

Among the New Books

With N. JAMES, Reviews Editor

Among our highlights, this quarter, are exemplary introductions for the general reader. One topic receiving more attention than usual is war, Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Mesoamerican, and in Wales. Top of the pile, though, is another major theme.

Language, communication ...

MORTEN H. CHRISTIANSEN & SIMON KIRBY (ed.). *Language evolution*. xvii+395 pages, 14 figures, 3 tables. 2003. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 0-19-924483-9 hardback £60.

PETER BELLWOOD & COLIN RENFREW (ed.). *Examining the farming/language dispersal hypothesis*. xv+505 pages, 82 figures, 25 tables. 2002. Cambridge: MacDonal Institute for Archaeological Research; 1-902937-20-1 (ISSN 1363-1349) hardback £50.

✎ Is evolution of language ‘the hardest problem in science?’, ask CHRISTIANSEN & KIRBY, introducing 16 papers on the matter: ‘harder than molecular biology, physical anthropology, or language acquisition research’, ‘it draws on all of these, and more’ (J. Hurford: p.57). One challenge is to relate physiology and social anthropology: M. Hauser & W.T. Fitch go back over ‘the uniquely human components of the language facility’, M. Arbib assesses the principle of ‘a speech-manual-orofacial gesture complex’ (p. 199), M. Studdert-Kennedy & Louis Goldstein and P. Lieberman consider oral and neural physiology and M. Corballis weighs consequences of bipedalism against the ‘retreat’ of ‘gestures ... inside the mouth’ (p. 217); but, suggesting that ‘communal singing ... seems to trigger endorphin release (thus mimicking social grooming)’ (p. 233), R. Dunbar warns that, by themselves, ‘gestural theories ... do not make

sense’ – back to Durkheim! The closing recommendation is that we should ‘use evolutionary theory to understand ... language’; ‘we speak because we cooperate, we co-operate because we speak’ (p. 336).

Recent research is reviewed. One study implies that protein FOXP2, responsible for aspects of speech or language, ‘has been a target of selection... during 200 000 years’ (p.36); but ‘adaptation’ will have been for ‘cognition – understanding others on analogy with the self’ rather than “for” ... communication’ (p. 109); and, in any case, while symbols may have ‘multiplied ... structure probably did not’ until the brain had ‘adequate numbers of neurons and the right... connectivity’ (p. 92, D. Bickerton). I. Davidson assesses the archaeology (*n.b.*): ‘symbol use goes back 70 000 years, but ... it may ... appear slowly and not pervade all ... behaviour’ (pp. 155-6). With ‘more refined theories of Universal Grammar, an increased understanding of the evolution of the vocal tract and the cognitive capacities of the higher apes, and a less rigid... uniformitarianism ... linguists’ themselves too ‘have begun to contribute to the ... literature’ (p. 75).

✎ COLIN RENFREW begins *Examining* with the claim that a ‘synthesis’ is emerging, as follows (p. 12). A ‘farming population, assimilating only 10% hunter-gatherers per generation for just a couple of generations, would continue to speak the parental language’: it will persist ‘Even after many generations ... but the genetic signal is attenuated’. ‘So what’, asks his co-editor, ‘might “Neolithicization” have required ... ? BELLWOOD doubts ‘that hunters ... ever adopted agriculture’ without ‘in-movement of farmers’ (p. 25). There follow 33 articles in two groups. The first group appraises

theoretical factors, including 'expansion capacity of ... agriculture' (D. Harris, M.N. Cohen), linguistic diversification (L. Campbell), and genetics (L. Cavalli-Sforza and others). The second and larger group comprises studies on W. Asia & N. Africa (O. Bar-Yosef, F. Hassan, A. Militarev, G. Barker, C. Ehret and D. Phillipson), southern and eastern Asia & Oceania (including C. Higham), Mesoamerica and the Greater Southwest (including Jane Hill, and on war, S. Le Blanc), and Europe.

Concluding, Prof. BELLWOOD affirms that, in 'short-term punctuations', 'farming dispersal was significant at certain times and places' which 'overlap with the archaeological record for the development and spread of agriculture, and ... with the dispersal ... of ... some of the largest language families' (p. 468). PROF. RENFREW then anticipates methodological and conceptual problems to come (p. 474): 'We need to ask how ... large areas could switch their languages from one stock or ... family to another', 'to ask ... what gives ... languages ... survival value in comparison to ... other stocks'. Compare T. Briscoe on initial 'Grammatical assimilation' in *Language evolution*, including a warning on speculation and methodological limits of inference.

PAUL G. BAHN & ANGELO FOSSATI (ed.). *Rock art studies: news of the world 2 – developments in rock art research, 1995-1999*. ix+251 pages, 179 figures, 4 tables. 2003. Oxford: Oxbow 1-84217-087-2 paperback £38.

Rock art studies reviews the state of the 'art' in research and preservation, during the later 1990s, in 21 articles and notes. They cover: northern Europe; Spain, Portugal and Italy; the Sahara and Egyptian Nile; South Africa; Saudi Arabia; North & Central Asia; the Far East and South-East Asia; India 'with particular reference to Orissa'; Australia, New Guinea, and Polynesia; and the Americas, which are served especially well here. W.B. Murray *et al.*, calculate 34 per cent increase of sites found in Mexico.

