

## Reviews

**Graham Connah, *The Same under a Different Sky? A country estate in nineteenth-century New South Wales*. BAR International Series 1625, Oxford, 2007, 269 pages; paperback. ISBN 1407300598. GBP £45.00.**

This volume reports on The Lake Innes Archaeological Project's study and excavation of Archibald Clunes Innes' rural estate near Port Macquarie, northern NSW. Connah's stated aims are 'to study the physical evidence of both the structure and movable artefacts to test ideas about the visibility of socio-economic differences in the archaeological record... to shed light on the different living conditions of the cross-section of early-nineteenth-century society that lived on the Innes Estate', and to draw comparisons between this Australian 'plantation economy' and those in the southern United States, the Caribbean, and South Africa (p.24).

The first chapter introduces the project, the site, and the documentary history of Archibald Innes which draws in large part on the journal of Innes' niece, Annabella Boswell. Innes came to Australia in 1822 as a British Army officer and his social aspirations led him, in 1830, to take a grant of land near Port Macquarie. Here he developed an elegant country house (complete with a bathroom with hot and cold running water) as a centre of a large rural estate to which 91 convict workers were assigned. Unfortunately, Innes' ambitions were short-lived; the estate was all-but abandoned in the 1850s and left largely derelict before being taken over by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1992.

In this first chapter Connah also briefly describes previous investigations of the Lake Innes Estate – most notably previous plans and reconstruction drawings of the house, and Michael Pearson's 1980s report for National Parks – before describing his own 'Lake Innes Archaeological Project'. Between 1993 and 2001 this project concentrated its survey and excavation on three parts of the estate settlement: the main house with its stables and other associated buildings; the 'home farm' with associated buildings; and the village of the estate workers.

The following two chapters describe the surface survey (1993–1998) of the estate. Chapter 2 discusses the structural remains, layout, construction sequence and building materials of the main house, stables and associated buildings. Chapter 3 describes other residences on the estate, particularly: a cottage to the northeast of the stables; a possible cottage on Flagstaff Hill; evidence for nine buildings in the estate workers village, including a blacksmith's hut; and the 'home farm' described by Annabella Boswell. These sites have no substantial above-ground structural remains and were unknown before this project. This chapter also includes descriptions of: the long log bridge ('corduroy road') to Lighthouse Beach, described by Annabel Boswell; traces of a boat house and other structures on the lake; and four brick-making sites. Connah argued that excavation of these dwellings would provide a better understanding of 'the socioeconomic conditions of the occupants', as well as the servants and the skilled convict workforce whose lives were not well recorded by Annabella Boswell.

The next four chapters discuss these excavations (1999–2001) organised by site. The quality and development of the structural features at each site are discussed, and the excavated artefact assemblage summarised by type (i.e. building material, ceramic, etc.). Chapter 4 discusses the four excavated areas

of the main house: the bathroom area, the brick-barrel drain, the entrance hall, and a bedroom. An outstanding find in the bathroom area was a Wedgewood toilet bowl which, along with the associated plumbing, demonstrates the high quality fittings of Lake Innes House. In general, however, excavations in the main house add little information to the 'picture of privilege' (p.117) provided by the documentary evidence. Chapters 5 to 7 discuss other excavated buildings: a 'stable-room' and annex; the southwest gatehouse of the stables; a cottage to the northeast of the stables; a blacksmith's and a 'labourer's' hut in the estate-workers' village; and the 'home farm' cottage.

The quality of the construction of these buildings and their artefact assemblages are used to ascertain the social status, and sometimes gender, of their occupants. The main artefactual criteria are the quality of the ceramic fabrics (and sometimes their shapes) and the types of buttons at each site. While these are no doubt reliable indicators of status, this seems a rather limited and under-theorised approach to these assemblages and their overall variations across the different sites. In general, the status hierarchies identified support those known from the documentary evidence.

In the next three chapters, different specialists discuss the various material classes of artefacts, discussions which have informed the summaries of the artefact assemblages from each site in Chapters 4-7. Most informative of these is Alistair Brooks' ceramics study, in which he concludes that the bulk of the ceramics from the main house date after Archibald Innes' occupation and that only those from the southwest stable gatehouse, the northeast cottage, the estate-workers' village, and the 'home farm' cottage relate to the Innes occupancy. From these ceramics (predominantly transfer-printed whitewares) Brooks develops a status hierarchy in which the stable gatehouse is at the top, then the blacksmith's hut, then the northeast cottage and 'home farm' cottage, and then the labourer's cottage. Jean Smith's study of the glass comprises a catalogue of the different functional types from each site, with relevant date ranges. Rob Tickle divided the metal finds into broad functional categories — containers, fasteners, structural, tools, transport — which do not seem very useful. For example, fasteners include keys and buckles, and tools range from spoons to ploughshares, and 47.5 per cent of metal items are unidentifiable. Tickle makes some generic, and apparently unsubstantiated, statements about Innes' 'purchasing power' and British industrial power.

