

## REVIEWS

A. Bernard Knapp (editor). *Archaeology, Annales and Ethnohistory*, Cambridge University Press, 1992, New Directions in Archaeology; pp. xvi, 152; 29 figs, 5 tables. ISBN 0 521 411742. \$99.00

As Andrew Sherratt says in this volume (p.137), the attempts of archaeologists (most of them from the United States of America or England) to apply theory to their raw data in an attempt to find the meaning of Past Life, the Universe and Everything, have tended to resemble the search for the perfect computer programme. Many of the answers have been about as meaningful as 'thirty-four'. Since the beginnings of the New Archaeology in the 1960s, when archaeologists defiantly proclaimed their independence and threw up the barricades to keep out those addicted to documents, there has been a great deal of sometimes simplistic and frequently bad-tempered searching after the Holy Grail of universally applicable theory to re-translate objects into societies. Raids have been conducted in the process on the theoretical and methodological apparatus of other disciplines, in the apparent hope of a universalist theory which could make the material past instantly readable.

Many of these excursions have appeared in Cambridge UP's New Directions series. The rejection of the historical paradigm(s) was the toppling of a straw historian obsessed by narrow political event history set up by defensive diggers anxious to prove that they were not merely over-educated operators of front-end loaders, (though the recent government-imposed changes in the English school curriculum for history may threaten the resurrection of such a blinkered view of the past). Of late there have been slight peerings over the battlements by archaeologists, and this volume investigates the 'school' of historians connected with the French journal now entitled *Annales: Economies, Sociétés, Civilisations* which was founded in the 1929 as *Annales d'Histoire Sociale et Economique*. Works of some of the central figures in the second and third generation of the *Annales* historians, such as Braudel and Le Roy Ladurie, were translated into English in the 1970s, and very widely reviewed. Now, after a time lapse in which even the existence of an *Annales* 'school' has been questioned, two collections of essays on its relevance to archaeology have been published. In this Anglophone collection, edited by Bernard Knapp, the current post-processualist, post-modernist mood of Anglo-American archaeologists is reflected in a greater openness to ideas, a greater diversity of opinions, and a less dogmatic insistence on mounting the high moral ground than is always the case in such volumes.

The three essays in the introductory section (by Knapp, Michael E. Smith and Roland Fletcher) explain some of the approaches of the historians who contributed over decades to *Annales*; the five papers in the central section (by Knapp, Smith, Richard Bulliet, Philip Duke and John Moreland) attempt to apply what is seen as the approach to the Bronze Age Levant, Postclassic central Mexico, medieval Khurasan, the northern Plains in North America, and medieval Italy respectively, and the final section has two papers summing up what a historian, Bulliet, thinks archaeologists can learn from the 'Annales School' (very little, since it was always an approach rather than a theory

or a methodology) and what an archaeologist, Andrew Sherratt, thinks can be learned (greater flexibility and more attention to Asia in the World Archaeological Congress mode).

Most historians never noticed that there was a split between archaeology and history. If they did, they were if anything puzzled by it, since by the 1960s many, and not just the *Annales* school, were accustomed to using a wide range of disparate sources to construct their vision of the past. Nor is model-building or quantification, or jackdaw-like borrowings from other disciplines unknown amongst historians either. The difference has been that these have been used more eclectically and with less expectation of doing more than fill in new areas of the human past.

For archaeologists, one of the more attractive aspects of the *Annales* historians, particularly Braudel, is the concept of different time-scales, ranging from the event, through the medium term, to the *longue durée* of geological and climatic change. This appears to give primacy to what they see as their greatest advantage, the very long time-scale exhibited by their data about the human past. Yet this is not very different from the sense of the combination of long-term, short-term and immediate trends used, implicitly or explicitly, by most historians, and the fact that there is no Braudelian universal 'formula' to explain the interaction of time-scales is complained about by Fletcher in this book. Indeed as the only former *Annales* contributor in the book puts it, the real innovation of the *Annales* approach was 'less a set of ideas than... a revolution in historical data' (p.75). Bulliet then proceeds to show with concise elegance how changes in the pottery record may be used to clarify what is known from documentary history of the period of Islamisation in northeastern Iran, though this paper has been criticised by another reviewer for its lack of indication of quantitative method (Colin Dobinson in *British Archaeological News* 7, [1992], 69). The other case studies are also interesting. Moreland's again combines documentary and material evidence on medieval Italy, while Duke's paper makes valuable suggestions about the prehistory of southern Alberta.

Perhaps what archaeologists need to learn most is how to live with the uncertainty principle, the idea that there are no final answers, only new questions, and that no-one else can provide them with simple solutions. Two things do seem necessary: one is study of the connection between material objects and the economic, political and social structures which produce them, as well as of the survival and dispersal patterns of that evidence over time. For this historical archaeology may be able to provide some useful evidence. The other need is for a new learning strategy where a patient building up of the jigsaw of the past by means of diversified approaches to a four-dimensional re-creation is essential. Few of us can comprehend the full range of meanings and origins of our current world; to expect to unravel the past at one arrogant application of theory is unrealistic. Each new approach, each new set of information, may illumine another corner, and eventually permit fuller understanding of our world. In this enterprise, this volume is a welcome and thoughtful indication that not all archaeologists are obsessed with

how many angels (thirty-four?) can dance on the head of pins.

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P. Gesner, *Pandora: an Archaeological Perspective*, Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Queensland, 1991; pp.xii, 59, illustrated. ISBN 07242 44824.

This attractively presented book was released to coincide with the opening of the Bligh travelling exhibition on loan from the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, United Kingdom. This exhibition opened at the Queensland Museum in July 1991, and includes a major new display of material from HMS Pandora. The book provides a clearly laid-out narrative account of the history and archaeology of HMS Pandora which was wrecked at the northern end of the Great Barrier Reef on 29 August 1791. The well structured text is very readable and should appeal to a wide audience.