ALBY STONE. *Explore shamanism*. xii+184 pages, 19 figures. 2003. Loughborough: Heart of Albion; 1-872883-68-0 paperback £9.95.

Resigned sighs, on picking up the latest about *shamanism*, are cut off by the first words: it 'is an incredibly difficult thing to summarise' (p. ix). The treatment is comprehensive, including chapters on prehistory (Trois Frères, Kalahari, petroglyphs of weird heads in Kazakhstan *etc.*) and neo-shamanism. It seems sensible.

ANDIS KAULINS. *Stars, stones and scholars: the decipherment of the megaliths as an ancient survey of the Earth by astronomy*. xx+400 pages, figures. 2003. Victoria: Trafford 1-4120-1344-5 paperback.

Stars, now: '... Benelux ... Malta, Greece, Turkey, Scandinavia, the Baltic, Russia, the Near East, Africa ... Oceania', 'the riddle of the megaliths is solved ... Stonehenge plus the Peterborough petroglyphs in Canada and the Miami Circle' (p. i). 'The Great Wall of China marks the Milky Way' (p. 359 in capitals). The front cover shows the Clava Cairns, annotated 'Do you see the face?'; as for the Rollright Stones ...; much rock art is explained too!

Concepts, methods & techniques

CHARLES DARWIN with JAMES MOORE & ADRIAN DESMOND. *The descent of Man, and selection in relation to sex*. lxvi+791 pages, 78 figures, tables. 2004. London: Penguin; 0-140-43631-6 paperback £9.99.

CHRIS GOSDEN. *Prehistory: a very short introduction*. xvi+131 pages, 19 figures, 1 table. 2003. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 0-19-280343-3 paperback £6.99.

J. MOORE & A. DESMOND reintroduce the 2nd edition of 'Darwin's greatest unread book' (p. lv). As for Social Darwinism, 'We now see that' he 'was driven... by scientific ambition and abolitionist fervour' (p. lvii); and, indeed, when

Soapy Sam Wilberforce asked whether Thomas Huxley 'was descended from a monkey', 'the debate ... concerned ... identity in the present' (GOSDEN p. 19).

☞ *Prehistory* is widely learned in anthropology, well written, and (yes) topical. Successive chapters, succinct but relaxed, cover 'What and when', 'The problems' (people's relations with each other and with things), 'skills and experiences', intercontinental comparison (including Renfrew *et al.* on languages and, going beyond most archaeologists' terrain, mythology), and 'The nature of human life' ('Prehistory ended on 17 January 1779' in apparent confusion with Capt. Cook's death in Hawaii). Dr GOSDEN closes by affirming that prehistory can address contemporary concerns and by taking issue with Steven Mithen on the nature of human intelligence. He is let down by some of the pictures; but *Prehistory* rewards any reader, archaeologist or layman. Here is a book to pack for the summer break.

JOHN BINTLIFF with TIMOTHY EARLE & CHRISTOPHER S. PEEBLES (ed.). *A companion to archaeology*. xxiv+544 pages, 70 figures, tables. 2004. Malden (MA) & Oxford: Blackwell; 0-631-21302-3 hardback \$124.95 & £85.

Prof. BINTLIFF introduces four sets of chapters for explaining what archaeology is and does. More or less typical of what is going on in northwestern Europe and the USA & Canada, many bits are good and some wan. The first has S. Shennan on 'Analytical archaeology' with J. Thomas on 'experience, and interpretation'. The second, on 'Current themes and novel departures' covers genetics (Martin Jones), language, gender, social theory, 'material as an independent actor' (p. 135, R. Fletcher), technology (K. Greene), 'local communities' (F. Gerritsen), and 'Time, structure, and agency' (BINTLIFF). The third comprises eleven chapters covering, among other topics,

indigenous traditions, dating and chronology (J. Gowlett), Classical (I. Morris) and (C. Orser) post-Medieval archaeology, 'Animal bones and plant remains' (P. Rowley-Conwy), and art, along with some chatty autobiography on fieldwork by Prof. BINTLIFF. The last has six chapters on 'the public', covering anthropology (M. Rowlands), 'politics' (pluralism, professionalism, *etc.*), and 'green issues' (including calm remarks on Seahenge by M. Bell); but much of this set could have worked better had practitioners written instead of the academics.

GISELA GRUPE & JORIS PETERS (ed.). *Deciphering ancient bones: the research potential of bioarchaeological collections* (Documenta Archaeobiologiae 1). 286 pages, 114 figures, 32 tables. 2003. Rahden: Marie Leidorf; 3-89646-616-X hardback £55.

KEVIN ANDREWS & ROGER DOONAN. *Test tubes and trowels: using science in archaeology*. 160 pages, 72 figures, 3 tables. 2003. Stroud: Tempus; 0-7524-2918-3 paperback £17.99.

The 19 handsomely produced papers on *bioarchaeological collections* fall into seven groups, opening with a history from Bavaria. The second is a pair on public relations, including T. Molleson on museum collections. Third are papers on Balkan Iron Age 'brachycephalisation', on 'hominization' (a concise and elegant summary of current views by W. Henke), and on primatology. There follow papers on animal bones and teeth, the size of Roman cattle in the upper Danube region, trace element analysis, collections as 'DNA banks', and 'rare ... farm ... breeds'. The last set reports on projects in the Danubian region and northern Africa, plus one on 'Histomorphometric analysis of primate and domesticated animal long bone microstructure'. Abstracts are provided in German.