More interesting is Terry Moore's study of the nails, from which he concludes, on the basis of the scarcity of machine-made nails and near absence of wire nails, that most of the buildings date prior to the 1850s, with some on-going maintenance to the main house and the stables. Moore also noted the economy with which nails were used in some of the lower status dwellings. Other artefacts discussed include: buttons (Sylvia Yates); sewing items (Beryl Connah); clay smoking pipes (Kris Courtney); coins; slates and slate pencils; and other minor artefacts. Curiously, much of the 'sewing equipment' is actually items of dress (p. 222), such as clothing fasteners which probably became detached from the wearers' dress during their ablutions (p. 100). Identification of the presence of women through sewing equipment (e.g. p.146) can also be problematic because men sew in certain circumstances (e.g. Allason-Jones 1988; Beaudry 2006).

Catherine Tucker's study of the faunal remains (Chapter 11) is organised by excavation date rather than by site or dwelling type. As a result, Tucker is able to make general comments about European dietary preferences in colonial Australia, but is unable to contribute to our understanding of dietary differentiation between the various dwellings. Further, the lack of excavation of household refuse means that the faunal remains are limited to lost material, not the usual deposition process for food scraps.

Chapter 12 (Robert Haworth and Brian Tolagson) focuses on environmental factors, particularly Lead-210 analyses of the Lake sediment which document the clearance and use of the surrounding land prior to 1870, its subsequent rehabilitation, and the cutting of a canal to the sea in 1933. Other analyses (the pH levels of the excavated soils, and phosphate analyses) produced no unexpected results. In Chapter 13, David Pearson tentatively suggests that the sixteenth-century Italian painting by Paolo Veronese of Achilles on Skyros, reported by Annabella Boswell, might actually have been the eighteenth-century Venetian painting of this scene, now in the Walter Art Museum, Baltimore.

Chapter 14 is more a summary of previous discussions than a conclusion, reiterating that the Lake Innes Estate might be compared to plantation economies in the United States, although any comparisons are generalised and based on documentary evidence. Connah rightly questions what the archaeological investigation of Lake Innes House contributes to our knowledge. As he notes, the structural remains, the nails, and the allocation of space indicate that household servants and stable officials were better housed than the highest level of farm workers with their own cottages, and that horses were better housed than estate labourers. The picture created through the artefactual evidence is often enhanced by revisiting the documentary evidence, drawing out otherwise overlooked details, and setting up a 'dialogue' between the textual and the material. Essentially, the archaeological investigation of Lake Innes rural estate provides a perspective on the physicality of the documentary information, reinforcing our understanding of the spatiality and materiality of luxury and aspiration, as well as of the conditions of indentured employment in early nineteenth-century rural Australia. That said, I feel that more comprehensive artefactual assemblage analyses could have provided information that did not merely 'test' the documentary evidence. *Post factum* attempts to discuss social factors using an *ad hoc*, artefact-type based, approach will always be limited. A more consumption-oriented approach needs to be built into the original research design to fully utilise the artefactual evidence of the socio-economic status of these dwellings and their occupants.

This report is well-organised and extensively illustrated, with photographs and drawings of the structural remains and of some artefacts. The quality of these illustrations is not always adequate though (e.g. figures 1.2 and 1.11). A good location map of all the features discussed in this project is needed to indicate, for example, the proximity of the northeast cottages to the stables.

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**Adrian Green and Roger Leech (eds), *Cities in the World, 1500-2000*. Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology Monograph Series No.3, Maney Publishing, Leeds, 2006; vi + 333 pages; hardback; ISBN 1 904350 02 X. AUD \$218.52 (inc. GST).**

*Cities in the World* is the third volume in the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology's monograph series. The collection originates from papers given at the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology conference in April 2002 at Southampton University. The title aptly sums up the content of the volume, with papers covering Africa, America, the West Indies, Britain, Australia, India, France and Gibraltar.

The first papers of the volume deal with African archaeology, and will probably have limited relevance for most Australian archaeologists. The exception to this is a paper by George Owusu entitled 'The Changing Views on the Role of Small Towns in Rural and Regional Development in Africa'. In this work, Owusu explores the inter-relations between the rural hinterland and the towns developed to manage the supply and distribution of produce, focussing on the way that the relations between the two have changed over time. As such, Owusu's research may provide some interesting insights into the development of Australia's rural networks and their links to maritime trade.

