

to think that this was the period of greatest expansion and interest in archaeology.

As archaeology in Central Europe seems always to have had a much more directly public-oriented function than in north-west Europe, much emphasis has been placed on the presentation of the past. It is good to see, then, that Sklenar does not confine himself to a discussion of the history of archaeology in the narrow academic sense; he also deals with museums, with popular publications, local societies, reconstruction of sites, conservation and legislation. His analysis does however seem to have the implicit message that a public-oriented archaeology, in Central Europe at least, will always involve manipulating the past for some political means, and that in order for a scientific archaeology to progress, it must free itself of the need to serve the public. One oft-voiced justification for archaeology is that it provides roots for a people. At a time when British archaeology is trying to become more public oriented, and history teaching in schools is being revised, the history of archaeology in Central Europe can provide a warning against the excesses to which such philosophies could lead, i.e. nationalism and chauvinism. However, there is no necessary antithesis between academic archaeology and public archaeology because the presentation of archaeology can emphasise not national differences but international similarities.

Unfortunately Sklenar's history finishes at 1945, just as he sees archaeology in Central Europe freed of the shackles of political manipulation. The 'radio-carbon revolution' and the 'new archaeology' are only mentioned in passing: it would have been much more interesting to have an account of the development of archaeology over the post-war years to see whether it really has

been a 'new epoch' as Sklenar suggests.

As it stands, however, the book is a pioneer in its field, and shall remain the standard work for a long time to come.

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F. IKAWA-SMITH (ED.), Early Palaeolithic in South and East Asia. Mouton, The Hague, 1978. 390pp. £42.50 (Hard) ISBN 90-279-7899-9

Reviewed by Tim Reynolds

This volume is one of a series published by Mouton entitled 'World Anthropology'. This particular work is based on a series of seminars held in 1973 which drew together researchers specialising in South and East Asia. The series was intended to collect together anthropologists from as wide a cultural background as possible. But, despite these admirable aims, the bulk of the papers are produced either by Westerners or from areas strongly influenced by the West. It reflects rather than overcomes the problems produced by the varied politics of the region (see Borikovsky). Indeed, the state of archaeological research also does this: the stronger the western influence, the more developed is the archaeological study. One problem for the Palaeolithic archaeology of this region is that tourism provides an important source of revenue and so later archaeological sites tend to draw off a large part of potential research funding. The area covered includes great geographical and economic variability and is not a naturally defined region.

The book is divided into five parts: Insular south-east Asia, Continental southern Asia, North-east Asia, New World Implications and a Review. It is well-ordered

and presented, but additional maps would have been useful. Each part could easily provide the material for a whole book, thus the presentations are generally brief accounts of (then) recent research. There is little that is controversial or revolutionary, although the papers by Harrison, Fox, Sohn, and Serizawa are particularly interesting (see also the fine introduction by Ikawa-Smith). However, although nothing particularly striking is offered, much of the data will fill gaps in the awareness of Western Palaeolithic archaeologists. For how much longer will workers continue to be surprised when the old Movius scheme (1948) is shown to be inadequate?

This particular point needs stressing, for recent work still emphasises what has been apparent for some time (Yi and Clark 1983). There are other Western views that are in need of serious review, such as the early dating of hominids from Java, despite the lack of demonstrated association of the fossils with the tektites from which such dates are derived. (See papers by von Koenigswald and Harrison). Further, there remains a lack of artifacts that may be related to *Homo erectus* in Java (Bartstra 1982).

Another European preconception is apparent in comments relating to the lack of formal lithic tool types, which is seen as anomalous (Solheim 1972, paper by Harrison), regardless of the fact that most collections are selected and dominated by larger "core-based" pieces; there still remains a paucity of excavated assemblages. There is no need to refer to perishable materials to explain the lithics - that is only to explain ignorance with ignorance.

The occurrence of handaxes and levallois cores presents problems of terminology. It is simplest to adopt the descriptive categories

used in the West, but these have implicit 'cultural' aspects that cause some confusion, as this volume witnesses. The utility of the culture concept in the vast time and space parameters of the Palaeolithic is in need of review: 'Western-type' finds lead to migration versus in situ development debates, while as yet, the available database makes such arguments speculative. The use of techno-typology to date and trace 'origins' remains a strong aspect of Asian research, yet this use of typology in such a poorly explored region is questionable. The use of patina development for dating purposes is a common fault in Palaeolithic archaeology as a whole and should be discouraged.

The great environmental variability of the region needs further consideration. In most of the countries involved environmental reconstruction remains inadequate, the gross use of fauna such as that of Aigner in this volume being typical. Such work does not allow for more local environmental fluctuations, representative sampling or dating.

An interesting perspective of Palaeolithic archaeology in this region may be gained if one uses the history of Japanese research as a model (Ikawa-Smith): after an initial discovery of early material attempts are made to create a sequence, then, with an increasing data-base, local variations and a multilinear scheme are developed. Many of the papers in this volume reflect differing stages in this model.

Inclusion of the New World part is useful, not as an attempt to deal with the problem of peopling the New World, which would require a much more detailed presentation, but as an introduction to some theoretical problems that appear to have been omitted from the other regional parts. The 'peopling'

problem reflects the theoretical and data-base problems of the whole South and East Asia region: the lack of dating, artifacts, environmental background, a concentration on typology and a dominance of preconceptions based on Western work which relates to problems of terminology (see paper by Irving & Bryan).

In light of the inclusion of the 'New World' part the omission of Australia and the Pacific islands is striking. While the latter's omission might be explained in their late colonisation, the data from Australia are very well recorded, have strikingly early dates and provide an alternative 'peopling' problem.

As a whole, this volume presents a very informative set of studies into a poorly explored region. The theoretical and methodological problems such an area presents are not explicit in this work and the overall conclusion one reaches is that much more detailed work and data is needed. Despite this, and the publication of more recent work, the volume is not out-dated and provides an essential introduction for those interested in the Palaeolithic of this region.

#### References

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CHRIS SCARRE (ED.), Ancient France, Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh, 1983. 390pp. £19.00 (Hard) ISBN 0 85224 441 X

Reviewed by Grant Chambers.

The appearance of a synthetic and fairly comprehensive work on the French Neolithic, incorporating a considerable amount of original analysis, in addition to an up-to-date account of the cultural material, is much to be welcomed, especially as an undergraduate teaching aid, and, as the blurb on the dust-jacket puts it, may "point the way ahead for further research". This volume offers a series of regional analyses of the French Neolithic, and descriptions of the cultural material, with some kind of interpretative unity given by the common "environmentalist" approach employed. Although the coverage is not strictly comprehensive, in the sense that each and every department is given explicit attention, all the major geographical zones and cultural groupings are dealt with by contributors who have specialised in regional analysis, with a general synthesis of problems, approaches, and tentative conclusions provided by the editor. The laudable intention is to combine detailed knowledge of specific areas with the most recent research, into a satisfactorily unified synthesis of the "French Neolithic". It is fortunate for this enterprise that the last five years have seen continuous British involvement in French archaeology in many regions, permitting one of the few adequate syntheses of French Prehistory (in English).

As a general account this has the advantage of being less superficial than Guilane's recent "France d'avant la France" (1980), or the appropriate chapter in Piggott, Daniel and McBurney (1974), without restricting itself to simple classification and description in the manner of most