



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



This document is made available by The New Zealand Archaeological Association under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

To view a copy of this license, visit
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.

BOOK REVIEWS

C. Melvin Aikens and Takayasu Higuchi, Prehistory of Japan. New York, Academic Press, 1982. 354 pp., illustrated, bibliography, index. \$52.15 Australian.

Teaching courses on Japanese prehistory makes one painfully aware of two things: first, how strong and prolific an archaeological tradition exists in that country and second, how few are the written sources in English to which a non-Japanese reader may turn to find out about the prehistory of that country. Numerous scholarly and popular summary accounts are available for Japanese prehistory in their own language; until now nothing comparable has existed in English. The one book by Kidder is now well out of date, as are various summary chapters in books on north-east Asia by authors such as Chard. Using English language articles by scholars such as Fumiko Ikawa-Smith and others in journals like Asian Perspectives and Senri Ethnological Studies it was possible to piece together something like a coherent account, but with the appearance of this book, a major transformation of the situation has been accomplished. It is a current, thorough, well written and well researched summary of Japanese prehistory from the paleolithic of circa 50,000 years ago up to the appearance of the historic Japanese state in the sixth to seventh century A.D.

This is not a popular account of Japanese prehistory for the general reader; it is a serious and reasonably detailed overview summarising that country's prehistory for the serious student of archaeology who knows little about the topic, wants to, but who cannot read Japanese. The approach is fairly straightforward: there is a very brief introduction to Japan, followed by a short section on the physical anthropology of the Japanese people and a longer section on their language and its relationship to other members of the Proto-Altaiic language family. The book then launches straight into the Paleolithic of Pleistocene Japan taking a principal site by principal site approach, the sites being selected both for their importance and their distribution from Kyushu in the south-west to Hokkaido in the north-east of the Japanese island chain. A very handy summary accompanied by a chronological sequence figure concludes the chapter. The same approach is then followed for the Jomon, Yayoi and Kofun periods, each being treated by this type site approach, with summary materials at the beginnings and ends of each chapter. The book closes with a short summary chapter picking out some of the main trends in Japanese prehistory.

Various controversies in Japanese prehistory are handled in a fairly balanced way. There is, for example, good discussion of problems encountered with sites claimed to document the earliest part of the Japanese Paleolithic, there is reasonable outline of the possibilities of "agriculture" during the Jomon period, and there is a useful treatment of the various "migration" theories put forward to account for changes in later periods of Yayoi and Kofun. However, the treatment is often so even-handed that one would need to dig much deeper in the literature to really come to grips with each of these issues in a satisfactory way. I have found it necessary to supplement the Paleolithic section with more discussion of the geological sequence to which it is related, to inquire more closely into the Paleolithic-Jomon transition (12,000-9,500 B.P.) often called the Incipient Jomon, to expand greatly on the Jomon subsistence and agriculture issue, and to examine more closely the spread of the Yayoi culture from south-western Japan into the more easterly and northern regions. Fortunately all of this can now be done using English language articles.

Like all Academic Press books, this one is expensive (over \$65.00 if imported into New Zealand from the official Australian suppliers). For most, therefore, it will be a book borrowed from the library. But for the serious student of Pacific and Far Eastern prehistory it is an essential purchase. Indeed, if one is interested enough in Japanese prehistory to tackle this book, then I would recommend going just a little bit further with your reading.

To get the flavour and history of Japanese archaeology as it has developed, a subject which is not treated at all in the book, read Fumiko Ikawa-Smith's "Co-traditions in Japanese archaeology" in World Archaeology 13(3):296-309, 1982. Then read her more popular summary "Current issues in Japanese archaeology" in American Scientist 68:134-144, 1980, and next the book under review here. Follow that up with articles in Asian Perspectives XIX (1) 1978, the Koyama article in Senri Ethnological Studies 2:1-65, 1978 on Jomon subsistence and population, and a selection of articles in Senri Ethnological Studies, 9, 1981 on "Affluent foragers" and you will be well on your way to having a good in depth overview of Japanese prehistory. However, whatever way you structure it, for English readers this book is the core around which to build up a knowledge of the subject. After that, like the author, Aikens, you will have to learn Japanese, and explore a literature which runs to thousands of articles.

Roger Green

- - - - -

Geoffrey Thornton, New Zealand's Industrial Heritage. Wellington, Reed, 1982. 194 pp., plates, bibliography, index. \$29.95.

