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BOOK REVIEWS

Nigel Prickett (ed.), The First Thousand Years. Palmerston North, Dunmore Press, 1982. 204 pp., 123 illustrations, bibliography, index. \$27.95 (\$22 to members of the Association).

If the sub-title of this book had been, "All that you wanted to know about archaeology in New Zealand but have been too afraid to ask", the only substitution necessary would have been the word "much" for "all". Intended as a regional survey of New Zealand archaeology it is far more than that. It is also an historical review of investigation, a platform for current hypotheses and a prediction of archaeological emphasis for the future.

This volume is an excellent publication and I cannot speak too highly of the efforts of Nigel Prickett who has edited the book and of the eight writers who have contributed the ten chapters. Prickett in his introduction concludes, "I look forward to such an increase in knowledge that this volume will be superceded in the not too distant future." While agreeing in principle with him I rather hope that this work will be complemented by a similar volume covering other regions before it is superceded. On the past track record of readily available archaeological publications for the serious lay student of New Zealand prehistory this volume is likely to be a standard reference and justifiably recognised as such for many years.

To date there have been few publications on New Zealand archaeology aimed at the serious yet uncommitted student of our prehistory. There is I believe a growing number of people eager to learn of our past, whose appetite has not been entirely satisfied with the rather general publications which attempt to cover the Maori "from canoe to concert party". This publication is a determined effort to rectify that situation. Obviously there is an awareness among professional archaeologists that a well informed and more knowledgeable public can and will provide tacit, perhaps even positive support if they are aware of the progress and developments being made in New Zealand archaeology.

Nigel Prickett has brought together an impressive group of contributors: Janet Davidson, Aileen Fox, Garry Law, Michael Trotter, Atholl Anderson, Jill Hamel, Peter Coutts and Doug Sutton, all well versed in their contributory regions and most writing with clarity and in a manner well suited to the more than interested reader. Only once did I find myself reaching for my dictionary of archaeology.

Each region occupies no more than 20 pages of the book but there is a great deal of information crammed into each chapter.

The structure of chapters differs slightly but most chapters deal with the original natural environment (rocks, land forms, vegetation, marine resources, etc.), archaeological investigations both historical and more recent, the range and types of artefacts and other material evidence, descriptions of significant archaeological sites, man made modifications to the physical landscape, utilisation and exploitation of the environment, settlement patterns and population movements. Each chapter concludes with some discussion or significant conclusions. The experience and expertise of each writer influences the final content and structure of each chapter thus eliminating a sameness throughout and allowing for effective personal contributions and points of view to be made.

Janet Davidson's chapter on Northland relates the distinctive features of that area but shows clearly that common characteristics were shared with the rest of New Zealand and that the area was not as insular as some readers may expect. Excavations at Mount Camel near Houhora describe something of the Archaic phase of Northland while in contrast archaeological investigation of Te Kuri's Village and Paeroa pa (both described fully by the French in 1772) provide interesting information on the proto-historic period.

For many the chapter on the Auckland area will be of considerable interest. In her second chapter Davidson provides a comprehensive and very readable study of this intensively occupied area ranging from the Sunde site on Motutapu Island to the impressive earth works of the volcanic cones of central Auckland. Like some other writers in this book she laments the lack of systematic archaeological investigation, and the lack of published findings from some sites which have been excavated, but in spite of this she has provided an excellent summary of one of the most interesting areas of New Zealand.

The apparent dominance of Archaic settlement and the widely distributed use of the local Tahanga basalt as adze material feature in Garry Law's chapter on Coromandel Peninsula and Great Barrier Island. Also included is discussion of the materially rich lowland settlement sites (e.g. Kauri Point) where excavation has revealed the sequence of site modification and has brought to light the spectacular and important wooden combs, now widely known.

Hawkes Bay is dealt with by Aileen Fox whose own thorough and significant excavation of Tiromoana pa in 1974-75 forms the basis for much of this thoroughly professional chapter. Her findings deal significantly with settlement patterns with special reference to fortified settlements or pa. Fox's provision of a simple classification of pa and a logical chronology to match that classification will be of considerable interest to most readers. In

detailing the history of archaeological research in Hawkes Bay she traces Buchanan's initial field investigations between 1939-51 which later formed the basis for the Association's Site Recording Scheme, the significant artefact collection of Dr Simcox, and T.R. Price's unprovenanced association of artefacts with moa bone below deposits laid down by the Taupo ash showers.