Audrey Horning's paper on settlement patterns, this time in the American-Chesapeake district, may also provide insight into the Australian experience. Using Ulster, Ireland, as a basis for comparison, the author considers whether initial settlement in the Chesapeake was shaped by the worldview of the seventeenth-century British settlers. It is her conclusion the Chesapeake settlement did not correspond particularly well to seventeenth-century British tradition, and she suggests that imported world views were in fact far less influential than were the impact of demographic, environmental, economic, political and religious conditions.

Ex-pat Australian Paul Belford is the first of several authors in the volume to call for British industrial archaeologists to balance their mainly process-driven tradition with a more artefact-centred approach. Belford has been a dominant force in such research, and this continues with his archaeological investigation of workshop-based production in industrial cities as an early form of land privatisation.

James Symond's paper on the challenges of archaeology in an era of urban renewal repeats Belford's appeal for a more artefact-centred study of industrial Britain. Symond's fine-grained artefactual approach to the industrial past is somewhat limited in this paper but his consideration of the cutlers of Sheffield shows great potential.

Belford's and Symonds arguments are echoed in Roger Leech's paper, which is an impassioned plea for an archaeological investigation of nineteenth-century Portsmouth. Leech is battling against the English Heritage decision that anything later than 1800 is 'archaeologically unimportant'.

The most poignant and well-argued call comes from Susan Lawrence, whose paper encourages British archaeologists to agitate for archaeological excavations and material culture

studies of nineteenth and twentieth-century sites. While Lawrence is preaching to the converted in Australia, her challenge is an important one for material culture studies in this country, which would be substantially advanced if comparative datasets were available from Britain.

Those with an interest with archaeology of the city will be aware of the writings of Mary Beaudry. Beaudry's contribution gives us two more intriguing stories that, unfortunately, are constructed from the records with little reference to the archaeology. Nevertheless they are 'stories that matter', as her title suggests, and make delightful reading. Beaudry does seem to be aware of the limited role of archaeological evidence in her paper, and qualifies this by stating that without archaeology, these biographies would not have come to light.

Australian readers will also be familiar with the findings from the Cumberland/Gloucester Streets excavation in the Rocks, Sydney. Grace Karskens' paper on this topic will probably not give readers any new insight into the site, but Karskens' graceful and engaging style always makes her work a pleasure to read.

The final paper of note in the volume, a work by Rebecca Yamin, tackles an issue with which many archaeologists around the world struggle: overcoming stereotypes regarding their area of study. For Yamin, this is the Five Points in New York, a location famed and memorialised as a violent slum. Yamin's findings that domestic life in the Five Points was really quite conventional have not been well received. The author ties this rejection to a desire on the part modern society (most particularly men) to revisit pre-industrial behaviours which are no longer tolerated. Yamin's identification of this problem and its causes may help us to present archaeological interpretations in a more acceptable manner in the future.

This is a solid volume that gives those unfamiliar with the topic a great introduction to the archaeology of the post-medieval city (to borrow the British terminology). For this reviewer, however, there were no contributions that stood out. The closest was Peter Borsay's paper on the development of the city of Bath, which traced how changing attitudes have shaped the city and its suburbs right up to the present day.

There is a general lack of freshness in the papers which is probably a result of the lengthy publishing delay (the papers were originally presented in 2002). For readers who have kept abreast of urban archaeology, this volume may disappoint. Having said that, some papers are very important in the international context; the repeated calls for the excavation and study of nineteenth-century British material culture will, if taken up, have enormous benefits for Australian archaeologists.

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**Roderick Sprague, *Burial terminology: A guide for researchers*. AltaMira Press, Lanham, Maryland, 2005; xii + 274 pages; paperback; ISBN 0-7591-0841-2. US\$36.95.**

In this book, Roderick Sprague ably demonstrates the need for an internationally standardised system of archaeological terms to record the way past and present cultures dispose of their dead. He presents a comprehensive classification system which is practical but not so restrictive as to preclude additions or alterations to the terminology.

In Chapter 1, the Introduction, Sprague states that, 'We are long overdue for a statement of standards for the excavation and

recording of burials' (p. 6), citing earlier authors who called for standardisation in the middle of the last century, and providing modern examples of confusing terminologies which are regularly in use in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Chapter 2, Historical Background, is devoted to a comprehensively researched review of different burial terminology classifications used by antiquarians and archaeological professionals from the seventeenth-century to the present. Some of these classifications have been influenced by cultural or theoretical biases, or by project objectives which limit the amount and type of information recorded about burials at the time of excavation.

