

Examples of this can be seen in the chapter on the evidence itself. In addition to the usual discussion of geographical variation there are added case studies for the southern and northern provinces for the period 20,000-10,000 BP. These studies are essentially faunal and economic in nature, being the work of Sturdy and Hahn in Germany, and Bailey, Clark, Freeman and Straus in Cantabria. The reason for this lies clearly in Gamble's dissatisfaction with the lithic evidence, formed as is within the framework of a "peoples and cultures" approach, and his greater understanding of faunal matters.

Herein lies a certain tension. Gamble's approach both relies and needs an economic (i.e. faunal) and regional data set. The record for Europe has, as he notes, been collected as sites and stones (as for example in H. de Lumley's *La Préhistoire Française* [1976]). Consequently his spatial, social and demographic analyses are limited in examples.

There are other tensions present. It seems at times unclear whether this is an introduction to palaeolithic theory, or a presentation of the evidence. It ends up being a bit of both, culminating in an illustration of the theory with the European evidence. Within this uneasy sandwich lies the filling of the archaeological record. The main conflict here is the essentially chronological nature of the subject matter (i.e. the changing nature of the adaptations and archaeological record through time) and the treatment of the theory in a synchronous manner. This creates an imbalance between the sections dealing with this historical aspect and those concerned with the identification of palaeolithic behaviour, which

have no chronological underpinnings. The book, therefore, does not flow as easily as Dennell's recent work on a similar theme which a chronological perspective (Dennell 1983), nor as well as Binford's which treats hunter-gatherer behaviour within a static time frame (Binford 1984).

As an introduction to current notions in the palaeolithic, the book is both clear and comprehensive, although the section on technology and typology is not as sharp as the rest. The glowing forward by Lewis Binford attests to this. As a synthesis of the European palaeolithic record it is at best an introduction. For instance, there is a conspicuous absence of any detailed treatment of the skeletal remains, which are so important to any discussion of this subject. Consequently major debates among palaeolithic archaeologists and in particular the effect of the 'appearance' of *Homo sapiens sapiens* go undiscussed in any detailed way. The sheer volume of material written about the European evidence, however, makes such an enterprise impossible. An excellent bibliography, though, does provide a good entry into this literature.

The book does highlight some future problems for palaeolithic archaeologists, as well as some inconsistencies within the current theoretical framework. At a general level the whole relationship between the social and economic aspects of a society, even a 'simple' one, is problematic within the social sciences. Leaving this aside though, the main problem seems to be the attitude towards material culture.

Besides fulfilling a basic

technical need, material culture is seen as a medium of information exchange. Social relationships and presumably environmental details are, therefore, the assumed content. The impression one receives is one in which freedom of information is almost 'constitutionally' observed. The notion of social strategy, as envisioned by Bourdieu (1977) and others, is rarely touched upon. Furthermore, there is little consideration of how this is likely to be seen in material culture, which after all makes up the record.

Current studies of style and art are particularly vulnerable to such a criticism. To use an example from the book, Gamble interprets the geometric similarity between Venus figurine design across Europe c. 27,000-24,000 BP suggesting that this possibly reflects an information network.

It is an interesting idea but falls foul of the criticism of being simple culture-history with the names of the terms changed around. There is no account of how these items would convey such information, nor of how information would be controlled and organised through these objects. Their geometrical similarity might in fact simply reflect an accurate observation of the geometricity of the human body. Palaeolithic art is known for its representational accuracy. If palaeolithic archaeologists do wish to study social processes a better understanding of the meaning of material culture is a prerequisite. At the moment it seems to play a merely illustrative role to the theory.

The Palaeolithic Settlement of Europe could be improved both

organisationally and theoretically. To its great credit the book is very well illustrated, as such a graphic approach needs, although a map of the 'regions' of Europe within the chapter on the record would have been helpful. Despite the problems of its layout, though, it is a good place to begin an appreciation of current ideas about the palaeolithic of Europe.

References

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- P. ALLSWORTH-JONES, *The Szeletian and the Transition from Middle to Upper Palaeolithic in Central Europe*. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1986. 412pp (12 plates, 30 tables, 50 figs. and 9 maps). £55.00 (Hard) ISBN 0-19-813401-0.

