doesn't go beyond fraudulent reconstructions of sites tourists would enjoy, and attempts to build a hotel in the ruins of Machu Picchu.

Success (more hurrahs than boos) is exemplified by Denmark and by Japan, which has 40,000 sites registered (equivalent to scheduled), 1100 sites designated (equivalent to guardianship), and 2000 archaeologists in rescue archaeology and site-protection work, 6200 rescue digs and watching briefs annually, a level of public interest that puts an incredible 381 archaeological stores a year on the front page of just one national newspaper and the principle that the developer pays for rescue work. The consequences of all these hurrahs are illustrative - and, like most things in this book, rather gloomy. Since developers have the money, threats are met by rescue work rather than preservation. The result? A giant backlog of material: 'No fresh ideas are likely to occur to archaeologists six months from now,' says a days of excavation and pressures by mounds of data... What is necessary for Japan's archaeological heritage is the establishment of an efficient system for preserving the sources of our historic and prehistoric data - the sites - from rapid destruction'. Rescue, in short, will not do as an alternative to conservation.

At the high level of practice, the ways things are (and more often are not) preserved, the book is fine, and the remedies perceivable: systematic inventory of sites and monuments, more positive role for physical history in education (especially important for third-world countries with a short and often tenuous history), effective legislation sensible scale of resources.

Only Lipe's brilliant opening essay goes much deeper, into the why and the which. When it is recognized - as it now is in the UK - that archaeology is something that happens on a finite number of spot sites, but that the entire landscape (in countries with a long history of intensive settlement) or at least huge chunks of it (in countries less pressured by past populations) is a human artefact and therefore a potential archaeological resource, the limits on what has to be preserved are abolished. With this has gone an ever-wider view of what is old and precious rather than clamped-out and worthless. (When the Snowdonia national park was created in 1948, the area round Blaeneu Ffestiniog, with its lunar landscape of derelict slate quarries and mountainous waste-tips, was carelessly left out. Now it is the main tourist growth-spot in north Wales, and the industrial archaeology of its ruins is lovingly preserved.)

The immense and unanswerable question is then how to decide what is to be preserved, and what can be let go. Lipe says, 'All cultural materials, including cultural landscapes, that have survived from the past are potentially cultural resources -- that is, have some potential value or use in the present or the future.' On a broad definition, that includes yesterday's refuse (as in the Tucson garbage project), and the whole thing becomes impossible. The first few items are easy -- no one would want to do without Lord Clark of Civilisation, or Quintin Crisp's stately homes of England -- but very soon afterwards it gets tricky.

Most national movements towards legislation began with blanket declarations at startlingly early dates in the Australian 1947; the German state of Hesse 1780; Mexico 1825; Peru 1822) that all old things were precious national treasures to be preserved. Since then, the blanket has got wider and wider (not just Stonehenge, Altamira and the Parthenon, but Art Deco cinemas, and soon, the nastier excesses of modernist architecture). Bits of the blanket are pathetically enforced, but working out the criteria for choosing which bits of an infinite demand for preservation can be given the small and finite supply of resources, is horrid.

Philosophically, the question is insoluble: we don't know future criteria of value, so we can't tell what will be valuable in the future. Practical valuation has to depend on a uneasy attempt to measure, usually in money terms, the consideration of utility (e.g. reuse of old buildings), of associative/symbolic value ('the first Weisman', Shakespeare slept here') and information (the least easy to translate, since historical and prehistorical understanding usually has zero technical application and zero cash value in itself).

The mechanics of preservation, which is what this book sticks to, certainly are formidable. Bigger still, and needing to be addressed just as urgently, are the ethics of how to choose the miniscule percentage of old things that are to be kept and or come to that, why we preserve anything at all. A London conference a couple of years back tried to work out why we find value in old things and didn't reach a rational answer. Probably there isn't one, beyond the continuity between respect for the past and respect for the future. If we plan to give our children Star Wars, why should pre-dynastic Egypt matter? Flinders Petrie, quoted by Lipe, had an answer: one of the right philosophical character, eighty years ago:

A work that has cost days, weeks, or years of toil has a right to existence. To murder a man a week before his time we call a crime; what are we to call the murder of years of his labour?... Every tablet, every little tabula, is a precious portion of life solidified; so much will, so much labour, so much living reality. The work of the archaeologist is to save lives; to go to some senseless mound of earth and then bring the companionship of men some portions of the lives of this sculptor, or that artist, of the other scribe...
this coverage by making reference to sites from Australia dated c. 10,000 bc to medieval Northern Europe. An outline of the history of research serves to place modern-day activities in a context of early work which, we are reminded, was not restricted to the Swiss Lakes and the Somerset Levels as many, at least in Britain, tend to assume. From this point of view, as well as from others, large-scale regional research designs are perhaps most likely to produce satisfactory results.