Chapter 3, Field Guide, provides a summary of burial terminology found in the English-speaking literature of North America, Europe, Scandinavia, Australasia and India, and divides them into 'preferred' terms and 'discouraged' terms in the categories of: 'Form of Disposal'; 'Body Preparation'; 'Individuality'; 'Articulation'; 'Position'; 'Deposition'; 'Orientation and Alignment'; 'Grave Goods'; 'Disposal Container'; 'Features'; 'Description of Disposal Area'; 'Demography'; and 'Excavation Data'. Nineteen illustrations of various burial positions are supplied for easy field reference, as well as a field checklist for recording burial information.

Chapter 4, Discussion of Classification, is devoted to further explaining Sprague's choice of particular terms for each element of the classification system, considering their past uses or their ability to adequately encompass some modern as well as ancient practices of disposal of the dead. This is a highly detailed section and is extensively referenced. Indeed, the book's 49 page reference list is in itself a valuable resource for readers seeking more information on particular aspects of funerary archaeology.

Sprague draws on examples of confusing burial terminology from the English-speaking literature of Western Europe, North America, Australasia and India, and to some extent German, Scandinavian, Italian and Spanish sources. Literature from Russia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and Latin America is not considered in detail, and this could be considered a shortcoming of the current work. However, given the many examples of confusing terminology from the literature cited, it is fair to assume that the inclusion of this other literature would merely provide further examples to bolster an already strong case for international standardisation.

The book is well set out and, for a fairly 'dry' subject, is very readable. The diagrams are on-point and clearly understandable. The examples cited are chosen to best illustrate the point and do not overwhelm the narrative. One minor criticism is that the book ends rather abruptly, but this should not detract from the importance of the work.

In his Introduction, Sprague states that, 'the scheme presented here is equally applicable to prehistory, historical archaeology, ethnography and ethnology' (p. 2). While primarily relating to treatment of the body in a cultural context, aspects of this terminology could also be utilised in the field of forensics, and for the description of fortuitous burials, such as the Tyrolean Iceman and the victims of the Vesuvius eruption of 79 AD. Indeed, the structure of the classification system lends itself to computerisation, and thus could greatly improve data collection, recording and sharing among archaeologists who rely increasingly upon electronic communication.

This book is an important and timely addition to the archaeological literature. Not only is a consistent approach

necessary for information sharing among archaeologists, but it is particularly important for those wanting to conduct an analysis of burial traits across geographic areas, and for archaeologists interested in the taphonomic effects of different methods of disposing of the dead. The Field Guide is user-friendly, and every field archaeologist and teaching academic would benefit by adding this book to their library.

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**Barbara Ann Kipfer, *The archaeologist's fieldwork companion*. Blackwell Publishing, UK, 2007; 304 pages; hardback; ISBN 9781405118859. AUD 140.07 (inc. GST).**

This book arrived for review at a timely moment, just before setting off into the field to carry out an excavation! While this held up the formal review of the publication, it did allow for some all-important field testing.

This book is not really a book, in the sense that it does not have a beginning and an end. Rather, it is a combination of data recording forms, helpful summary 'how to' guides, and a crib sheet of definitions and standard abbreviations. Kipfer claims that:

It contains the information archaeologists need in the field but often do not have with them unless they carry a large box of books. Instead of going back to the laboratory, office or home to make a copy of something or find the book to bring back out into the field, there is this book (p. 1).

This description fitted my needs exactly; as I was about to head off to a very tiny, uninhabitable islet which could be reached only by small regional plane and then dinghy. The smallest archaeological toolkit possible was therefore a necessity. So how useful was it?

The book contains information on:

- Classification and Typology
- Forms and Records
- Lists and Checklists
- Mapping, Drawing and Photographing
- Measuring and Conversions
- Planning Help
- Resources
- Abbreviations and Codes.

It covers the full range of archaeological field investigation, from prehistoric to historic and contemporary sites.

The questions in my mind as I set out to road-test the manual were:

- How applicable is the book to the Australian context?
- How adaptable is the book to the needs of a small excavation team of one trained archaeologist, one elderly but experienced local community participant, and several local community children/student volunteers?
- Clearly, the volume had been developed in the course of some large-scale archaeological projects, so just how adaptable would it be to projects of different size and scale?

I found the information to be of varying levels of usefulness, and in some cases, of varying applicability to the Australian context. The book is divided into classification lists or keys, forms for use in the field, checklists and summarised 'How to Guides'. Each of these sections can be used independently,

allowing the archaeologist to pick and choose what is relevant to their needs. Many of the forms were developed for a specific end-user (e.g. Crow Canyon Archaeological Centre 2001) and, as such, they will need tweaking to fit any specific project. Most archaeologists working in the Australian context, for example, would probably want to tailor the ceramics recording form (p. 69) to reflect some of the most common types of ceramic decoration found in sites here. This adaptation process would be simpler if the forms were available in a digital format.