 *Test tubes* wins this quarter's laurels. For the general reader, it is deftly written and replete with effective and witty illustrations. It tames a great range of topics from atomic absorption spectrometry or X-ray analysis to New Archaeology, social theory and philosophy. This is no mere handbook: with examples from many parts of Europe, the core of the book is on 'Identity and power', 'Organising production', 'Craft and culture' and 'Searching for provenance', as well as dating techniques. For a measure of the issues blithely imparted, consider its close (p. 156). (A) 'Some areas of archaeology ... engage in a variety of approaches to practice ... Not so ... technological studies', in 'a disciplinary ghetto'. The authors could have pointed out that, more commonly than not in Britain, the fault lies with those who commission 'experts' unintegrated with the rest of a project; but, in any event, 'If technology is not studied through archaeology then ... ethical issues ... will ... wreak their own ... consequences'. (B) 'can we ... support the battle between 'Man' and Mother Nature?' This enduring image of "crafty" males pulling back the veil of myth and religion to reveal her 'is deeply seated in the Western capitalist mindset'. There is plenty of room, here, for quibbling; but this book should be widely enjoyed!

KATE FERNIE & JULIAN D. RICHARDS *et al.* *Creating and using virtual reality: a guide for arts and humanities*. ix+118 pages, 22 figures, 9 tables. 2003. Oxford: Oxbow; 1-84217-040-6 paperback £15.

The latest manual to arrive from the Arts & Humanities Data Service is a systematic introduction to the topical subject of *virtual reality*. It includes worked examples from Nimrud, ancient Greece and Roman Britain.

The Nile

WOLFRAM GRAJETZKI. *Burial customs in ancient Egypt: life and death for rich and poor*. viii+165 pages, 158 figures. 2003. London: Duckworth; 0-7156-32175 paperback £14.99.

PASCAL VERNUS (tr. David Lorton). *Affairs and scandals in ancient Egypt*. xiii+211 pages, figures. 2003. Ithaca (NY): Cornell University Press; 0-8014-4078-5 hardback \$29.95 & £17.95.

Burial customs describes its evidence in chronological order from the Neolithic to the Roman period. Fact-packed and workmanlike, it is a valuable resource on a cardinal theme of the ancient civilisation. *Affairs*: with nicely judged quotations from the sources, this scholarly account of New Kingdom ethics and corruption brings the period only too well to life.

ROBERT G. MORKOT. *Historical dictionary of ancient Egyptian warfare* (Historical Dictionaries of War, Revolution, and Civil Unrest 26). lxxxii+315 pages, 35 figures, 1 table. 2003. Lanham (MD): Scarecrow; 0-8108-4862-7 hardback.

RICHARD A. LOBBAN, JR.. *Historical dictionary of ancient & medieval Nubia* (Historical Dictionaries of Ancient Civilizations & Historical Eras 10). lxvi+511 pages, figures, 1 table. 2004. Lanham (MD): Scarecrow; 0-8108-4784-1 hardback.

 The *Historicals* are dense with hard information on people, peoples, places, institutions, events, tactics and equipment, archaeological features ... In *warfare*, for example: berm, Beth Shean ('32°29'N 35°32'E' [p. 49]), Blemmyes, bodyguard, border, boredom ('must have afflicted troops' [p. 50]), Userkaf, Viceroy of Kush, Wadi el Hudi (and, in the following section, cf. SPENCE), or, in *Nubia*, Cambyses II, camels, camel-herding Arabs, Candace, Emery (W.B.), Mark (St),

Mash, Mashwash, Masmās, matrilineal, or strategoi, Suakin, Sudanic languages. Cross-references are simple but effective. Dictionary is too modest a title: many of the entries are very substantial. Both books come with helpful general introductions and with chronologies. Both include bibliographies so long that they have their own lists of contents, including, in *Nubia*, bibliographies.

On Greeks & Romans

JOHANNES SIAPKAS. *Heterological ethnicity: conceptualizing identities in ancient Greece* (Boreas: Uppsala Studies in Ancient Mediterranean & Near Eastern Civilizations 27). ix+333 pages, 1 figure, 1 table. 2003. Uppsala: Uppsala University; 91-554-5823-8 (ISSN 0346-6442) paperback.

OLGA PALAGIA & STEPHEN V. TRACY (ed.). *The Macedonians in Athens, 322-229 BC: proceedings of an international conference held at the University of Athens, May 24-26, 2001*. xii+266 pages, 166 figures, 11 tables. 2003. Oxford: Oxbow; 1-84217-092-9 hardback £75.

Dr SIAPKAS's dissertation tries to bring certain strands of social theory to bear on the Spartan occupation of Messenia, pointing out that, until recently, classicists and some archaeologists read ancient assertions of ethnic identity as unmotivated descriptions of inherent quality. Rather, identity is relative, ethnicity (he argues) a strategy (the same point arises for RENFREW – see 'Language', above; and with BONFANTE on relations with Rome – 'Also received', below). Contributing, in the same vein, to *The Macedonians*, M. Mari investigates political and ethical nuances in stereotyping Macedonian rule. The other 27 papers here cover cultural, political and military history in Attica, including discussions of topography, features, sculpture, pottery, jewellery and coins. See too RAAFLAUB, 'Also received'.

