

Among the New Books

N. James

European perspectives on prehistory

ALBERT J. AMMERMAN & PAOLO BIAGI (ed.). *The widening harvest, the Neolithic transition in Europe: looking back, looking forward* (Archaeological Institute of America Colloquia & Conference Papers Vol. 6). xxii+343 pages, 47 figures, tables. 2003. Boston (MA): Archaeological Institute of America; 1-931909-05-9 paperback.

LIV NILSSON STUTZ. *Embodied rituals and ritualized bodies: tracing ritual practices in late Mesolithic burials* (Acta Archaeologica Lundensia ser. in 8° no. 46). xii+395 pages, 2 figures, 29 colour & b&w photographs, 2 tables, CD-ROM. 2003. Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International; 91-22-02037-3 (ISSN 0065-0094) paperback.

JÁNOS MAKKAY. *Die Grabenanlagen im indogermanischen Raum*. 144 pages, 65 figures. 2001. Budapest: János Makkay; 963-440-389-1 paperback.

✉ *The widening harvest* is an authoritative review of the state of the art on the early Neolithic, as at 1998. Prof. AMMERMAN opens by considering the history of research on his theme – to which he has contributed so helpfully before – and emphasising major issues of wider interest. There follow articles on: ‘The origins of agriculture’ (P.J. Watson with an intercontinental perspective, D. Harris with more on the history of research around the world, A. Moore on Abu Hureyra, G. Hillman on crops, and P. Rowley-Conwy on animals); ‘southern Europe’ (C. Runnells, P. Biagi, R. Skeates, J. Guilaine [in French], J. Zilão); ‘Central and northern Europe’ (M. Kazanowska & J. Kozłowski, P. Bogucki on riverine dispersal, T.D. Price); and ‘Human

genes and languages’ (L. Cavalli-Sforza, B. Sykes, C. Renfrew). He summarises the discussion at the conference that produced these papers, and adds the meeting’s resolutions: that there should be a programme to date samples of wheat, barley and rye and bones of sheep and goats to be collected from Europe and western Asia; and that there should be a ‘collection of genetic data on living human populations and archaeological specimens’ (p. 343).

Prof. AMMERMAN’s discussion of ‘indigenism’ and colonisation pertains to Dr NILSSON STUTZ’s book. The core of her dissertation is in two main parts: on theory of ritual and funeral in archaeology and the history of thought, concluding with an appraisal of French archaeological taphonomic anthropology; and on development of ritual in Mesolithic Sweden, applying the French method to Skateholm and Vedbaek-Bøgebakken: ‘*From the Mesolithic to the Neolithic, intimacy with the dead... changed in form, but the steps taken might not have been as radical as previously perceived*’ (p. 367). She provides a catalogue of the burials.

Dr MAKKAY surveys 11 patterns of evidence of ‘Ditched enclosures in the Indo-Germanic zone’, defined largely by linguistic criteria: the early Germanic region, concentrating on the TRB culture; data associable with early Slavic, Old Baltic and Old Iranian; in the Caucasus, Asia Minor, Italy and southeastern Europe; and *Viereckschanzen*. He draws implications for indigenous continuity in the Neolithic and beyond that may tap Palaeolithic roots; but, unlike the research discussed by Renfrew (ed. AMMERMAN), his method does not enable him

to assess cultural mixture. With diminished state support for archaeology, DR MAKKAY has been publishing independently.

HENRIK THRANE (ed.). *Diachronic settlement studies in the Metal Ages: report on the ESF workshop, Moesgård, Denmark, 14-18 October 2000*. 140 pages, 96 figures, 3 tables. 2003. Højbjerg: Jutland Archaeological Society; 87-88415-24-4 (ISSN 0107-2854) paperback Dkr248.

HENRIK THRANE's collection is in three main parts. The first has two reports on district projects in southern Scandinavia, one from the Oder Project, and the thoughts of Dr THRANE on methods, techniques and the organisation of 'Diachronic settlement studies' in Denmark. The second has a study of the Bronze Age on the Polish loess and a consideration of regional diffusion in Bronze Age Slovakia. The third has a couple of papers on the Balkan Bronze Age. There is also a piece on methodological doubts about long-term continuities in the valley of Roystone Grange, Derbyshire (M. Edmonds & J. Moreland; cp. ALCOCK & CHERRY in 'Macroregional', below). Three of the papers are in German, the rest in English.