*Pandora: an Archaeological Perspective* is profusely illustrated with both colour and black-and-white photographs, paintings, site plans or line drawings on almost every page. Many have extensive captions which augment the text and result in an interesting and eye-catching presentation. A minor criticism of this, and some other popular works on archaeology, is the lack of a scale on what is otherwise a detailed and technically accurate line drawing of an artefact. Such an aesthetic distraction would have provided a useful point of comparison for the size of artefacts even for a lay audience.

The book consists of seven chronologically organised chapters which cover the history, rediscovery and archaeological excavation of the wreck of HMS Pandora. The first part of the book deals with the historical background and includes a summary of the famous Mutiny on the Bounty which provided the background to the voyage of HMS Pandora to the South Seas. There is a brief overview of the reasons behind the Admiralty decision to send the vessel, a description of the voyage to Tahiti, the partial success in capturing 14 of the mutineers and the decision to head for home. The story of the wreck event with the loss of 31 of the crew and four mutineers is covered in somewhat more detail.

Of the ten mutineers who eventually faced trial in England four were acquitted, two were pardoned, one was discharged on a technicality and three were hanged. One of those pardoned, Peter Heywood, a 17-year-old midshipman at the time, managed to continue his naval career and later rose to the rank of Captain. This provides an interesting reflection on the nature of British naval justice at the close of the eighteenth-century – it raises questions about who was executed and why! This section would have benefited from a modern map of the waters of northern Australia showing the relevant features associated with Bligh's open-boat voyage, the sinking of the Pandora and the subsequent open-boat voyage by the survivors to Timor.

Peter Gesner then provides a chapter which discusses the site-formation processes that occurred after the wreck event which includes a hypothetical reconstruction of the stages of disintegration of the wreck. This makes the important point that environmental degradation was greatest in the first 50 years or so after sinking. Furthermore, it illustrates that the site reached a point where deterioration was much slower until the rediscovery of the wreck site in 1977 when human interference renewed disturbance.

Chapter 5 provides an interesting discussion of the

excavations in 1983, 1984 and 1986, and highlights the operational problems associated with conducting an archaeological excavation on a remote and exposed wreck site in deep water. Chapter 6 deals with the interpretation of the artefacts including the collection of accurately dated Polynesian tools and weapons which is likely to prove of interest to anthropologists and archaeologists studying the impact of the European invasion of the Pacific in the last half of the eighteenth century.

The argument that Pandora has the archaeological potential to contribute to a better understanding of customs in the Royal Navy in the late eighteenth century invited a comparison to be made with Nicholas Rodger's valuable reinterpretation of the social conditions which existed on board Navy ships of the late eighteenth century in his book *The Wooden World: an Anatomy of the Georgian Navy*. While it is unrealistic to expect extensive analysis in a popular book intended for the general reader, for the archaeologist or historian the brevity of the interpretation has really highlighted the need for a comprehensive archaeological report on the Pandora including a detailed catalogue of the artefacts raised.

Overall *Pandora: an Archaeological Perspective* is a welcome addition to the popular literature on maritime archaeology in Australia. It provides adequate coverage of the history of the Pandora for a broad spectrum of readers without overloading them with technical detail. The result is a well written book which can only help to increase public awareness and appreciation of Australia's maritime cultural heritage.

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R. Chénier, *Québec: a French Colonial Town in America, 1660 to 1690*, Studies in Archaeology, Architecture and History; Environment Canada, Ottawa, 1991; pp.279. ISBN 0 660 13630 9.

This book, prepared for the Canadian Parks Service and translated from the original French, deals with the nature and growth of the small town of Québec in the second half of the seventeenth century. Despite its size, it was an important centre in the French Canadian colonies and an interesting example of an overseas transplantation of contemporary French urban development practices. Sections of the work are derived directly from the author's doctoral thesis and the thesis style does pervade the finished work, making it less than riveting reading. Despite this, it contains a great deal of value and interest. It is well illustrated with historical maps and plans used sensibly to reinforce arguments in the text. Reproductions are of a high quality despite the age of the originals and the small size of the book.

Chénier divides the study into four major sections, each occupying a single chapter: the concept of the ville; administration of the town of Québec; the physical evolution of the town; and the population and labour force.

The first and shortest of these sections effectively operates as an introduction, placing this particular study in a broader theoretical context through reference to the work of both geographers and urban historians mainly, but not exclusively, French. There is not as much awareness of urban history work from the United Kingdom or United States of America, including that dealing with colonial towns in British North America, as I would have expected, but this might be a result of editing the original thesis for a wider readership. This first section also gives a good historical background and the contemporary context to the study by outlining urban planning practices and associated legal frameworks in seventeenth-century France.

Division of power in seventeenth-century Québec led to

a complex and changing administrative framework, far more complex than any simple form of municipal government operating under a central government. As well as municipal officials and bodies, the central French administration at Versailles, the colonial administration and a succession of monopolistic trading companies shared administrative functions between them. Chénier makes a fair fist of clarifying this complex situation for readers not familiar with French colonial history. In particular, this section concentrates on those aspects with a clear bearing on town development. The treatment of municipal bylaws is very valuable, though it does almost reach the stage of over-analysis of the somewhat limited data set. In some instances, it would have been better to let the very adequate tables and graphs speak for themselves without stating the obvious and, at times, trivial, in the text.

The same could be said about the third section dealing with the urban landscape, specifically the sections dealing with housing construction. Again, too much is read into the very small number of cases available for analysis. The data are valuable and the conclusions from them worth stating, but the point is often laboured beyond a reasonable limit. Nevertheless, this lengthy section is the most relevant for the industrial archaeologist, discussing as it does buildings types, building materials and construction techniques. It is particularly revealing in its exposition of the use of imported French styles with a gradual adaptation to local conditions and materials.