IAIN G. SPENCE. *Historical dictionary of ancient Greek warfare* (Historical Dictionaries of War, Revolution, and Civil Unrest 16). lx+391 pages, 14 figures. 2002. Lanham (MD): Scarecrow; 0-8108-4009-5 hardback \$69.50.

The *dictionary* has all the virtues of those reviewed in the previous section. Again, many of the entries are encyclopaedic; the chronology too is detailed.

ANNE REESE & IRINI VALLERA-RICKERSON. *Athletries: the untold history of ancient Greek women athletes*. vi+189 pages, 47 figures. 2002. Costa Mesa (CA): Nightowl; 0-9714984-0-7 paperback \$19.95.

BERYL RAWSON. *Children and childhood in Roman Italy*. xiv+419 pages, 30 figures. 2003. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 0-19-924034-5 hardback £60.

Athletries is a scholarly but easy, if self-consciously feminist, introduction (cheaply produced). It 'kicks off', of course, with the Minoans. Prof. RAWSON's comprehensive and detailed social history is based on the Classical literature but both the first main part of her treatment, 'Representations', and the core of the book, on 'The life course', include the evidence of sculpture, epigraphy and coins.

MARGARET ROXAN & PAUL HOLDER. *Roman military diplomas IV* (Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies Supplement 82). xix+312 pages, 68 b&w & colour figures, tables. 2003. London: University of London School of Advanced Study Institute of Classical Studies; 0-900587-93-8 paperback £75.

J.J. WILKES (ed.) *Documenting the Roman army: essays in honour of Margaret Roxan* (Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies Supplement 81). xviii+204 pages, 2 figures, 38 tables. 2003. London: University of London School of Advanced Study Institute of Classical Studies; 0-900587-92-X paperback £45.

ALAN K. BOWMAN. *Life and letters on the Roman frontier: Vindolanda and its people* (2nd ed.). x+179 pages, 23 figures, 2 tables. 2003. London: British Museum Press; 0-7141-2246-7 paperback £12.99.

✉ *Roman ... IV* continues publication with catalogue nos 202-322 plus some discharge certificates, a revision of a diploma in the *CIL*, and some miscellaneous data. The items are described, transcribed and annotated in detail, many with both substantial contextual information and effective illustrations. MARGARET ROXAN's awe-inspiring scholarship is celebrated in ten appropriately detailed contributions to Prof. WILKES's festschrift on history and archaeology of the Roman army (two in German), ranging from the Eastern desert in Egypt (V. Maxfield) to Hadrian's Wall (D. Breeze). At the latter, of course, were discovered personal letters, and Prof. BOWMAN now takes account of further finds made up to two years ago. See too *Apocalypse*, in 'Paperback', below.

NICHOLAS K. RAUH. *Merchants, sailors and pirates in the Roman world*. 224 pages, 70 figures, 33 colour illustrations. 2003. Stroud & Charleston (SC): Tempus; 0-7524-2542-0 paperback £17.99 & US\$29.99.

✉ After reviewing urban development and the archaeology, sociology and technology, Dr RAUH concludes (p. 201) that the '*volume of trade ... in the Mediterranean between 167 and 67 BC was the largest ever ... in the ancient world. Roman goods expelled Greek ... much*' as '*Roman armies crushed the maritime populations in their path*'. The latter '*resisted Roman expansion at every step*' and acted '*as a conduit for ... lower-class discontent*' but Roman governors seem to have coopted the '*maritime mob*' in their new economy; and, in turn, its '*work habits ... mentality and egalitarian impulses ... left their impact on Rome, helping to ensure ... Mediterranean ... prosperity for centuries to come.*' See too BROMWICH, in the following section.

France

FRÉDÉRIQUE BLAIZOT & PIERRE-YVES MILCENT *et al.*. *L'ensemble funéraire Bronze final et La Tène ancienne de Champ-Lamet à Pont-du-Château (Puy-de-Dôme)* (Société Préhistorique Française Travaux 3). 164 pages, 81 figures, 8 tables. 2002. n.p.: Société Préhistorique Française; 2-913745-11-3 paperback €25.

LAURENT GUYARD (ed.). *Le Collège de France (Paris) du quartier gallo-romain au Quartier latin* (Documents d'archéologie française Vol. 95). 287 pages, 196 figures, 14 colour plates, 45 tables. 2003. Paris: Maison des sciences de l'Homme; 2-7351-0813-9 (ISSN 1255-2127) paperback €44.

JAMES BROMWICH. *The Roman remains of northern and eastern France: a guidebook*. xiv+458 pages, 141 figures, 3 tables. 2003. London: Routledge; 0-415-13994-5 hardback £75.

BLAIZOT, MILCENT *et al.* report on a ditched and, apparently, mounded tomb, used from the Late Bronze Age up to the fourth century BC. They provide systematic descriptions of the topography, sequence of features and grave goods, and they work out the procedures of inhumation and associated rites. In the middle were remains of a Bronze Age cremation, exceptional for the period in Puy-de-Dôme. The tombs and finds are catalogued and illustrated systematically.