The checklists are also probably too generic for use in specific Australian contexts without some adaptation. Obvious examples are the checklist for burial excavation and observations (p.160) and the checklist for burial variables (p. 161), which do not cover key procedures required by legislation, protocol or accepted practice in Australia. Perhaps the most well known Australian guideline in this regard remains the *NSW skeletal manual* (Donlon et al. 2002), although there is also the *Guidelines for the management of human skeletal remains under the Heritage Act 1977* (NSW Heritage Office 1998).

Another example of the variable applicability of the book would be the information relating to stone tools, which is extremely brief and very basic. Having said that, there are many other detailed sources on stone tool description and analysis for archaeologists working in Australia (see for example Holdaway & Stern 2004). Given this, and given that many archaeologists have preferred methods of analysis (or even outsource the detailed analysis), any further complexity in a volume such as this would perhaps be of limited use.

Overall, however, I found the 'Lists and Checklists' section to be a valuable resource. One of the most useful items in this section was the pictorial list of shading patterns for section drawings (p. 263), which can be used to ensure consistency where a number of field assistants are employed. The brief refreshers on the simple mechanics of excavation are also very handy for those of us who only carry out the occasional excavation. Similarly, some of the checklists relating to field conservation, such as the 'Field Conservation Initial Steps' (p. 190) and the checklist for 'Ceramics Field Conservation' (p. 163), are useful additions to any site manual.

The 'How to...' section of the book covers 'Mapping, Drawing and Photography' (Section 4); 'Measurements and Conversions' (Section 5); and a generic section called 'Planning Help' (Section 6). These sections of the book are invaluable, although Section 6 is a little under-developed and will seem a bit obvious for all but the complete novice. This is a pity, because information on planning and running an archaeological project is probably the hardest for aspiring archaeologists and young professionals to come by. Such information is often taken for granted, but (as all consultants will testify) can mean the difference between a successfully run project and disaster. Most Australian archaeologists learn this information through an iterative process of working for others and watching, learning, improving and adapting the administrative practices they observe. While this probably remains the best way to pick up these skills, Section 6 contains a few tips that would be very useful to the inexperienced.

Section 4 contains a lot of useful refreshers, and other information, on a range of drawing and mapping techniques. Although some practitioners will always have more ability in this area than others, it is important that everyone has some basic field competence. Section 5 of the volume contains some convenient and very comprehensive measurement conversion tables. The inclusion of many historic measurements means

this section will be handy back in the office for interpreting references to the location or size of historic features. How many of us know off-hand how many metres there are to the 'chain' or to the 'rod', 'pole' or 'perch'?

In summary, this volume will be an extremely useful addition to the field archaeologist's library. However, if you are after a discussion of the theory and philosophy of (or even the history behind) the recommended practices, there are more useful Australian texts available (see for example Balme and Paterson 2006). *The Archaeologist's Fieldwork Companion* does not cover the 'why' but does go a long way to describing the 'how' of archaeological field practice. It is ideal for practitioners who simply need a quick refresher before they go into the field or who want a starting point for their own, tailor-made field manual.

One major drawback of the publication as it stands, is that altering the forms is a fiddly process. The practical usefulness of the book as a 'resource' for the field archaeologist would be greatly enhanced if it was available in a digital format which allowed for easy manipulation of forms and checklists. For example, relevant checklists and forms could be provided for each member of an excavation team, and separate guides could be produced for those assigned to different areas/tasks. More generic guides could even be used to outline the safety and procedural briefings that the dig director must deliver to personnel and visitors.

The volume is still useful in its current hardcopy form, but if the author does decide to release it in an accessible electronic format, I will be first in line to purchase it. Meanwhile, it is a welcome addition to my bookshelf and, assuming that I get the time to do some time-consuming and fiddly scanning and editing, I now have the basic information at hand to develop a field manual perfectly tailored to my next project.

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**Graham Fairclough, Rodney Harrison, John Schofield, and John H. Jameson (eds) *The Heritage Reader*. Routledge, Abingdon, 2008; 580 pages; paperback; ISBN 978-0-415-37286-2. AUD 70.04 (inc. GST).**

Students of the academic publishing industry will probably have already noticed the significant shift towards reference books, encyclopaedias and other major overviews, and readers that has been taking place in recent years. All of the major academic publishers (particularly those based in the United Kingdom) have begun to litter the market with multi-authored overviews that

attempt, at a single stroke, to capture the richness and diversity of fields that are growing ever larger and more complex. In part these represent attempts to codify knowledge in particular fields for easy absorption by students and professionals alike. Yet they also allow proponents to spruik the importance and *distinctiveness* of recently emerged or emerging disciplines. *The Heritage Reader* (hereafter *THR*) is a product of both contexts — codification and commodification.

