

## THESIS EXTRACTS

### **The domestic lives of Brisbane's working class: archaeological evidence from 1 William Street**

**Hannah Craig-Ward:** BA(Hons) School of Social Science, The University of Queensland, 2016

While historical archaeological investigations have been conducted in central Brisbane in the past, very few have focussed on the domestic lives of the working class. In 2013, Environmental Resources Management Pty Ltd (ERM) excavated 1 William Street, a working class site located in a heavily urbanised area in Brisbane's Central Business District. This site possesses an extensive history spanning the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, featuring mercantile shipping, warehousing, industry, and domestic occupation. This thesis interprets the character of the domestic lives of Brisbane's working class based on the historical and archaeological record of 1 William Street. Historical research regarding Brisbane's working class was also undertaken to establish a general context for the residents of 1 William Street and understand their economic environment. An analysis of the ceramics and glassware from the domestic contexts on the site was conducted in order to infer the economic and social status, as well as the ideologies of the inhabitants. The results of this investigation appear to fit within the broad context of an Australian working class site, with evidence of varying income and status within the neighbourhood, the integration of work and domestic spheres, in addition to the influence of Victorian ideology in the selection of tea- and table-wares. These results represent a significant contribution to knowledge of the domestic lives of working class people in early Brisbane, and further understanding of how the working class lived in Australia as a whole.

### **Funerary consumption in the second half of the nineteenth century in Brisbane, Queensland**

**Hilda E. Maclean:** PhD, School of Social Science, The University of Queensland, 2016

A plume decked hearse drawn by a pair of black horses is one of the most enduring and familiar images of the Victorian era. Death is universal yet little is really known about the business behind consigning the dead to the earth in our not so distant past. This thesis examines the consumption of funerary goods and services in Brisbane, the capital of the colony of Queensland, Australia between 1859 and 1901. Using a consumer behaviour theoretical framework, the consumption choices made by three categories of funerary consumers; individuals, institutions and intermediaries are examined. In this thesis, institutions are the facilities where deaths occurred and the consumption was made by corporate bodies. The intermediaries are the undertakers who facilitated and mediated the purchases made by the other two categories, while being consumers of goods and services in their own right. As existing consumption models do not adequately address all of these categories, a new model for funerary consumption is proposed.

This research project developed from the 2000–2002 archaeological salvage excavation of the former North Brisbane Burial Grounds (NBBG) which operated between 1843 and 1875. A number of artefacts were recovered from 397 burials, providing a subset of funerary goods that were

actually consumed but not the total range and value of goods which were available for purchase at the time. Documentary evidence was sought as to the origin and cost of these goods in an attempt to learn more about the consumption choices made by Brisbane residents. However, an incomplete documentary record meant that disparate strands of evidence were scrutinised together, and to assist in that process the archaeological record and existing models of consumption were examined.

This thesis answers the question: *What factors influenced the consumption of funerary goods and services in Brisbane in the last half of the 19th century?* All surviving undertakers' records in the location and period were examined for evidence of consumption. These were cross-referenced with existing cemetery records and sorted by grave class allowing for the consumption of individuals to be grouped. As a single grave class was exclusively used by institutional consumers, this allowed for these burials to be examined separately, showing a different process of institutional acquisition of burial services to those funerals arranged by the family and friends of the deceased.

The Funerary Consumption Model (FCM) was developed to show the consumption pattern of both individual and institutional consumers, with the intermediary (i.e. the undertaker) mediating their purchasing decisions. Then the factors which influence consumer decision making processes e.g. marketing, reference groups etc. were added to the model. The FCM can also be applied to the consumption of funerary services in other jurisdictions and time periods.

### **A tale of two cities: nineteenth-century consumer behaviour in Melbourne and Buenos Aires**

**Pamela Ricardi:** PhD, Department of Archaeology and History, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, La Trobe University, 2015

This thesis compares consumer behaviour in two nineteenth-century peripheral cities, Melbourne and Buenos Aires. It provides an analysis of the domestic archaeological assemblages of two sites (Lot 35) Casselden Place in Melbourne and La Casa Peña in Buenos Aires. Both sites were located in inner-city working-class neighbourhoods and were largely populated by recently arrived immigrants. The thesis also provides a documentary analysis of trade networks and explores the types of goods arriving into each city. Differences and similarities between the assemblages and the archival data are then compared, leading to an exploration of the aims of this thesis, which are essentially to explore the role of consumer choice, ethnicity and life in working-class neighbourhoods on consumer behaviour.

The significance of the approach adopted in this study is that it crosses socio-political divides and compares a site within a British colony to a site in a former Spanish colony in South America. It was expected that the archaeological and archival data would reveal a set of two distinctive results from two such geographically and ethnically different cities associated with independent political networks. Although differences were certainly noted, these were small in comparison to the broad similarities that were also observed. The similarities point to the impact of larger forces on consumer behaviour and the interconnectedness of the world during the period under study. Overall, the thesis demonstrates that there is a wealth of information that can be gained from international comparisons that include sites outside the British Empire.

## **Potluck: a comparative study of ceramics from the Chinese brick kiln, Bendigo**

**Caroline Seawright:** BA(Hons), La Trobe University, 2015

This thesis examines the ceramics assemblage of the Bendigo Chinese brick kiln and market garden dumpsite (H7724-0600). It compares the resultant consumption and discard patterns with those of other mid-1800s to early 1900s Chinese sites in Victoria and New South Wales, to understand what these artefacts reveal about the access by the nearby historic Ironbark Chinese camp to international trade networks.

