

Cep 24-8 p3

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Professor Don E. Crabtree
Moscow, Idaho

Brno, 19.11. 1979

Dear Professor Crabtree,

I have been now preparing a reworked and enlarged edition of the book "Archaeology: How and Why?" which will also deal with your excellent and inspiring work. I would like very much to publish in it together with photographs of other scholars, also a photo of you (informal portrait or "field picture"). Would you kindly send me the photo (+ place and date of birth and the address of your actual working place)?

Allow me please to have a large desire: In the above mentioned book, in the section devoted to your work, I would like to publish some photographs of your experiments with stone artifacts - could you please lend me some, with brief legends? I would return them immediately after publishing them.

I would also be very grateful to you for your kind information about the problems you are dealing with at present and possibly also about the works you have recently published. I will send you "Archaeology..." in 1980 when it appears.

Thank you very much for your kind answering my questions.

With my best regards

Jaroslav Malina

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Jaroslav Malina: Archeologie: jak a proč? (Archaeology: how and why?). Regional Museum of Mikulov and District Council of the Czech Socialist Academy in Brno, 1975. 292 pp., 67 pls. Kčs. 50.

The foreword of this book explains that the two publishing bodies have for some years held seminars for the benefit of interested amateur archaeologists in the Brno region (southern Moravia), with the idea of building up a group of well-informed and active enthusiasts to help with the recording and preservation of archaeological monuments. This book is a further step in that direction, though its usefulness is by no means restricted to amateurs. The author comes from Brno University and is already well known for his work on stone implement petrology with J. Stědl and others (for example, *Zaklady petroarcheologie*, 1975; *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, XXXV., 1970, 233-40).

This is not a research work but a thorough and level-headed review of the literature on archaeological theory and practice. Theory accounts for six of the chapters, practice for only one. Especially useful for the English reader is the fact that the literature covered is very extensive, and by no means restricted to the Anglo-Saxon repertoire; some little-known but welcome Russian works are included. The chapter headings are: 1. Introduction and delimitation of problem; 2. Brief history of archaeology; 3. Archaeology today; 4. Archaeology in the field; 5. Archaeography; 6. Theories in archaeology; 7. Examples of modern method application. There is a short English summary, but this is not really much help except to increase the non-Czech-speaker's frustration! A book like this, designed for non-specialists, needs to be available *in toto*, whereas here only the Introduction is translated in full.

The brief history of archaeology is familiar to us

from other works, though the Central European standpoint is interesting. At this point I think a brief account of the traditional mid-twentieth-century view of archaeology (as practised, for instance, in Czechoslovakia) should have been included. Instead we are taken straight off into 'Archaeology today', comprising the 'enlarged concept of the artifact', ecologically oriented archaeology, scientific and technical analyses of artifacts, dating methods, experimental archaeology, post-medieval and industrial archaeology, mathematics and computers in archaeology, and the theory and methodology of archaeology. It can be seen that these are rather lists of things that archaeologists do than a definition of archaeology. Nevertheless, Malina steers a skilful way through the jungle of theoretical work that has emerged in recent years. Chapter 4 is a brief description of archaeological source materials (both sites and artifacts) and the main field methods for studying them. This is over brief as an account of field archaeology, though of course several other good books are available.

Chapter 5 is about description and classification, and one of the more original and thoughtful parts of the book. Malina leads skilfully from description as a philosophical problem into elementary taxonomic methods. At the end of the chapter, six stages are presented in the ideal scheme of 'archaeographic' research: 1. Separation of artifacts into types by layers, and simple clustering procedures; 2. Seriation of single temporal layers; 3. Construction of typological series for single artifact types; 4. Comparison of typologies for different artifacts; 5. Analysis of spatial relationships of types and clusters through time; 6. Examination of mutual relationships of cultures and higher entities. Chapter 6 is more derivative, drawing extensively on modern western theoretical works, but well done nevertheless (the sheer volume of foreign literature assimilated by the author is in itself impressive). There are special sections dealing with the work of the Binfords and David Clark. Chapter 7 consists mainly of examples of modern methods drawn from various sources: Chenhall on Museum Classification, Ankel, Gardin and Gening on pottery classification, Dretz on artifact form, Doran on computer models in hypothesis formation, and various others. Obviously in a book of this size not everything can be covered: for the British reader perhaps the most obvious deficiency is the lack of cover of palaeoeconomic matters (volumes edited by Higgs are included in the bibliography but mentioned only briefly; Ucko and Dimbleby, 1969, does not appear at all). Still, the examples are well-chosen, and the author writes with confidence, clarity and humour. If there were a translation of this book available I would recommend it to students without hesitation.

The book is well-produced, with a clear and well-spaced type, set off by bold type to emphasize important subjects referred to in the text. A variety of sources have been used to supply the line-drawings, many of which will not be familiar to British readers. In addition, a delightful series of figures taken from rock-art adorn the pages between chapters. The Editor of ANTIQUITY has already drawn attention to the large collection (perhaps too large) of photographs of archaeological worthies figured in the plates, including a marvellous picture of Gordon Childe (though not, strangely, one of the Editor of ANTIQUITY). The remaining photographs are mostly of experimental archaeological projects like the Lejre farm.

Since the total print of this book is only 350, and the publishers hitherto unknown, it is clearly not going to find its way into many libraries outside Czechoslovakia. If the Brno District Council is wise it will reprint in larger numbers and soon; meanwhile, let us hope that one of our own publishers will consider an English translation.

ANTHONY HARDING

J. Allen, J. Golson and R. Jones (eds.): *Sunda and Sahul. Prehistoric studies in South East Asia, Melanesia and Australia*. London, New York, San Francisco: Academic Press, 1977. 647 pp., 115 figs and tables. £12.50.

This volume is concerned with the prehistory of the lands bounded by the Continental shelves of South-East Asia and Australasia and had its origin in a symposium organized by the editors at the 13th Pacific Science Congress. All three editors are members of the staff of the Department of Prehistory in the Research School of Pacific Studies of the Australian National University.

This fascinating collection of palaeo-anthropological, bio-geographical, and ethno-archaeological studies is a positive cornucopia of Canberra cultural endeavour. No less than a third of the contributors are or have been members of Professor Jack Golson's Department which has also produced all the art work, the index and the camera-ready copy for the text. Indeed, the publishers of this volume seem themselves to have done little to deserve the high price and one can only hope that the contributors were adequately rewarded for their labours.

The essays in this splendid and blissfully jargon-free collection are not in fact entirely by that aggressive band of archaeological frontiersmen whom a colleague has nicknamed the 'Canberra Mañosi'. Three Wise Men of Australo-Pacific studies are also represented: Joseph Hirdsell, William Howells and Norman Tindale contribute a triad of papers on the