Finally, there is a detailed analysis of the population and labour force, based on various sources but, in particular, surprisingly detailed censuses for 1666 and 1681. The treatment of the characteristics of the labour force and of households based on particular trades is extremely valuable and more detailed than any similar breakdown I know of for this period. Emphasis is given to an even more detailed study of those trades specifically related to housing construction. Here, case studies of individuals are used skilfully to illustrate more general points. Chénier is, thankfully, more cautious in drawing general conclusions from his small sample of individual tradesmen than in drawing general conclusions from the almost as small data base in earlier sections.

This book will be of interest to Australian workers in the fields of urban history, historical geography and urban archaeology because of the parallels between early Québec and early Australian towns, particularly Sydney, a century or more later. Both Sydney and Québec grew under an uneasy mixture of imperial (London and Versailles respectively) and local decision-making. Both witnessed a struggle to establish the predominance of local municipal government in an embryonic form. Both also experienced attempts, often only partially successful, at planning towns that wanted to go their own ways and 'grow like Topsy'. Keeping a degree of order and maintaining health and safety were seen as important in both cases, even though individual property owners were often intent on doing as they wished regardless of the general community needs. Both towns also saw changes in forms of land occupation and title as land sales and freehold titles became increasingly common. In addition, both towns were dependent on foot and horse transport and both were closely integrated with the surrounding rural areas. There were, of course, equally important differences: to state the obvious, Québec was never a prison and Sydney never saw the domination of religious land uses that occurred in Québec's Upper Town.

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B. Cotterell and J. Kammings, *Mechanics of Pre-industrial Technology*, Cambridge University Press, 1990; pp.325. ISBN 0 521 34194 9.

Our earth is just a huge machine that both generates and uses energy. We have all experienced the force of the wind, the surge of the sea or witnessed the power of the waterfall. In using words such as energy, force, surge and power from the relatively modern vocabulary of mechanics we implicitly acknowledge that an explanation of these physical actions, the causes and the effects, can be given in terms of that branch of science. The reasoning may be recent but the mechanics of nature have been shaping our world for millions of years.

Humans and all living things are not merely passive pieces at the will of that gigantic prime mover but are themselves machines. Ever since Harvey showed that the circulation of blood was simply the function of an hydraulic system, with a pump (the heart) and pipes (the arteries and veins), our whole physiology has been explained in terms of the laws of mechanics. Our lungs are bellows, our legs are columns, our arms are linked levers.

But if our personal being can be explained through an understanding of mechanics, why not also our impact on the physical world around us, particularly in the past when the results of our ancestors' activities were so obvious to them, and yet the results were achieved without any comprehension of why and how.

The purpose of this book is to show how the theory of mechanics provides the answers and the engineer-author does it exceedingly well. By focussing on a series of fundamental topics such as machines, structures, tools, projectiles and modes of transport, and on an interesting series of archaeological artefacts, the authors have demonstrated that science and culture are not mutually exclusive. Despite the late arrival of the scientific explanations, the two disciplines have always complemented each other. The full story is incomplete without the input from both. Just as Sherlock Holmes solved crimes using information from a wide range of seemingly unrelated sources, so it can be in the study of ancient and traditional culture. The authors have made a significant contribution to this interdisciplinary approach.

With the theme and purpose in place, it would be reasonable to expect equal space to the theory and the culture. However, an initial scan leaves a clear visual impression, through the many equations and drawings and photographs, that it is the mechanics that dominate. Maybe this has to be so in order that the why and the how can be effectively explained (it will sit comfortably with technical historians) but it may be a bit daunting to non-technical readers. This is a basic challenge to anyone writing in a multi-disciplinary mode to groups whose backgrounds do not overlap. The authors acknowledge this in the Preface.

After reading the book, the reviewer's feeling that it is a mini-textbook on mechanical science and technical history was reinforced, contrary to the opinions of the authors on page xiv in the Preface. But this is not a bad thing because the right amount of mechanics has been selected to deal with the examples of material culture that have been drawn from the long period of pre-industrial technology covered by the book.

And these examples dispelled an initial impression caused by the use of words such as archaeologist and ancient, that the emphasis might be on prehistory, and very early technology. However, the range of examples proved to be expansive both in type and time, from stone tools of antiquity through the achievements of the Egyptian, Greek and Roman periods, via the wheelbarrow of the second century AD and on through Medieval times to Palladio's

timber-truss bridge of the sixteenth century. The examples are varied and interesting.

'It's a pity about all those equations' some may say, but they really are not so bad. Many archaeologists and recent students will have had contact with J. E. Gordon's *Structures Or Why Things Don't Fall Down* in which the usefulness of engineering mathematics is cleverly portrayed. The present authors have continued with that theme and have shown that genuine efforts to decipher the symbols (they are after all just another language) can prove rewarding as regards achieving a better understanding as to why artefacts developed in their particular ways.

The book is well written and presented and is good value at \$59.50 per hardcover copy. It will be a great assistance to students of, and professional workers in, archaeology, anthropology and humanities in general. But it will not give them independence. The divergence of their basic training from engineering and science will mean that the involvement of technical experts will continue to be an important component of the analysis and interpretation process. The authors are to be commended for showing what that interaction can achieve.

