See too the picture review and, in 'Antiquities', below, PIRANESI.

### Britain & Ireland

GERALDINE STOUT. *Newgrange and the bend of the Boyne*. viii+235 pages, 374 colour & b&w figures, 23 tables. 2002. Cork: Cork University Press; 1-85918-341-7 hardback €40 & £25.



For public promotion of archaeology and the history of the landscape, *Newgrange* deserves the laurels this quarter. Nicely written and quite superbly illustrated, it opens with sections on the geography and the Newgrange, Knowth, Dowth and Monknewton monuments. The following chapters cover: the early historic period; the Middle Ages; battles; the '18th century ... boom'; 19th century buildings; and 'The Modern landscape'. There follows a chapter on 'The challenge of change' and one on artistic responses to the district.

SAMANTHA GLASSWELL. *The earliest English: living & dying in early Anglo-Saxon England*. 160 pages, 75 figures, 26 colour plates. 2002. Stroud & Charleston (SC): Tempus; 0-7524-2534-X paperback £17.99 & \$29.99.

DAVID SIVIER. *Anglo-Saxon & Norman Bristol*. 162 pages, 71 figures. 2002. Stroud & Charleston (SC): Tempus; 0-7524-2533-1 paperback £16.99 & \$27.99.

PETER DAVENPORT. *Medieval Bath uncovered*. 192 pages, 75 figures. 2002. Stroud & Charleston (SC): Tempus; 0-7524-1965-X paperback £16.99 & \$27.99.

*The earliest English* is an approachable, nicely illustrated, up-to-date and fact-packed general introduction. The emphasis is on finds, bones and technology, without much attention to language, landscape or place-names.

The books on Bristol and Bath are detailed reviews of urban development with special attention to historical topography and architecture. Easy to read, well illustrated, and provided with ample bibliographies, they are a welcome pair of resources.

CLODAGH TAIT. *Death, burial and commemoration in Ireland, 1550–1650*. xi+229 pages, 9 figures. 2002. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan; 0-333-99741-7 hardback £45.

SANDRA CATE. *Making merit, making art: a Thai temple in Wimbledon*. xiv+218 pages, 5 b&w figures, 48 colour figures. 2003. Honolulu (HI): University of Hawai'i Press; 0-8248-2357-5 hardback \$50.

In Dr TAIT's painstaking history, readers of ANTIQUITY will be drawn particularly to the chapters on 'Burial location', disinterment, and 'funerary monuments'. Dr CATE's ethnography of the painting of murals (1984–92) is a highly apposite case study in the material culture of symbolism. She considers new images and 'new social values in a changing ... society' (p. 69). The book has been most attractively produced with suitable care.

The paperback edition of the next title was reviewed in ANTIQUITY 76 p. 572.

PETER SALWAY (ed.). *The Roman era – the British Isles, 55BC–AD410*. xxii+286 pages, 26 figures. 2002. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 0-19-873193-0 hardback £35.

See too HARBISON in 'Antiquities', and ASTON in and *Guide to conservation* in 'Methods', below.

### Americas

MARILYN A. MASSON & DAVID A. FREIDEL (ed.). *Ancient Maya political economies*. xi+436 pages, 90 figures, 4 tables. 2002. Walnut Creek (CA): Altamira; 0-7591-0080-2 hardback \$79 & 0-7591-0081-0 paperback \$34.95.

Cameron B. Wesson & Mark A. Rees (ed.). *Between contacts and colonies: archaeological perspectives on the protohistoric Southeast*. ix+270 pages, 34 figures. 2002. Tuscaloosa (AL): University of Alabama Press; 0-8173-1253-6 hardback \$55 & 0-8173-1167-X paperback \$29.95.

Dr MASSON introduces 11 substantial empirical papers ranging from 'The origins of Maya civilization: the Old Shell Game, commodity, treasure, and kingship' (FREIDEL *et al.*) to the rough political 'passage of the Late Preclassic into the Early Classic', contributions on chocolate and (A.P. Andrews & S.B. Mock) salt, and one on households in Yucatan, to a long appraisal of 'Ceramic exchange in the Late Classic and Postclassic ... lowlands' (G. West). E. Graham adds a methodological contribution; and Bill Rathje, dedicatee of the collection, writes on 'conspicuous consumption'.

Drs WESSON & REES introduce nine papers on southeastern N. America. They cover ecology, warfare, housing, 'prestige goods', and relations with the early Europeans. Dr REES contributes on 'Subsistence ... and political culture in the ... Mississippi Valley'. Although, as the editors admit, there is some theoretical diversity, the

collection makes a useful general review of the late period in this region.

CURTIS M. HINSLEY & DAVID R. WILCOX (ed.). *The lost itinerary of Frank Hamilton Cushing* (Frank Hamilton Cushing and the Hemenway Southwestern Archaeological Expedition, 1886–1889 Vol. 2). xxxvii+352 pages, 50 figures. 2002. Tucson (AZ): University of Arizona Press; 0-8165-2269-3 hardback \$50.