OLE CRUMLIN-PEDERSEN & ATHENA TRAKADAS (ed.). *Hjortspring: a pre-Roman Iron-Age warship in context* (Ships & Boats of the North Vol. 5). 293 pages, 289 colour & b&w figures, 8 tables, CD-ROM. 2003. Roskilde: Viking Ship Museum; 87-85180-521 hardback Dkr385 & €52

Hjortspring describes the discovery (1921) and conservation of the large war canoe on Als (Denmark), and appraises the finds, notably weaponry and what it reveals of the presumed attackers aboard and their organisation. It also reports on reconstruction of the boat and its paddles, and test by sea trial. The evidence of other prehistoric boats from Europe, and particularly in Scandinavia and Britain, is reviewed. This clear and very lively report is

provided with long summaries in Danish and German as well as English.

Pontic, Cyprus, Aegean and Classical

STELLA M. LUBSEN-ADMIRAAL. *Ancient Cypriote art in the T.N. Zintlis Collection* (Corpus of Cypriote Antiquities 25; Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology XX:25). viii+193 pages, 2 figures, 95 plates, CD-ROM. 2003. Sävedalen: Paul Åström; 91-7081-117-2 hardback.

Simple drawings and a long bibliography for the *Zintlis Collection* are accompanied by a selective but substantial text on the stone items, pottery (distinguished by four periods from Bronze Age to Medieval), terracottas, metal objects, jewellery, glasswork and lamps. The CD holds an illustrated analytic catalogue of 958 items with a hierarchy of data; and it includes the article on textiles from *ANTIQUITY* Vol. 76 pp. 364-71 and a note on the Collection.

PAUL ÅSTRÖM (ed.). *On opium, pots, people and places, selected papers: an honorary volume for Robert S. Merrillees* (Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology & Literature: Pocket-book 167). xviii +368 pages, figures, tables. 2003. Sävedalen: Paul Åström; 91-7081-133-4 (ISSN 0283-8494) hardback.

Prof. ÅSTRÖM has compiled a selection of R.S. Merrillees's papers on Cyprus and the east Mediterranean (including from *ANTIQUITY*) and added a full bibliography of his. The book includes a couple of appreciations of the man.

Pharos: Journal of the Netherlands Institute at Athens 10 (2002). vii+178 pages, figures, 2 tables. 2004. Assen: Royal van Gorcum; ISSN 1380-2240 paperback €30.

Pharos 10 comprises two parts. The first is a preliminary report on the 2002 dig at 'Geraki: an acropolis site in Lakonia', which explored levels from Roman to Neolithic. The second

is a valuable set of six papers on 'Greek archaeology and the formation of European and national identities'.

H. REINDER REINDERS (ed.). *Prehistoric sites at the Almirós and Soúrfi Plains (Thessaly, Greece)* (Publications of the Netherlands Institute at Athens Vol. V). iv+158 pages, 77 figures, 15 tables. 2004. Assen: Royal van Gorcum; 90-232-4026-X paperback €24.95.

E. SAPOUNA SAKELLARAKI, J.J. COULTON & I.R. METZGER with A. SARPAKI & S. WALL-CROWTHER (ed. J.J. Coulton). *The fort at Phylla, Vrachos: excavations and researches at a Late Archaic fort in central Euboea* (British School at Athens Supplementary Vol. No. 35). xvii+133 pages, 61 figures, 10 tables. 2002. London: British School at Athens; 0-904887-39-1 hardback £29(+p&çp).

NIKLAS HILLBOM. *For games or for gods? An investigation of Minoan cup-holes* (Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology Vol. 132). 93 pages, 24 figures, 7 tables. 2003. Sävedalen: Paul Åström; 91-7081-135-0 paperback US\$32.50.

Following accounts of methodology and a survey of geology and soils, *Prehistoric sites* reviews the results of surveys, in the 1990s, in six chapters, by period from Neolithic to Archaic. Overlooking a district notably fractious in the Classical period, the site near *Vrachos* was investigated a century ago. SAPOUNA SAKELLARAKI *et al.* report on digs in 1996 and 1999, intended to improve dating and investigate its plan, which had not looked typically Greek, and on a survey of the district. They conclude that the site was, indeed, a fort, and go on to discuss possible historical contexts. The reports on ceramics are in German, the rest in English. A summary is provided in Greek. Production is excellent.

What were the *cup-holes* for? The *investigation* reviews the various theories and, with a

catalogue, sums up what is known (and not) about 167 specimens.