Trotter's chapter on Canterbury and Marlborough ranges from the many well known and significant river mouth Archaic sites to the Classic pa sites of the Kaikoura coast. The progress of archaeological investigations from the 1850s until the present forms a particularly interesting section tracing briefly the work of von Haast, Teviotdale and Duff to name a few. Trotter perhaps more than the other writers aims to educate the reader more fully by providing a more extensive background in support of his statements. Perhaps, though, a fuller development of Canterbury rock-shelter art would have enhanced this chapter further.

Atholl Anderson contributes two chapters to the book, West Coast South Island and North and Central Otago. In spite of the paucity of archaeological evidence from the West Coast, Anderson covers well what is known and considers logically the possible reasons for the changed settlement patterns from Archaic to early historical times. In the north and Central Otago chapter readers may well take special interest in the large stone blade industries which developed in the south and the investigation of early sites situated far inland. Anderson covers effectively an area well known for its characteristic material culture.

Jill Hamel's chapter on South Otago examines closely the possible population movements in this area and the likely reasons for the predominance of Archaic sites along the coast. The importance of this area is probably well known as it was here at Pounawea that Les Lockert first applied stratigraphical methods to a New Zealand site while carbon samples from several sites in this area gave us our first archaeological radiocarbon dates.

Peter Coutts in contributing a chapter on Fiordland was faced with limited primary investigation in an area where temporary seasonal settlement was more common. The preservation in dry caves and shelters of less durable artefacts, such as cloak and sandal fragments, godsticks and wooden fishhook shanks, contributes further to evidence that the main Maori activity in the area was concentrated in the late prehistoric period.

The Chatham Islands chapter by Doug Sutton holds considerable interest. The development of Moriori culture in an isolated situation, where kumara would not grow, yet marine resources were

abundant and stone materials adequate, provides a fascinating study of the growth and development of a culture remote from the influence of other Polynesian groups. Readers may be especially interested in Sutton's discussion of the possible reasons for the simplification through time of the Chatham Island culture.

It is pleasing to note the extent and quality of the illustrations, maps and diagrams. Too frequently archaeological publications are poorly illustrated, but this is not the case here. Some photographs have lost mid-tonal quality in the printing and a few photos of distant sites lack sufficient definition for their purpose, however this is small criticism and most photographs have been carefully chosen and complement the texts well.

Notes referring to the information sources used in the text are listed at the end of each chapter, while an extensive bibliography (21 pages) is not only useful for selecting further reading but testifies to the thoroughness of research which each contributor embarked upon. The index provided is divided into two sections, 'sites' and 'other references'.

This is a book which many readers will return to again and again. It brings together considerable information which has been published in various journals (and some which has not) and provides substantial coverage of significant archaeological research. It is unfortunate that the central regions of New Zealand are notable by their absence. Nelson, Wellington, Wairarapa (especially Palliser Bay), and Taranaki have all been subject to significant research in the last few years, while, further north, the Bay of Plenty and East Coast are lacking. Prickett expresses the wish that, "The many gaps in this book I hope will be filled in a future edition." When other archaeologists knowledgeable in the undescribed areas see the quality of this volume perhaps they too will 'come to the party' to ensure the production of a second volume.

The First Thousand Years is a 'must' for anyone with more than a passing interest in New Zealand's past. In addition to being well thumbed by serious students who will purchase their own copies, I am sure that many libraries, schools and other institutions will recognise the value of having this book on their shelves.

Don Millar

Australian Heritage Commission, The Heritage of Australia: The Illustrated Register of the National Estate. Melbourne, Macmillan in association with the Australian Heritage Commission, 1981. 1164 pp. \$85 Australian.

