the major themes of a relevant historical consciousness. Eileen argues that it is necessary to address in the museum context the basic question of why people require goods. This serves both to critically examine contemporary materialist and to demonstrate the crucial role of artefacts as means of communication.

Three papers discuss in more practical terms how some of the recommendations contained in papers noted above can be achieved and how this end product might be designed for maximum efficiency and 'user-friendliness'. Barbara Charles emphasizes the important part played by the design of an exhibit in its overall effectiveness.

Irene Burnham's paper further this discussion by demonstrating how a central, coherent -- though not necessarily all-inclusive -- theme is a fundamental prerequisite for a successful exhibit. Mary Ellen Munley stresses the importance of evaluation procedures which seek to ascertain visitor reaction to an exhibit.

The paper by Warren Leon continues the discussion in several previous papers and looks for means by which the visiting public can be encouraged to gain as much as possible from an exhibit. The use of techniques and paradigms which are at odds with accepted canons of museum procedure are recommended. The paper continues by focussing on the educational strategies which can be used to present messages. The paper by Michael Prichard and Dwight Pilkington is a description and critique of the historical orientation at Ellis Island (prior to its recent redevelopment). Here, public presentation is a particular challenge because of the firmly fixed images with which visitors arrive on the island. As a consequence, the potential for influencing public attitudes is so much greater.

If the past is to play a constructive role in determining the future of human society, then it is necessary for the museum profession to respond with self-appraisal and a spirit of openness. Only in this way can museums meet the needs of the present while avoiding the pitfalls of uncritically providing mythical oases in the image of the present. The papers in this book discuss many of the crucial themes inherent in the development of displays which fulfill these requirements and address the problems of the modern world.

The necessity for self-criticism is a common theme in this book. As the need to develop review procedures for the benefit of the profession and the public (and ultimately, of course, the public) many contributors emphasize the importance of providing the public with the ability to understand the 'museum experience' while others emphasize the methods by which the visitor can be encouraged to think actively about the presentations they visit. Others stress the contribution of thoughtful design and evaluation which is necessary if these goals are to be achieved. The examples of which all the contributors provide make their discussions that much more convincing.

There is no mention of archaeology in this volume. This serves as an excellent illustration of the reluctance of the archaeological profession to become involved with these important debates. The discipline's unique character.

from exchange studies to deposition patterns on individual sites, c) technological aspects of production and, d) Alcmenh-related topics. The companion volume deals with the more strictly geological aspects of flint and chert.

At the extractive end of flint exploitation, the general chronology of flint mining is considered in two papers, although here the use of radiocarbon dates is slacker, and the exploitation of which chert and chalcedony are given particular attention. The former case study was a good example of that conference frustration which I mentioned above, for after four pages of description of various stages of mining activities and numerous figures of dubious relevance, Schild finally proposes alternative hypotheses to account for these data, each apparently with profound social consequences. The papers by Svekling and Hart (Svekling and Hart 1987) are the published proceedings. I cannot, therefore, compare the content of the actual proceedings with those published, but in spite of the fact that a number of the papers (it is not clear how many, nor which) were commissioned as review papers, the presented papers appear to have been skillfully tailored by the editors to retain a real 'conference atmosphere'. That is achieved by rather short, succinct presentations, however, with no drawbacks: part of that atmosphere is the frustration of some authors never going quite far enough.

This volume presents 10 papers with specific archaeological relevance falling into the sub-headings of a) flint mines and exploitation of sources of raw materials, b) spatial aspects of flint and chert, and c) technological aspects of production.
is futile to consider extraction alone. The nature of the demand, as seen through the analysis of contexts of deposition away from the extractive sites, surely occupies a vital place in understanding the exploitation of a raw material source.