PIA GULDAGER BILDE, JAKOB MUNK HØJTE & VLADIMIR F. STOLBA (ed.). *The cauldron of Ariantas: studies presented to A.N. Šeglov on the occasion of his 70th birthday*. 397 pages, 138 figures, 6 tables. 2003. Aarhus: Aarhus University Press; 87-7934-085-7 hardback.

Along with his bibliography, the *Cauldron* holds 19 learned papers on the Black Sea region in the period of ancient Greek interest, most from Ukrainian or Russian compatriots of the dedicatee's. They cover settlement archaeology, buildings of various kinds, amphorae and ceramic stamps, bronzes and bronze-work, epigraphy, economic and political history, and an essay on Herodotus. J.M. HØJTE reassesses portraiture of the Roman emperor Claudius. There is a paper on the history of Russian research in the region.

STEPHEN G. MILLER. *Ancient Greek athletics*. ix+288 pages, 291 b&w & colour figures, 1 table. 2004. New Haven (CT): Yale University Press; 0-300-10083-3 hardback £25.

Were the first Olympics for the gods, indeed? Appraising the literature, the painted pottery and the ruins, S. MILLER's scholarly, readable, well illustrated and elegantly produced book reviews the cultural, political and social history (and see ROSEN in 'Theoretical themes', below).

HARRIET I. FLOWER (ed.). *The Cambridge companion to the Roman republic*. xv+405 pages, 33 figures. 2004. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 0-521-80794-8 hardback £55 & US\$80, 0-521-00390-3 paperback £19.99 & US\$29.

PENELOPE J.E. DAVIES. *Death and the emperor: Roman imperial funerary monuments from Augustus to Marcus Aurelius*. xv+265 pages, 117 figures. 2004. Austin (TX): University of Texas Press; 0-292-70275-2 paperback \$24.95 & £18.95.

SIMON SWAIN & MARK EDWARDS (ed.). *Approaching Late Antiquity: the transformation from early to late Empire*. xiii+487 pages, 29 figures. 2004. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 0-19-926714-6 hardback.

Dr FLOWER presents four chapters on political and military history, four on sociology, economics, law and religion, three on imperialism, including the relation to the Greeks, and papers on literature, art and (FLOWER) 'Spectacle and political culture'. There is a chapter too on the idea of the Republic in 'the French and American Revolutions'. This book looks very useful. *Death* is a concise but well illustrated and evidently comprehensive review of both the archaeology and what the literary sources explain about customs. Continuing FLOWER's theme of 'Spectacle', Prof. DAVIES concludes that the monuments had a 'vital propagandistic role' (p. 173). Cambridge University Press first produced the book in 2000.

A very diverse but lively and effective team has assessed the transition to Late Antiquity by considering themes and cases in point. Prof. SWAIN introduces their 14 approaches, from economic history to administration near Rome and (C. Adams) in Egypt, law and citizenship (T. Honoré and P. Garnsey), the army, Christianity (including a pair by EDWARDS), art (J. Elsner) and mummy portraits, poetry, and a couple on philosophy.

See too *Light on stone* in 'Sculpture' and *Gladiator* in 'Creative responses', *The library* 'Into paperback', below, and the first titles 'Also received'.

Britain & Ireland: resources and values

CHRISTOPHER CHIPPINDALE. *Stonehenge complete* (3rd ed.). 312 pages, 272 b&cw illustrations, 13 colour illustrations. 2004. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-28467-9 paperback £12.95.

ANDY WORTHINGTON. *Stonehenge: celebration and subversion*. xvii+282 pages, figures. 2004. Loughborough: Alternative Albion; 1-872883-76-1 paperback £14.95.

JOHN SHARKEY. *The meeting of the tracks: rock art in ancient Wales*. 148 pages, figures. 2004. Llanwrst: Gwasg Carreg Gwalch; 0-86381-853-6 paperback £6.50 & €10.50.

Stonehenge complete, well conceived, fine, witty and approachable work of our own fine and witty former Editor, has been up-dated and enlarged again. ANDY WORTHINGTON describes the position on access to Stonehenge now adopted by C. Chippindale, Peter Fowler, 'young' Barbara Bender and other archaeologists as 'libertarian' (p. 185). His readable and well researched cultural history skims over much covered in *Stonehenge complete*, adding a lot on the battles of the 1980s and '90s and associations with other sites such as Avebury, and putting them in the context of contemporary political and industrial strife. It will be read with approval by, among others, 'many of the younger generation of archaeologists' taking part in 'the earth mysteries movement, the revival of paganism and the free festival scene' (p. 182). *The meeting* is a most personable essay for the general reader. Also well researched, it ranges widely around the subject and lists 45 sites with 8 figure grid references and includes a substantial bibliography.