To analyse the ceramic assemblage, the artefact collection was documented and sorted into broad categories, based on fabric, form, and function, and each entry given both a total sherd and minimum number of vessels count. From an understanding of typical Chinese and European vessel types, data was extracted and compared with that from the Port Albert Chinese fish curing establishment and Butcher's Gully miners' huts in Victoria, and various Chinese settlements in the Braidwood, Tumut, and Kiandra regions of New South Wales.

Despite intersite differences in artefact type, patterns emerged across these overseas Chinese sites. These communities were able to access both Chinese and British storagewares, kitchenwares, and tablewares, although levels of each differed across colonies. The consumption patterns, as revealed through artefact analysis, show the extent to which each site was able to access the transpacific trading network connecting each settlement to China. Furthermore, intersite comparisons provided a unique view into Chinese-Bendigonian trade networks.

The results of this thesis reveal how discard patterns at the H7724-0600 communal tip can identify the local community's trade networks in relation to the overseas Chinese-Australian cultural landscape.

## **Disembodied and displaced: an archaeological enquiry into the historical colonial south trade of Indigenous human remains and artefacts, and the contemporary repatriation and rehumanisation of Indigenous Australians from South Africa**

**Tahlia Stewart:** BA(Hons), Department of Archaeology, University of Western Australia, 2014

Iziko Museums of South Africa holds the crania of six Indigenous Australians, three with mandibles, and one with an associated stone implement. These were all accessioned between 1907 C.E. and 1916 C.E. and provenanced only to Australian state level – South Australia (3), Western Australia (2) and Victoria (1). Their partial and largely unprovenanced status makes their planned repatriation problematic, both practically and ethically.

South African-based research has been conducted on the identification of these individuals, identifying two named donors for the Victorian individual and stone implement, and one South Australian individual. I further this research by undertaking Australian-based archival, genealogical and museological research. Western Australian Museum textual archives and relevant records were examined but contained no identifiable information pertaining to the Western Australian individuals. Interstate museums' records were not accessible online and therefore their analysis was discarded. Compiling details found in genealogical records and historical newspaper social pages, I created genealogical timelines for the two

named donors, tracking their movements through their respective states to highlight potential collection locations for the two skulls and associated stone implement. Non-invasive anatomical techniques for determining familial relatedness were discussed as potential future directions.

This thesis built on the limited literature of how Archaeology can aid to repatriate and rehumanise the disembodied and displaced. I considered what non-invasive and invasive techniques may offer – and at what cost. Subject to proper consultation with relevant Indigenous and government bodies, scientific archaeological techniques may be useful tools for repatriation and aid in rehumanisation through assigning provenance, which forms a crucial part of Indigenous Australian cultural identity. I also investigated cultural methods of rehumanisation through previous repatriation case studies.

An unexpected product of my research was the extensive Colonial-era trade in Indigenous artefacts and human remains between southern hemisphere extensions of the British Empire, here termed the Colonial South. Previously this trade has been under researched, instead focusing on that driven by the Empirical Northern hemisphere, the Colonial North. I examined museum archives and historical Australian Newspaper articles detailing additions to Australian museums. Museum textual records indicated that the Colonial South trade [n=6] was not as prolific as that of the Colonial North [n=101]. This was greatly contradicted by historical newspaper records, which indicated that trade within the Colonial South [n=177] far outweighed that of trades with or among the Colonial North [n=8]. Many of these articles provided provenance details, coming from Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand and Africa. This indicates that such newspaper articles could provide valuable information regarding unprovenanced human remains held in Australian museums.

## **Working up an appetite. Foodways at the Nenthorn railway workers' camp**

**Clara Watson:** BA(Hons) University of Otago, 2015

The Nenthorn railway workers' camp was occupied between 1884 and 1887 during the construction of the Nenthorn section of the Otago Central Railway. The Nenthorn camp is the only New Zealand railway camp to have been excavated, with excavations taking place in 2013 and 2014. The site provides an opportunity to study what the lives of the men who built the railway, the navvies, were like. This dissertation will focus on foodways at the camp. Foodways approaches the study of food by looking at the different stages in food procurement, preparation and consumption by people. By looking at foodways, this dissertation will provide insight into the lives of the navvies living and working at Nenthorn.

## **The Badimia people at Ninghan Pastoral Station, Mid-West, Western Australia: impacts of pastoralism from the 1870s–1920s: a landscape archaeology approach**

**Stephen L. Wells:** MProfArch, University of Western Australia, 2015

Landscape archaeology provides an approach to examine the interaction between the physical and cultural landscapes of the Badimia people, who are the original occupants of Ninghan Pastoral Station (Ninghan) in the Mid-West of Western Australia. Changes to the lifeways of Badimia people from the

1880s through to the 1920s are discussed. Using data from historical documents, interviews with Badimia people, an archaeological investigation of Badimia pastoral worker camp sites at Ninghan homestead and the author's immersion in the Ninghan landscape, a series of landscape perspectives is developed and used to address the following:

- What effects has the ecological landscape around Ninghan had on the formation of the Badimia cultural landscape?
- How has human alteration of that landscape affected the ecology and biology of Ninghan and how has this impacted on traditional Badimia life?
- How are the ecological and cultural resources intertwined?

The applicability of the findings of this study to other pastoral areas is considered and recommendations for the future management of the heritage of Ninghan are provided.