Andrew Sherratt concludes as much, having traced three stages of exchange in lithic materials in and around the Hunan Basin. Set as it is within a discussion of changes in other contexts such as settlement organisation, Sherratt’s paper puts exchange into a social context by acknowledging that lithic materials probably played a part in social strategies of prehistoric groups. Indeed, both Robert Zolli’s paper on changing distributions of obsidian and pottery (note the use of materials in addition to lithics) in Pre-Columbian America, and John Burton’s useful contribution on the social character of exchange in Newfoundland, which Guians, serve to illustrate further that the exchange of lithic materials may be very much part of social and political strategies and not simply redistributions of unevenly spread raw materials.

Finally, at this regional scale of study, Roy Laric’s paper deals with the circulation of a single artefact type -- the Solutrean bone point -- within the Perigord in the Upper Palaeolithic. Laric is able to suggest a distinct Solutrean “cultural zone” in and around the Perigord within which area the crisp-cropping of mobile social units led to the creation of deeply stratified and plentiful sites which were, in fact, regular temporary stop-over locations rather than base camps. Linking the new interpretation with the introductory comments regarding the social distance over which an artefact may convey its meaning is left to the reader, and might have been made more explicit, but the paper is certainly one of the more satisfying of the 30 presentations.

This leads on to brief papers on k-means analysis and on flint and chalk sourcing, both of which are used by Laric but which are exemplified in themselves separately. The case study by Ammerman et al. is particularly useful and would be a good place to begin if one was new to the subject of k-means analysis, but neither of the sourcing papers is memorable.

A third group of papers, numbering six in total, tackles various technological aspects of stone tool production. Cohen answers his own question “Refitting a stone artefact: why bother?” in general terms, and is supported by the subsequent paper on the Mousterian/Upper Palaeolithic transition in the Levant, although the latter paper is marred by over-complexed diagrams and illustrations. Refitting and experimental approaches are combined in a contribution describing intentional breakage as a technological strategy at Hengistbury Head, where the diagram in support (Fig. 3.5) is this time well conceived and useful. Experiment alone is employed in the remaining papers of the group, most notable of which is Harding’s report on a typically pragmatic research programme on the production of around flint axes.

The final group of papers is concerned with aspects of microwear analysis. Cook and Dumont provide a brief overview of developments since 1984 and, although the paper under-represents the potential of low-power analysis, its discussion of theoretical issues is a useful introduction. There follow several case studies, two of which stand out. Firstly, taken in conjunction with another paper on heat pre-treatment, the contribution by Rosemary Bradley and Chris Clayton which describes the effect of the microstructure of flint on microwear trace formation, forms a breakthrough in understanding the variability of such traces which has been the major problem in microwear interpretation. More controversially, the paper by Newcomer et al. would have been a rather damming reflection on microwear inference from polishes had it not been published in almost precisely the same form about a year ago (Newcomer et al. 1986) and had its findings not been brought into question by a scathing rejoinder by Moss (1987).

Whether or not the contributions reflect accurately the proceedings of the Brighton symposium, they form an important collection of papers --- important not only in that they provide a baseline for which we can measure progress in, say, another five years, but also in that they make accessible a range of scientifically - allied methods and a range of references. These latter reasons will, no doubt, contribute to the aforementioned progress.

Is the book good value? It certainly helps to think of the papers as only costing £9 each, since this makes some of the contributions excellent value. Perhaps too many of the papers are preliminary statements, but this simply reflects the ‘frontier’ nature of the work being presented, and also contributes to that ‘conference atmosphere’ mentioned earlier. Several papers are of the calibre to be long-lived and repeatedly referred-to, and the bibliographies are generally accurate if not entirely consistent. My final comment is “nice book; shame about the title!”

References


Reviewed by John Moss-Regardt

The major part of this book consists of letters exchanged between C.J. Thomsen of ‘Three Age System’ fame and Ludwig Lindenschmidt, Curator of the Mainz Centralmuseum, who, in later years, was opposed to the overall application of that system to European prehistory. However, this did not prevent a warm professional friendship developing between the two men during the