NICK AITCHISON. *The Picts and Scots at war*. x+246 pages, 33 figures. 2003. Stroud: Sutton; 0-7509-2556-6 hardback £20.

DAMIAN MCMANUS. *The Ogam stones at University College, Cork*. vii+24 pages, 2 figures. 2004. Cork: Cork University Press; 1-85918-320-4 paperback €9.95 & £6.95.

With more concentration, the same readership will find *Picts and Scots* accessible and rewarding. It treats of organisation, tactics and

strategy, including 'Naval warfare', finishing up with 'spoils' and 'The battle-dead'. Here are hundreds of references. *The Ogam stones* is a thorough but elegant little introduction and guide to the stelae on display.

JOHN HINES. *Voices in the past: English literature and archaeology*. viii+216 pages, 17 figures, 1 table. 2004. Cambridge: D.S. Brewer; 0-85991-883-1 hardback.

☞ Reality is a cultural construction: Prof. HINES argues that literature and archaeology illuminate each other in studies of the Saxons, the Victorians and any others between and since. Archaeology, he explains, in reference to Anders Andrén and others, can be either a study *of* material or a study *through* material, where the latter approach – his book's – seeks '*past culture ... as a whole*' (p. 36). He points out, for example, that, read alongside data on contemporary settlement in its district, Crowland Abbey's life of St. Guthlac is less miraculous as a 'mythic charter' for asserting property rights. On the other hand, fourteenth century 'commonplace' books, or tales commenting on sumptuary laws, or remarks on iconography, can help to make sense of contemporary archaeological assemblages. *Troilus & Criseyde* is illuminated by information on the Bishop of Ely's Inn at Holborn, while Sir Philip Sidney's appreciation of a house's '*firm stateliness*' indicates his formative era's material culture – '*insinuous*', HINES points out, '*rather than obvious*' (p. 140). He repeatedly demonstrates how, from time to time, connections between materials and values were assessed. Thus, c. 1300, literature represented '*precisely the same striving to overcome the limits of technology ... that is reflected in the archaeological record*' (pp. 103-4); while, for Shakespeare's *Winter's Tale*, '*reflexive allusions to ... reality and illusion ... constitute a sharp political commentary*' (p. 154). *Voices* is a 'must', then, for, for instance, admirers of Matthew Johnson's archaeological

thesis on Early Modern English attitude. For some periods, Prof. HINES may merely have lifted the lid on 'performativity' in material culture. Somewhere here can be resolved the fallacy of agency in things.

JAMES BOND. *Monastic landscapes*. 384 pages, 115 b&w figures, 33 colour illustrations. 2004. Stroud: Tempus; 0-7524-1440-2 paperback £25.

☞ JAMES BOND'S publications have been pointing the way to his book for a while; and it lives up to the promise, a systematic analysis for England & Wales, the core of which comprises eleven chapters on types of feature, from ploughing to woods, granges, warrens, mines and factories, churches and chapels, settlement and markets, and roads and waterways. He discusses methods and the economics of the estates. The book is a welcome framework for understanding a key element of the landscape but it concludes with a call for multidisciplinary (HINES would concur, no doubt). See too, below, HUNTER in 'Finds' and, 'Into paperback', *Viking Age*.

JOHN SCHOFIELD *et al.* *Modern military matters: studying and managing the twentieth-century defence heritage in Britain: a discussion document*. xiii+65 pages, 43 b&w figures, 3 colour illustrations. 2004. [York] Council for British Archaeology; 1-902771-37-0 paperback £5.95.

The first part of *Modern military* assesses 'The militarised landscape', 'Research & development and manufacturing', 'Infrastructure and support', and 'Operations', all construed comprehensively. The second is an 'agenda' of 44 topics: '*understanding of the built resource*' and '*of surviving resources*'; '*identifying ... threats and benefits in this modern heritage*', including '*lessons for understanding the more distant past*' (p. 47); 'Methodologies'; 'Management' of the resources; and 'Articulation, co-ordination and publication'.