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M. Davies & K. Buckley, *Port Arthur Conservation Project Archaeological Procedures Manual*, Department of Lands, Parks and Wildlife, Tasmania, Occasional Paper No. 13, with contributions by B. J. Egloff and S. J. Singline, Hobart, 1987; pp.viii, 229, illustrated. ISBN 7246 1953 4

This long-awaited publication should be essential reading for both archaeologists and other conservation practitioners alike. It contains an important introduction to the role of archaeology in the Port Arthur Conservation Project, written principally by Brian Egloff, the former Project Manager at Port Arthur, as well as the publication of the earliest work of Martin Davies and others in adapting the Harris matrix and detailed recording techniques to standing historic buildings.

The recording techniques described for standing buildings are in fact the strong point of the manual. Both archaeologists and architects should take note of the detail required to meet the standards of Article 23 of the Burra Charter. The paper by Martin Davies, entitled 'the archaeology of standing structures', published in volume 5 of this *Journal* should also be read in conjunction.

The manual is mainly concerned with the recording systems used at Port Arthur for site survey, excavation (recording, planning and photography), structural recording and artefact cataloguing. In the preface the joint authors point out that the manual is:

*not* about archaeological theory or research design, although recording procedures are inextricably related to these concerns. The manual is about the more fundamental issue of archaeological 'housekeeping' about what to record, how to record it, and how to ensure that the archaeological data thus compiled is accessible and understandable.

The manual was born out of the experience of Port Arthur and the extensive conservation programme, and, while the procedures were tailored for this one project, the authors hope that it will have more general application. However the only chapter that immediately fulfils this role without substantial adaptation is by Stephen J. Singline on mapping and survey techniques in archaeology. It is a competent technical description and could easily stand

alone as a reference text.

Other aspects of the recording system are all encumbered in varying degree by having to comply with an existing filing system in use by the Department of Lands, Parks and Wildlife, Tasmania, and were therefore not solely set up with archaeological concerns in mind. It is understandable that the Department should wish to have as complete and foolproof a filing system as possible, and that its sites register should be a detailed and standardised record of each archaeological site. While this may be a legitimate goal of the Department, it should only be a stepping stone for the archaeologist, who should be equally concerned with the development of research design and the publication of results. It is not difficult to read between the lines, especially in the introduction to the *Manual*, but also elsewhere in the text, to see that the recording of evidence within the filing system has been of paramount importance to the detriment of other factors. On page 6 it is stated that:

Unless an overall research strategy exists there is a danger that the archaeological program may wander or become bogged down in detail and never realise the full potential of the historic resource.

If this indeed happened, it was partly as a result of the framework of the conservation project as a whole. The delay in establishing full staffing levels until 1982, and the prior commencement of the works programme in 1980 were important factors. The commencement of works before the completion of conservation plans meant that the archaeological team had to work from crisis to crisis, rather than in an orderly fashion as spelt out by conservation practice. The authors state on page 87 that:

Experience at Port Arthur has shown that, where time permits, the best method for recording elements *in situ* on a structure is to conduct a comprehensive recording program well before works begin... Once this has been accomplished, the recording work remaining to be done while works are taking place consists only of those elements revealed or temporarily uncovered during works themselves.

This same lesson was learnt by the New South Wales government in 1980 with the archaeological excavations at Hyde Park Barracks, Sydney. The fact that archaeology was not given adequate prior consideration at that time was due almost totally to a lack of understanding of the role of archaeology in conservation.

The following two quotations, though referring to Port Arthur, will bring back unpleasant memories to all those who have fought for the recognition of historical archaeology as a legislative discipline:

To some extent the archaeologists at Port Arthur performed the invidious task of being research assistants to the architects and engineers, providing them with services upon request. This made the direction of the archaeological program difficult to maintain (p. 2).

Recognition of the potential of the program to contribute to the development of methodologies in historical archaeology led to the publication of this manual. However, research designs to integrate data derived from the numerous investigations on the site were infrequently considered. This is a chronic problem in cultural resource management schemes: archaeologists are swept along by the accelerated tempo of the program, often to the detriment of archaeological research questions which have a far greater potential to contribute to knowledge about human behaviour (pp. 9 and 10).

Given this pressure, it is understandable that such effort should have been devoted to recording, rather than research design or publication, for fear that important evidence was being irretrievably lost through a works programme seeking ironically to conserve those very remains. While the project team may have published more of their results had not funding been unexpectedly curtailed, it is nonetheless a critical failure that only the archaeological investigations of the Commandant's Residence has been published among the numerous other important projects undertaken.

The full extent of the recording system is outlined on pages 19 to 21, the standardised recording forms being described throughout the text. There is no mistaking its professional thoroughness and attention to detail. Three basic criticisms are nonetheless justified. First, apart from recording techniques, the manual does not set out to make a major contribution when describing excavation technique, site planning, artefact drawing, or photography. The exception to this is the chapter on mapping and surveying, already mentioned. For this purpose the reader would be better advised to refer to the books listed on page 3, to which should be added J. M. Coles, *Field Archaeology in Britain*, Methuen, London, 1972, still a standard text.

Second, there is unnecessary complexity in the numbering systems for sites, units, artefacts and inventories. For example, finds trays, as they come in from the excavation, are generally labelled with the information given on page 68, including project number, site name, trench number, unit number, co-ordinates (optional), fabric, date and initials of excavator, when all that is required is site and unit numbers, the remaining information being recorded elsewhere. Site numbers are generally indicated by year, then serial number of project in that year. This gives a four figure number such as 82/04, when only a serial number is needed. Perhaps a minor consideration, but once artefacts have been sorted, they are bagged up and labelled as indicated on page 18 with project, accession, and inventory item numbers. Should artefacts require marking, then this series of 12 or more characters becomes unwieldy, and does not directly indicate the unit in which the object was originally found. Labelled bags also require cross-referencing in a fabric register, provenance index and function register. Although more easily done by computer, the authors admit that in its absence the work had to be done manually. It is not surprising that mistakes were made; an artefact cataloguing check list had to be devised to ensure the completion of all these steps. It may be added that giving another four-figure inventory number to each bag was a totally unnecessary and artificial complication.

