

# Book Chronicle 1991

CURT BECK & STEPHEN SHENNAN: *Amber in Prehistoric Britain*. With a foreword by Colin Renfrew. Oxbow Monograph 8. Oxbow Books, Oxford 1991. 232pp.

Besides containing a catalogue of prehistoric amber finds from Britain, the book treats a number of aspects such as the social context of amber, its sources and distribution. The results of infra-red spectroscopy lead to the identification of different varieties of amber. The results are discussed in a European context.

*Sacred and Profane. Proceedings of a Conference on Archaeology, Ritual and Religion*. Edited by P. GARWOOD, D. JENNINGS, R. SKEATES & J. TOMS. Oxford University Committee for Archaeology, Monograph No. 32. Oxford 1991. 171pp.

Fifteen papers dealing with rituals and their implications *i.a.* for social control, the function of centres, exchange and cultural transformation.

*The Cultural Landscape during 6000 years in southern Sweden – the Ystad Project*. Edited by B. E. BERGLUND. Ecological Bulletins No. 41. Munksgaard, Copenhagen 1991. 495pp, 1 folded map.

The volume reports on the results of the "Ystad Project", an interdisciplinary research programme carried out by the University of Lund in the period 1982–90. The combined efforts by scientists in the fields of prehistoric and medieval archaeology, palaeoecology, history and human geography have produced a reconstruction of landscape and settlement from the Late Mesolithic to the present time.

*Regions and Reflections in Honour of Märta Strömberg*. Edited by K. JENNBERT, L. LARSSON, R. PETRÉ & B. WYZOMIRSKA-WERBART. Acta Archaeologica Lundensia, Series in 8° N° 20. Almqvist & Wiksell International, Lund 1991. 408pp.

Thirty-nine scholars celebrate the 70th birthday of professor Märta Strömberg with this Festschrift, containing contributions on topics ranging from the Neolithic to the Medieval, as well as a bibliography of M. Strömberg's publications.

BERIT VALENTIN ERIKSEN: *Change and Continuity in a Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherer Society: a study of cultural adaptation in late glacial – early Postglacial southwestern Germany*. Archaeologica Venatoria 12. Tübingen 1991. 232pp.

The author seeks explanation for the cultural changes which occurred during the Pleistocene – Holocene transition within the study area, The Swabian Alb in South-West Germany. Attention is focused on the natural environment, settlement continuity and technological innovations.

JULIAN THOMAS: *Rethinking the Neolithic*. New Studies in Archaeology. Cambridge University Press, 1991. 212pp.

The focus is on South-West Britain, the classic scene for research on the British Neolithic. The author challenges traditional views about neolithic societies and offers new possibilities of interpretation.

BERNHARD STAPEL: *Die geschlagenen Steingeräte der Siedlung Hüde I am Dümmer*. Veröffentlichungen der urgeschichtlichen Sammlungen des Landesmuseums zu Hannover. Verlag August Lax, Hildelheim, 1991. 209pp., 152 distribution plans and 43 plates.

The settlement complex at Dümmer-See in Lower Saxonia has been regarded as one of the important sites for research on the Early Neolithic in North-Western Europe since the discoveries by Reinerth (from 1938) and the excavations by Deichmüller (since 1961). The finds include Rössen, Ertebølle and early TRB elements. Bernhard Stapel presents an analysis of the lithic material from the site of Hüde I in an attempt to establish a sequence of industries belonging to successive occupations.

SØREN DIETZ: *The Argolid at the Transition to the Mycenaean Age. Studies in the Chronology and Cultural Developments in the Shaft Grave Period*. The National Museum of Denmark, Department of Classical Antiquities. Copenhagen 1991. 336pp.

This dissertation presents a study of the material culture of the Argive Plain, Peloponnese, during Middle Helladic times. A detailed classification of settlement pottery leads to a description of the chronology, settlement patterns, cultural development and external relations during this important formative stage.

FLEMMING KAUL, IVAN MARAZOV, JAN BEST & NANNY DE VRIES: *Thracian Tales on the Gundestrup Cauldron*. Publications of the Holland Travelling University, Volume One. Najade Press, Amsterdam, 1991. 114pp., 53 figs.

The centennial of the discovery of the Gundestrup Cauldron was celebrated on the 28th of May 1991. In this small publication, four scholars, each with a different background, present new evidence for the origin of the cauldron and discuss its iconography.

SØREN H. ANDERSEN, BIRGIT LIND & OLE CRUMLIN-PEDERSEN: *Slusegårdgravpladsen III, Gravformer og gravskikke. Bådgravene*. Jysk Arkæologisk Selskabs Skrifter XIV.3. Aarhus Universitetsforlag, 1991. 266pp. With summaries in English.

The first two volumes of the publication about the important Roman Iron Age cemetery at Slusegård on Bornholm were published in 1978 by Ole Klindt-Jensen, who died in 1980. This is the first of three volumes based on the records left by the excavator. It contains contributions on the geology and topography, grave types and burial customs, and on the boat-graves, which are especially characteristic of this cemetery.

