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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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BOOK REVIEWS

David L. Clarke, Analytical Archaeologist. Edited by his colleagues. Academic Press, London, 1979. 554 pp.

By 1976 David Clarke had begun to plan a volume of selected papers interspersed with a personal commentary and narrative, after the manner of Binford's An Archaeological Perspective. He had got as far as selecting the papers and organising them into four sections at the time of his death in June that year. Analytical Archaeologist publishes his selection with introductory papers to each section by his colleagues who edited this book. In addition, there is a biographical sketch by Norman Hammond and a bibliography compiled by Stella Clarke, David's widow.

As anything other than a tribute to Clarke this book can hardly be considered a success. The original idea was a good one, but without Clarke's own commentary it lacks any sense of purpose. This is not to say that we might have been treated to tales of academic bitchiness in the Binford style, although Clarke must certainly have had a few to tell, but rather that the only real justification for re-publishing so many papers which are otherwise so readily available lies in the links of academic development and personal circumstance which only the author can put between them. In Clarke's case this is a double loss to the book for in place of a lively commentary reflecting Clarke's fluent and buoyant speaking style, as a foil to his intricate prose, we have four very serious introductory papers.

Glynn Isaac reviews Clarke's papers about explanation and theory as a straightforward introduction to what they are about. Robert Chapman, commissioned to produce a new edition of Analytical Archaeology (now available), has attempted a wider historical view of this work showing the sources of its main ideas. His well-documented discussion is destined to reach the top 40 in 'required reading' lists of theory classes. On the other hand, Sherrat's introduction to Clarke's papers on European prehistory, and Shennan's to his technical papers depart from the analytical style sufficiently to raise some of the more important arguments of Clarke's career, such as the furore raised by his early statistical analyses of beaker pottery and his later opposition to Higgsian determinism (related in my view, although Sherrat does not say so, to Clarke's general unwillingness to accept the tyranny of ethnography).

As to the major part of the volume, 15 papers by Clarke, it is difficult to think of anything novel to say. There are three new papers. One is on trade and industry in early historical Europe which is destined for publication elsewhere, one is a short lecture script on early

towns which offers no compelling insights and the third is a review, for for an American symposium, of his nested hierarchical model of cultural entities. The latter paper stands between Analytical Archaeology and his 'Models and Paradigms, etc.' review and shows how acutely Clarke needed the geographical models which became so important in his later career. All Clarke's major papers are re-published here as well. Two of the best, in my view, are 'Mesolithic Europe: the economic basis', and 'A provisional model of an Iron Age society and its settlement system'. These are of particular interest to New Zealand archaeologists; the first because it demonstrates how easily we may take certain long established interpretations of artefacts and economics for granted as self-evident facts, and how wrong we might well be, and the second for its rounded approach to the integration of many kinds of data, techniques and models in the reconstruction of a complex society.

Lastly, although it is first in the book, there is the brief biography which skilfully conveys both the facts of Clarke's career and, in doing so, some of the disbelief, sometimes anger, felt by his friends and colleagues at the treatment of him by an influential section of the British archaeological establishment. But the biography and the Chapman and Sherrat papers aside, I do not think Analytical Archaeologist has anything new to offer, except to those especially interested in Clarke's career. With the few exceptions noted above, all his papers are easily accessible and one of his last major essays - 'Mesolithic Europe: the economic basis', is available as a separate publication (although even for this admirable piece of work I can't help but feel that triple publication is a fraction excessive).

The real problem with the book is that, despite its title, it is not about the archaeologist at all, and although it is an unquestionably merited salute to his memory, and one in which he is sensitively served by his colleagues, it fails substantially to overcome that fact.

Atholl Anderson

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J.R. McKinlay and K.L. Jones (eds), Archaeological Resource Management in Australia and Oceania. New Zealand Historic Places Trust Publication No. 11, Wellington, 1979. 104 pp. \$7.50 (\$9.00 by airmail).

Jim McKinlay and Aidan Challis took the opportunity offered by the holding of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science conference in Auckland in early 1979 to organise a symposium on resource management. They attracted a range of participants from Australia and from the rest of the Pacific and the papers published here reflect this range.

Resource management in archaeology is a new field (who even used the term five years ago?) and a controversial and rapidly changing one. In most of the field covered in this volume it is being practised by young and vigorous archaeologists operating from new departments of government, with new legislation to implement, in areas where relatively little archaeology has been done before. Michael Schiffer's introductory paper in this volume documents the impact of state archaeology in the United States, delighting in its increasing dominance of the scene there, its increasing relevance to research concerns which were formerly the property of institution academics and its increasingly systematic use of research design concepts.