Third, it is quite obvious that to fill every detail on each recording sheet is not only unwarranted, but would also be prohibitively time consuming. The authors point out on page 86 that:

While the system originally devised is preferable to the reduced version in use at Port Arthur, it is recognised that time constraints might frequently force archaeologists to similarly streamline the procedure.

While standardisation is the desired goal for recording, it cannot be at the expense of research design or publication. Any system that is generally adopted must be simple, efficient and streamlined, and will probably demand the widespread use of computers to manipulate the vast quantities of information.

On a more mundane level the manual brings together much useful information in the various appendices attached to some chapters, including an outline of the

conservation plan structure, a copy of the Burra Charter, a table to calculate the hypotenuse for laying out right-angled trenches, another table for soil texture assessment, and finally a series of charts and glossaries describing the categories of artefacts found on excavations.

The manual is well bound and presented, the exception being the reorganisation of some pages by the Government Printer without the consent of those responsible for editing and layout. This has resulted in some illustrations not being opposite the descriptive text, and the transgression of some publication conventions. The only error of note is in figure 4.1 where the hypotenuse for a one-metre square is given as 1.444 metres instead of 1.414 metres. These considerations do not detract from what is otherwise an important publication for historical archaeology. It should be on the shelves of all archaeologists and conservation practitioners, to be used by the former as an indication of the direction in which recording standards should move, and by the latter as a lesson of how important it is to follow the correct procedures of conservation practice.

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A. Linters, *Industria: Industrial Architecture in Belgium*, Pierre Mardaga, Liège and Brussels, 1986; pp.232. ISBN 2 87009 284 9.

Belgium might seem the antithesis of Australia. It is a very small country, with a very dense population principally engaged in secondary industry. Its industrial heritage is tightly compressed both in space and in time. The surviving buildings reflect only the late stages in a millennium of industrial endeavour in the area of the Low Countries now known as Belgium. The critically important role played by Flanders and adjacent counties in European textile manufacturing during the Middle Ages is not recorded in Dr Linters' book. Linters is concerned with the buildings and machines of the eighteenth and nineteenth-century Industrial Revolution, when Belgian heavy industry, fuelled by local coal, reaffirmed the economic basis of the region, contracted agriculture and changed the landscape dramatically. Linters' interest lies primarily in the surviving above-ground structures, not in the invisible history of the craft guilds and the textile factories six centuries ago (though there are tangible remains which might have been included). Himself a prominent consultant on industrial heritage in the Low Countries, Linters has clearly been much constrained by the requirements of an architectural series. Mardaga has a distinguished list in his *Collection Architecture + Documents*, but the emphasis on the visually satisfying above-ground structure has produced a volume which is not a comprehensive review of industrial heritage in the broader sense most Australian archaeologists would embrace.

As the series demands, Linters presents the industrial development of Belgium in a short text, accompanied by over 200 superb photographs. The text occupies 41 pages but is even shorter than that figure implies, because it is presented in three languages in parallel columns like a Complutensian Bible. The total number of words in English is around 11 000. The relationship of the three texts is curious. Linters writes succinctly and, at best, brilliantly. He normally writes in Flemish, although he is fluent in both French and English. The French is a very well written free version of the Flemish and includes some matter, including significant facts, not present in the Flemish. The English, on the other hand, adheres closely

to the Flemish but omits some short sections, and never rises above the pedestrian. The publishers give no information about the process of creating the parallel texts and the reader with a taste for literary detective work and problems of manuscript transmission will find the problem strangely absorbing.

In whatever language, the introduction gives a vivid summary of industrial change in the most densely populated country in Europe. Belgium was already in this position by 1780 and, despite migration and disease, increased its nett population by 270% before 1900.

The pressure on consumer goods, food and accommodation created by demographic change encouraged the rapid development of transport and industry of all sorts, with a very modern preoccupation with growth, in all areas save agriculture. The need to pay for imported goods merely accelerated the growth of industry and exacerbated the decline of farming in Belgium during the nineteenth century.

Concise and admirable chapters describe the outline history of the major nineteenth and twentieth-century industries: coal, iron and steel, glass, textiles, brewing and distilling (the last three very cursorily). Linters gives an excellent summary of the impact of new international transportation systems, which gave the incentive for zinc extraction in new muffle furnaces (smelting Australian ores). He ends his text with an important long section on the architecture of industrial buildings and workers' housing in Belgium.

The book's impact is primarily through the photographs, mostly in colour but with some distinguished black-and-white. The photographers are Christine Bastin and Jacques Evrard who have spent time recklessly to obtain uncluttered views of buildings in ideal light. The captions are good, and are presumably by Linters himself, although it is a pity that the introductory text is not cross-referenced to the images and an even greater pity that there is no index either to the illustrations or to the text. The absence of a map of any sort is moreover incomprehensible, even in an architectural publication. As a result, the book is not easy to use for rapid reference or cross-checking.

The illustrations are, for the most part, grouped thematically, but some obvious themes such as workers' housing (which is scattered on pp. 90, 101-109 and 111) are not tightly presented and some magnificent sites such as Le Grand Hornu, escape definition in caption and in text. Visual and educational highlights, as one reads through the book, are: the steam forge at Marchienne-au-Pont (p.62), the Bollinckx steam engine in a cardboard factory (p.66), a vertical steam engine with classical pillars and supporting iron arches now at Bois-du-Luc (p.67), an evocative colour view of two iron headframes at Marcinelle on the site of the mine disaster of 1956 symbolised in the dead slag everywhere around (pp.72-73), the water-wheel and gearing of a copper rolling-mill at Les Moulins (p.79), a sad, sad picture of the roofless cast-room of the Compagnie de Bronzes in Brussels, with the mould of a hunter's lower limbs and dog, standing desolate in a corner (p.83), the sheer immensity and elegance of Le Grand Hornu (pp.91-96), the twin circular towers guarding the entrance to Bois-du-Luc coalmine (p.98), the Gothick offices with iron astragals for the lime-kilns at Calliau (pp.122-123), the rolling mangles at the Winderickx cardboard factory (p.145), details of the cast-iron work at Thurn and Taxis railway station in Brussels (pp.170-172), the decorative brickwork within a metal frame of the pumping house at Antwerp's 1895 dry dock (pp.190-191), the drying shed for bricks at Boom-Noeveren (p. 21) and the apotheosis of

a wooden post-mill, at Poelberg (p.17).

