

# Reviews

## New Book Chronicle

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In one way or another all the books featured in this chronicle's selection are about how things are done in archaeology. How to record and dig sites, how to manage landscapes, how to present them, how it was done in the past. This leads to some thinking aloud on the theme of 'best practice' while also highlighting some outstanding achievements, indeed 'best practice' without the prescription.

### Down on site

Our first three books take us onto site, from the very specific (Pavel on context records), via the comprehensive (Tassie & Owen's excavation manual) to the more general (Drewett's second edition introduction to field archaeology).

CĂTĂLIN PAVEL. *Describing and interpreting the past: European and American approaches to the written record of the excavation*. 262 pages, 100 figures. 2010. Bucharest: University of Bucharest; 978-973-737-881-1 paperback New Lei 33.

G.J. TASSIE & L.S. OWENS. *Standards of archaeological excavation: a field guide* (Egyptian Cultural Heritage Organisation Monograph Series 1). xxiv+576 page, 195 figures, 49 tables, CD-ROM. 2010. London: Golden House; 978-1-906137-17-5 paperback £39.99.

PETER L. DREWETT. *Field archaeology: an introduction*. xviii+182 pages, 100 illustrations. Second edition 2011 (first published in 1999 by UCL Press). Abingdon & New York: Routledge; 978-0-415-55118-2 hardback; 978-0-203-8307-1 ebook; 978-0-415-55119-9 paperback £21.99.

CĂTĂLIN PAVEL's book on *European and American approaches to the written record of the excavation* is a University of Bucharest doctoral dissertation which included a period of study at Oxford under the guidance of Gary Lock. Pavel's task was to collect and analyse the different forms used for recording strata and assemblages on excavations in Europe, America and the Near East. She collected 60 examples, from Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Iceland, Israel,

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Jordan, Greece (Knossos and the American School of Classical Studies at Athens), Turkey (the University of Tübingen at Troy), the USA, Cuba, Canada (the University of Toronto at Madaba), Australia (La Trobe University at Marki in Cyprus), Africa (UCL expeditions to Volubilis and Mali) and she has done us a great service by reproducing all these forms in 100 pages of figures — the last 2 figures being her own design for recording archaeological contexts and features in Romania. These are accompanied by an 80-page commentary on the pro formae and the systems of recording governing this activity. The book also contains 60 pages of introductory discussions and a short conclusion.

The figures and commentary are the most useful part of the book and we must thank Pavel for bringing to the attention of excavators the variety of systems used by institutions and companies, thus dispelling the idea that there is only one way (or adaptations of one system) to record deposits 'properly'. She contributes pertinent insights and useful observations, for example on the relationship between contexts and features (the latter also named locus, installation, structure, group, set, complex, *Befundkomplex*, *fait*, *unité de fouille englobante* or even 'built-in site furniture') and on stratigraphic diagrams or Harris Matrixes [sic]. She champions the latter, but some archaeologists might object to the statement that '*A revolution in the way sites are recorded was brought about by the novel approach in thinking [sic] archaeological sites pioneered by Harris's vision of stratigraphic units, and firstly applied by the Department of Urban Archaeology at the GPO site in 1975*' (p. 62). This overlooks the innovations of York for example (see p. 4 of Tassie & Owen's manual, below, which gives credit to Max Foster at York in 1972) and no doubt many other examples elsewhere. It is tempting to point out what the book does not contain, but this would be ungracious. Nevertheless there seems to be little analytical output aside some attempt at comparing and contrasting various systems, for example for recording walls (pp. 119–20). Pavel was hampered, as she points out, by the fact that only some of her case studies contained recorded examples.

<http://antiquity.ac.uk/ant/085/ant0850690.htm>

Thus she could only study instances of 'how it should be done' and not 'how it was done'. That is what is needed: a systematic study of the recorded elements of context records, their outcome in post-excavation analysis, their usefulness or redundancy. I would for example like to see a soil scientist take a long hard look, if he or she can bear it, at our (I suspect often inadequate) descriptions of soil matrices, compaction or inclusions, and tell us, based on the actual deposits and on thousands of archaeologically recorded examples, not just a few done with 'best practice' in mind, what they really think of them. If nothing else, it could give us more incentive when on a wet and windy day we lose the will to live, the last biro has packed up and we could not care less whether the inclusions in the nth context are sub-angular and whether they make up 20 or 25% of the soil matrix.