☞ Worried about Apaches, ‘I ... scanned ... the cliffs ... No wonder that the Ancients ... sought such scenes ... for ... midnight rites and sacrifices’ (p. 252); Messrs HINSLEY & WILCOX document Cushing’s celebrated, pioneering but unfinished and partly unpublished research in Arizona & New Mexico with transcriptions of his notes and journal. The formative mix of archaeology and folklore and of dedicated recording and romance is intriguing and telling. So were the expedition’s ambiguous conditions of sponsorship. Compare HARBISON in the following section.

See too KING in ‘Methods’, below.

### The Pacific

Richard Shutler Jr is celebrated in both of our Pacific books.

STUART BEDFORD, CHRISTOPHE SAND & DAVID BURLEY (ed.). *Fifty years in the field: essays in honour and celebration of Richard Shutler Jr’s archaeological career* (New Zealand Archaeological Association Monograph 25). 260 pages, 149 figures, 35 tables. 2002. Auckland: New Zealand Archaeological Association; 0-9597915-8-2 (ISSN 0111-5715) paperback NZ\$45.

CHRISTOPHE SAND & PATRICK V. KIRCH. *Edward W. Gifford & Richard Shutler Jr’s archaeological expedition to New Caledonia in 1952*. 192 pages, 129 b&w & colour illustrations. 2002. Nouméa: New Caledonia Museums & Heritage Service; 2-9509311-9-7 (ISSN 1264-1502) hardback.

Following the editors’ introduction and the dedicatee’s bibliography, the Festschrift comprises six groups of empirical articles and notes by many of the region’s leading archaeologists, older and younger: three general ‘Overviews’; five pieces on New Guinea (including Golson on gourds and two on Lapita materials); a couple on Micronesia; six on southern Melanesia; three on the Central and eastern Pacific; and one with ‘further thoughts’ on language. The anniversary volume is most splendidly produced. The emphasis is on the human story and its ethnographic context rather than the momentous research as such (including the work at Lapita). Extensive use is made of letters and diaries, revealing both how the archaeologists reflected on their findings at the time and the cumulative irritations of protracted fieldwork. The authors provide valuable and learned commentary throughout. The text is in French and English.

### Antiquities and antiquarianism

GIOVANNI BATTISTA PIRANESI. *Observations on the letter of Monsieur Mariette with opinions on architecture, and a preface to a new treatise on the introduction and progress of the fine arts in Europe in ancient times* (tr. Caroline Beamish & David Britt). xii+177 pages, 26 figures, 16 plates. 2002. Los Angeles (CA): Getty Research Institute; 0-89236-636-2 paperback £26.95.

PETER HARBISON. *‘Our treasure of antiquities’: Beranger & Bigari’s antiquarian sketching tour of Connacht in 1779 – based on material in the National Library of Ireland and the Royal Irish Academy*. xi+237 pages, 216 figures, 24 colour illustrations. 2002. Bray: Wordwell; 1-869857-53-4 hardback.

PIRANESI’s reaction to the argument for Greek roots to Roman architecture urged that the latter drew too on the Etruscans. His entertaining treatise has been reproduced very nicely and provided with a long introductory essay by John Wilton-Ely.

Dr HARBISON has annotated and discussed passages from the notes of an antiquarian tour made 15 years after PIRANESI published, illustrating them with the original engravings. Many of the pictures are analysed with the help of photographs of the buildings today, some of them exposing a degree of licence in the originals. Medieval buildings drew most attention but ‘Carns, Raths’ and souterrains were noted and recorded too. The travellers were variously diverted en route (not least on account of speaking French) but, by and large, the trip was pleasant and ‘suitably rounded off’ with claret from the ‘learned ... Franciscans’ at the roofless abbey of Multyfarnham (p. 210). Beranger was alert to the value of comparison with monasteries better preserved in France. Dr HARBISON points out that the records are of special value for a province regarded as marginal at the time. The book is generously designed and has been produced most elegantly.

### Ancient civilizations

GWENDOLEN LEICK. *The Babylonians: an introduction*. vi+182 pages, 10 figures. 2003. London: Routledge; 0-415-25315-2 paperback £12.99.

AUSTEN ATKINSON. *Lost civilizations: rediscovering ancient sites through new technology*. 192 pages, b&cw & colour illustrations. 2002. London: Pavilion; 1-86205-522-X hardback £25.

*The Babylonians* is a well balanced, clearly written and welcome introduction to the geography, history, sociology, economy, religion and daily life. *Lost civilizations* is a lively introduction to general features of 18 monumental sites or archaeological regions around the world. Supported by ‘text bites’ from archaeologists and scientists, its selling point is the photographs of finds and digs and the attractive images derived by remote sensing and ‘computer-generated’ graphics.

### Methods & techniques

THOMAS F. KING. *Cultural resource management: essays from the edge*. xix+196 pages, 1 figure. 2002. Walnut Creek (CA): Altamira; 0-7591-0214-7 paperback.