Australian readers may be particularly interested in the view of two of the blast furnaces at Seraing (p.87), the Cockerill ironmaking site so much admired by William Sandford of Lithgow. They may also be surprised to find the Brussels shot-tower (p.86) described as 'one of the last remaining traces of this method in Europe': surprised not because the statement is untrue but because there are at least six surviving towers for making lead shot in Australia (one in Sydney, four in Melbourne, one in Geelong and one near Hobart).

The close contact of Belgium with British industry and innovations and the time-span of the monuments discussed in Linters' book make it much more relevant to Australia than the contrasts between the two countries might have suggested. Although the historical context of Belgium is so much longer than that of European Australia and although the economic base of Belgium has throughout the last 200 years been the converse of Australia's, the Belgian industrial heritage provides a useful perspective by which to appraise Australian buildings and machinery. It also gives some inspiring examples of intelligent reuse of dead industrial buildings. Despite the number of Belgian industrial structures which have a magnificence seldom found here, *Industria* reinforces the belief that Australian industrial sites are of international importance and deserve a presentation as evocative and intelligent as Adriaan Linters has lavished on Belgium.

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H. Proudfoot, *The Historic Buildings of Windsor and Richmond*, Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst, NSW, 1987; pp.64, illustrated. ISBN 0 86417 127 7.

This is a revised edition of the 1967 publication. At the time of its original appearance there was little interest in our built heritage and few scholarly studies about it. Helen Proudfoot has been one of the pioneers in bringing historians out into the paddock. Her study of Windsor and Richmond was one of the earliest to apply historical research to the built environment. While there has been a major expansion in our appreciation and knowledge of the historic environment, there has been surprisingly little quality material published on the Macquarie Five Towns. The publication of the revised edition of this book is therefore welcomed.

The book gives a brief overview of the settlement of the Hawkesbury region and the laying out of four of the Five Towns – Windsor, Richmond, Pitt Town, and Wilberforce – by Macquarie in 1810. The remainder of the book examines a range of extant buildings in the region, with its focus primarily on Windsor and Richmond. All of the major buildings are covered: Greenway's St Matthew's Church and Windsor Court House, two colonial buildings of considerable importance; the Macquarie Arms – one of the earliest surviving hotels in Australia – which together with the Doctors' House and Hawkesbury Museum form an important precinct in Thompson Square; Rouse Hill House – now the subject of much more detailed study since its acquisition by the New South Wales Government; Hobartville, the important Cox mansion; and many other characteristic Hawkesbury residences.

The major emphasis of the book is on the colonial and early Victorian periods, the era in which the region was in its prime. The history of the buildings and their owners is carefully researched from primary sources, and presented in a manner that is accessible to both the specialist and general reader. It is always a delight to find text properly referenced – especially in the case of a relatively slim

volume. Numerous plans as well as photographic material are reproduced, making the book a digestible and useful handbook.

The north-west sector of Sydney is currently subject to major residential expansion, and the pressure on the historic Macquarie Towns is enormous. The emphasis of this book, as the title indicates, is on the buildings of Windsor and Richmond. R. Ian Jack's *Exploring the Hawkesbury* (2nd ed. 1990), a more broadly-based examination of the built heritage, incorporated a history of settlement. But we now urgently need a closer study of Hawkesbury cultural landscape. This is the Hawkesbury heritage that is about to disappear.

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A. Philp, *The Ladies of Saumarez: the Story of an Australian Country House and the Women Who Called it Home During the Past Century*, Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst, 1988; pp.80, illustrated. ISBN 0 86417 1951.

*The Ladies of Saumarez* is a pleasant enough souvenir book to keep as a memento of the visit to the National Trust property of Saumarez in New England. The book does not claim to be a history but a story, and the text is a narrative of the activities and aspirations of the women who lived at Saumarez homestead over one hundred and thirty years. There are numerous illustrations, especially family photographs, scattered throughout the text, and the author draws on private letters and diaries to document her subjects, including many excerpts which allow the women in question to tell their own stories in their own styles.

Through such means the aspirations, anxieties and daily domestic tasks of Caroline Thomas, first mistress of the slab and brick pioneer Saumarez homestead from 1868 to 1874, are compared to the leisured life of privilege and luxury enjoyed by her successor, Maggie White, who lived at Saumarez from 1881 to 1936 and who oversaw her household first from the original, and then from a new homestead which was extended in Edwardian splendour in 1906. It is unfortunate here that the text is so descriptive and does not analyse more fully the differences in lifestyle and opportunity enjoyed by these two women. Neither does it enlighten the reader in regard to domestic practice noted in passing, such as the health giving properties of salt baths or the storage of butter down the drinking well prior to pastry making. But, as I noted above, this book is primarily story not history. The last chapters describe Maggie's two daughters Mary and Elsie and document their careers pursuing charitable works while caring for Saumarez until the 1980s.