There follow recommendations on implementation. This systematic document, by 18 experts from various organisations, will be read with appreciation and benefit in Britain and other countries.

Americas

C. ANDREW BUCHNER, ERIC S. ALBERTSON, NEAL H. LOPINOT, LARISSA A. THOMAS, EMANUEL BREITBURG & JEROME V. WARD. *Mississippian transitions at John's Lake: data recovery excavations of three buried sites in northeast Arkansas* (Arkansas Archaeological Survey Research Ser. 60). viii+190 pages, 130 figures, 76 tables. 2003. Fayetteville (AR): Arkansas Archaeological Survey; 1-56349-096-X paperback. BUCHNER *et al.* found that the Middle Mississippian period witnessed growing population and a settlement pattern including distinctions of economic or political status and a ceremonial site. In the 1400s, population congregated at one place by the lake's former shore.

BARBARA J. MILLS (ed.). *Identity, feasting, and the archaeology of the Greater Southwest: proceedings of the 2002 Southwest Symposium*. xvii+339 pages, 60 figures, 9 tables. 2004. Boulder (CO): University Press of Colorado; 0-87081-762-0 hardback 0-87081-767-1 paperback.

Dr MILLS introduces papers by leaders in research on *the Greater Southwest*. Seven consider aspects of cultural identity, ranging from linguistics (Jane Hill) to contemporary law and politics, post-'abandonment' history of Pecos (up to repatriation of burials in 1999), a historical study of Hopi weaving and basketry, and a commentary on 'Indian = Landscape' (p. 141; K.T. Lomawaima). There are five archaeological contributions on the topical theme of *feasting*. Four papers appraise the state of the art in Chihuahua. See too *Ruins*, 'Into paperback', below.

JULIE L. KUNEN. *Ancient Maya life in the Far West Bajo: social and environmental change in the wetlands of Belize* (Anthropological Papers of the University of Arizona No. 69). x+176 pages, 51 figures, 16 tables. 2004. Tucson (AZ): University of Arizona Press; 0-8165-2235-9 paperback \$16.95.

SUSAN TOBY EVANS. *Ancient Mexico & Central America: archaeology and culture history*. 608 pages, 379 b&w figures, 80 colour figures. 2004. London: Thames & Hudson; 0-500-28440-7 paperback £29.95.

SIGVALD LINNÉ. *Mexican highland cultures: archaeological researches at Teotihuacan, Calpulalpan, and Chalchicomula in 1934-35*. xxiii+229 pages, figures, 1 table. 2003. Tuscaloosa (AL): University of Alabama Press; 0-8173-5006-3 paperback.

☞ Can local disaster be turned to advantage? Dr KUNEN aptly contrasts her research with the usual focus on Maya monuments. In conjunction with settlement, her evidence of agricultural draining and terracing is unlike previously identified patterns of either aristocratic planning or independent household subsistence. Where Late Formative farmers had filled the local marsh up by wasting adjacent soils (see *ANTIQUITY* Vol. 73 pp. 654-5), it looks as though Classic conservation of the redeposited sediments supported 'agriculturally specialized communities' (p. 55) in which, to judge by burials (reported by J.M. & F.P. Saul) and interesting remains of housing, pioneers founded affluent dynasties. This clever work is summarised in Spanish.

Ancient Mexico & Central America is a dense, detailed, thorough and technically up to date textbook covering Mesoamerica, at its broadest, from origins up to and including the Spanish Conquest of the Aztecs, plus a page or two on the history of archaeology in Mexico. Cousin for *Ancient North America* (B. Fagan, from the same publisher), it could well replace Muriel

Porter Weaver's veteran tome. LINNÉ's report, a milestone in its day (1942), has been reprinted with an appreciation by G.L. Cowgill and a note on the history of Swedish archaeological research in the Americas.

SANTIAGO MORA. *Early inhabitants of the Amazonian tropical rain forest: a study of humans and environmental dynamics* (University of Pittsburgh Latin American Archaeology Reports No. 3; tr. Claudia Rocha). xvi+211 pages, 43 figures, 6 tables. 2003. Pittsburgh (PA): University of Pittsburgh; 1-877812-60-9 paperback \$21.