*THR* is a tight, well-thought-through collection. The editors run a clear line in the Introduction that makes contact with pretty much all that is in vogue in heritage studies. All of the current foci (or obsessions) are there: memory, landscape, identity, poor old Walter Benjamin (again), intangible and tangible heritage, movies, songs, images etc etc. It's a solid and predictable perspective that effectively puts quote marks around all the dissonance and conflict that is to follow. Given the now well-recognised capacity for 'heritage' to sometimes act as a code word for 'exclusion' (if not commodification), it's worth considering heritage in the broad rather than in the narrowly particular. Nonetheless, one might have wished for some dissenting voices amongst the many fine contributions reprinted here — if only to make the point that some conflicts and dissonances are sufficiently complicated as to require more consideration than they are frequently given.

That said, *THR* contains much fine writing and some very clear thinking. Of course one can point to the inevitable glaring absences that might have been better explained if the editors had shared with us their criteria for selecting papers. But such exercises in public reflection can be fraught with danger! It's also fairly likely that instructors seeking diversity will leaven the selection here with other 'key' contributions to the field that were not included.

Moving from the quite short opening essay 'Heritage Memory and Modernity' the book develops through four sections and an afterword. Each section is 'topped' with an overview essay by one of the editors. Section One: 'The Cultural Heritage: Concepts, Values and Principles', contains a mix of reprinted papers and chapters written especially for this volume. Section Two: 'Whose Heritage? Local and Global Perspectives' presents many of the usual suspects but with the surprising (and welcome) inclusion of an essay by historian Raph Samuel. Section Three: 'Methods and Approaches to Cultural Heritage Management' contains a mix of solid case studies and more reflective work. The last section (four) considers issues related to the way heritage is interpreted and communicated. I was unable to establish the reason for the Afterword which reads as a shallow and pretentious 'riff' on important issues. It added nothing to, and subtracted something from, the volume.

In summary, *THR* is a very useful collection of some important papers that have a pretty broad geographical spread — although the focus is quite strongly Anglo-Celtic. On occasion the editorial interventions (overview statements and the like) added something to the new and old material presented here, so in that sense the whole really did become greater than the sum of the parts. Of course any volume of reprints can be like the curate's egg, but *THR* has some fine stuff which students (and heritage professionals) really do need to read and the editors have done us a service by creating a very useful resource.

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**Barbara Ann Kipfer, *Dictionary of Artifacts*. Blackwell Publishing, UK, 2007; 346 pages; hardback; ISBN 9781405118873. AUD 191.02 (inc. GST).**

As an archaeologist working in the museum environment, and with a research focus on the best practice documentation and long-term care of archaeological collections, I was excited about the recent publication of Kipfer's *Dictionary of Artifacts*. Such a dictionary has the potential to be an important reference of standard terms and descriptions and, as such, could be an invaluable resource to an institution like the Sharjah Archaeology Museum. It could assist in the development of thesauri for the documentation and interpretation of collections, could confirm existing knowledge and usage of terms, and could broaden understanding of material outside the museum's areas of specialisation. Such a resource could also facilitate a more accurate communication of information to other disciplines and to the general public. Reviewing Kipfer's dictionary through this specific lens of research interests and professional needs has revealed it to be satisfying in many areas, but unexpectedly disappointing in others.

Kipfer is an archaeologist and lexicographer who has produced two other major publications related to archaeology, *The Archaeologist's Fieldwork Companion* and *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Archaeology*, and a range of non-archaeological general interest dictionaries and reference works. This attractive and practically-sized dictionary contains approximately 2800 alphabetically listed entries and about 110 small illustrations. The entries aim to define terms related to artefact description, typology, dating, production, decoration, description, analysis, and care. Unfortunately, the dictionary does not contain a bibliography, which would be useful for understanding the origin and focus of the entries selected. The dictionary is intended to serve a wide audience ranging from students and the general reader to academic and professional archaeologists and museum staff. It aims to be a basic introduction to all categories of artefacts and to provide 'cross-cultural and cross-Atlantic in selections and definitions'.

I found the dictionary to have good coverage of terms related to artefact types, material types, artefact production, technology, and chronological periods. There is a very strong focus on lithic and ceramic artefacts. For example, over 10 per cent (300) of the total number of entries relate directly to lithic types and lithic technology and over 50 per cent (57) of the illustrations are of lithic artefacts. A ceramics bias is evident in what should be more general definitions relevant to a variety of material types. For example, *fabric* is defined as the 'material of which pottery is composed', 'decoration' as 'one or more of a series of modifications made on pottery...' and 'design' as 'any shapes, motifs, or symbols added as decoration on a ceramic object'. Similarly, 'embossing' and 'engraving' are defined only as decorative techniques for ceramics.