*The Ladies of Saumarez* is a story which leaves the reader with some sense of the people who lived at Saumarez but little feeling of the place. This must surely be considered a major failing since Saumarez and its garden have been preserved with the room interior details virtually unchanged since the 1906 alterations to the house. However, Anne Philp does not draw upon this wealth of material evidence even to explore the later years of Maggie's life up to her death in 1936. There is no interpretation of the new room interiors photographed in 1912 or of the garden created by the women over several generations as one of their major pastimes. In *The Ladies of Saumarez* it appears that the traditional approach of historic enquiry concentrating almost exclusively on documentary sources is alive and well.

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G. Irwin. *The Prehistoric Exploration and Colonisation of the Pacific*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1992; 240 pp. ISBN 0 521 40371 5.

This book brings together four of Irwin's recent lengthy papers and weaves them into a dense web of argument. His discussion deals with two main phases: the first, 50,000 - 30,000 years ago, is dealt with briefly, the second, 3,500 - present, much more fully. The first phase saw the settlement of Near Oceania - eastern Indonesia, New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago and the Solomon Islands. The second phase of exploration covers the much larger area of Remote Oceania - the smaller, out-of-sight islands of eastern Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia, to use inappropriate but familiar designations.

The first phase of settlement took place in what Irwin calls the 'voyaging corridor'. He draws particular attention to the inter-visibility of islands and the absence of cyclones or even much stormy weather, which make the area one in which human cultures could be marinated, becoming the voyagers evidenced by the Pleistocene transport of animals and artefacts and developing the canoes, star knowledge and marine-oriented economies necessary to the later phase.

Irwin's basic argument concerning the settlement of Remote Oceania is a simple, rational one. Pacific explorers were not foolhardy and had no particular wish to die. Their explorations were thus designed on a fail-safe basis, sailing against the prevailing winds so that any return voyage, down-wind, would be faster than the outward journey. This basic proposition accounts for the archaeologically known order of settlement of eastern Melanesia and tropical Polynesia. Voyages across the wind, on this model, are a later phenomenon, arising from many generations of experience and this accounts for the late settlements of Hawaii (AD 200) and New Zealand (AD 800-1000). Downwind exploration, highly dangerous for returning, needs to occur only for the Chatham Islands, not settled until about AD 1500, and even then, one might think, through chance rather than design.

Irwin reinforces his 'rational' argument in various ways. Much of the book describes weather, notably wind, patterns in the Pacific and reports a large series of computer simulations of exploratory voyages. These establish the probabilities of particular 'homelands' and, more importantly, the improbability of others. These simulations explore the differences between 'unsafe' strategies such as 'keep on exploring' and 'safe' ones, which involve turning back at a designated point of no return and finding one's way home through latitudinal sailing. Much of this discussion is illuminated by Irwin's own Pacific sailing experience. These chapters also bring in the archaeological and linguistic records, along with traditional navigation systems and the evidence of actual experimental voyaging using these systems in reconstructed traditional vessels. They constitute a dense and detailed argument for Irwin's position that the first exploration of the Pacific was at least as deliberate, intentional and well-informed as that of second millennium AD Europeans.

His discussion of post-exploration voyaging focuses on Polynesia. He shows how unoccupied or intermittently occupied islands are small and/or far away and/or inaccessible. Polynesian outliers notably display the last characteristic, allowing, as Irwin says, Polynesian languages to be maintained following complex histories of migration and cultural replacement.

Overall, it can be said that this book finally refutes any suggestion that drift or even undirected voyages were responsible for Pacific settlement. Although not supporting some of the more extreme nineteenth-century

claims, Irwin shows that the exploration of Far Oceania involved attitudes and technological capabilities well beyond those of any other part of the world at that time.

No book, of course, is perfection, and I think there are two academic flaws with this one. The first is a sidling away from some implications to be drawn from the Pleistocene settlement of Near Oceania. Human occupation of Manus by the late Pleistocene, in particular, implies that even by that time people were both technologically capable and prepared to voyage out of sight of land. That they did not, on present evidence, go beyond the large islands of the Solomons implies a 'pause' of several thousand years at a minimum. The reasons for this, and for the subsequent change, might lie in subsistence, social systems or ideology. Irwin (p.213) suggests only that the barrier was 'the navigational threshold of survival sailing', which seems pretty inadequate to me and for which he provides no evidence.

The second flaw lies in his treatment of Micronesia. In terms of his model and the climatic evidence we would predict that if the western islands were settled by upwind voyages around 3500-3000 BP, as is generally agreed, then we might anticipate continuing upwind settlement of at least the Caroline and perhaps also the Marshall Islands. Irwin ignores this possibility, settling for a cross-wind settlement of the Marshalls by 2000 BP or earlier and then a downwind settlement of the Carolines. This scenario satisfies the historical linguists but not the exploration model. The archaeological evidence is equivocal, but recent work on the prehistoric distribution of murids seems to support a western origin. The flaw in this case lies not in Irwin's handling of the evidence, but in a somewhat Polynesian-centric focus along with an unwillingness to use his model to challenge the dominant linguistic paradigm. He should not be so modest.

Despite these flaws, and though the structure of the book could have done with firmer direction, Irwin's argument commands the attention of both prehistorians and historians of the Pacific.

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L. Ferguson, *Uncommon Ground: Archaeology and Early African America, 1650-1800*, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, 1992; pp.xlv, 186.  
ISBN 1 56098 058 3 and ISBN 1 56098 059 1 (paper).