The nineteen other papers divide into several themes. The largest group is of eight papers on site registers and site surveys for them covering national and regional files, with papers on five national schemes (two Australian and the New Zealand, Papua-New Guinea and Solomon Islands schemes) and the balance on Australian state schemes. While these vary widely in their purpose, organisation and, surprisingly in their attitude to public access to records, there are several common themes. Most of the schemes hold only small numbers of records in relation to the number of sites which are thought to exist and the curators of the files are well aware of the unsystematic nature of the way some of the survey areas came to be selected for attention, and the selection which has biased the sites recorded. The need to develop better methods of making value judgements of sites when they are threatened is a common theme in these papers but few are prepared to expose their present methods to scrutiny. Surely one way ahead in this area is to attempt to codify what is being done and critically examine that. To avoid explicit methods because one's surveys are incomplete or biased is to use an excuse which will never go away.

The latter parts of the book have six papers from Australia and three from New Zealand dealing with more specific site management projects and concerns. The New Zealand papers are by Neville Ritchie on the Clutha Valley power scheme, John Coster on afforestation in the northern North Island and Susan Bulmer on archaeology within the large urban area of Auckland. On the Australian papers, those of Josephine Flood, Rosemary Buchan and Kate Sullivan dealing with tourist and visitor impacts on sites will be valuable to anyone who has to face the problem of management of sites open to public access, while Ray Kelly levens the archaeological emphasis of the book with a paper on the concerns flowing from his aboriginal ancestry and the different perspective they give.

Overall while much of the book will be of immediate interest only to archaeologists professionally involved in public archaeology, there is

enough of general interest to commend it to a wider audience. Kevin Jones and Jim McKinlay are to be congratulated on the prompt appearance of this volume, a speed which has not compromised the quality of the editing and printing. The book can be ordered from the Trust at P.O. Box 12255, Wellington.

Garry Law

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George Griffiths and Maairie Goodall, Maori Dunedin. Otago Heritage Books, Dunedin, 1980. 55 pp. \$5.85.

This book is a most welcome addition to the sparse literature on the Maori history of Dunedin and its environs. Archaeologists will, it is true, find little information about the sites of prehistoric Dunedin and historians may find the concentration upon the Princes Street reserve, the Taranaki prisoners of war and the Araiteuru traditions unduly exclusive - but then it must be said at once that this book has been designed to serve a particular purpose. Issued in conjunction with the opening of the Araiteuru marae (February 1980) in Kaikorai Valley, Dunedin, it provides background information to that event and deals with issues which, like the Princes Street reserve and the Parihaka prisoners, are of continuing interest to the Maori community. The cautious and even-handed approach the authors adopt to the contentious matters these contain will recommend their conclusions to Maori and Pakeha alike.

The same scholarship is evident in what, for me, is the highlight of the book; the information about Maori placenames. There is a wealth of fascinating detail here which helps to bring to life the topography and history of early Dunedin. The authors clearly distinguish between traditional names and Maori names imported by Europeans. They do not hesitate to point the finger at the slapdash methods of A.W. Reed's reference books, and when they do not know the meaning or origin of a name they refrain from idle speculation. Their humorous discussion of the origin of 'Otakou' in particular is a model of gentle but authoritative education.

This little book is written in a brisk and good humoured style, contains plenty of illustrations, including the Otakou photograph of Te Whiti, and is attractively produced in a glossy paper, soft cover format. Not least, it is reasonably priced.

Atholl Anderson

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Michael M. Trotter, Niue Island Archaeological Survey. Canterbury Museum Bulletin No. 7, Christchurch, 1979. 62 pp., appendices, bibliography, index. \$5.00.

Michael Trotter's report of his archaeological survey of Niue Island comprises the most recent Canterbury Museum Bulletin (No. 7). The main objective given for the survey was to investigate site preservation needs and research potential of Niuean archaeology. In many respects the report is a disappointment.

Trotter attempts a brief summary of Niuean natural history, European contacts, ethnology, use of oral tradition, and linguistic affinities which becomes difficult to follow due to a somewhat disorganised presentation. The bulk of the report provides results from the site survey. Trotter records 59 burial caves containing the remains of some 300 individuals. A variety of stone and earthen structures include low stone platforms, stone mounds and earthen enclosures. In addition, some kitchen middens are recorded. Limited excavations were conducted as part of the survey. Trotter concludes the publication with an aim toward a very basic outline for the possible prehistory of Niue.

The major problems with the report reflect lack of organised research objectives, or an overall research design. For example, it is clear that Trotter could have established more tenable analytic results through a problem-oriented design and survey sampling strategy (e.g. compare Fig. 3 with Figs. 29 & 30). Trotter's scenario in the final section concerning colonisation and inter-island contact in prehistory remains incredible. Prehistorians will find the argument relating the number of coconut trees on the island to the history of prehistoric contacts difficult to accept. While the report supplies new archaeological data for Niue, it fails to provide useful synthesis or a strong basis for further research.

Terry Hunt

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