*Høvdingsamfund og Kongemagt. Fra Stamme til Stat i Danmark 2*. Edited by PEDER MORTENSEN & BIRGIT M. RASMUSSEN. Jysk Arkæologisk Selskabs Skrifter XXII.2. Aarhus Universitetsforlag 1991. 296pp. With summaries in English.

The second report from the research programme *Fra Stamme til Stat*, initiated by the Danish Research Council for the Humanities in 1984. The aim of the programme is to promote research concerning the economic, social and political devel-

opment from the Roman Iron Age to the Viking Age in Denmark.

*Samfundsorganisation og Regional Variation. Norden i romersk jernalder og folkevandringstid. Beretning fra 1. nordiske jernaldersymposium på Sandbjerg Slot 11–15 april 1989.* Edited by CHARLOTTE FABECH & JYTTE RINGTVED. Jysk Arkæologisk Selskabs Skrifter XXVII. Aarhus Universitetsforlag, 1991. 352pp. With summaries in English.

Twenty-four papers on the Roman Iron Age and Migration Period, dealing with imports, interpretation of grave finds, iron production, gold, and the nature of power.

*Aspects of Maritime Scandinavia AD 200–1200. Proceedings of the Nordic Seminar on Maritime Aspects of Archaeology, Roskilde, 13th–15th March 1989.* Edited by OLE CRUMLIN-PEDERSEN. Vikingeskibshallen, Roskilde 1991. 291pp.

Twenty-three contributions on ships, ports and trading stations, including discussions about the methods used in present research concerning the reconstruction of the coastal environment and maritime traffic in later Prehistory and the early Medieval Age.

ELSE ROESDAHL: *The Vikings.* Allen Lane, The Penguin Press, London 1991. 323pp.

An English translation of the authoritative work in Danish from 1987, *Vikingernes Verden*. It presents a comprehensive and up-to-date survey of the archaeology and history of the Vikings, in Scandinavia and abroad.

*Social Approaches to Viking Studies.* Edited by ROSS SAMSON. Cruithne Press, Glasgow, 1991. 240pp.

Twenty-one papers presented at the seminar, *New Perspectives on Viking Studies*, Glasgow 1988. Historians, archaeologists and anthropologists discuss Viking Age societies, deriving their inspiration from structuralism, feminism, economic anthropology, and Marxism, among others.

*Mammen. Grav, kunst og samfund i vikingetid.* Edited by METTE IVERSEN, ULF NÄSMAN & JENS VELLE. Jysk Arkæologisk Selskabs Skrifter XXVIII (Viborg Stiftsmuseums række bind 1). Aarhus Universitetsforlag 1991. 343pp. With summaries in English and German.

This monumental report from a seminar held in 1987 presents a number of studies on the princely burial (dendro-dated to

970/71 AD) and the treasure find at Mammen, Central Jutland, of which the former is the eponymous site of the Viking Age Mammen Style. The Mammen grave prompts discussions about the transition from paganism to Christianity in Scandinavia.

TORSTEN KEMPKE: *Starigard/Oldenburg. Hauptburg der Slawen in Wagrien. III, Die Waffen des 8.–13. Jahrhunderts.* Offa-Bücher Band 73. Karl Wachholtz Verlag, Neumünster 1991. 103pp. including 7 maps.

An analysis of the weapons found at the Old Slavonic castle of Starigard/Oldenburg, excavated in the period 1953–1986. With contributions to the history of weaponry in the Baltic region from the Viking (or early Medieval) Age to the 14th Century.

DIRK HEINRICH: *Untersuchungen an Skelettresten wildlebender Säugetiere aus dem mittelalterlichen Schleswig. Ausgrabung Schild 1971–1975.* Ausgrabungen in Schleswig, Berichte und Studien 9. Karl Wachholtz Verlag, Neumünster, 1991. 203pp.

The author continues the work on the animal bones from Schleswig (the analyses of the domestic animals were published in 1990 by Heidemarie Hüster in the same series). The material dealt with is compared with the wild fauna at a number of North German sites.

GÜNTER P. FEHRING: *The Archaeology of Medieval Germany – an introduction.* Studies in Archaeology. Routledge, London & New York 1991. 266pp.

Translation of *Einführung in die Archäologie des Mittelalters* (1987). Students in Medieval archaeology are privileged in having access to this and a number of other recently published, national surveys (earlier H. Clarke, *The Archaeology of Medieval England*, 1984; S. Tabaczynski, *Archaeologia sredniowieczna* (Poland), 1987; N.-K. Liebgott, *Dansk Middelalderarkæologi*, 1989).

*Eksperimentel Arkæologi.* Studier i teknologi og kultur nr. 1, 1991. Edited by BO MADSEN. Historisk-Arkæologisk Forsøgscenter, Lejre, 1991. 176pp. (with summaries in English)

The first of a new series of reports on experimental archaeology, a discipline exercised at the Lejre Experimental Centre since 1964. The volume includes reports on: The use of mesolithic antler axes, pollarding of trees, Bronze Age ornamentation, cremation burial, pattern welded swords, cultivation of Iron Age cereals, rotary querns, Iron Age house construction, shooting with Iron Age bows, loom weaving, and the manufacture of glass beads.