This astonishing book presents in one volume all the places in Australia that the Australian Heritage Commission has registered as being "worthy of conservation or special care". More than 6,600 places are listed, these including historic buildings and structures, national parks and other outstanding natural features and Aboriginal sites. Each place has a brief description, and the vast majority are illustrated among the 7,500 photographs in the book. There are as well four long essays on geology and geomorphology, plants and animals, "the Aboriginal Heritage" (by Professor Mulvaney) and European architecture. Many other short essays throughout the book serve to introduce important groups of registered places such as Lake Mungo and the Willandra Lakes (Mulvaney and Bowler), Rocky Cape, Tasmania (Rhys Jones) and others of archaeological interest.

The book is organised by state and then by region within states. For me, two of the most interesting sections are those which deal with the lovely Georgian architecture of Tasmania and the remains of early copper and other mines of South Australia. Organised British settlement began in Tasmania some forty years before it began in New Zealand; local stone was a preferred building material. The result is unpretentious and attractive houses and other buildings of a period which is sadly unrepresented in this country. One can dip anywhere in this book and be fascinated by the rich and varied natural and human legacy of Australians.

The Australian Heritage Commission came into being in 1976 by act of Parliament. Since then a staff of little more than a dozen people has produced this reference work which may be unmatched anywhere in the world. The Australian Heritage Commission Act, however, is not 'strong' in its protection of historic and other places: "listing on the Register of the National Estate imposes no legal obligations on private individuals, companies, or on State or local governments within states," although it does impose obligations on the Commonwealth government. Nonetheless a professed reason for publishing the inventory of the 'National Estate' is to enable the conservation of registered places to be incorporated into public and private development projects and planning at the very outset, thus minimising conflict which can arise when plans are far advanced. This encyclopedia of precious natural and human places will undoubtedly be on the shelves of

every public body, developer and conservation group in Australia. The disinterested listing of places should provide a clear basis for the expression of community interest.

There are aspects of the registration process which are of some interest. Any person may nominate a place for the Register. (I wonder if the comparatively few archaeological sites in the Register and the vast number of buildings reflects a superior popular organisation and commitment of groups interested in the latter?) The nomination is then assessed by an outside group or body, or by Commission staff if members have a particular knowledge of the place. Listing on the Register is subject to objection. These are reviewed by an expert appointed panel and referred to the Commission for decision (taking up a considerable part of the Commission's time). The final decision is based purely on assessment of "aesthetic, historic, scientific, or social significance, or other special value" and has nothing to say on future management or use. Whether this weakness is as real as it is apparent is yet to be decided: the 500 objections, however, indicate that landowners are well aware of the authority of registration by the Commission, of which this book is the key public notice.

Nigel Prickett

Jacquetta Hawkes, Mortimer Wheeler: Adventurer in Archaeology. London, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1982. 387 pp., map, 8 figs, 34 plates, bibliography, index. \$37.95.

This is a fascinating book about a fascinating subject. Mortimer Wheeler dominated British archaeology from the 1930s to the 1950s, and Indian archaeology from 1944-47. Before his death he had already written an autobiography Still Digging in 1954 but with many omissions, and some of his achievements then still lay ahead. Jacquetta Hawkes has completed the picture of the whole man, not only the able archaeologist and military man, but also the innovative administrator, the best P.R. man archaeology has ever known, and the inveterate womaniser. He emerges, as the author anticipates in her perceptive preface, as an Heroic figure, ambitious, restless, a successful man but by no means a happy one. His reputation is secure; he more than any other, was responsible for the great technical advances in archaeology in the twenties and thirties. He initiated the science of three-dimensional recording and he set a new standard of precision and neatness which was essential to the understanding of the evidence from an excavation. He stressed the importance of structures and of discovering their sequence instead of artefacts, and above all for the

need to translate archaeological findings into human terms; we are "digging up not things but people." There were times when in pursuit of this dictum, he jumped too quickly to conclusions and later work has proved him wrong as at Verulamium or the Brittany multivallate hill-forts, but this was rare. Most of his deductions and time sequences still stand.