A trench dug into the courtyard of the Collège de France revealed a large building – perhaps warehouse – of the mid first century, displaced by the so-called *Collège de France* Baths, replaced here, in turn, *c.* 300, by a butchery yielding many finds. 'Dark earth' then accumulated up to the 1200s – the first to be studied systematically in France. In the later Middle Ages, the site was redeveloped for a college (from which fish bones were recovered and fragments of writing slates preserving *very* studenty-looking doodles). The stratigraphy

(up to the nineteenth century) and finds are reported systematically. The elegant design includes effective use of colour plans and photographs. A summary is provided in English.

✉ JAMES BROMWICH's learned, detailed and up-to-date guide is for perusal beforehand, not for carrying about on foot, but his remarks on sites and museums are apt and practical. It is pithy, ironic and opinionated; sympathetic and sane; a rewarding companion! The book is well organised by region, and has four short chapters on general themes. It has been very well produced.

British Isles' – readers' needs

TREVOR GARNHAM. *Lines on the landscape, circles from the sky: monuments of Neolithic Orkney*. 224 pages, 96 b&w figures, 1 colour figure, 32 colour photographs. 2004. Stroud: Tempus; 0-7524-3114-5 paperback £17.99.

RODNEY CASTLEDEN. *Britain 3000 BC*. xii+212 pages, b&w figures, 22 colour photographs. 2003. Stroud: Sutton; 0-7509-2693-7 hardback £25.

JOHN GALE. *Prehistoric Dorset*. 192 pages, 66 figures, 14 colour photographs. 2003. Stroud & Charleston (SC): Tempus; 0-7524-2906-X paperback £16.99 & \$27.99.

Our first trio on home ground, this quarter, are intended for the general reader. Between his opening chapter, on cosmology, and the last, 'Mythical thinking', Mr GARNHAM covers housing, tombs, and orientation. Historical analogies, social and symbolic anthropology, the whole straining array of 25 years' academe comes to bear (cf. Thomas ed. BINTLIFF, 'Concepts', above), plus comparative studies of religion; his evidence is up to date too, and the bibliography looks good; but what of the sites' workaday context? Also up to date, and also with a hefty attempt on the symbolism

but better on political organisation, nor forgetting the economy or even physical anthropology, Mr CASTLEDEN extends a mild and much more readable version of the same treatment to all of Britain as well as the Northern Isles, again including ample references to the literature.

✉ It is a relief, next, to open *Dorset*, starting with thoughts on 'the failure of our educational system to provide a core curriculum which includes basic information about our Island's pre-Roman roots' (p. 9) and going on to explain that our first questions are 'What is it?' and 'What date is it?' (p. 20). Immeasurably better at explaining the evidence than either of the preceding titles, the ensuing chapters cover Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age with clear prose and simple, effective illustrations. They are accompanied by an amply descriptive gazetteer of 78 sites with notes on access and by a full bibliography. Highly experienced in the popular market, how did CASTLEDEN and his publisher decide that speculation or elegant assertions of 'opinion' suffice in stead of *Dorset's* quality of reasoning?

SONIA CHADWICK HAWKES with GUY GRAINGER *et al.*, *The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Worthy Park, Kingsworthy near Winchester, Hampshire* (Oxford University School of Archaeology Monograph No. 59). xii+222 pages, 58 figures, 52 tables. 2003. Oxford: Oxford University School of Archaeology; 0-947816-60-7 hardback £22.50.

Worthy Park is a technical report on excavation in 1961-2 with a detailed inventory of 94 inhumations, 46 cremations and finds from the earlier part of the Saxon period. The stratigraphy was complicated. The skeletal remains are reported (C. Wells & B. Denston with Mrs HAWKES & J. Bayley) and there are notes on features, on textiles (E. Crowfoot) and on materials analysis of small finds. The report is accompanied by a gazetteer of contemporary sites in the county. Later, part of a contemporary settlement was found, 550 m. away.

KEVIN LEAHY. *Anglo-Saxon crafts*. 192 pages, 86 figures, 28 colour photographs. 2003. Stroud: Tempus; 0-7524-2904-3 paperback £17.99.

Mr LEAHY's book is for the general reader. Following a brief introduction come nine lucid and well illustrated chapters on Saxon work in various materials, organic and inorganic, including timber buildings. He concludes with remarks on 'The place of the craftsman in ... society', including notes on hoards.

DAVID GRIFFITHS, ANDREW REYNOLDS & SARAH SEMPLE (ed.). *Boundaries in early Medieval Britain* (Anglo-Saxon Studies in Archaeology & History 12). v+216 pages, 95 figures, 27 tables. 2003. Oxford: Oxford University School of Archaeology; 0-947816-76-3 (ISSN 0264-5254) paperback £35.

✉ *Boundaries* comprises 11 mostly meaty papers: 'Britons and warriors in post-Roman south-east England'; 'the role of the River Thames'; 'construction of boundaries in Anglo-Scandinavian Lincolnshire'; 'location of ... assembly sites'; 'demarcation of early Christian settlements'; one on minsters; one on dying; a prolegomenon to a review on settlements, fifth century to fourteenth (A. REYNOLDS); and a large and well illustrated excavation report on early Saxon settlement and economy at Godmanchester. The latter two look especially valuable. So much has been discovered in recent years, and, in ranging over somewhat miscellaneous topics (consequence of the simplistic principle, 'boundaries'), Dr REYNOLDS proposes exciting directions for study.

SEAN DAVIES. *Welsh military institutions, 633-1283*. xiv+288 pages, 1 map. 2004. Cardiff: University of Wales Press; 0-7083-1836-3 hardback £30.

