

## Editorial

'Not more mining!' was the response from one person around here when shown the table of contents for this volume... Yes, I'm afraid so. The archaeology of mining is again prominent, but don't be put off, because there are non-mining papers too and they are well worth a read. Why more mining? Several of the papers published here were initially intended for inclusion in Volume 13, which was devoted to mining archaeology. However, there were so many papers offered at that time that it was impossible to include them all in the one volume. Instead, the paper by Neville Ritchie and Ray Hooker, and the two by Peter Milner, have been published here.

All of these contributions present the results of several decades of research in the area. Ritchie and Hooker's glossary of mining terms brings together in a single location terms and definitions culled from a wide range of historical and current sources. The authors' experience as archaeologists and field workers is evident in the structure of the glossary. The guide is a practical one which emphasises the machines and processes that have led to the creation of the archaeological record surviving today. As such, I am certain that it is destined to become a classic reference that expert and novice alike will turn to again and again in the years to come.

Milner's articles likewise draw on many years' experience and present an invaluable reference tool. In the first article Milner describes an extensive database on mining sites and technology in Victoria. He has compiled information from sources such as the regular reports of the Mines Department, relevant journals such as *Dickers' Mining Record*, newspapers, and other publications. Because the database is computerised, it can be searched by a variety of fields including location, process and machinery. It has also been produced in hard copy, bound by mining district. The practical utility of the database is illustrated in Milner's second article, in which he draws upon information in the database to analyse the role of beam pumping engines in colonial Victoria. The database will have a number of applications for researchers in Victoria, but also provides useful comparative information for researchers elsewhere. The database is too large to reproduce here, but is available from the Department of Engineering Library at the University of Melbourne.

The fourth article on mining is by Martin Gibbs. It reports on recent work undertaken on behalf of the Northampton Historical Society, and is the first analysis of mining in Western Australia to appear in this journal. Turning from the better-known gold industry, this article discusses the early lead

mining industry in Western Australia. Mining in the isolated Northampton field, 500 kilometres north of Perth, was contemporaneous with silver, lead and copper mining enterprises in South Australia to which the Warribanno smelter is compared. Like the South Australian enterprises, the Northampton field dates to the 1840s, and was the first attempt at mineral processing in the colony.

Warwick Pearson's article on water-powered flour milling in Tasmania departs entirely from the theme of mining, although like the mining articles it is a discussion of the archaeological remains of industrial processes. Pearson presents data on the Tasmanian industry which draws on and illustrates arguments previously outlined in his analysis of colonial watermilling technology in Australia. This was published in *Australasian Historical Archaeology* in 1996. Because of the amount of rainfall and the permanent nature of the rivers, Tasmania was ideally suited to watermilling technology. A detailed study of five surviving mills is used to delineate the range of adaptive responses to colonial conditions there.

The final article is that by Eleanor Casella. Casella presents work-in-progress, a report of the 1995 and 1997 excavation seasons at the Ross Female Factory in Tasmania. This is the first major excavation at a female convict site in Australia and is part of Casella's research towards a Ph.D. Casella's arguments regarding the construction of identity amongst the female convicts, and their resistance to colonial authority, are explored in the context of the physical remains of the factory site.

In preparing this volume for publication I have accumulated many debts. First, thanks must go to all the contributors, some of whom have waited patiently over some years in order to see their work in print, and others of whom have, with equal good will, responded to my constant enjoiners for a quick turn around. At La Trobe University, Ming Wei has provided expert assistance with the figures while Ros Allen corrected several drafts. Without their help this volume would have been a much longer time in appearing. The ASHA Editorial Committee, Bob Kirk at Brolga Press, Allison Mortlock of Angel Ink, and Aedeon Cremin, Reviews Editor and now President of ASHA, have as always done excellent work and thanks to them as well for their assistance.

SUSAN LAWRENCE  
Melbourne  
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