
E DITORIAL

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Most readers do not usually look regularly at the inside covers of the journals they receive, but in this issue they will be able to see that we have made a few changes. We have modified the 'Notes for contributors' (particularly as regards radiocarbon date conventions, in order to bring them into line with generally accepted practice) and we have added a phrase to the inside front cover to emphasize our status as a refereed journal. This was suggested by Professor Vincent Megaw and seemed an excellent idea to the Editorial Board. Indeed, research assessment (and not just in the English-speaking world) increasingly rewards publication in refereed journals as it reflects peer evaluation. Articles are submitted preferentially to those journals that guarantee the quality of their content in this way, and this becomes a measure of prestige. This is not of course the case in all of Europe, and contributors and potential contributors often ask for an explanation of the *EJA*'s policy. For this reason – and in the interests of transparency – we have put the refereeing policy on the EAA website (at <http://www.e-a-a.org/journal.htm>) and also on the SAGE website (<http://www.sagepub.co.uk>).

Here at the University of Nottingham our Science Library is named after George Green (1793–1841), a local miller who in 1828 published *An Essay on the Application of Mathematical Analysis to the Theories of Electricity and Magnetism* (Challis 1987). Unfortunately this seminal work was not published in a way to be accessible to the scientific community, but privately in Nottingham, so that it was not until some years after his death that the importance of his theory of electrical potential was understood. The lesson is clear – if we want to impact on the scientific community, on our peers, we need to publish where our work will be read. Archaeology suffers more than other disciplines from an over-abundance of publications, and too much good work remains unnoticed because it is not readily accessible to the wider archaeological community.

It is however obvious that for every George Green, whose importance has become clearer as time has progressed, there will be others for whom this is not the case. Henry Cockton (1807–1853) was an English humorous novelist who was

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highly regarded in the nineteenth century but is now largely forgotten. Indeed in 1899 his *The Life and Adventures of Valentine Vox, the Ventriloquist* (1840) was selected as one of the '100 best novels in the world' by the *Daily Telegraph* of London. His memorial on the Charnel House in Bury St Edmunds' Great Churchyard in Suffolk (Fig. 1, on page 4) is however a sad comment on the transitory nature of any author's impact: 'his works are his best monument'. Peer appreciation is not necessarily a guarantee of lasting importance!

Another measure of the impact of publications is the extent to which they are cited by others, and it is interesting to note that two of the three articles in this issue of *EJA* cite previous publications in our Journal, thus emphasizing their impact on archaeological debate.

This issue contains three articles, two of these and the Reviews section have a somewhat eastern emphasis. The first, by Burçin Erdoğan, takes up the islands theme which has been recurrent in papers in the Journal. He argues that the Neolithic colonization of Gökçeada (Imroz), a relatively unattractive island 17 km from the mainland, can best be explained if we accept that the symbolic value of landscape may have been important when choices were made for island colonization. The meaning of the artefacts that we find in grave assemblages is a theme of much archaeological research, and Sabine Reinhold examines how local and social identities were established and communicated by dress and weapon assemblages in the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age northern Caucasus. Dress, or *Tracht*, is used to communicate both local and social identities, and she identifies clear differences between application in the male and female spheres, with a less strict syntax for the less regionally specific male identities. Reinhold also uses the differences in dress and armament she identifies to show how Koban Culture social organization changes through time.

Antony Kropff and Jos Van der Vin bring us back to Atlantic Europe, with an article that uses coin evidence to assess continuity or abandonment in the Dutch River area at the end of the third century AD on the basis of a comparison with site finds from Roman Britain. The article, which explores the role of the nature of coin circulation in the pattern of coin loss, argues for continuity during the period against the accepted view of an abandonment of sites in the area.

REFERENCES

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