

Editorial

As a young university student in Canada just discovering historical archaeology, one of my first contacts with Australian history, archaeology, and scholarship was through the pages of the *Australian Journal of Historical Archaeology*. Nothing like it existed in Canada, and as I considered making the move to Australia the knowledge of ASHA and the journal that it supported encouraged me to think I would find a community here of people with similar interests to my own. While still in Canada I became a member of ASHA and promptly ordered all the back copies of the journal (of which were then about four). They eventually arrived to my great delight, just in time for me to write an undergraduate paper on 'historical archaeology in Australia'.

The purpose of relating this anecdote is to give some sense of the remarkable achievement that this journal represents, a journal begun thanks to the hard work and vision of Graham Connah. *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, as it was renamed in 1992, is still one of only a handful of journals in the world dedicated to this subject, and it has made Australian and New Zealand historical archaeologists the envy of our peers around the world. It has given us a voice and an international presence. Together with ASHA's annual conferences, the journal has been the means by which a very small number of practitioners has been able to build a disciplinary community that spans thousands of miles, two nations and several generations.

Appropriately, then, this volume of *Australasian Historical Archaeology* honours the contributions Graham has made to historical archaeology. As foundation editor, Graham oversaw the first six volumes of the journal and then Volume 11 in 1994. The rigorous standards Graham set established the measure and tone of the journal. From the outset the journal was peer reviewed, ensuring the quality of contributions, and it appeared with the regularity and precision Graham's military training would suggest. The journal was equally high-quality in appearance, its glossy pages ensuring the best possible reproduction of illustrations and standing in stark contrast to some of its competitors.

The journal gave historical archaeologists in Australia and New Zealand somewhere to publish their results at a time when there were few other options available, and it did so in a manner that established solid academic credentials for the field. This was particularly significant given that there were no dedicated academic posts for historical archaeologists at the time, and only a small number of Honours and post-graduate students, so that it was always clear that the audience and most of the contributions lay outside academia. As editor Graham welcomed and indeed actively sought out contributions from anyone with fieldwork to report and something interesting to say and any divide between commercial and academic archaeology was not evident in the pages of the journal. Under Graham's leadership early contributions were interdisciplinary and international, including papers on architectural history, soil analysis, and photogrammetry alongside considerations of theory, heritage conservation and field methods, and there were papers on the United States, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand.

Guiding this journal through its early years was only part of Graham's contribution to establishing historical archaeology in Australia as a professional, academically rigorous field. He served on the ASHA committee for many years, and was president from 1992–1997. From his position of Head, then Chair of Archaeology and Palaeoanthropology at the University of New England in Armidale, Graham has taught generations of students in the classroom and in field

schools. Between his appointment in 1971 and his retirement in 1995 Graham built that department from a single position (his own) to one with a dozen academic, administrative and technical staff, and a reputation as one of Australia's best archaeology departments. It was through Graham's commitment to teaching that he became involved in historical archaeology in Australia, with the need to provide excavation experience for students driving his first historical excavation, that of Winterbourne Station in 1976, and the subsequent work at Saumarez Station and Bagot's Mill.

Graham has frequently been the conscience of historical archaeology in Australia, urging us to do better by example and by exhortation, both in the way we carry out archaeology and particularly in the way we publish our results. Over the years Graham has relentlessly insisted on the importance of publication and the need to make results fully available. His periodic reminders have never been mere empty words, however, as they have been accompanied by a steady flow of books and articles documenting his own work. Whether in the ASHA newsletter, the journal, or internationally Graham has always striven to ensure that the results of his projects have been widely available. The tireless work carried out behind the scenes by Beryl Connah, Graham's wife and workmate, will be known to many of his friends and colleagues, and must be acknowledged as a major contribution to the timely publication of Graham's research.