Pavel's book represents the necessary preliminary stage of a more comprehensive study; she must be commended for providing the basis for an in-depth look at the written records produced on archaeological sites.

Despite the variety of recording systems in use, it is true that there are large areas of consensus when planning and carrying out an excavation. This is what TASSIE & OWENS's *Standards of archaeological excavation*, published by the Egyptian Cultural Heritage Organisation, explains. The impetus for writing the manual was, after 'extensive reviews of the various methods used by foreign missions working in Egypt and around the world', ... 'to garner the very best methodologies currently being used', ... 'to establish standards and conventions that can be used (and, if wished, adapted and built upon) on any site in Egypt, Western Asia and Africa' (p. xxii). Some elements are indeed more appropriate to those regions (e.g. an extensive section dealing with mud brick accompanied by 23 pages of illustrations of said mud bricks) but the book could be used in many other parts of the world too. The volume is compendious, clear, up-to-date and well illustrated, including many helpful diagrams. Although it contains plenty of instances of technological advances (e.g. in surveying) it also explains basic principles, thus ensuring that it can be used by outfits that do not have all the latest kit. I was impressed by many things, for example the detailed description of the purpose behind taking various samples, not just sampling procedure (although that is comprehensive too, e.g. sampling for DNA, pp. 127–9), or the different

capabilities and layout of pumping systems (pp. 133–6) or the tables and glossaries. The book is well laid out, includes seven appendices including recording forms and guidelines. Mistakes are few: I noticed the odd principal for principle (p. 446), sun-Saharan Africa raised a smile (p. 329), there are missing words in the diagram on p. 186 and some of the illustrations on pp. 389–91 are duplicated. I have no doubt that the book will be successful, and with its ready-made full recording system downloadable from the accompanying CD is bound to be taken up.

But there is the rub. There is a fine line between presenting consensus and imposing 'best practice' and we must tread carefully when doing so. In Tassie and Owen's manual the line is crossed quite abruptly. The comprehensive and open first part of the book (chapters 1–6) gives way to a second part (chapters 7–11 on the written, drawn, photographic stratigraphic and finds record) which prescribes exactly how 49 different recording sheets should be filled in. Is this standardisation (albeit also advocating keeping non-standard field notebooks, p. 177) entirely a good thing? More about this below (see 'Back to site').

PETER DREWETT'S accessible *Field archaeology* has reached its second, revised edition 12 years after first publication, showing that there is indeed appetite for books that expose 'general principles, approaches and techniques' (Preface) without all the detail of a manual such as Tassie and Owen's. Given the changes that have taken place in British archaeology (as indeed Drewett's book is largely based on British archaeological practice, although there are examples from China, the US and Barbados) over the intervening years, the contention that '*much in field archaeology has not changed in the last ten years, and indeed in the last 100 years*' (p. xiii) may come as a surprise. What Drewett means is that principles of excavation have not changed, but that there have been changes in three areas: technical (the digital revolution), theoretical, and in heritage management (British law). Consequently there are few changes in this second edition. The cover is now in colour (same site, Hadleigh, but reversed) and changes noted in the text include: SMRs changed to HERs, Lidar survey added, as have new passages on geophysics including ground-penetrating radar, sections on GIS and GPS, elements of the British legal framework (e.g. the Portable Antiquities Scheme), new text on photography and digital cameras, or archaeological archiving (the British Archaeological Data Service). Some photographs have been replaced, a few added,

some references (e.g. to environmental archaeology) updated and sometimes single words have been changed (e.g. the 1999 Amerindians are now Native Americans). What is perhaps more surprising is what has not been revisited. A few examples are: ‘*much has been written in recent years* [citing references to 1975 and 1977 in both editions] *about how the distribution of artefacts can be interpreted in terms of trade and ways of redistribution*’ (1999: 173; 2011: 161); the passage dealing with computer-aided illustration seems to be the same in 2011 (p. 165) as it was in 1999 (p. 177); and finally it may no longer be true that ‘*most archaeological publications use only black and white photographs*’ (1999: 182; 2011: 169). So indeed little seems to have changed; true or not it remains that Drewett’s *Field archaeology* is a companionable introduction to archaeological fieldwork, with a good balance between survey and excavation.

## Out and about

Leaving site-based archaeology aside for a while, let us take a look at books concerned with the landscape in which they exist: two deal with management and conservation, a third is a guide to prehistoric Hungary.