A broad range of cultures and geographical areas are included in the dictionary but there is a distinct bias towards European, North and South American, and British material culture, 20 per cent of all entries relate specifically to these geographical areas. Fewer entries (4%) define terms directly relevant to the Middle East and Africa, and fewer still (2%) are specific to Asian, Indian or Australasian cultures. Major chronological periods from the cultures of these areas are defined in the dictionary with particularly good detail on geological eras and prehistoric periods.

On consulting the dictionary for entries related to artefact identification, I found the definitions of artefact forms to be

precise and useful for formally distinguishing between similar forms (e.g. cup/beaker, bottle/flask, jar/jug/pitcher/ewer, plate/dish/platter/bowl). Also accurate and useful for such work are the definitions of various artefact materials in the dictionary. A number of artefact materials are not included in the dictionary however, in particular those related to modern historical artefacts (e.g. bakelite, plastic).

Terms in the dictionary fundamental to understanding artefact curation (artefact documentation and care) are less useful, despite the statement in the preface that this is one focus of entries in the dictionary. For example, 'curation' is defined as the 'deliberate attempts by prehistoric peoples to preserve key artefacts and structures for posterity'. There is no mention of curation as the modern practice of caring for artefacts long term. 'Acquisition' is defined as the procurement of raw materials, with no mention of it as the process of acquiring artefacts for a collection, and 'collection' itself is not a term included in the dictionary (although 'assemblage' is). When looking at terms related to the proper documentation of artefacts, definitions such as 'accession number', 'catalogue number', 'find number', 'categorisation' and 'classification' do not conform to my experience of normal practice and many of the definitions are unclear.

Of concern is the definition for 'analysis' in the dictionary, given as 'describing and classifying artifactual and non-artifactual data', which perpetuates the important misunderstanding, regularly discussed in the archaeological literature, of the difference between simple description and true analysis. Important related terms are 'attribute' and 'feature'. Technically, a 'feature' (from the Latin *facere* meaning 'to make') is a physical characteristic that is the result of the manufacturing technology of the artefact. This is different from an 'attribute' (from the Latin *ad + tribuere* 'to bestow') which is a value ascribed to the appearance of an artefact. In Kipfer's dictionary, the definition of an 'attribute' is better suited to that of a 'feature'. 'Feature' is not used in the dictionary to describe artefacts in particular at all, only its alternative meaning as a 'nonmovable element of an archaeological site' is given.

Other definitions in the dictionary have narrow meanings that do not take into account broader interpretations or applications of their meaning in practice. For example, a 'body sherd' is identified as any fragment of a ceramic vessel that is not a rim sherd. In practice however, body sherds can of course be made of other materials such as glass or stone, and the definition usually excludes not only rim sherds but also base sherds, handle sherds etc. A 'bolt' is defined as an 'iron arrow or missile' ignoring the use of the term to describe a fastening or large nail. A 'frying pan' is described as 'any shallow, circular vessel or bowl with a decorated base found in the early Bronze Age of the Cyclades', excluding any mention of frying pans from other cultures and time periods, particularly the more recent historical period. A 'mummy' is said to be the 'dead body of person or animal preserved according to the rites practiced in ancient Egypt', without noting the existence of mummies in other cultures.

Critical to understanding and relating definitions in a dictionary is a clear and standard cross-referencing system. Cross-referencing in the 'Dictionary of Artifacts' is unclear and inconsistent. Square brackets are used after an entry to present and cross reference alternate spellings and equivalent terms, to give plurals or adjectives, or to direct the reader to antonyms. Sometimes where alternative terms are given, these have their own definition in the dictionary (e.g. 'cortical flake' and 'primary

flake' both have entries and cross-reference each other), other terms are only referenced one way (e.g. coffin [sarcophagus] but not sarcophagus [coffin]) and some entries are not cross-referenced at all (e.g. 'adobe and mudbrick' and 'coins' and 'coinage' have separate entries that are not cross-referenced, and neither are 'rock art' and 'petroglyph' or 'vellum' and 'parchment'). Surprisingly, alternate spellings are often given their own individual but naturally very similar entries (e.g. 'catalog' and 'catalogue', 'sherd' and 'shard', 'caldron' and 'cauldron').