Graham's achievements in Australia are all the more remarkable as most of his work has been in Africa. Graham met his wife Beryl while en route to Nigeria from Cambridge in 1961 and after their marriage in Nigeria in 1963 they lived there until 1971. Graham worked first for the Department of Antiquities and then later at the Institute for African Studies at the University of Ibadan. In the 1960s little was known about African archaeology and Graham's work was instrumental in writing the pre-colonial history of that continent. He conducted the first (and still only) excavations at Benin City and also did a great deal of work around Lake Chad, establishing dating sequences going back to the early first millennium BC. After moving to Australia Graham maintained an active publishing and fieldwork presence in African archaeology, working in Egyptian Nubia and in Uganda as well as returning to Nigeria many times.

In both Africa and Australia one of Graham's great contributions has been as a communicator. As well as publishing the results of his own fieldwork Graham has published several broad syntheses of African archaeology and his book on Australian historical archaeology, *Of the Hut I Buildd* (Cambridge 1988) remains a benchmark here. The *Australian Journal of Historical Archaeology* was in fact the second journal he established, having previously started the *West African Journal of Archaeology* in 1970–1972 with Thurstan Shaw. He edited *Australian Field Archaeology: A Guide to Techniques* in 1983, the only such text in Australia until recently and a manual that guided many a fieldworker. While Graham would undoubtedly agree with Tim Murray's statement later in this volume that archaeologists have an ethical duty to publish, for Graham teaching and writing are even more fundamental. Not just a duty, they are at the core of archaeology's role as a discipline. Writing in his 'Retrospective', published in *Antiquity* in 2006, Graham states that 'the major purpose of the subject must be to help people in general to understand both themselves and other groups of human beings'. Whether helping Australian students to better appreciate their place in the world or explaining to non-archaeologists 'what it is we have found out and why it is

important' (*Antiquity* 2006:181, 183), publishing has always been a central part of that task.

His retirement in 1995 at the age of 60 has only facilitated this work. Graham views his current position as one of 'continuous study leave' and he has been as prolific, if not more, in the intervening years. Now affiliated with the Australian National University in Canberra, Graham has carried out a multi-season excavation project at Lake Innes, N.S.W. which has been published in many places, including most recently as a book, and has continued to travel to and write about Africa. Graham has been a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland since 1966 and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London since 1968. In 2000 he was awarded the Order of Australia and in 2004 received the Australian Centenary Medal.

Graham once mentioned to me that he had been interviewed for a position at my own *alma mater*, the University of Calgary. Had he been offered that job I would have met him a few years earlier and would have had the privilege and benefit of being taught by him. Calgary's gain however would have been a great loss to historical archaeology in Australia. Graham's leadership and example has enriched us all, and the legacy for future generations is the greater for his presence here. ASHA is fortunate that someone of Graham's energies and talents has taken such a prominent role in the Society and in the discipline, and it is with pleasure that we offer him this token of our esteem.

The volume begins with a focus on Graham himself, first in an interview with Ted Higginbotham and then in the recollections of Judy Birmingham and Andrew Wilson of their work with Graham at Regentville, followed by a bibliography

of Graham's publications. The paper by Aedeon Cremin reflects Graham's interest in archaeological science, and alludes to the influence of an early paper on magnetism in ceramics of the British Neolithic that Graham co-authored with David Clarke. The two papers in the next section, by Chris De Corse and Sam Spiers and by John Kinahan and Jill Kinahan bring together Graham's Australian and African interests by dealing with historical archaeology in Africa. Graham's Australian influence is considered in the section of papers by Tim Murray, Ian Jack, and Susan Lawrence, Alasdair Brooks and Jane Lennon.

The volume concludes with a section of general papers. The paper by Linda Terry and Jon Prangnell draws on Linda's Honours thesis, for which she received ASHA's R. Ian Jack Award for Best Honours Thesis in 2008. Rebecca Parkes presents work that sheds new light on the Afghan cameleers in outback Australia, while the paper by Sean Ulm, Kim Vernon, Gail Robertson and Sue Nugent presents the results of usewear and residue analysis on glass objects used by Aboriginal people.

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