As will be apparent to the reader, Rik Wheeler was a close personal friend and correspondent of my late husband, Cyril Fox. They first came together in 1925 in the National Museum of Wales at Cardiff when Wheeler was Director and had appointed Cyril as Keeper of Archaeology and then, when he had moved to the London Museum, to succeed him as Director. I married and went to Cardiff in 1933 and can testify to Rik's surprising kindness and support to a hesitant young woman who at that time felt she might have bitten off more than she could chew. The two men had much in common. I saw them together in the field analysing a building complex or set of earthworks, each sparking the other off with his enthusiasm and powers of deduction. Rik was the better excavator, Cyril the better field worker, but both applied the same disciplined imagination to the task in hand. Both were good administrators, accepting the day-to-day burden of affairs, whether at the National Museum, London University's Institute of Archaeology, the British Academy, or at the Society of Antiquaries where each became the President and was awarded the Society's gold medal. Both managed to combine their duties with an incredible quantity of fieldwork and excavation, prompt publication of well written reports and syntheses of archaeological material.

This book can be highly recommended to both practising archaeologists and the general reader: it is the work of a distinguished writer, herself a trained archaeologist and a personal friend of Wheeler and consequently able to understand the wide range of his interests and achievements. It is illustrated by a series of well chosen photographs which are highly revealing of the different facets of Rik's personality as well as his changing appearance over the years. To many New Zealand readers, his love life will come as a surprise, and they may well be mystified by the plethora of Christian names of a small archaeological circle. One minor criticism, the author is very sparing with dates, naming months rather than the year which makes for confusion: for instance the year of Wheeler's death is omitted.

Aileen Fox

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Ross H. Cordy, A Study of Prehistoric Social Change. New York, Academic Press, 1981. 274 pp., illustrated, bibliography, index. \$40.65 Australian.

Ross Cordy's book is the most recent in a steady stream of volumes focused on Hawaiian archaeology. It consists of seven chapters followed by five appendices. Chapter 1 states the problem of the volume. Its author wishes to investigate how and why complex societies developed by using Hawaiian archaeology as his data source. There follows a section on "definitional problems" and lengthy introductions to the physical geography, aboriginal societies and archaeology of the Hawaiian Islands.

Chapter 2 begins by casting scorn on those who, like Elman Service and Morton Fried, formulated "traditional neoevolutionary hypotheses". Cordy argues that these suffer terminally from vagueness in the criteria used to identify stages in the development of complex society. He further contends that they lack all trace of a systems orientation and that their so-called basic tenet, which is apparently that "social criteria change as an entire, qualitative set" (p.29), may be just so much baloney.

Section two of this second chapter argues that in continuing the study of the origins of complex societies we must now try to identify social variables which are amenable to archaeological analysis while at the same time representing vital aspects of that change.

After a very brief consideration of cross-cultural hypothesis formulation, including work by Johnson and Wright on the importance of decision-making levels, Cordy presents his own brand new cross-cultural hypotheses. This is (p.38) that,

"The vertical dimension of structural differentiation (the social ranking structure) and the dimensions of societal population size covary in a positive fashion and are important dimensions to monitor in order to document the nature of the changes in the development of complex societies".

The balance of the chapter deals with the development of the hypotheses specific to Hawaii. It deals with only two workers: Marshall Sahlins and Ross Cordy.

Chapter 3 discusses archaeological methods to be used in the reconstructing of social ranking, population and territory size. Burial data, interpreted after Tainter, and house construction, principally total area and the composition of permanent living structures are used to reconstruct ranking. Population size is established

on the basis of this statement made by Captain James King of Cook's third voyage who said that six people to a house is "a very moderate allowance" (quoted on p.91). So, "Archaeologically, to use King's estimate, one need only count contemporary sleeping houses and multiply the total by six to gain an absolute population estimate." Hawaiian territorial size is to be established on the basis of a search for boundary features (p.95). Finally, the very end of Chapter 3 discussed the sampling strategy and dating methods to be used in the study.

Chapter 4 is entitled "Data Collection and Empirical Reconstruction." It summarises the reconstruction of society size, social ranking and territorial size for Lapakahi, Anaehoomalu, Kaloko and then a group of 16 North Kona ahupua'a. Chapter 5 discusses the results obtained, their limitations and offers a brief list of conclusions (p.187). Chapter 6 restates and reaffirms the aims and the conclusions of the volume.