Reviewed by Tim Reynolds

The Palaeolithic of Central Europe remains one of the least understood areas of Palaeolithic studies as a consequence of the restricted number of publications containing significant amounts of information. This is confounded still further by even fewer publications in Western European

languages. As a result, the student of Palaeolithic archaeology is usually referred to out-dated synthetic works. Therefore, the publication of this volume is of great interest. It centres on one of the main issues of human evolution, the changes involved in the Middle-Upper Palaeolithic transition and the possible relationships of the culture-material changes with the origins of anatomically modern Man in Europe. Additionally, the question of possible Solutrean origins is discussed with reference to the evolution of leaf-point industries throughout Europe during the last Glacial. Indeed, this volume highlights many of the problems associated with the use of type fossils to trace the contacts and migrations of different Pleistocene populations. The Szeletian and Solutrean so-called 'cultures' suffer from this, particularly through possession of bifacially flaked foliate pieces which are instantly striking amongst a collection of flake tools, a point emphasised by Allsworth-Jones himself.

This volume is essentially the published version of the authors' PhD thesis and as such it suffers in terms of readability from a somewhat 'scholarly' writing style. Additionally, the thesis was submitted in 1975 so during the time which has since elapsed, further developments have occurred and not all of these have been incorporated. The reader is referred to Allsworth-Jones' recent conference paper which corrects this (Allsworth-Jones 1986).

One of the areas not adequately updated is the impact of new dating which has extended the timespan of the early last glacial to almost

double the length previously recognised (Dennell 1983). This new dating places some of the chronological perspectives on relationships between sites into a new light and it could be very useful to re-examine this issue. The volume, in fact, does give a very full account of the problems of Pleistocene chronology as they were then recognised and, with reference to Central Europe, remains a most valuable source.

Also of particular importance is the coverage of the historical and documentary material which will help clarify terminology and will indicate which assemblages, sites etc. are actually relevant to the debate for Central Europe. For this is an area which has spawned a proliferation of site types and different assemblage nomenclatures because the Bordes typology has never become firmly established here.

The work is very ambitious for whilst it begins with the core area of Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland, it then expands out to review both the final Middle Palaeolithic and the early Upper Palaeolithic of Europe and refers also to the important Levantine sequences. In attempting this, the work is quite successful in drawing together threads of argument which cover wide spans of time and space. However, of necessity, much confusing and possibly contradictory material has had to be allocated insufficient discussion in this volume.

The outlook on the Palaeolithic sequences in these wider areas also has undergone considerable changes, particularly with reference to the origins of modern Man. Hence, further reading would be useful to

fully develop the very interesting perspectives drawn by Allsworth-Jones.

As a reference work for part of the Palaeolithic sequence in Central Europe it is also most useful but this is clearly not the main intention of the publication. The inclusion of site stratigraphies for the major sites is very useful and worthwhile but the separation of text from figures disrupts a smooth reading. The maps, also placed at the end of the volume, are helpful but would benefit from the addition of a few modern landmarks -- Central Europe not being one of the best known topographies of the Continent! The smaller site distribution maps are informative. A map placed within the introduction would perhaps have been a good idea for students studying the Palaeolithic as a whole to grasp the region more fully, its placement after the stone tool illustrations and tables making the appreciation of geography burdensome. As for the illustrations themselves, the stone tools are clear but lack scales and the tables are readable. Presentation of faunal material and absolute dating is extremely useful as is the set of tables giving assemblage tool composition. The plates are clear and give a good idea of the setting of the sites, although the inclusion of Cae Gwyn and Ffynon Beuno amongst them was a surprise.

Overall this volume straddles several different but important roles in studying the Palaeolithic. Firstly, it provides a welcome and necessary up-to-date source for reference in English of an important region and collection of material. Secondly, it presents a large amount of specific, detailed

information on assemblages, site stratigraphies and dating, and furthermore something of the historical background to this material. Thirdly, it provides a useful set of tool illustrations which can only aid comparative discussion. Last but not least, it investigates a field of vital importance to our understanding of human evolution, the origins of modern Man in Europe and the relationships between hominid type, assemblage type and chronology. The study draws substantial parallels with the situation of the Chatelperronian in the Middle-Upper Palaeolithic transition in France and suggests that both industries, the Szeletian and the Chatelperronian, represent the response of extant Neanderthal populations to the coming of modern Man with fully Upper Palaeolithic technology.

These issues, of course, will be subject to further research but this volume efficiently describes the problems and possibilities as they now stand and for all the above reasons this volume should become an important reference for students of the Palaeolithic.

References

- Allsworth-Jones, P. 1986. The Szeletian: Main trends, recent results, and problems for resolution. In Day, M. and Foley, R. (eds) *The Pleistocene Perspective* (Volume 1). Southampton, World Archaeological Congress.
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