

and whites in the States is legitimated with reference to the past. In other words the contemporary social order was imposed on the reconstruction and made to appear 'traditional' and as a consequence socially valid. Leone suggests, and I would endorse his view, that archaeologists must recognise the fact that the meaning they impose on archaeological remains and on any presentation of material culture is ideological and serves to create and recreate that same ideology. As the dominant ideology changes then too must archaeological displays; changing in order to communicate, legitimate or mystify the new ideology. Of all the papers presented in this volume only Leone's essay offers any real hope for archaeology. It challenges the widely held belief that archaeologists are searching for "the truth about the past" and suggests that it is "in how we get back, not forward, that we will learn about ourselves" (Leone p. 13).

Prehistoric Communities in Northern England
Essays in Economic and Social Reconstruction

Edited by Graeme Barker

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R.H. Bewley

This volume is the most recent in the series from Sheffield University, and helps to maintain the good reputation.

This collection of essays succeeds in communicating many aspects of archaeology, particularly as they pertain to the North of England. At only £4.50 most students will be able to afford it, and despite the weak binding, the print is clear and readable, (unlike some other publications that report on British archaeology at a higher price).

So, if it is worth buying for money is it worth reading? Undoubtedly "Yes". The Introductory paper by Graeme Barker covers the aims and scope of the collection of essays comprehensively, commenting on all the perspectives and background of the researchers. The work is an attempt to take "the Cinderella region of British prehistory" (p. 1) to the Archaeologists' Ball. The North is seen as a Cinderella when compared with the south; "our major syntheses have usually had to concentrate particularly on southern England and especially on Wessex..." (p. 1) ... "This unequal distribution of

research correlates closely with the distribution of archaeological personnel and resources." (p. 1).

Despite these handicaps, a positive approach to archaeology is presented; integration and interrelationships are words which appear frequently. The significance of the interrelationships between technological, economic, social and ritual aspects of any society are stressed, as is the CONTEXT of the artefact(s), (see Turner's contribution). "To conclude I have tried in this collection of papers to illustrate the wealth of techniques at our disposal to reconstruct the nature of prehistoric life in northern England and break away from the narrative prehistory that still remains to dominate so much current work." (p. 7). The Introduction highlights some of the major changes in archaeology over the past 25 years, especially the radio-carbon revolution and "increasing expansion of archaeology into the sciences." (p. 3). Surely though, it was the scientific techniques which were introduced to archaeology?

Now to the essays themselves, they are all worth reading and I shall select only three to illustrate their relevance for the rest of archaeology. (All the other papers are listed below.)

Although Yorkshire is not the whole of the north (despite Yorkshiremen's insistence that it is!), it is well represented in these papers. Pierpoint's paper "Land, settlement and society in the Yorkshire Bronze Age" (pp. 41-56) states the theoretical standpoint at the outset "The paper begins with the assumption that the use and control of land would have been important to most prehistoric farming communities; then following the arguments of Turner, Levi-Strauss and Cohen, develops the proposition that the symbolisation of material culture... is a source of power and a means of regulation" (p. 41). He continues "the artifacts and monuments were not just the cultural expression of the society but a means of its control." (p. 41).

From this assumption settlement trends through time are investigated, as are social organisation and economic and social changes, using the burial evidence (with factor analyses of grave good associations) and settlement evidence in tandem.

This emphasis on territoriality is also exemplified in Hawke-Smith's article "Land use, burial practice and territories in the Peak District, c. 2000-1000 b.c." "We should therefore expect agricultural societies (in

prehistoric Britain for example) to have been strongly territorial, and this expectation presents a challenge to archaeology to identify the residue of territorial behaviour on the ground." (p. 57). The "wholistic approach" incorporates environmental, economic, settlement, and burial aspects and is well integrated and well argued. The concept of trying to identify the residue of territoriality on the ground is a highly commendable one.

The third essay, which is a good example for archaeology as a whole, is Hayes "New approaches to ancient fields". "This paper explores some of the ways in which drawings of ancient field boundaries, prepared from air photographs, can be used as archaeological evidence, concentrating on groups of fields rather than on individual field types." (p. 105). This concept is crucial for those so called "aerial archaeologists"; aerial photographs in themselves are as much use as unstratified pottery. The evidence they contain has to be extracted, interpreted and used as part of the archaeological process, as is done in Hayes' article. He identifies groups of fields or holdings (using multivariate analysis) and then attempts to identify the different possible and probable use of a holding.

These are only a few examples of the contributions which are relevant to the broad spectrum of archaeological concerns. There are many points for debate too detailed and lengthy to embark on here. As "essays" they succeed in trying to reconstruct economic and social behaviour, and are not meant as definitive statements. They show what work has been done and how future work may well be carried out, north, south, east or west. There is something for all practising archaeologists in this volume, and much debate should stem from it. In all the papers the link between theoretical approach and methodological preciseness is made. There seems to have been a very proper concern with linking theories to archaeological data and understanding that data.

List of Contributions

Approaches to prehistoric man in northern England. Graeme Barker

Predation and palaeolithic man in northern England. Alan Turner

Welcome back, material culture: prehistoric technology and

society in northern England c. 3500-1250 b.c. Patricia Phillips

Land, settlement and society in the Yorkshire Bronze Age S.J. Pierpoint

Land use, burial practice and territories in the Peak

District c. 2000-1000 b.c. C.F. Hawke-Smith

Faunal attrition and subsistence reconstruction at Thwing. Graeham Mounteney

Prehistoric boundaries on the North Yorkshire Moors. D.A. Spratt

New approaches to ancient fields. Peter Hayes