Chapter 7 is an Epilogue, apparently added "due to a consideration of (Henry Wright's) comments" (p.xi). It mentions some recent archaeological research in Hawaii, makes limited use of Hawaiian oral traditions and then returns to the "decision-making level approach" to give it a fuller and more positive, even accommodating, review. The penultimate section of the text is a four page treatment of related research by Earle, Hommon, Kirch, Pebbles and Kus, Sahlins and Saxe. The volume ends with a cross-cultural hypothesis in a now familiar form; "if... then", "and accordingly...".

To my mind this is perhaps the least attractive of the volumes published to date by Academic Press in the series "Studies in Archaeology". The language is sometimes repetitive and quite often clumsy. It suffers from too many words of which too many are much too long. Second, in a certain unseemly haste to comment on issues to left and right Cordy presents inadequate or old data as new (see for example Table 5, p.43 where Les Groube's Masters thesis stands in for what is now known of social ranking, population size, territory size and social distance in prehistoric New Zealand). Third, there are some substantial factual and interpretive errors in the text. For instance, I cannot accept that Sahlins and Narroll have had more success than any other workers in measuring the development of social complexity in terms of structural differentiation and population size (p.32). Next, Captain King's estimate is just not good enough to serve as the basis for the reconstruction of population size. Enough serious work has been done on this difficult problem in several areas of the Pacific as well as elsewhere to make that point abundantly clear. Further, there are some omissions in the literature dealt

with. For instance the Makaha information is hardly considered. In another instance it is clear that important recent work on settlement hierarchies and chiefdomships has not come to Cordy's notice (p.35).

More serious I think, is Cordy's habit of overstating his own work and understating the efforts of others. At several points in the text the reader is led through queues of references to Cordy's papers (over half of those listed in the bibliography are unpublished) while the quality of the treatment afforded other authors, for instance those whose work is discussed in the related research section, is low indeed.

In conclusion I find the 'new' hypothesis Cordy offers to be threadbare. Some of the Hawaiian evidence offered may be new and of lasting value but I very strongly suspect that the theoretical thrust of this volume will not hold up after comparison with other contemporary works on the origins of complex societies.

Doug Sutton

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Sylvia L. Horwitz, The Find of a Lifetime. London, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1981. 278 pp., plates, bibliography, index. \$32.95.

This book is subtitled "Sir Arthur Evans and the discovery of Knossos"; it is a biography of the English archaeologist, and an account of an heroic age when archaeologists did more than just take refuge in technology or argue over the remains of someone's breakfast, but could uncover whole unknown civilisations from the distant past.

The civilisation that Evans uncovered was, of course, the Minoan - named by himself after the legendary priest-king Minos. His site (he owned the land and dug there over three decades) was Knossos on the island of Crete. It was a brilliant civilisation that has since been uncovered at many other places on Crete by many other archaeologists: but everyone who works there does so in the shadow of Evans.

Arthur Evans was born in 1851, the son of John Evans who ran a paper mill and who has himself a considerable archaeologist. Amongst other things the older man in 1859 explored the Somme gravels with Boucher de Perthes, finding man-made implements of such antiquity that western man's thinking about himself was changed for ever. The son was steeped in archaeology and anti-quarianism from an early age.

His first passion was for the Balkans through which he travelled as a young man, avidly pursuing folk customs and antiquities, and with a lively interest in politics. The Balkans were at this time ruled from the Bosphorus: Evans throughout his life supported nationhood for the Slavs and other nationalities of the region. For some years he lived in Ragusa - now Dubrovnik on the Yugoslav Adriatic coast. His archaeological reputation was already considerable when he returned to England. In 1884 he became Keeper at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, a post he was to hold for many years.

Evans was an immensely rich man so that he could live in style in a vast house near Oxford when in England and in his own villa at Knossos in Crete. His wealth enabled him to embark on an astonishing programme, not just to stabilise the ruins he excavated, but to reconstruct them. The author of this book discusses the criticism this provoked, as well as the opposition his Minoan chronology and interpretation could arouse. There can be none, though, who would argue that our consciousness of the Minoan civilisation is not the result of the unrelenting excavation and the high imagination of this favoured but gifted man.

The book is a highly readable account of the man and the world he lived in. It suffers from having no map and no plans - is that only an archaeologist's quibble? I can, nonetheless, recommend it both for the archaeologist and the general reader. Buy it now for Christmas!

Nigel Prickett

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