STEPHEN TROW, VINCENT HOLYOAK & EMMET BYRNES (ed.). *Heritage management of farmed and forested landscapes in Europe* (EAC Occasional Paper 4). 184 pages, 108 colour & b&w illustrations, 8 tables. 2010. Brussels: Europae Archaeologia Consilium; 978-963-9911-17-8 €30.

M. DE BOER and numerous collaborators. *Erfgoedbalans 2009. Archeologie, monumenten en cultuurlandschap in Nederland*. 300 pages, numerous colour & b&w illustrations & tables. 2009. Amersfoort: Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed, Ministerie van Ondersijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap; 978-90-7604-662-4 hardback.

ERZSÉBET JEREM & ZSOLT MESTER (ed.). *Prehistoric communities and collections in Hungary* (Itinerarium Hungaricum 2). 264 pages, numerous colour & b&w illustrations, 2010. Budapest: Archaeolingua 978-963-8046-91-8 paperback €20.

Like previous volumes in the Europae Archaeologia Consilium Occasional Papers series, *Heritage management of farmed and forested landscapes in Europe*, edited by TROW, HOLYOAK & BYRNES, contains many excellent large colour photographs, maps and diagrams, making the subject far more appealing than its title promises. The book is the result of sessions held at conferences in Lyon in 2004, Dublin in 2008

and Riva del Garda in 2009 with further invited papers. In all 36 authors from 13 countries contribute 23 articles concerned mainly with assessing the state of archaeological preservation in the farmlands and forested areas of Europe (which account for 40 and 47 per cent respectively). Well, not quite all, as only northern, western and eastern Europe are represented, leaving out the south which is certainly not devoid of pasture, farmland and forests (see diagram and map on p. 11). That aside, the contributions are excellent overviews of the state of play and the types of intervention in place, trying to reconcile the needs of those who exploit the landscape with the concerns of heritage managers. Although the book is primarily for them, there is also much to be learnt by archaeologists about site formation, for example in papers about environmental monitoring of archaeological deposits in Norway (Vibeke Vandrup Martens) or on the results from a research project in England designed to assess the impact of tillage on surface and sub-surface archaeology (Vincent Holyoaks).

Equally lavishly produced is another heritage management volume from the Netherlands: *Erfgoedbalans 2009. Archeologie, monumenten en cultuurlandschap in Nederland*. This data-heavy Dutch government publication (Heritage review 2009, with English summaries on pp. 285–98) is not intended for general reading but is nevertheless useful for appreciating the types of challenges developed, deregulated countries face at present. Such challenges include large high-impact infrastructure projects, wind turbines, opencast mining or problems associated with climate change and changes in the water table; institutional ones include the implementation of a national research agenda but the devolution of responsibility to provinces, the decentralisation of knowledge bases and fragmentation of archaeological agencies (‘*90 per cent of archaeological work is currently performed in a commercial setting*’, p. 293) or compliance and quality control. For the latter Dutch archaeologists have to meet the requirement of a Quality Standard for excavations (KNA) — ‘best practice’ again — but ‘*a third of archaeological project outlines* [were found to be] *below standard*’; most fieldwork was assessed as ‘fair’ and research reports as ‘adequate’ (p. 294). The overall tone seems quite pessimistic. But to readers outside the Netherlands, there also seem to be many causes for congratulation, including my favourite statistic, that ‘*over a quarter of the population* [of the Netherlands] *visited an excavation or archaeological presentation in 2004*’ (p. 290). As we shall also see in the next book, the lesson is to generate interest in

all quarters to create support for archaeology, as the Dutch seem to have achieved admirably.