In Dr DAVIES's book, ANTIQUITY readers will appreciate especially the discussion of fortifications. For the pre-Norman period, he explains, archaeology 'provides the most valuable information' (p. 195).

See too BOWMAN in 'On Greeks & Romans', above, *The Normans*, in 'Paperback', below and, 'Also received', *The age of Athelstan*.

India

RUDOLF C. HEREDIA & SHEREEN F. RATNAGAR (ed.). *Mobile and marginalized peoples: perspectives from the past*. 2003. New Delhi: Manohar; 81-7304-497-X hardback Rs500.

ANANDA K. COOMARASWAMY (ed. Richard J. Cohen). *Essays on Jaina art*. 110 pages, figures, 3 tables. 2003. New Delhi: Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts; 81-7304-534-8 hardback Rs1450.

IQTIDAR HUSAIN SIDDIQUI (ed.). *Medieval India: essays in intellectual thought and culture* (Vol. 1). 223 pages. 2003. New Delhi: Manohar; 81-7304-499-6 hardback Rs450.

URSULA RAO. *Negotiating the divine: temple religion and temple politics in contemporary urban India*. 185 pages, 6 figures. 2003. New Delhi: Manohar; 81-7304-515-1 hardback Rs500.

Prof. RATNAGAR introduces and reflects upon eight descriptive and methodological essays on stability and change among shifting settlements, pastoralists and migrant craft workers – plenty of food for thought for historians and archaeologists alike. A.K. COOMARASWAMY's papers (1914-43) are now assembled in a fine edition including reviews by Norman Brown and H. Śastri. Among the 11 on *thought and culture*, P. Hardy's, particularly, on time, may interest ANTIQUITY readers. With a solid case study, Dr RAO contributes to a stream of ethnographic research which offers lessons for archaeologists of religion: 'In their efforts to create a home for their deities ... people ... get entangled in negotiations of power' (p. 154); 'different perceptions are connected with ... the social order' (p. 158).

Americas

See review article by Hammond above.

KENNETH M. AMES & HERBERT D.G. MASCHNER. *Peoples of the Northwest Coast: their archaeology and prehistory*. 288 pages, 71 b&w photographs, 103 figures. 1999. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-05091-0; hardback £24.95.

GEORGE R. MILNER. *The moundbuilders: ancient peoples of eastern North America*. 224 pages, 133 figures, 20 colour illustrations. 2004. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-02118-X hardback £28.

✉ T&H have produced a pair of solid and attractive assets on N. America. AMES & MASCHNER explain briefly the new thinking about the Northwest Coast as a corridor for the original colonization of the Americas before summarising the region's archaeology. Then the second half of their book draws on history and ethnography as well as archaeology to review traditions of subsistence, social organisation, rites, war and the celebrated arts of the region. Throughout, they emphasise the distinctive physical environment as a source for explanation. *The moundbuilders* is a most welcome addition to 'Ancient Peoples & Places', maintaining the standard of authority, readability and illustrations expected of the series. Following the introduction to 'A heavily forested and thinly peopled land' are three chapters on the Archaic and 'Early to Middle Woodland' periods, three on the late prehistory, and one on 'Native American and European Contact'. Appended are brief notes on sites to visit. See too *Unearthing* in 'Paperback', below.

HATTULA MOHOLY-NAGY. *The artefacts of Tikal: utilitarian artefacts and unworked material* (Tikal Report No. 27 Part B). xii+277 pages, 5 figures, 8 tables, 161 plates, CD-ROM. 2003. Philadelphia (PA): University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology; 1-931707-40-5 hardback.

MARY MILLER & SIMON MARTIN *et al.* *Courtly art of the ancient Maya*. 304 pages, 233 colour illustrations, 95 figures, 1 table. 2004. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-05129-1 hardback £35.

✉ The latest Tikal Report is a mine of detail on aspects of the record rarely treated, a systematically analytic, comprehensively integrated and precise descriptive catalogue of more than 100,000 objects recovered in the great campaigns of the 1960s, illustrated abundantly and effectively. Amongst the *unworked material* is animal bone and mineral pieces. D.C. Yanik contributes on textiles, and P.D. Harrison on a spear thrower that he found in the Central Acropolis. This sort of work ought to be the foundation for study; but, to accompany the current topical exhibition of the same name at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, *Courtly art* caters for that majority of aficionados 'distracted by the ... gorgeous sumptuary goods' (MOHOLY-NAGY p. 1) of the Maya. Lavishly presented, MILLER & MARTIN discuss aspects of life in the Classic period with particular attention to another of its leading cities, Palenque, where digging is in hand. An eminent array of 15 colleagues add notes on other aspects of recent research and interpretation, covering too Bonampak, Yaxchilan and Piedras Negras.

M. KATHRYN BROWN & TRAVIS W. STANTON (ed.). *Ancient Mesoamerican warfare*. xii+370 pages, 82 figures, 1 table. 2003. Walnut Creek (CA): Altamira; 0-7591-0283-X paperback £22.95.

JULIA A. HENDON & ROSEMARY A. JOYCE (ed.). *Mesoamerican archaeology: theory and practice*. xvi+352 pages, 66 figures, 5 tables. 2004. Malden (MA) & Oxford: Blackwell; 0-631-23051-3 hardback \$69.95 & £60, 0-631-23052-1 paperback \$34.95 & £19.99.