3. Behavioural. The potential for previously unanticipated developments in this field is discussed quite extensively throughout the book. Several classes of data frequently found in waterlogged sites will be discussed in this review, being those which the reviewer regards as being of particular interest.

The common lack of post-depositional displacement provides possibilities for spatial studies of a kind which are impractical or unwise on dryland sites. The same feature will allow the study of residues which, while not being the most glamorous of research topics, should provide useful insights into various aspects of prehistoric function. Tree-ring studies, which have often been seen in the past solely in terms of the construction of regional chronologies, are now demonstrating that they are of potential value in identifying phases of occupation both within settlements and individual structures (sided by micro-stratigraphical analyses) as well as demonstrating chronological relationships between sites within a region. All these will be of value in clarifying archaeological time-scales and identifying different hierarchies of social relationships.

The fossilised prehistoric landscapes of Dartmoor, western Ireland and elsewhere, which have been preserved through blanket bog growth and recorded during recent years have been consistently shown to be a valuable source of archaeological data. Though few organic remains survive, and dating is often problematical, they shed light on land-use patterns involving both single and multiple communities.

4. Public presentation. It is, above all, refreshing to see a concern for this aspect of archaeology in a general text such as this. George Macdonald’s wise words which John Coles quotes deserve reproduction here. It may be the wettest site of all in which archaeologists who save the meddle in terms of public support of those archaeologists...whose results are totally incomprehensible to the public” (p. 54). Waterlogged sites tend to provide a range of fascinating everyday and extraordinary items, whose popular appeal is enhanced by their surprising (sic) preservation. However, they also provide 3-dimensional objects which are far easier to present to public than many characteristic dry sites yet are more fulfilling experience for archaeologists and non-archaeologists alike. The inescapable conflict between all the possible expectations for a site are discussed. All the options (preservation, excavation and presentation, as well as combinations) are important in the healthy development of the discipline. Coles gives his considered opinion and stresses that alliances with nature conservationists and whose wetland also have a considerable interest, can help the cause of preservation at archaeological sites and landscapes. The example of the preservation of a length of the Sweet Track running under a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) in the Somerset Levels provides an example for such developments. The airing of similar issues was the focus of the 1984 Conference of the Theoretical Archaeology Group bodes well for the future.

The Archaeology of Wetlands also provides us with a wide-ranging and comprehensive summary of the techniques required to move towards achieving the outlined above, This is drawn from both the practical experience gained by the author in the Somerset Levels and from foreign projects whose frequently innovative approaches merit consideration by British archaeologists.

However, as is clearly pointed out, there is a considerable price to be paid in order to realise the potential outlined above. Survey and excavation techniques are invariably costly, requiring sophisticated equipment and the cooperation of specialists in order to gain the maximum yield of data. The need is perhaps this question of expense which brings the conflict between wet and dry sites into sharpest focus. Decisions are difficult enough in the relatively continuing debate over the competing claims of rescue and research, but now in many places we, and our paymasters, are being tempted into new and expensive, but potentially very rewarding, ventures. We cannot providing no ready-made answers (they would be very likely to deny that any exist), John Coles emphasises the need for perhaps this question of expense which brings the conflict between wet and dry sites into sharpest focus. Decisions are difficult enough in the relatively continuing debate over the competing claims of rescue and research, but now in many places we, and our paymasters, are being tempted into new and expensive, but potentially very rewarding, ventures. We cannot providing no ready-made answers (they would be very likely to deny that any exist), John Coles emphasises the need for perhaps this question of expense which brings the conflict
which all archaeologists, 'wet' or 'dry', would do well to dwell.

* * *


Reviewed by John Alexander

Many who work in this field have talked of writing a book with this title, but none have dared appear in print. The knowledge required for it is immense, scattered, and in a dozen or more languages. John Collis comes to it with the advantages of nearly two decades work in the central and western European mainland and a command of the ancient languages needed, and is therefore well qualified to attempt a synthesis. He has written an excellent and useful book aimed not at specialists but at the community at large, and can only be faulted for promising in his title something which he never apparently intended to perform. The same kind of promise was made some years ago by V. Megaw with his title Art of the European Iron Age, which equated European with La Tène art and, ignored all the other schools. Collis concentrates on a zone of Europe which stretches S.E.-N.W. from the Aegean coastlands through Italy and Central Europe to the British Isles and does not discuss either Scandinavia or northeast Europe on one side or Africa on the other, as his maps (e.g. p. 27) show. His selection of a special zone of study is legitimate and fascinating, but it excludes nearly half of Europe, and the title should be different. If he were to change his mind he could also do well to drop 'Iron Age'; such an out-dated concept, when his real study is the first millenium B.C.