ERZSÉBET JEREM & ZSOLT MESTER's guide to prehistoric sites, monuments and museums of Hungary, *Prehistoric communities and collections in Hungary*, is a great pocket-sized resource, packing in a vast amount of information in 264 pages with hundreds of (small) colour illustrations; these include site and landscape views, maps, plans, object illustrations, reconstructions, museum interiors and a chronological table detailing the succession of cultures identified in Hungary for the period between 350 000 BP and the late Iron Age. It is a model of how such guidebooks can be organised, giving information on access, succinct research histories, what was found, what is still visible, what it adds to knowledge of the prehistoric past of the region and further afield, supported by relevant bibliographic references. The archaeological traveller is also helped by a series of Indexes, alphabetically by site, by site organised within periods, by site type, as well as by symbols on the maps on the inside flaps of the front and back covers. What is particularly enlightened is the decision to combine what is still visible and representative with what has been lost to development or natural agencies, illustrated by photographs from past excavations and archive documentation. Take for example the tell site of Tószeg-Laposhalom (pp. 216–17) on the river Tisza in south-eastern Hungary, whose 8m stratigraphy was reduced by floods to less than 5m by the 1970s, or the area of Sopron in the north-west (pp. 71–82), known for its hillforts (Várhely/Burgstall, Károly/Warichsberg) and museum but here also incorporating the findings from rescue excavations at Krautacker, a multiperiod Urnfield, Hallstatt and La Tène settlement and cemetery now almost eradicated but illustrated by photographs of the features and assemblages as well as by reconstructions of the buildings, now in the Százhalombatta Archaeological Park near Budapest (p. 53). This judicious choice is what makes this guide fulfil its multiple aims: to inform tourists and to kindle an interest in the cultural landscape in everyone, local or foreign. Indeed archaeology can only be successful if supported by 'non-specialists who in their daily lives come into contact with the still visible and buried relics of the past. Without the involvement and support of farmers, miners, construction workers, hikers and other folks, the protection of the heritage is an endless and virtually hopeless struggle' (p. 7). I do not know if there are plans to publish this book in Hungarian too, but it would be a

good way of promoting the aims of archaeology to local people, developers and authorities. I hope such a format will be emulated elsewhere in Europe and unreservedly recommend this guidebook: an indispensable travelling companion to Hungary and an inspiration for guidebook writers anywhere.

## Back to site

JOHN COLES. *Experimental archaeology*. x+274 pages, 83 illustrations. Reprint 2010 (first published in 1979 by Academic Press). Caldwell (NJ): Blackburn Press; 978-1-932846-26-3 paperback \$39.95.

RICHARD F. GILLESPIE & AGNES KERRIGAN. *Of troughs and tuyères: the archaeology of the N5 Charlestown bypass* (National Roads Authority Scheme Monograph series 6). xii+412 page, 286 b&w&colour illustrations, CD-ROM. 2010. Dublin: National Roads Authority; 978-0-9564180-0-5 paperback

MICHAEL STANLEY, ED DANAHER & JAMES EOGAN (ed.). *Creative minds: proceedings of a public seminar on archaeological discoveries on National Road schemes, August 2009* (Archaeology and the National Roads Authority Monograph series 7). x+146 pages, 83 b&w & colour illustrations. 2010. Dublin: National Roads Authority; 978-0-9564180-2-9 paperback.

Striking in the Hungarian guide is the number of open air and experimental museums designed to promote archaeology and test hypotheses. On this topic, let us greet an old friend, JOHN COLES' 1979 *Experimental archaeology*, reprinted by the Blackburn Press in the USA. Skimming again though its authoritative and well-written text, I was reminded how relevant so much is more than 30 years on. Here a few quotes which lead us back to recording and excavation:

(On the relationship between excavation and experiment): '... it could be argued that by adhering to traditional methods of excavation, archaeologists are perpetuating the mistakes of their predecessors and gaining little but repetitive information ... there is still a case for adopting bolder experiments in recovery techniques, particularly in different approaches to the same site [my emphasis] in order to provide suggestions about the reliability of the evidence (p. 34).

(On methodology): 'The only criticism should be directed at those who stop short at one or another stage of the enquiry ... all should be included in any honest attempt to get through the barriers thrown

up by time, namely the alteration and erosion of the evidence' (p. 244). This leads to a call for experimental examination of excavation techniques in order to expand the possibilities for recovery for new and more data' (p. 249). Amen to all that; even if recording methods and technology have developed in the intervening years, Coles is a clear champion for keeping our minds open and our techniques appropriate to conditions.

Indeed, nearly all books on field archaeology examined above begin with exhorting archaeologists to remain flexible and pointing out that many ways of approaching sites exist, but then the trend is to expose 'best practice'; usually 'this is how we do it' (and therefore 'this is how you should do it'). It is a difficult circle to square. Quite rightly textbooks for undergraduates and archaeologists starting in their career need to explain the experience and procedures developed in field practice. I was impressed by *Standards of archaeological excavation* and would recommend this fieldguide. Yet the title *Standards* grates, as does its prescriptive (even colonial) approach to recording. It is undeniably useful: download the system and you are set up. But then how do you also make archaeologists think about how and why they work the way they do and encourage innovation beyond technical adaptation as Coles advocated in 1979? A starting point might be to agree that while high standards are expected these standards are not set in concrete and that we must keep the debate about how to approach sites alive (see for example Carver's *Archaeological investigation* reviewed in *Antiquity* 85: 296–7, <http://www.antiquity.ac.uk/reviews/fokkens327.html>).

