

fication'. Eicher & Roach-Higgins (1992, 15) make the point that body modification is a form of dress. A study of items such as hats, in which the modified heads were accommodated (see Reyecraft's fig. 8 on p. 65), indicates that the relationships between these different aspects of dress were more complex than implied by some of the contributors to this volume.

Many of the contributors make reference to Stanish (1992), a work which investigated an archaeological concept of 'household' in the light of zonal complementarity models. In his discussion chapter, Stanish evaluates the considerable progress that has been made since 1992 as represented in the book under review. In 1992, Stanish was critical of artefact-based approaches in archaeology; his emphasis then stressed the household context in which objects are found. In the current chapter, he recognizes that mortuary contexts have potential for researchers to recognize 'markers' of ethnic identity. Reviewing the 1992 book (Dransart 1993), I commented on the need to examine biogenetic distance markers, and the present monograph incorporates biological and cultural data in a comprehensive framework. I also remarked on an insufficiency of illustrations in Stanish (1992). Paradoxically, there are adequate illustrations of artefacts in the present volume but the photographic plates are often too dark and the plans of household sites are unhelpfully schematic.

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Reclaiming a Plundered Past: Archaeology and Nation Building in Modern Iraq, by Magnus T. Bernhardsson, 2005. Austin (TX): University of Texas Press; ISBN 0-292-70947-1 hardback £28.95 & US\$34.20; xiii+327 pp., 18 figs.

Roger Matthews

This book is a reworked doctoral dissertation from 1999. A first glance at the title and at the first lines of the advertising puff on the back cover encourage a belief that the book's main concern is with the terrible events of April 2003, when the Iraq Museum in Baghdad was looted, and with connected issues. The front cover picture, showing a distressed official amongst the debris of the museum immediately after the looting, does nothing to disabuse one of this notion. In fact, the book's remit is to examine the relationship between archaeology and the state of Iraq from 1900 to 1941, and the connections with 2003 are barely made at all. One cannot blame the publishers for attempting to situate the book within the context of current and still highly charged concerns, but they might have added the phrase '1900–1941' at the end of the book's title as a way of ensuring that those who buy the book know exactly what they are purchasing.

This is an extremely well-researched piece of writing, supported by extensive notes and bibliography, attesting a serious concern with the exploration of how archaeology can be seen as 'an integral part of the imperialist enterprise' (p. 17). The aim of the book is to consider the role of archaeology in the construction of the nation of Iraq out of the ruins of the Ottoman empire and into its modern form as an independent state up to 1941. Bernhardsson's sources include a wealth of archives, newspaper articles, and a broad swath of secondary and primary sources that have been investigated and deployed to masterful effect.

The author defines three stages in the development of archaeology in Iraq: a so-called international

stage when foreign powers, principally Britain, France, and Germany, appropriated, physically and intellectually, the Iraqi past, as now attested by the museum collections of those nations; a national phase when Britain and Iraq struggled over the control of Iraq's heritage; and a third phase, from 1941 (and therefore not included within the book's remit), when Iraq assumed more or less complete control over its own archaeology. Chapter 1 provides a very readable account of nineteenth-century excavations in Iraq by British, French, and German expeditions, preceded by a broad-ranging survey of Mesopotamia in European art and thought. Chapter 2 considers the First World War and the years up to 1921, with the intimate engagement of Britain at a formative time in Iraq's complex history. Not surprisingly, Gertrude Bell features prominently here and is subtly and thoughtfully portrayed in the author's words and in quotes from her own writings. The following three chapters bring the story up to 1941, dealing at length with the political scene of the 1920s and the role of archaeology and Iraq's rich heritage within that scene, while the conclusions include brief consideration of the years from 1941 up to 2003.

The volume forms a first-rate case study of how archaeology and politics intersect in a host of complex and historically contingent ways over decades of interaction. Anyone interested in the political situation of archaeology will read the book with great benefit and interest. To bring the story right up to date, there is a host of more recent publications concerning the events of 2003 and surrounding issues, but any understanding of what happened in 2003 will be greatly augmented by reading this rich account. Finally, this book is full of statements that continue to echo down the decades with a portentous resonance. To quote only one such, from a letter to Gertrude Bell from John Van Ess in 1919: 'You are flying in the face of four millenniums of history if you try to draw a line around Iraq and call it a political entity!' (p. 93). All who have been involved, and continue to be involved, in any regard, with the Iraq of today will read this volume with profit as well as great sadness.

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Britannia: the Creation of a Roman Province, by John Creighton, 2006. London: Routledge; ISBN 0-415-33313-X hardback £55 & US\$97; xii+180 pp., 29 figs.

Andrew Gardner

The narrative of the Roman conquest of Britain is, in the popular consciousness, relatively unproblematic. Caesar came and saw, while Claudius conquered. In the volume which was the standard work on Roman Britain for a generation, Sheppard Frere's *Britannia* (1987), the gaps in the story of this period were merely matters of detail. John Creighton's new book, named in explicit homage to Frere's, challenges this established story in a number of fundamental ways. It succeeds quite brilliantly in providing a thought-provoking and refreshing picture of social continuity and change across the late Iron Age and early Roman periods, elegantly combining detailed case studies with theoretical discussion. To be sure, recent debates over the landing-site of the Claudian invasion have begun to unpick the traditional account. Nonetheless, Creighton's book goes well beyond these to question our whole framework for understanding the relationships between the societies of Britain — especially their rulers — and Rome, and the impact these had on urban development in the province. It succeeds in its central aim of putting the major military landings of AD 43 into a much broader context of imperialism involving both Roman and indigenous actors.

The book comprises seven chapters, framed by an Introduction and Conclusion. In charting the shifting power relations either side of the Claudian invasion date of AD 43, two major themes are pursued. These are the role of 'friendly kings' in the transition to Roman rule, and the diverse origins of the early Roman towns in Britain. The Introduction primarily focuses on previous scholarship concerning this period, and succinctly deals with a number of quite long-term trends, extending back into the Middle Ages. Chapters One to Three then address different aspects of client kingship, using comparative material from other parts of the Roman world to illuminate evidence from Britain, where this phenomenon seems to have been established between the times of Caesar and Claudius, particularly in the south and east. The ways in which client dynasties interacted with Rome, and the manifestations of this interaction in material symbols and military support are discussed, and some exciting interpretations put forward. The idea that kings who were supported or even implanted by