Book Reviews

Archeological Essays

Problems in Economic and Social Archaeology. G. DE G. SIEVEKING, I. H. LONGWORTH, and K. E. WILSON, Eds. Duckworth, London, and Westview Press, Boulder, Colo., 1976. xxvi, 626 pp., illus. $49.75.

This volume consists of 37 essays in honor of J. D. G. Clark, perhaps the most respected prehistorian of this century. Clark's excavations at the Mesolithic site of Starr Carr in Yorkshire set the standards for modern archeological research, from formulation of research design to conservation of artifactual remains. His years as the Disney Professor of Archaeology at Cambridge made Cambridge the archeological center of the British Isles, and his work, in cooperation with Stuart Piggott and others, had an impact that reached well beyond England.

Clark's theoretical orientations have had an enormous if indirect influence on the course of American archeology. In addition to dealing with the aspects of prehistory indicated in the title of this festschrift, Clark has pioneered what is now called "ecological archeology." It has been a constant source of pleasure to point out to various of the "new archeologists" that the approach they discovered in the '60's was what Clark and the others had been doing since the '40's, and with far less jargon and self-importance.

Clark's interests are admirably indicated by the diverse papers in this volume. Africa, America, Asia, Australasia, and Europe are all dealt with, although the majority of the papers have to do with England and Europe. Nearly all the contributors are former students of Clark's. Brian Fagan, Glynn Isaac, Derek Roe, Charles McBurney, Norman Hammond, Martin Biddle, David Clarke, and Paul Mellars are all here, along with many others (for a total of 40). One doubts that any other archeologist has such a distinguished company of students. In putting this festschrift together Sieveking, Longworth, and Wilson have discharged their editorial responsibilities with great merit. The papers are carefully conceived as additions to archeological knowledge while at the same time representing the methodological rigor and catholicity of interest for which Clark is known.

There are probably very few archeologists apart from Clark himself who have sufficient breadth of interest to appreciate the worth of all the articles. A reviewer is thus put in the position of focusing on his own area of competence, in this case the British Isles.

Barry Cunliffe's "Hill-forts and oppida in Britain" concentrates on changes in settlement patterns from the end of the second millennium B.C. to the Roman period. Cunliffe points out that the term hill-fort tends to be misleading, for hilltop enclosures changed in form and function over time. Their martial appearance has caused them to be disregarded as indicators of changing settlement patterns. Some sites, such as Hengistbury, which lies between the supposed boundaries of the tribal territories of the Durotriges and the Atrebates, conform to "the theoretical characteristics of a port-of-trade." Oppida, often confused in the literature with hill-forts, make their appearance prior to the Roman invasion. Cunliffe argues that the increasingly large size and more intensely settled interiors indicate a change to larger tribal centers as the settlement pattern in southeastern England. Whether or not these oppida represent a stage of urbanization is a question Cunliffe avoids, but further discussion of this issue is to be expected.

At the other end of the time spectrum David Wilson takes up the question of "Defence in the Viking age." Defensive architecture in the early medieval period is notoriously difficult to work with. While prehistoric archeologists can be happy with dates ±200 years, the historical archeologist is called upon to be much more precise, and most sites, unhappily, do not lend themselves to the desired precision. Moreover, historical documentation, for the period if not for the sites themselves, must be dealt with.

Wilson's thesis is that the disequilibrium brought about by the Viking incursions caused a rash of private and public fortifications to be built in various parts of western Europe (including Scandinavia). Although the vast population movements of the earlier migration period obviously caused a good deal of disorder, the later concentrated Viking attacks on monasteries and towns seem to have been the stimulus for an amount of fort-building unseen in Europe since the Roman period. In his compact article Wilson deals with the social causes of fort-building and offers a number of tantalizing hypotheses for further study.

In general, *Problems in Economic and Social Archaeology* is well worth the price, though it is somewhat thin on illustrations. Both as a tribute to a master archeologist and as a scholarly work, it is sure to last.

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World Protohistory

The Emergence of Society. A Prehistory of the Establishment. JOHN E. PFEIFFER. McGraw-Hill, New York, 1977. iv, 512 pp., illus. $15.

In *The Emergence of Society* John Pfeiffer has provided us with a lucid and sometimes fascinating compilation of ideas about world protohistory. The book is above all the story of countless archeologists and anthropologists in their quest for knowledge, and it conveys the excitement of scientists at work, unsolved problems, and new discoveries.

Pfeiffer states that "the emergence of complex society was the most radical development in human evolution since the emergence of the family of man from ancestral apes" yet remains "one of science's deepest mysteries" (p. 20). For countless generations, the world's population and their lifeways remained relatively constant. However, during the past 15,000 years all that changed. Population size exploded. Human groups no longer lived within the constraints of their environments, but attempted to manipulate them to suit their needs. Most of all, Pfeiffer suggests, there has been a change in the nature of people themselves and the way they relate to each other.

Pfeiffer depicts the antecedent hunter-gatherer groups as stable, sharing, egalitarian, and without greed, arrogance, or excessive pomp. Accumulation of wealth or power not only was rare but was systematically prevented by many societies. It was the settling down in permanent agricultural villages about 10,000 years ago that initiated a cycle of change that enlarged group size, differentiated access to wealth and power, increased