But the world of mitigation and commercial archaeology has little time for such debate. What professional units in the western and northern world responding to the increased pace of development apply is clear protocols. This is demonstrated by the enormous amount of excavation undertaken in conjunction with the major road building programme of the National Roads Authority (NRA) in Ireland. The extent, quality of excavation and recording of sites (judging by the plans, sections and photographs) by commercial companies contracted by the NRA is impressive, as is the NRA's enlightened policy of speedy publication, both of site reports (for example *Of troughs and tuyères* by GILLESPIE & KERRIGAN, the sixth report in their monograph series) and of research associated with the findings on NRA projects, presented in annual public seminars (for

example *Creative minds*, the seventh such seminar which took place in August 2009 and is now edited and published by STANLEY, DANAHER & EOGAN; this volume also contains an obituary of Dáire O'Rourke, first Head of Archaeology at the NRA who died prematurely in 2010). Leafing through both volumes is an instant visual education, provided by the abundance of pre-excitation and excavation colour shots of features and structures. If you want to see what a souterrain, *fullachta fiadh* (burnt mound with associated timber troughs), iron working structure or charcoal burning pit look like in the ground, these volumes are excellent places to start. Both are mainly concerned with production, manufacture and consumption. Specifically so in *Creative minds*, with papers on a variety of artefact classes (lithics, spindle whorls, prehistoric pottery, wooden artefacts), as well as processes (iron smelting and smithing, charcoal burning), in a number of cases informed by the findings of experimental archaeology. I was particularly interested in the last three papers: on a Late Bronze Age unfinished wheel found at Edercloon, Co. Longford, the earliest such wheel found in Ireland, found on a causeway that could not have carried heavy wheeled transport; on an early monastic site at Clonfad, Co. Westmeath, with enclosures and a production site for making iron handbells; and on charcoal burning pits and how to identify them. *Troughs and tuyères* is a collection of reports, supported by specialist reports in the accompanying CD, of sites excavated on the Charleston bypass in Co. Mayo in western Ireland. The 52 sites encountered are grouped into main categories and their major components given prominence: Neolithic settlement at Sonnagh; a possible timber circle with Grooved Ware at Lowpark; a large number of well preserved timber troughs and burnt spreads (*fullachta fiadh*) of the Bronze Age and later, perhaps used for cooking (though other possibilities are envisaged, pp. 150–3); early medieval ringforts at Cloonaghboy and Lowpark, the latter producing extensive evidence for ironworking (thus the tuyères of the title) as well as a lovely gold filigree panel; and finally later structures in the Co. Mayo landscape (more charcoal burning pits, vernacular buildings, limekilns and other structures). This type of synthetic report presenting the evidence in succinct form strikes me as a successful formula; occasionally less convincing is the interpretative element, adhering perhaps too readily to the trend for seeing agency at work in anything and everything (e.g. 'token deposits' for fragments of Neolithic pottery at Lowpark, which

could have derived from middens, p. 185; admittedly they were found in pits with other evidence for deliberate deposition).

## Looking back

In the earlier twentieth century archaeological priorities were obviously different; two books, one a photographic presentation of the work of Sir John Marshall, Director of the Archaeological Survey of India (1902–1928, thereafter on Special Duty in India until 1934), the other the autobiography of one of the founders of Australian archaeology, John Mulvaney (1925–), remind us what systematic archaeological enquiry over vastly dispersed areas entailed. Quite a humbling experience, which puts our present day archaeological practice into perspective.

SUDESHNA GUHA (ed.). *The Marshall albums: photography and archaeology*. 288 pages, 130 illustrations. 2010. New Delhi: The Alkazi Collection of Photography in association with Mapin & Ocean Township (NJ): Grantha Corporation; 978-81-89995-32-4 (Mapin); 978-1-890206-45-1 (Grantha) hardback £45.

JOHN MULVANEY. *Digging up a past*. xiv+348 pages, 32 illustrations. 2011. Sydney: University of New South Wales Press; 978-1-742-23219-5 hardback AU\$59.95.