S. MORA distinguishes three phases of occupation at a site in Colombia. Dependence on collecting fruits and roots and fishing, dated by ¹⁴C to the ninth and late tenth millennia bp, was maintained, much later, by people who also practised shifting settlement and horticulture. They were succeeded, in turn, about 700 years ago, by farmers who used pottery. The author pays some particular attention to the botanical evidence and stone artefacts and sets his data into the macroregional context. The text is in both English and Spanish.

HELAINÉ SILVERMAN (ed.). *Andean archaeology*. xvi+342 pages, 22 figures, 3 tables. 2004. Malden (MA) & Oxford: Blackwell; 0-631-23400-4 hardback \$69.95 & £60, 0-631-23401-2 paperback \$34.95 & £19.99.

RICHARD L. BURER & LUCY C. SALAZAR (ed.). *Machu Picchu: unveiling the mystery of the Incas*. x+230 pages, 222 colour illustrations, 70 b&w figures, 1 table. 2004. New Haven (CT): Yale University Press; 0-300-09763-8 hardback £35.

✉ Following that on Mesoamerica (see this column last quarter), *Andean archaeology* is the second in Blackwell's series of regional reviews for students, with the same comprehensiveness, conceptual currency, authority and

approachability. Dr SILVERMAN introduces a dozen chapters ranging from 'first settlers' (T. Dillehay, D. Bonavia & P. Kaulicke) to 'empires' (T. D'Altroy & K. Schreiber), with room for some bright younger contributors to add spice. The book is a boon.

Machu Picchu is a very fine annotated and illustrated exhibition catalogue. To open, the editors introduce six readable essays, including H. Bingham (from *Harper's*) on his discovery, on the 'royal estates' (S. Niles), recent research and a very good introduction (BURGER) to the use of various techniques of investigation, along with a lively account (J. Flores Ochoa) of recent wrangles over 'heritage', including 'mystical tourism'.

See too 'Animal bones', below, and, in 'Finds', HUNTER.

Theoretical themes

MANOLIS MELAS. Η αρχαιολογία σήμερα: κοινωνική-πολιτισμική θεωρία, ανθρωπολογία και αρχαιολογική ερμηνεία (Archaeology today: sociocultural theory, anthropology and archaeological interpretation). 553 pages, 164 figures. 2003. Athens: Kardamitsa 960-354-138-9 paperback.

RALPH M. ROSEN (ed.). *Time and temporality in the ancient world*. vii+216 pages, 12 figures, 2 tables. 2004. Philadelphia (PA): University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology; 0-931707-67-7 hardback \$29.95.

TIMOTHY INSOLL (ed.). *Belief in the past: proceedings of the 2002 Manchester conference on archaeology and religion* (British Archaeological Reports International Ser. Vol. 1212). ii+136 pages, 48 figures, 4 tables. 2004. Oxford: Archaeopress; 1-84171-575-1 paperback £26.

P. NICK KARDULIAS (ed.). *World-systems theory in practice: leadership, production and exchange*. xxi+326 pages, 20 figures, 13 figures. 1999. Lanham (MD): Rowan & Littlefield; 0-8476-9103-9, hardback, 0-8476-9104-7, paperback; US\$55 & US\$26.95.

SARAH MILLEDGE NELSON. *Gender in archaeology: analyzing power and prestige* (2nd ed.). xiv+213 pages. 2004. Walnut Creek (CA): Altamira; 0-7591-0496-4 paperback £20.95.

Dr MELAS contributes to Greece's traditional concern with theoretical clarification. The compendious range of reference, backed by a very long bibliography, reflects gestation around the world amidst the conceptual ferment of the past generation, although it is nearly all to work in English (plus a dose of French thought). His book looks lively.

Dr ROSEN introduces a set of nine conference papers on time. The approaches are delightfully varied: treatment of the dead in Neolithic and Bronze Age Europe (J. Barrett, being most theoretical); 'late prehistoric and Romano-British' spaces at Alfred's Castle, Berks., defined and redefined (C. Gosden); concepts in Assyria and Babylonia (E. Robson) and in India, in the Hebrew Bible, and in China; Hesiod and 'Greek ... traditions about the first Olympic Games'; and 'Pagan and Christian notions of the week in the fourth century CE Western Roman Empire'.

Belief covers theory and methodology and includes case studies. 'Are archaeologists afraid of gods?' Dr INSOLL argues that they have yet fully or seriously to consider religion. His colleagues tackle it more or less directly. A. Andrén appraises the Norse; two contributors work on the Aegean, two on southwest Britain, including analysis of the Sweet Track, two on Ethiopia, including ethnoarchaeology of symbolism in smelting iron (G. & R. Haaland *et al.*), and three on South Asia – a couple following up ANTIQUITY's special section on

'identity in South Asia' (Vol. 74), and a consideration of royal funerals in Nepal (where two took place in 2001). There is a paper too on 'Neurophenomenology'.