Dr KING presents 22 chatty pieces on aspects of archaeological resource management in the USA. They include five on ‘CRM’ as an extradisciplinary enterprise’, eight on ‘impact assessment and mitigation’, four on ‘indigenous issues’, and a salutary set of three on how CRM and archaeology relate to each other. He concludes with some recommendations for the European Union: ‘Keep your eye on ... a fair deal for ... diverse cultural values ... and make sure the ‘experts’ are supervised by real people’ (p. 176) – wagering that the EU would sooner enact reform than the authorities in the USA.

MICK ASTON. *Interpreting the landscape from the air*. 144 pages, 244 colour photographs, figures. 2002. Stroud & Charleston (SC): Tempus; 0-7524-2520-X hardback £18.99 & \$29.99.

The latest in MICK ASTON’s outstanding campaign to encourage British public interest in archaeology is devoted to oblique colour photographic studies of sites and landscapes ranging from Stonehenge and the Cheddar Gorge to York and Coalbrookdale. There are also sections on deserted and shrunken Medieval villages and Great Houses. It is a very attractive production.

RICHARD HOBBS, CELIA HONEYCOMBE & SARAH WATKINS. *Guide to conservation for metal detectorists*. 96 pages, 11 figures, 32 colour photographs, 5 tables. 2002. Stroud & Charleston (SC): Tempus; 0-7524-2522-6 paperback £9.99 & US\$16.99.

In the interest of encouraging sound practice in a pursuit widely regarded with ambivalence by archaeologists, the *Guide to conservation* is simple but highly informed, pithy but comprehensive and systematic, wholly practical, and very well designed. It is intended



for use in Britain and, more specifically, England & Wales.

PAOLO DELOGU. *An introduction to Medieval history* (tr. Matthew Moran). 251 pages. 2002. London: Duckworth; 0-7156-3079-2 paperback £14.99.

Prof. DELOGU's *introduction* covers 'periodization', 'general themes', 'sources' and how they are organized, Medieval historiography, coins, and material culture and archaeology. It looks very apt for undergraduates.

### New editions

ALISON WYLIE. *Thinking from things: essays in the philosophy of archaeology*. xviii+340 pages. 2002. Berkeley (CA): University of California Press; 0-520-22360-8 hardback & 0-520-22361-6 paperback.

J. DAVID LEWIS-WILLIAMS. *A cosmos in stone: interpreting religion and society through rock art*. xvii+309 pages, 46 figures, 4 tables. 2002. Walnut Creek (CA): Altamira; 0-7591-0195-7 hardback \$79, 0-7591-0196-5 paperback \$29.95.

With four new chapters at the beginning, Prof. WYLIE reintroduces 13 of her fruitful philosophical papers that have helped to clarify archaeologists' purposes during the lively period since 1980. She opens with three on the New Archaeology – 'How new ...?', 'The conceptual core ...', and 'Emergent tensions' – and one on 'The typology debate' in N. America. The others are all more or less revised or rearranged, including new combinations of previous papers.

Dr LEWIS-WILLIAMS does alike with 11 papers published from 1972 to 1997. They are intended to 'deal with a series of issues that ... became more complex' and with 'how the resolution of one led to the uncovering of another' (p. xiii). He opens the collection with a new chapter on the 'Historical setting' for his research in southern Africa.

Prof. DOUGLAS reintroduces her classic treatise in social anthropology (details below) with a preface in which she reflects on the issues 36 years on.

MARY DOUGLAS. *Purity and danger: an analysis of concept of pollution and taboo* (2nd ed.). xxi+244 pages. 2002. London: Routledge; 0-415-28995-5 paperback £8.99 & US\$14.95 & CAN\$22.95.

### Also received

J.N. ADAMS, MARK JANSE & SIMON SWAIN (ed.). *Bilingualism in ancient society: language contact and the written word*. x+483 pages, 4 tables. 2002. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 0-19-924506-1 hardback £65.

GERALDINE HERBERT-BROWN (ed.). *Ovid's Fasti: historical readings at its bimillennium*. xv+327 pages, 3 figures. 2002. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 0-19-8154755 hardback £50.

JESSICA SNYDER SACHS. *Corpse: nature, forensics, and the struggle to pinpoint time of death*. xi+270 pages. 2001. Cambridge (MA): Perseus; 0-7382-0771-3 paperback \$15 & CAN\$22.95.

### Picture review

The face, which is 14 cm high (see opposite), was found in the ruins of a villa, north of Rome, in 1824. It illustrates the cover of KENNETH D.S. LAPATIN'S *Chryselephantine statuary in the ancient Mediterranean world* (xvi+242 pages, 2 figures, 249 b&w photographs, 14 colour plates. 2001. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 0-19-815311-2 hardback £75). Pointing out that statues made of gold & ivory and other previous materials were valued highly in the Classical world, he has catalogued surviving fragments and surveyed the archaeological and literary evidence for the tradition from the later Bronze Age onward. The most famous works were Pheidias's statues of Athena at the Parthenon and Zeus at Olympia – both long lost, of course. Dr LAPATIN claims that his is the first comprehensive study since

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1814. It is, indeed, both sweeping and highly detailed; and the book has been produced to the highest standard.