JOEL W. PALKA. *Historical dictionary of Mesoamerica* (Historical Dictionaries of Ancient Civilizations & Historical Eras No. 2). xvi+199 pages, 15 figures. 2000. Lanham (MD): Scarecrow; 0-8108-3715-3 hardback £68.50.

The editors introduce 14 apt and searching papers on *warfare* by a roster of eminent authors. The first three indicate the range: ‘*The role of ceramics in the study of conflict*’, ‘*politics ... in the ... realm of Bird Jaguar*’ (of Yaxchilan), and ‘Imperialism’. There follow three on ritual, four on epigraphy and iconography, a couple on ethnohistory and ethnography, a comparison from Arizona & New Mexico (S. Le Blanc again), and ‘a summary view’.

Mesoamerican archaeology is a welcome resource for students, comprising twelve introductory but packed chapters by an emerging cohort of experts rehearsing topical themes arranged in chronological order up to and including the Colonial period among the Maya; but, as usual, western Mexico is scarcely mentioned. R. JOYCE opens with a useful chapter on theory and themes. Alongside authors from the USA are L. Manzanilla and S. Sugiyama. The *dictionary* comprises a good range of basic entries on people, sites and districts, typical features, and themes (including war and [see next title] Quetzalcoatl and Tezcatlipoca) of the prehispanic and early Colonial periods, plus bibliography. The spellings and notes on pronunciation are not definitive.

GUILHEM OLIVIER (tr. Michel Besson). *Mockeries and metamorphoses of an Aztec god: Tezcatlipoca, ‘Lord of the Smoking Mirror’*. xv+403 pages, 28 plates, 5 tables. 2003 Boulder (CO): University Press of Colorado; 0-87081-745-0 hardback \$75.

Omniscient Tezcatlipoca was dreaded by the Aztecs. *Mockeries* is a detailed survey of the literary sources, iconography and archaeology, intended to interpret the principle. Dr OLIVIER

argues cogently that it is related to Quetzalcoatl, the celebrated Feathered Serpent spirit.

JEFFREY QUILTER. *Cobble circles and standing stones: archaeology at the Rivas site, Costa Rica*. xiii+218 pages, 86 figures, 7 tables. 2004. Iowa City (IA): University of Iowa Press; 0-87745-876-6 \$49.95, 0-87745-893-6 paperback \$24.95

JEFFREY QUILTER & JOHN W. HOOPES (ed.). *Gold and power in ancient Costa Rica, Panama, and Colombia: a symposium at Dumbarton Oaks*. ix+429 pages, 131 figures, 8 tables. 2003. Washington (DC): Dumbarton Oaks Research Library & Collection; 0-88402-294-3 hardback \$30.

Cobble circles and standing stones is an informal experiment in reporting excavation of a mortuary at the Rivas site and at Panteón de la Reina, a ridgetop cemetery, near by. They date from c. 900-1300. The latter has been known for known for more than 100 years for abundant finds of gold. Writing for students and perhaps the increasing number of visitors to Costa Rica, Dr QUILTER explains his research strategy and its theoretical grounding and sets the district into regional culture historical context. It is a readable account and most of the illustrations are effective. In *Gold and power*, he introduces scholarly papers on the celebrated jewellery of the wider region. They cover ‘enchantment’ by brilliance, ‘symbolic power of ... metallurgical transformation’, ‘creation imagery’ (M. Graham), ethnic ‘identity’ (HOOPES & O. Fonseca), ‘From jade to gold in Costa Rica’ (M. Snarskis), ‘Who crafted, exchanged, and displayed gold in pre-columbian Panama?’ (R. Cooke *et al.*), ‘political economy’ in Colombia (C. Langebaek), Tairona ‘symbols of power’ (W. Bray), and ‘Gold in the everyday lives of indigenous peoples of Sixteenth-Century southern Central America’. The book has been produced to the highest standard.

ALICIA A. FERNÁNDEZ DISTEL & GABRIEL MORALES *et al.* *La decoración de los pucos humahuaqueños & Cultura precolombina, estética americana y arte*. 60 pages, 4 figures. 2003. Jujuy: Centro de Estudios Indígenas y Coloniales & Centro de Estudios Históricos y Sociales Octubre; paperback US\$5+p&p.

A.A. DISTEL considers prehispanic pottery in northwesternmost Argentina, with a note on her region's prehispanic 'Peoples, languages and crafts'. The accompanying essay (MORALES) is on Modern Western reception of prehispanic American art with particular reference to the same region. Dr DISTEL would send us more publications but for prohibitive postal prices. Foreign readers and libraries should think about this problem for our colleagues.

History of archaeology

JANE FEJFER, TOBIAS FISCHER-HANSEN & ANNETTE RATHJE (ed.). *The rediscovery of antiquity: the role of the artist* (Acta Hyperborea: Danish Studies in Classical Archaeology 10). 551 pages, 257 figures. 2003. Copenhagen: Museum Tusulanum Press; 87-7289-829-1 (ISSN 0904-2067) paperback Kr 450 & £45 & €64 & US\$75.

R.B. HALBERTSMA. *Scholars, travellers and trade: the pioneer years of the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden, 1818-1840*. xiv+182 pages, 25 figures. 2003. London: Routledge; 0-415-27630-6 hardback £50.