Leland Ferguson begins *Uncommon Ground* with a brief account of the short history of African-American archaeology. To all intents and purposes it originated in the 1960s when the Civil Rights Movement prodded scholars into a realization that black Americans were part of the colonial past. In 1967 Charles Fairbanks was contracted by Florida State Park Service to excavate Kingsmill plantation and under Fairbanks' influence the University of Florida became the centre of what he called 'plantation archaeology'. The groundswell of feeling concerning the historical experience of blacks in America that flowed on from the Civil Rights Movement pressured the federal government to interpret the National Historic Preservation Act so as to include African-American archaeological remains. As a result, many archaeologists conducted their fieldwork just ahead of the bulldozer on federally funded construction projects. In the 1970s and 1980s most historical archaeologists were doing work on a contract basis. They accumulated huge quantities of data and, required to submit reports, took their lead from the social scientists then dominating the discipline, working out lists of artefact frequencies, measuring the rate at which slaves picked up European traits, and using the

artefacts to demonstrate the different economic status of slaves and their owners. As Ferguson tartly concludes in relation to their activities, some of the data and interpretations are useful, but their more general conclusions 'are of little anthropological or historical interest' (p.xl).

In *Uncommon Ground* Leland Ferguson, influenced by the work of historians over the last decade or so (and here I should add that this historian was a bit unnerved to have his profession constantly held up as the epitome of sweetness and light in many of the author's intradisciplinary turf battles), sets out to write an introductory book that is 'wide ranging and speculative; not a review of completed research, but an offering of newly discovered awareness, ideas and things' (p.xxxiv). His main concerns are with pots and housing, the two classes of artefacts about which African-American archaeologists have amassed the most knowledge.

It was in the 1930s that archaeologists at Williamsburg and surrounding plantations first found fragments of clay pots used by slaves. In 1962 Ivor Noël Hume, from Colonial Williamsburg, published a paper in which he argued that these vessels had been made by free Indians. Noël Hume, after concluding that the astute Indians may have found a market among the slaves, labelled the artefacts Colono-Indian Ware. This remained the conventional wisdom well into the 1970s when the sheer quantity of material being recovered in South Carolina forced a reconsideration. Here Ferguson's account becomes just a bit breathless, with faint echoes of Indiana Jones, but he and others were able to show, by looking at pots made in Africa and searching the written record as well as analyzing thousands of bits of pottery, that slaves made pots in America. Not all were made by African Americans – some were clearly Native American – but more than enough were to warrant Ferguson proposing that the 'Indian' be dropped and the artefacts labelled simply Colono Ware.

The fragments found were almost invariably from bowls and not plates hinting at a rather different pattern of foodways from that of the Europeans. But Ferguson's most fascinating finding about the use of Colono Ware concerns a small number of bowls from South Carolina marked with a simple cross or a cross enclosed in a circle on the base. Most of these pieces were discovered not around slave quarters but in rivers adjacent to old rice plantations. Ferguson suggests that the marks are Bakongo cosmograms and that these small bowls contained sacred medicines or *minkisi* and were used in rituals involving the ubiquitous West African water spirits. If he is correct, and his argument appears convincing, then these marks are a quite striking demonstration of the continued importance of some African ways in the South Carolina low country.

Housing is the other type of evidence which archaeologists have investigated in some detail. Although most of our knowledge concerns the antebellum period there has been some excavation of eighteenth-century sites. Slave houses found in the Carolina lowlands, at Yaughan and Curriboo, were different from other structures found in colonial America. The houses had clay walls similar to those found in Africa. Nearby pits were used initially as a source of clay for daubing the walls and later to hold trash. By the nineteenth century the structures were taking on some European features, particularly chimneys, but the houses remained very small, much smaller than those found in Virginia. Again this appears to reflect African cultural patterns – Europeans lived inside their houses, but for African Americans most activities occurred in the yards around their dwellings.

Some of the details in *Uncommon Ground* are new, but

Ferguson's major contention about the importance of the African past in the lives of slaves in Mainland North America contains few surprises for anyone versed in the historiography of slavery over the last decade or so. However, for this reviewer, at least, it was the author's material, both from his own research and that of others, highlighting the fluidity and contingency of African-American culture that was most novel and interesting. In particular, the evidence pointing to Native American influence in the formation of African-American culture helps to draw out a factor that is often hinted at, but never really developed fully in the work of historians relying on the written record. It appears that the old idea of a segregated existence, implicit in the label 'Colono-Indian Ware', was mistaken and that to a much greater extent than historians had previously thought there was a three-way cultural contact occurring in colonial America. One of the best examples of the creation of this creole culture is contained in Ferguson's fascinating discussion of the foodways of South Carolina blacks in which he shows how Native American, African and European influences combined within the constraints of slavery to shape their distinctive culinary practices. Basically, there was a change from an African diet of rice, millet and manioc to one centered on corn (even in the rice colonies, for rice was a valuable cash crop), with supplements from game they were able to snare. Whites served food on platters and plates, but slaves used their fingers and ate from a variety of bowls.

Historical archaeologists are also able to provide evidence about the timing of cultural developments. For example, in South Carolina the incidence of Colono Ware, ubiquitous in eighteenth-century sites, drops markedly after the beginning of the nineteenth century. A number of factors – the end of the African slave trade, the increasing awareness among African Americans of glazed and highly fired pottery, and the increased availability of industrially manufactured ceramics – combined to diminish the importance of plantation-made pottery. In the nineteenth century, the demand for Colono Ware bowls – they were highly valued for cooking African-American dishes such as okra – was met by itinerant Catawba Indians.

There is a certain amount of idiosyncrasy to *Uncommon Ground*. Although a short book, it sprawls with not particularly well-organised chapters. Twice the author uses fictionalised recreations to illustrate his point (a strategy which, to my surprise, I found helpful on the second occasion). The Epilogue, a confessional account centred on the eight-year-old Ferguson and a friend using the word 'nigger' to a black railroad worker in 1949, while interesting enough, seemed barely relevant. But the book is certainly engaging and easy to read, and it effectively conveys to outsiders a sense of the potential of historical archaeology for those interested in the African-American past.

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