

tell us something about where we stand in relation to past material culture.

The visit starts in the Pointe-à-Callière triangle, down through the five principal phases of European settlement: the major layer of the Royal Insurance Buildings/new customs house (1862-1950), the Berthelet store (1811-1850s), a residential/commercial phase (eighteenth century), an open common and fur trade market (seventeenth-eighteenth centuries) and the first cemetery (1642-1654), the whole overlying Palaeoindian casual occupation. The visitor then crosses the conduit which encases the former river and goes into the vast archaeological crypt under Place Royale. These remains are so massive and complex that advanced interpretation techniques are needed, a set of large-scale models of the area, interactive virtual reality figures and elaborate labelling on the various strata and section faces. From here one ascends via a temporary exhibition space into the neo-classical Old Customs House, which houses a more conventional display of pictorial and documentary material relating to the history of Montreal city. That display can be viewed separately, but combining the two approaches, underground and overground, does give the visitor a really more vivid sense of the past and its relation to the present. In-depth, profound, all the metaphors apply.

Australia followed Canada in the adoption of 'responsible government' in the nineteenth century. Perhaps it can follow it this century in responsible museology.

Aedeen Cremin  
University of Sydney

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## RESEARCH NOTES

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Two students in Prehistoric and Historical Archaeology at the University of Sydney are currently working on Honours Theses with historical archaeological topics. They have provided abstracts of their theses:

### *Privy Secrets?*

Investigations overseas of the organic remains excavated from latrines, privies and cesspits have yielded much rich and varied information on the diet and health of the former users of these structures,

building a more complete picture of peoples' lives in the past through the study of some classes of archaeological information that may otherwise be overlooked.

This thesis investigates the procedures used to recover organic material from latrine deposits, in particular the eggs of helminth parasites, the presence of which are a diagnostic tool for the positive identification of latrine deposits. The major part of this research involves the development of techniques suited to recovering these materials from Australian deposits. Material from two sites was analysed for this study: the latrine from the site of Regentville, near Penrith, and the cesspit from the Jobbins Buildings in the Rocks.

Claire Everett

### *Down in the Dumps*

Studies of refuse in archaeology have generally addressed refuse in terms of the content and material being disposed, and more recently the structures themselves. This thesis investigates refuse and the disposal of refuse on a macro scale. My particular case study will focus on the growth of the city of Sydney, covering roughly the period of European invasion to the 1950's. The major part of the thesis is addressing the location of dumps through time, in relation to other processes that are part of a cities growth, such as the transport and sewerage systems, main roads, residential areas and population. Research is primarily being conducted using archival data and excavation reports.

Kylie Seretis

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## BOOK NOTES

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Southover Press has been publishing a series of books on cookery and housekeeping in eighteenth and nineteenth-century England. The books are mainly reprints and are good primary sources, not just on what people were eating but also their social relations. To what extent they can be extrapolated to the Australian colony is problematic but several of the reprints have obvious relevance to our endeavour to know what life back then was like. *The Complete Servant*, first published in 1825, was written by a husband and wife who spent fifty years in service, ending up as Housekeeper and Butler respectively, and is a comprehensive account of backstairs life, covering everything from servants' duties to child