*The Marshall albums* is a sumptuously produced book with excellent, sharp monochrome plates, skilfully edited by SUDESHNA GUHA and containing enlightening essays by the editor (Introduction, Photographs in Sir John Marshall's archaeology, Appendices, Bibliography and Catalogue) as well as by Michael Dodson (Orientalism and archaeology in South Asia, 1600–1860), Tapati Guha-Thakurta (Sanchi Stupa), Christopher Pinney ('Buddhist' photography) and Robert Harding (Cunningham, Marshall and the Buddhist landscape). The photographic element showcases the photographs held in the Alkazi Collection in New Delhi as well as other photographs and documents held at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in Cambridge, in the British Library and other British institutions; it features more images showing the recording, conservation and presentation of extant monuments — a huge task in itself — than photographs depicting archaeological excavations but these are not neglected. The essays stress that we should approach Marshall's and the Archaeological

Survey of India's work not as some nostalgic trip down memory lane (although there are plenty of images that evoke British colonial days) but on its own terms: the photographs '*should not be read as interpretations of the "colonial gaze"*. Rather they ought to be perceived as artefacts of archaeological practice that endowed archaeology with the values of a unique disciplinary science' (p. 30). Among many themes explored in this book, that of archaeological practice is best documented by Guha's chapter (3) where she analyses the motives behind Marshall's interventions and photographic recording; in particular the role of photography to create 'facts' (p. 140), the sense of order created by restoring or clearing monuments (see for example the 'before' and 'after' shots of Akbari Bridge at Jaunpur, sadly cleared of their 'Modern additions' between 1916 and 1918, pp. 146–7). She contributes a sensitive assessment of the excavation imagery created by Marshall and Wheeler (Director of the Archaeological Survey of India in the 1940s, keen to emphasise the chaos of earlier excavations compared to the order of his own regime) and suggests that Marshall was just as capable as Wheeler when it came to '*creating perspectives on archaeological evidence*' (p. 160), taking Mohenjodaro, Harappa and the birth of the Indus Civilisation in the 1920s as an example.

JOHN MULVANEY has rightly been described as the 'father of Australian archaeology' and his autobiography, *Digging up a past*, contains that fatherly quality. Reading it, I could not help picturing a fatherly figure, a mixture of insightful reminiscence, sharp wit, occasional petulance and kindly advice, the whole suffused with deep humanism. If this makes him into a teddy-bear that is not the intention: Mulvaney is a fighter, a wartime RAF-trained one to boot. Following a childhood in rural New South Wales and wartime service in England, he returned to Australia to graduate in ancient history from the University of Melbourne, teaching there until in 1951 he won a scholarship to study at Cambridge in the days of Grahame Clark, Charles McBurney and Glyn Daniel. His English experience, and fieldwork in Libya, equipped him to establish, together with Jack Golson and later with Isabel McBryde, the study of prehistory in Australia, at the Universities of Melbourne and the ANU at Canberra. Marriage to Jean Campbell, life with a family of six children and fieldwork in stratified rock shelter deposits followed, as did the famous discovery of 'Mungo Lady' in 1969. Later life sees him increasingly engaged with political

issues (including the controversies around returning Aboriginal remains to their descendant communities recounted in chapter 16; see also his 1991 'Past regained, future lost: the Kow Swamp Pleistocene burials' in *Antiquity* 65: 12–21 where he advocates the creation of 'keeping places').

There are inevitably some longueurs in the book (e.g. rather too much on his exams or on committee politics). There is a chapter somewhat strangely entitled 'Years with Jean, 1995–2004', which, although warm towards Jean and understandably discreet about her death in 2004, features mainly Mulvaney's travels and lecturing engagements and sketches of deceased friends. I would love to have read more about Jean, by John's account a wonderful companion, teacher, and a woman of great capabilities. She is introduced on p. 76 where the author describes her youthful 3-year, largely solo, bicycle trip around Australia, doing all sorts of jobs to keep going, including labouring in a mine and employed to shoot crocodiles and buffalo! But Mulvaney tells us 'Jean rarely discussed her activities and scorned all suggestions of writing a book.'