He is interested in four problems: the development of Aegean and Italian iron-using states; the spread northwards of their commercial influence into Central Europe; the rise and southward spread of Celtic (La Tène) peoples; and the impact of the expanding Roman Empire in northern western Europe. Within this framework he has written a most informative book. Though it is intended for the intelligent general public is shown by an introductory chapter on 'Attitudes to the Past' which sets out his position as 'a prehistorian viewing the world from Central Europe'. It is a pity, however, that in it he castigates Diffusion as 'a dangerous and misleading concept' (p. 14) and illustrates it with the wilder shores of eccentricity, for he had to go on and admit that what he is discussing undoubtedly involves the diffusion of ideas and techniques as well as objects. The speciality for the knowledge of iron-using.

The heart of the book lies in the next four chapters, two entitled 'The Old Order' and 'Reawakening in the East' describe the Mycenean world of the Aegean and the rise of iron-using Aegean and Western Asian states. It is disappointing that the Phoenicians, whose influence in the Central and West Mediterranean coastlands was so great, and who preceded the Greeks there, are not better considered and are not mentioned in the index. The Greeks and Etruscans in the chapter headed 'The Trade Explosion' are dealt with summarily. Although none of the illustrations (e.g. 16a-b) need replacing. In Central Europe the coverage is excellent and the individual situations such as those in the 500-250 B.C. is headlined, rather surprisingly for one standing in Central Europe, but this great period of Celtic expansion and the phases of La Tène is well described and has many familiar and useful illustrations.

The final chapter discusses economic revival and the coming of Roman armies to northern western Europe, and summarises much of the work to which Collis has been a major contributor. The vexed question of 'topography' is handled boldly as the 'deliberate founding of large urban centres' (p. 140), although the claim that Caesar's use of the term is being followed may be disputed.

This book, with its notes and select bibliography, can be confidently recommended even if a different book with the same title still remains to be written.

* * *


Reviewed by Tim Reynolds

The result of a session entitled "Paleoanthropology: Behaviour" at the 12th ICAHS in Chicago, 1973, this volume of thirteen papers is another in the Mouton series entitled "World Anthropology". As with others of this series it is well presented and clear, however it contrasts these others in a striking imbalance between length of papers and the lack of at definite focus. Aimed at Old World paleo-behaviour, it shows a curious lack of contributions by workers based in the Old World, a bias towards Spain (papers by Freeman (2), Clark and Richards), and, despite usage of the terminology of the 'New Archaeology' (Freeman, Fedele, Hassan) its contents remain rather traditional (see especially Singer and Wymer). This latter point is somewhat of a disappointment for behavioural archaeology could, at this time, easily pack the volume with controversial topics for debate. This problem surely lies in the length of time taken to publish the book, some five years, during which era many which have taken charge of the database have all altered. The volume, therefore, contains many anachronisms such as Freeman's discussion of tools and functional analysis which, in the early seventies, would have been rather more topical. The paper by Clark and Richards is a fine initial site report of the La Hiera cave and includes useful illustrations of Asturian lithics. The paper by Struw is important historically as the first published use of casts in microwear studies, and the amino-acid dating of bone from Ouduvai (Nile) which is similarly interesting. The paper by Singer and Wymer on population movement between Africa and Asia returns to old classification problems which lead to artefacts moving about, representing populations. This seems more a reflection of the behaviour of archaeologists than palaeobehaviour!

Wide coverage within the old world is admirable. Papers by Hassan, Gonzales Echebarry and Saxon cover, among others, the late Pleistocene and early Holocene industries of the Levant and North Africa. Saxon adopts an environmental approach for the Magdalenian of these areas. Fedele adopts a similar perspective in his discussion of human occupation in the Italian Alps.

Two of the papers are particularly lengthy. Nikolaou's area in western which Western archaeologists rarely delve. Shinkin presents a review of the Upper Palaeolithilc of North Africa and the Middle East which takes a sideways step into the adaptive niches of Homo erectus in eastern Asia following a relatively lengthy examination of the Cenozoic climatic change and mammalian evolution. Both papers present useful data and area summaries for reference but neither will provide great enlightenment