

how, despite being scheduled and legally protected, the outcrops are neglected, requiring trips along unkempt bridle paths, into corners of industrial estates and scrambles down cliffs onto unsavoury beaches. There is even a trip to a gold mine as a bonus.

After a short identification guide to the major marbles (there is a later guide illustrating the major fossils found in the marbles) most of the book gives 'a descriptive and visual guide to the 34 Devonshire buildings and sites of importance' (all in England), including cathedrals (Plymouth, Exeter), national museums (Natural History Museum/Geological Museum, Fitzwilliam) and High Victorian town halls (Manchester), Oxbridge colleges, plus the Brompton Oratory and the less expected Todmorden Unitarian Church and Birmingham Grand Hotel. Geological guides to the facing stones in British towns and cities have become increasingly fashionable, but few can be as lavish as this. However, even within these high-status buildings there are signs of damage/neglect through changing artistic fashions or impoverished-enforced, poor maintenance. But, as it intends, the volume goads the reader to go out and use it and perhaps then lobby and fight for the buildings.

It would miss the point were only geologists to benefit from Professor Walkden's monumental efforts, efforts that are truly pan-marmorial (*sic*), for he exhorts us to enjoy, love and nurture these English marble marvels, to give generously to maintain the buildings and to rediscover smaller objects that are unrecognised in collections and auction houses. These two books speak volumes as to why, now that the marble quarries and beaches are largely barren, we should ensure that what remains is uncovered, recovered and cherished. Thinking of doing anything other than that, we really would be losing our marbles.

ROBERT IXER

doi:10.1017/S0003581516000044

*Trends in Biological Anthropology. Volume 1.* By KARINA GERDAU-RADONIĆ and KATHLEEN MCSWEENEY, 297mm. Pp 160, b&w ills. Oxbow Books, for the British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology, Oxford, 2015. ISBN 9781782978367. £49.95 (pbk).

*Trends in Biological Anthropology* is a new series that aims to report on new multidisciplinary

research in biological anthropology, based on presentations made at the annual conferences of the British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology (BABA0). The first volume, based on the 2011 and 2012 conferences, captures very well the rich diversity of research in the field.

The papers are grouped thematically, and they cover subjects as diverse as primatology, osteoarchaeology, dental anthropology, palaeopathology, three-dimensional modelling, healthy eating and forensics. This is an interesting mix that embraces methodological approaches, palaeopathological case studies, analysis of disarticulated remains from Worcester infirmary, the significance of the definition of 'perimortem' in forensics and a splendid Wellcome-funded public engagement programme, 'You Are What You Ate', encouraging healthy eating based on information recorded from medieval and early modern period skeletons.

The depth and breadth of the research clearly demonstrates the different techniques, applications and approaches used for studies and engagement in biological anthropology today. Such investigative studies highlight the innovation that characterises the discipline of biological anthropology as it develops and strives to achieve valid interpretations. As such, *Trends* promises to be a valuable resource for learning and research in biological anthropology; volume 1 is a very good start and a benchmark for the future volumes being of an equally high standard.

JELENA BEKVALAC

doi:10.1017/S0003581516000263

*Beastly Questions: animal answers to archaeological issues.* By NAOMI SYKES. 240mm. Pp xvi + 221, 34 b&w ills. Bloomsbury Academic, London, 2014. ISBN 9781472506757. £70 (hbk).

It is disconcerting to read a book that starts with a declaration of how bored the author is with her discipline. But this is the rather unconventional introduction to what becomes a powerful argument as to how much more valuable zooarchaeology could be if its proponents did more to interpret the datasets they produce. Zooarchaeologists are in a position to shed much more light on human-animal interactions, and these, Sykes argues, are a key source of

information for understanding human societies and cultural ideology.

Sykes weaves common themes through her work: how limited the modern western viewpoint can be when it comes to thinking about human/animal relationships, how such relationships are often interpreted purely in economic terms, and the emphasis that has hitherto been placed on the role of dead animals (rather than on the significance that living ones might have had). The author goes on to describe areas of research that could benefit from revisiting with a new interpretation of the role of zooarchaeology.

The author dedicates a chapter each to the subject of human relationships with domesticated animals, with wild animals and with 'exotic' animals (a label that applies to all animals with which humans were previously unfamiliar). Further chapters are concerned with the subjects of animals and landscape, animals and ritual and the sometimes sensitive topic of humankind's affective relationships with animals. She finally addresses the subject of animals and meat. Sykes provides us with a very full review of the work already carried out in these areas, and the literature available, as well as suggesting where the scope of these could be widened.

Sykes, unsurprisingly, draws on her own research to provide case studies for the book. These deal principally with English material, and often involve her own speciality: the history and cultural significance of the fallow deer. But her investigations do bring in material from outside her own researches. The book contains much information that, while it might be common knowledge to archaeologists and zooarchaeologists, can be surprising to non-specialists. For example, the absence of marine protein from English diets from the Neolithic to the arrival of the Romans, the early role of the chicken (which, apparently, was not as a supplier of meat or eggs), and the possible impact of early dairying on human mortality.

In conclusion, Sykes informs us that she is now once more excited by her discipline. She is sure that an integrated analysis of archaeological animals, as physical remains, in artefacts, images and textual representation, as well as in the landscape, has much to offer in terms of the study of humanity and of the human mind. Such a combined study might have been impossible twenty years ago, but advances in the accessibility of data thanks to the internet, combined with ground-breaking scientific techniques (isotope, lipid and DNA analysis) make it

feasible to synthesise the output of other disciplines with zooarchaeological data sets. A summary of the surprising, and not so surprising, features of human/animal relations from the Mesolithic to the modern that Sykes's work has explored leads her to confess to a horror of how far such relations have now been transformed into a 'one-sided exploitation of animals and the environment'. She finds it incumbent on zooarchaeologists to 'step up to the mark' and shout forcefully about the lessons the discipline can have for modern society. This reviewer, for one, will be shouting alongside them.

MANDY DE BELIN

doi:10.1017/S0003581516000548

*Archaeology of Food: an encyclopedia* (2 vols). Edited by KAREN BESCHERER METHENY and MARY C BEAUDRY. 265mm. Pp 702, 71 b&w ills, 2 tables. AltaMira Press, Lanham, USA, 2015. ISBN 9780759123649. £130 (hbk).

Cannibalism follows cacao in the *Archaeology of Food: an encyclopedia*, a food-centric eclectic work encapsulating the current scientific knowledge and theoretical perspective of each of its 284 entries. An encyclopedia requires good indexing and this two-volume set excels, with not just alphabetical but also thematic contents. Themes include 'Beverages' and 'Methods of analysis', which complement the publication's alphabetical layout by providing a comprehensive list of entries within a chosen area of interest. Indexes are included in both volumes, a convenient feature. Entries fall into two categories: broad and specific. A longer entry containing subsections, a subject with a broad context such as 'Old World Globalisation and Food Exchange', includes different eras, diverse cultures and various plant and animal components as well as a conclusion. Specific entries focusing on one element of food culture such as 'Mesolithic Diet' or 'Fungi' provide narrow-focused and detailed information on the topic. Both types of entry provide a comprehensive further reading list which is essential considering the necessary succinctness of the articles.

'Food and Capitalism' is a broad-focus entry, which, while acknowledging that the subject is market-driven, contains a study of the eighteenth century onwards. New World staples