Now 96 and remarried, Mulvaney can look back, and we with him, on a century in which archaeology has moved from having to start from scratch to a highly professionalised discipline. He maintains, though, that '*the exposition of the results, in my opinion, depends upon intuitive, even value-laden thought. ... Over subsequent years my views have remained unaltered, confirmed by the output of "objective" and dull writing by humourless practitioners; this is not the story of humanity*' (p. 149). Intuitive and value-laden is debatable, but I would entirely agree with him that archaeological enquiry must remain creative, must not allow 'best practice' to fossilise it.

## Books received

The list includes all books received between 1 December 2010 and 1 March 2011. Those featuring at the beginning of New Book Chronicle have, however, not been duplicated in this list. The listing of a book in this chronicle does not preclude its subsequent review in *Antiquity*.

## General

BENOÎT DUBREUIL. *Human evolution and the origin of hierarchies: the state of nature*. xv+271 pages, 13

illustrations, 5 tables. 2010. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 978-0-521-76948-8 hardback £55 & \$85.

A. BRUCE MAINWARING, ROBERT GIEGENGACK, CLAUDIO VITA-FINZI (ed.). *Climate crises in human history*. vii+216 pages, 57 illustrations. 2010. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society; 978-1-60618-921-4 paperback.

BILL FINLAYSON & GRAEME M. WARREN. *Changing natures: hunter-gatherers, first farmers and the modern world*. 144 pages, 15 illustrations. 2010. London: Duckworth; 978-0-7156-3813-2 paperback £12.99.

FREDRIK FAHLANDER & ANNA KJELLSTRÖM (ed.). *Making sense of things: archaeologies of sensory perception* (Stockholm Studies in Archaeology 53). viii+152 pages, 34 b&w & colour illustrations. 2010. Stockholm: Department of Archaeology and Classical History, Stockholm University; 978-91-978257-2-6 paperback.

CHRISTOPHER EHRET. *History and the testimony of language*. xii+274 pages, 18 figures, 34 tables. 2011. Berkeley (CA): University of California Press; 978-0-520-26205-8 paperback £20.95.

M. JAY STOTTMAN (ed.). *Archaeologists as activists: can archaeologists change the world?* viii+208 pages, 13 illustrations, 2 tables. 2010. Tuscaloosa (AL): University of Alabama Press; 978-0-8173-1712-6 hardback \$46; 978-0-8173-8442-e-book \$23.96; 978-0-8173-5622-4 paperback \$29.95.

TIFFANY JENKINS. *Contesting human remains in museum collections: the crisis of cultural authority*. x+174 pages, 2011. Abingdon & New York: Routledge; 978-0-415-87960-6 hardback £70; 978-0-203-84131-0 e-book.

## European pre and protohistory

PAUL PETTITT. *The Palaeolithic origins of human burial*. xii+308 pages, 77 illustrations, 9 tables. 2011. Abingdon & New York: Routledge; 978-0-415-35489-9 hardback; 978-0-415-35490-5 paperback £22.99; 978-0-203-00155-4 ebook.

LUDOVIC SLIMAK (ed.). *Artisanats et territoires des chasseurs moustériens de Champ Grand* (Artisanats et Territoires 1). 432 pages, numerous colour & b&w illustrations & tables. 2008. Aix-en-Provence: Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme; 978-2-9529587-0-7 paperback €50.

DETLEF GRONENBORN & JÖRG PETRASCH (ed.). *Die Neolithisierung Mitteleuropas / The spread of the Neolithic to Central Europe* (RGZM Tagungen 4). 2 volumes, xiv+660 pages, numerous illustrations & tables, 14 colour plates. 2010. Mainz: Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum; 978-3-88467-159-7 paperback.

CHANTAL CONNELLER. *An archaeology of materials: substantial transformations in early prehistoric Europe*. x+158 pages, 21 illustrations, 1 table. 2011. London & New York: Routledge; 978-0-415-88130-2 hardback £75; 978-0-203-83372-8 ebook.

JAN ALBERT BAKKER. *Megalithic research in the Netherlands, 1547–1911: from ‘Giant’s beds’ and ‘Pillars of Hercules’ to accurate investigations*. viii+318 pages, 67 illustrations. 2010. Leiden: Sidestone; 978-90-8890-034-1 paperback.

CLAUDE BURNEZ. *Le Camp à Challignac (Charente) au III<sup>e</sup> millénaire av. J.-C.: un établissement complexe de la culture d’Artenac dans le centre-ouest de la France* (British Archaeological Reports International Series 2165). 494 pages, 210 illustrations, 10 tables. 2010. Oxford: Archaeopress; 978-1-4073-0709-1 paperback.

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