The long wait for this book has been well justified. Geoffrey Thornton has presented a marvellously full account of our early industrial and engineering enterprises. The astonishing thing is that he could produce so encyclopaedic a work on so little a foundation. With rare exceptions there is virtually nothing written before on the industrial remains introduced in this book. Industrial archaeology in New Zealand has arrived suddenly, fully blown.

Chapter titles give the range of topics discussed in the book: shipbuilding, flaxmilling, timbermilling, sheepfarming, farm buildings, brewing, waterwheels, goldmines, copper and antimony mining, woollen mills, industrial engineering, coalmining, frozen meat industry, dairy industry, brickmaking, lime burning and Portland cement manufacture, tanning, gas industry, rope manufacture, paper making, coachbuilding, boot and shoe manufacture, electric power generation, communications, sugar refining, and sash and door factories. A really excellent range of photographs, including 43 in colour, complement the text. At the end is a brief glossary, a list of early industrial enterprises in New Zealand, a useful bibliography, and an index.

I was delighted to see the familiar Sandymount, Otago Peninsula, lime kiln on the front cover. Other familiar places and structures are among my favourite illustrations in the book: the Dunedin railway station, one of J.T. Thomson's lovely stone bridges at Waianakarua, the Palmerston North Hoffman kiln, and the old Willowbank Brewery (now Wilson's Distillery) in Dunedin. Other favourites which I did not know are the Ward's Brewery malthouse in Christchurch, and Judd's Foundry, Thames. The book also opens one's eyes to the history and functional design - sometimes the beauty-of a wide range of early structures which are all too often passed without a second glance, such as sawmills, railway stations, bridges and early factory buildings.

It is difficult to choose a chapter that stands out from the rest. Highlights for me are Chapter 2 on shipbuilding, 13 on industrial engineering and 18 on lime burning and Portland cement manufacture. The chapter on industrial engineering serves to introduce the remarkable Hayes Engineering Works at Oturehua, now an Historic Places Trust property. The author's relating of the origins of our industrial engineering in the humble blacksmith's shop reminds me of the old forge on our farm in the Wairarapa. It was full of fascinating pieces of iron: gate hinges, bits of implements and horseshoes and many things I couldn't put a name

to. Many years ago the rickety shed was blown down in a gale and the bits and pieces inside are since dispersed or in the process of rusting away.

While this book is a mine of information, at the same time it does point to the enormous amount of work which is needed in the field of industrial archaeology in New Zealand. Indeed it could be said that, while the pictures illustrate industrial archaeology, the text is mostly concerned with industrial history. The archaeologist needs to get into the field with his or her skills of recording, surveying and excavation, to complement the historical, architectural and technical knowledge so much in evidence in this book. The fact that so much of our early industrial history is falling to demolition or time each year adds urgency to the job.

Meanwhile, more power to Geoffrey Thornton's pen. I hope this book not only spurs archaeologists, but influences the wider public to study and preserve the rich variety of remains from our industrial past.

Nigel Prickett

- - - - -

B. Miles Gilbert, Larry D. Martin, and Howard G. Savage, Avian Osteology. B. Miles Gilbert, Laramie, Wyoming 82070, U.S.A. 252 pp., 95 figures, 9 plates. No price.

While I was in Toronto in 1978, one of the authors, Dr. Howard Savage, showed me much of this book in draft form, and I awaited, eagerly, the completed work.

Bone collections of the American Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Royal Ontario Museum, and the Smithsonian Institution were consulted during the preparation of the work. After a short preface, there is a useful section on avian osteo-archaeology, followed by one on (bird) osteology in general, and then each of the main bones is treated in detail. There are hundreds of illustrations and long lists of measurements, including the length and breadth ranges for each bone. As well as the drawings of the bones themselves the illustrations include some of artefacts made of bird bone and skin. A list of common names, and then a systematic list of vernacular and scientific names concludes the book.

Although some of the genera and many of the species included are not on the New Zealand list, any New Zealand osteologist or archaeologist working with bird bones will find much of help in this book - at least they should be able to allot most bones to

the group to which they belong, and indeed any ornithologist should gain something from it. I can recommend it unreservedly. It is paper-bound.

Ron Scarlett

Reference to Cordy, pp. 276-288.

King, T.F., Hickman, P. 1978 Anthropology in Historic Preservation: Caring for Culture's Clutter. New York, Academic Press.
and G. Berg