In conclusion, in some areas I personally wish the *Dictionary of Artifacts* had made better use of information about current practice and debate in fields related to the management and documentation of artefacts and artefact collections. However, despite this, and the sometime narrow definitions and problematic cross-referencing, the *Dictionary of Artifacts* is a unique dictionary, possibly the first with such a specific focus, and I will continue to use it as a practical point of reference in my professional work. The dictionary covers a broad range of topics and I recommend it to archaeology students, the lay person interested in archaeology, and in many instances to archaeologists and museum staff. I would be very interested to see future, more extensive, editions of this publication.

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**John Thompson, *Probation in Paradise: The story of convict probationers on Tasman's and Forestier's Peninsulas, Van Diemen's Land, 1841-1857*, John Thompson, Hobart, 2007; 272 pages; paperback; ISBN 978-0-646-48111-1. RRP AUD \$49.95.**

John Thompson's *Probation in Paradise* is perhaps slightly different from the books that usually grace this section of the ASHA journal. Large, glossy, and liberally dotted with images, the book might at first be dismissed as yet another foray into the over-exposed worlds of convicts and the Tasman and Forestier's Peninsulas. Indeed, it is sometimes easy to think that the convict past of the peninsulas, located in Tasmania's southeast, have been well-and-truly done to death. So much has been written and spoken about this area that new works face the danger of treading well-worn paths, grinding an otherwise fascinating subject into the dust and losing the interest of readers in the process.

John Thompson's book could so easily have become just such a work. Instead, what Thompson achieves is one of the more comprehensive and thorough published works ever to engage with the Tasman and Forestier's Peninsulas' convict past. Deliberately veering away from Port Arthur, that road most-travelled, Thompson's work is an accessible overview of every outstation, probation station and isolated constable's hut which dotted the picturesque peninsulas. It is also one of the most definitive collections of pictorial sources this reviewer has had the pleasure of encountering.

Many years in the making, this well-presented, self-published work is evidently the result of countless hours spent in the archives and, more importantly, plunging through the scrub, notebook, camera and swag of plans in hand. It must be said early on that, while Thompson does not present new documentary research, the text is designed to appeal to a wide readership and is well researched, forming a virtual archive including an astonishing number of pictorial sources. Every

single one of the 272 pages is enlivened by the many maps, photographs and illustrations that Thompson has sourced for his work, over 350 in all. In an admirable feat, Thompson managed to source and use what must come close to all known historical surveys and depictions of the places with which he engages. It is this lavish use of pictorial sources that has made the book a staple on this reviewer's bookshelf, elevating the work from being just another rote history of the Penal Peninsula, and into the category of essential reference.

Thompson begins his work in traditional fashion, summing up the history of the peninsulas in a few pages, before placing it all within the wider context of the convict system as it operated in Van Diemen's Land during the Assignment and Probation eras. The summaries are concise and accurate, providing a solid foundation for Thompson's peninsula-based focus, to which the remaining chapters are devoted. The seven probation stations of Salt Water River, Slopens Island, Flinders Bay, Impression Bay, Cascades, Wedge Bay and Safety Cove are each afforded a chapter, as are the various signal, railroad and military outstations which were dotted around the peninsulas' coasts. As well as engaging with the convict-period history of these establishments Thompson, in a rare step, explores beyond the probation period, covering their usage as post-1850s agricultural and pastoral outstations of Port Arthur, as well as their occupation from the 1870s by free settlers.

One of the greatest attributes of Thompson's work is that he complements his historical research with an approachable overview of the archaeology of the peninsulas. The last 70 pages are devoted to the imprint that each of these sites has left upon the landscape, from the loose brick piles marking the site of a signal station, to the subtle benching of a bridle path. While many of the larger probation stations have been the subject of previous studies (both published and unpublished), the smaller outstations have by-and-large been left alone. Pulling on his boots, Thompson has visited these sites, photographing, describing and sketching what he found, with many of these records making their way into his book. While not an exhaustive recording, the very fact that these sources are available in published form is outstanding. The larger stations are afforded overlays and 3D reconstructions, allowing anybody with the book and a sense of direction to reconcile today's landscape with that of the past. This final section of Thompson's book turns it into an important, accessible and enduring record of these early convict places.

A minor drawback with the book is the few inevitable typos, as well as a slightly niggling lack of scale in many of the photographs, and the absence of a north arrow on most of the maps. A small number of the modern photographs have also been poorly-reproduced. On balance, however, none of these minor issues overly detract from the book, particularly considering the high-quality reproduction of the historical illustrations.

Thompson's book can be recommended not only for those studying the history of convictism on the two peninsulas, but also for those interested in the historical and archaeological footprint that these centres of incarceration and industrial enterprise have left behind. Through his intimate association with the sources, as well as his familiarity with the landscape of which he talks, Thompson manages to reconstitute these lost landscapes for the reader, creating a lavish, readily-available extant recording that can be used by all manner of researchers.

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