World-systems is a collection of substantial papers by leading writers. They cover: evolution; ethnography; 'Legitimation crises'; and nine case studies in archaeology, mostly from the Americas but including Europe and (G. Stein) a sceptical sweep over Asia and Africa. The collection is completed by a broad comparative contribution on 'The evolutionary pulse of the world system ... 4000 BC to AD 1500', by A.G. Frank, none less, pungent and irascible on 'Abuses and uses ... in archaeology', by D. La Lone, 'an ethnographer's perspective', and by the editor on these latter contributions – especially in defence against Frank's accusation that archaeological preoccupation with the local misses the big picture.

Gender's new edition brings a welcome opportunity to recommend its anthropological approach – although A.G. Frank may take issue. Following chapters to introduce the topic in archaeology and to explain its development in our discipline, Chapter 3 turns to method. There follow chapters on the Palaeolithic, on division of labour, households and kinship, 'power and prestige', ideology, and 'New paths' – identity, 'body studies', sexuality, childhood, and feminist writing. The last chapter is on 'Gender, agency, and muted voices'. Among other topics proposed there for further research, Dr NELSON considers that '*The focus on power and prestige needs to ... make room for a focus on agency and values*' (p. 158).

Findings

ROBERT HUNTER (ed.). *Ceramics in America*. xv+323 pages, colour & b&w figures, 1 table. 2003. Milwaukee (WI): Chipstone Foundation; 0-9724353-1-X (ISSN 1533-7154) paperback.

SURINDER SINGH. *Sikh coinage: symbol of Sikh sovereignty*. 283 pages, 16 figures. 2004. New Delhi: Manohar; 81-7304-533-X hardback Rs995.

RAY RIEGERT & THOMAS MOORE (ed.). *The lost sutras of Jesus: unlocking the ancient wisdom of the Xian monks*. xi+140 pages, 8 figures. 2004. London: Souvenir; 0-285-63692-8 paperback £7.99.

The third annual review on *Ceramics in America* includes nine articles that range from studies of Staffordshire wares and potters to 'the chamber pot as a mirror of its time' (I.N. Hume) and 'collecting Long Island redware'. There follow notes on 'New discoveries' in the USA and Wales, and reviews. The volume has been splendidly produced. Enjoyably partisan, Dr SINGH provides historical and cultural context for Sikh coinage, which was struck in 1710-13 and 1765-1845.

Aurel Stein, among others, obtained parts of the collection discovered in the Library Cave at Dunhuang. These and other parts, according to RIEGERT & MOORE, included manuscripts in which principles of Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism combine with Christian elements.

A pair of fine books (next) have come in, making superb use of natural and (*Egypt*), or (*Metropolitan*), artificial light for recording ancient sculpture and carving in stone. In *Egypt*, the pictures speak, in large part, for themselves but they are accompanied by brief captions that provide some context in an appendix, and by a beautiful little note on the materials. *Light on stone* is this quarter's most elegant offering, life, indeed, 'as lively mock'd as ever Still sleep mock'd death'. Design, the paper and the binding are appropriately excellent.

HERVÉ CHAMPOLLION & DIANE SAROFIM HARLÉ *Egypt: stones of light* (tr. Toula Ballas). 144 pages, 120 colour photographs, colour

illustrations, 4 figures. 2003. New York (NY): Harry N. Abrams; 0-8198-4843-5 hardback £25.

JOSEPH COSCIA JR. & ELIZABETH J. MILLEKER. *Light on stone: Greek and Roman sculpture in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a photographic essay*. i+100 pages, 45 plates. 2003. New Haven (CT): Yale University Press; 0-300-09692-5 hardback £14.50.

Creative responses

CHRISTINE FINN. *Past poetic: archaeology in the poetry of W.B. Yeats and Seamus Heaney*. x+214 pages, 7 photographs. 2004. London: Duckworth; 0-7156-3237-X hardback £45.

MARTIN M. WINKLER (ed.). *Gladiator: film and history*. xii+215 pages, 26 figures. 2004. Malden (MA) & Oxford: Blackwell; 1-405-11043-0 hardback \$59.95 & £50, 1-405-11042-2 paperback \$24.95 & £15.99.