JANE FEJFER *et al.* introduce seven papers on 'Artists' use of ancient models', six on 'Forming ideas and shaping taste' (including R.B. Halbertsma on Caspar Reuvs), four on 'Artists and patrons' (including one on Shugborough, Staffs.), and three on 'Creating collections', plus a couple of reviews. The book has been produced and illustrated elegantly.

Reuvs, with his interest in Mediterranean antiquities and a most effective web of influence, is the hero of R.B. HALBERTSMA's scholarly and well produced volume.

KENNETH LAPATIN. *Mysteries of the Snake Goddess: art, desire, and the forging of history*. xii+274 pages, 111 figures, 1 table. 2002. Cambridge (MA): Da Capo Press; 0-306-81328-9 paperback \$16.95 & CAN\$25.95.

MILES RUSSELL. *Pitdown Man: the secret life of Charles Dawson and the world's greatest archaeological hoax*. 288 pages, 105 figures. 2003. Stroud: Tempus; 0-7524-2572-2 paperback £14.99.

Widely ranging, extensive and imaginative exploration distinguishes both *Mysteries* and *Pitdown*. 'For those who continue to hope that the Boston [Museum of Fine Arts] Snake Goddess ... might contain ... some genuine Minoan kernel', Dr LAPATIN concedes (pp. 187-8) that 'the bulk of her ... was fashioned by skilled Cretan craftsmen' – inspired by the imagination of Arthur Evans and colleagues. What, then, was the nature of Minoan religion? That 'answers ... have ... been... of their own ages' is 'at once less satisfactory and more fascinating' (p. 65). The book's readability springs from the author's fascination with the trail of his investigation. The *Pitdown* tale is more familiar to ANTIQUITY readers, no doubt, but has not, perhaps, been exposed so extensively before: evidently, much personal and cultural background is needed in order to understand the wretched prank; Dr RUSSELL's account is absorbing and witty.

Paperback editions

The hardback editions of the following titles were reviewed in ANTIQUITY Vol. 76: 565, Vol. 77: 586-7, and Vol. 74: 959, respectively.

ANNE-MARIE CANTWELL & DIANA DI ZEREGA WALL. *Unearthing Gotham: the archaeology of New York City*. x+374 pages, 125 figures. 2004. New Haven (CT): Yale University Press; 0-300-09799-9 paperback £12.95.

NEIL FAULKNER. *Apocalypse: the Great Jewish Revolt against Rome, AD 66-73*. 416 pages, 59 illustrations, 1 table. 2004. Stroud: Tempus; 0-7524-2573-0 paperback £12.99.

TREVOR ROWLEY. *The Normans*. 224 pages, 55 figures. 2004. Stroud: Tempus; 0-7524-2881-0 paperback £12.99.

Also received

Our reviewer praised the first title's first edition as 'required reading' (ANTIQUITY 51: 167).

LARISSA BONFANTE. *Etruscan dress* (2nd ed.). ix+261 pages, 171 figures. 2003. Baltimore (MD): Johns Hopkins University Press; 0-8018-7413-0 paperback £15.50.

KURT RAAFLAUB (tr. Renate Franciscano). *The discovery of freedom in ancient Greece* (2nd ed.). xii+420 pages. 2004. Chicago (IL): University of Chicago Press; 0-226-70101-8 hardback \$55 & £38.

PAUL HILL. *The age of Athelstan: Britain's forgotten history*. 224 pages, figures, 14 colour illustrations, 1 table. 2004. Stroud: Tempus; 0-7524-2566-8 paperback £17.99.

TERRIE L. WILSON (ed.). *The 21st Century art librarian* (Journal of Library Administration 39:1). xv+114 pages, 1 figure, 8 tables. 2003. Binghamton (NY): Haworth Information Press; 0-7890-2108-0 hardback \$39.95, 0-7890-2109-9 paperback \$24.95.

M.J. COHEN & JOHN MAJOR (ed.). *History in quotations*. xxix+1008 pages. 2004. London: Cassell; 0-304-35387-6 hardback £30.

Contributing to *Ancient interactions: east and west in Eurasia* (KATIE BOYLE, MARSHA LEVINE & COLIN RENFREW [ed.], xii+344 pages, 158 figures, 22 tables. 2002. Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research; 1-902937-19-8 [ISSN 1363-1349] hardback £45), T. Zerjal and colleagues from Oxford, Tashkent and Beijing used this chart to sum up their findings on 'variation within haplogroup 10Y chromosomes' in Kazakhstan: 'chromosomes from ... different parts ... are very similar' either 'because the population' is 'established recently from a small number of male founders', or it 'has gone through a male bottleneck' with 'considerable recent male-mediated gene flow' while, 'the chromosomes from different countries are different, indicating a lack of male gene flow' (p. 323). Theirs' is the last of 20 papers introduced by PROF. RENFREW with questions on 'Pastoralism and interaction' in Inner & Central Asia, southern Siberia, the Black Sea region and Caucasus, and Russia. P. Dolukhanov, Y. Rassamakin, J. Chapman, P. Kohl and colleagues report on investigations of the Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Bronze Age in eastern Europe, and Martin Jones ('Bio-archaeology and ... Proto-Indo-European'), J.P. Mallory (on dating Pazyryk) and others on Asia. Seven other papers in this smartly produced volume consider various forms of evidence.

See picture overleaf.

Review