Yeats, who died in 1939, 'was attuned', explains FINN (p. 77), 'to the aesthetics of the archaeological process ... the artefacts ... rather than the process itself' where for Heaney, born that year, the latter (including 'divination and dowsing' [p. 147]) is 'a trope for poetry'. She attributes the contrast partly to changes in the practice and presentation of archaeology, including 'The breaking down of concrete meaning ... central to the contemporary critical theory of Ian Hodder and other[s]': 'Archaeologists and poets are transformers with the skills of "seers"; 'an empathetic concern' ... (pp. 147-8).

On the recent 'hit' film, *Gladiator*, WINKLER presents ten essays on its sources, its place in 'traditions of historical cinema', and its faithfulness to history (two papers by cross academics, including a consultant to the production, one by a more philosophical one – Hollywood is for pleasure, not truth – and one arguing that 'a modern audience' was drawn 'into the emotions of an ancient Roman crowd

[p. 86]); and there are three contributions on resonances with political culture today. So how about *Troy*?

Reference

JOHN ONIANS (ed.). *Atlas of world art*. 352 pages, colour & b&w figures. 2004. London: Laurence King; 1-85669-377-5 hardback £75.

PAUL G. BAHN (ed.). *Atlas of world archaeology*. 208 pages, colour & b&w illustrations. 2003. London: B.T. Batsford; 0-7134-8899-1 hardback £20.

The sweeping and lively annotated graphic work familiar for archaeology since 1980 has now been applied to art history. The *Atlas* opens with a section on the Palaeolithic (by P. Bahn) and ones on 5000-500 BC and 500 BC to AD 600 (by M. Henig and other archaeologists). It will be interesting to see how art historians enjoy it. Dr BAHN's own atlas has been reprinted (reviewed in these pages, Vol. 74 p. 902).

NIELS PETER LEMCHE. *Historical dictionary of ancient Israel* (Historical Dictionaries of Ancient Civilizations and Historical Eras No. 13). x+303 pages. 2004. Lanham (MD): Scarecrow; 0-8108-4649-7 hardback.

GWENDOLYN LEICK. *Historical dictionary of Mesopotamia* (Historical Dictionaries of Ancient Civilizations and Historical Eras No. 9). xiii+187 pages, 1 map. 2003. Lanham (MD): Scarecrow; 0-8108-4649-7 hardback.

The solid entries on *ancient Israel*, varied appropriately in detail from 'Aaron' to 'Zipporah' and 'Zobah', 'administration', 'fortifications' or 'Ugarit', are accompanied by a long bibliography in eight sections including 33 subsections. The preface provides a succinct historical framework. The *dictionary of Mesopotamia* provides equivalent treatment and cover.

GÜNTHER BINDING. *Medieval building techniques* (tr. Alex Cameron). 216 pages, figures. 2004. Stroud: Tempus; 0-7524-2882-9 paperback £25.

Adze, Augur; Builder's hut [we know about that]; Handsaw and Hawk [had Hamlet dug too, then?]; Punch, Ramp, Rod; Wheelbarrow, Winch, Windlass ... The index leads to 673 Medieval European sketches and paintings or sets of sketches. After more than 30 years in Germany, it is very good to have Prof. BINDING's resource in English.

Into paperback

The first title was reviewed in this column in Vol. 76 p. 574, the second in Vol. 75 p. 206, and the third in Vol. 74 p. 714.

JAMES E. SNEAD. *Ruins and rivals: the making of Southwest archaeology*. xxvi+227 pages, 18 figures. 2003. Tucson (AZ): University of Arizona Press; 0-8165-2397-5 paperback \$17.95.

JULIAN D. RICHARDS. *Viking Age England* (2nd ed.). 254 pages, 55 figures. 2004. Stroud: Tempus; 0-7524-2888-8 paperback £12.99.

ROY MACLEOD (ed.). *The library of Alexandria: centre of learning in the ancient world*. xii+196 pages, 1 figure. 2004. London: I.B. Tauris; 1-85043-594-4 paperback £14.95.

REVIEWS OF BOOKS etc.

On 1 January, responsibility for Review will move to York. Items for our attention from then should be sent to:

Reviews Editor, Antiquity, King's Manor, York YO1 7EP England.

Until then, Nicholas James remains Reviews Editor, whose address is printed at our front cover.