

805 items, ranging from *Greg McGrath, Badlands Ranger: a gripping tale of the Utah panhandle*, a product of 1945 and his post-school life as a young soldier, to his bookshelf-worth of publications on aspects of the early church in Britain, which earned him the inaugural William Frend Medal from the Society of Antiquaries in 1982. Writing for a general public as much as for his academic peers, *Celtic Britain* was first published by Thames and Hudson in 1986 in the 'Ancient Peoples and Places' series. While Charles's interpretation of Pictish symbols is now regarded as ingenious rather than convincing (for a current interpretation, see Noble *et al.* 2018), his interest not only in historical sources but also in linguistics must be added to his unrivalled knowledge of Cornish militaria, mining and Methodism.

An intellectual adventurer in archaeology includes some 30 contributors, largely lacking indication of their affiliation, which would otherwise have underlined Charles's influence on practically every branch of archaeology, professional or amateur (the latter being a category Charles maintained did not exist). Only one exception stands out—the revolutions in archaeological theory in the second half of the twentieth century, concerning which, like Stuart Piggott, Charles felt he was 'past all those posts'. Little of the rest is missed in contributions, which range from reminiscences to what are in effect detailed reports on aspects of his fieldwork. It must be said that when it comes to his key excavations, several lack anything approaching definitive or, indeed in some cases, even interim reports. This includes Gwithian, although it has been the subject of several shorter accounts and a whole volume of *Cornish Archaeology* (46, 2007). Vanessa Straker and Thomas Walker present new data on Gwithian's environmental history in this volume; Charles Johns, based on a manuscript left unpublished by Charles, completes an account of the 1956 excavations at Teän in the Isles of Scilly, a site centred on a Christian community of the fifth to eighth centuries AD; Jackie Nowakowski writes on Charles and Tintagel 1956–1957 and his relationship with C.A. Raleigh Radford, champion of King Arthur; Ewan Campbell and Adrián Maldonado of Glasgow University write on Charles's work on Iona from 1956–1963, setting this in the context of his wider involvement in the study of the Early Christian period in northern Britain. This included a lectureship at Edinburgh from 1958, the golden days of Piggott's reign as Abercromby Professor; Charles described this

as the happiest period of his life. But Cornwall beckoned once more.

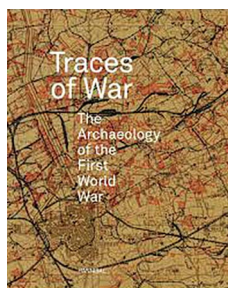
While *Archaeopress* gets few marks for cutting-edge graphic design, there are some nice touches, particularly the frontispiece and the largely uncaptioned chapter openings based, with one exception, on the watercolours by Charles that formed his Christmas greetings. If at times *An intellectual adventurer in archaeology* might seem to teeter between reminiscence and 'hard' archaeology, the very mixture reflects the man. Could one imagine today excavations like those Charles led, pipe in hand, on occasion run as if they were an episode of *The Goon Show*, on another incorporated into manoeuvres of the Special Air Service? British archaeology has had its other champions, but few can have had such broad interests or more deserve emulation than does the life's work of Antony Charles Thomas.

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- BIRGER STICHELBAUT (ed.). *Traces of war: the archaeology of the First World War*. 2018. Veurne: Hannibal; 978-94-9267-751-8 €29.50.



Published in 2018 at the close of the centenary of the First World War, *Traces of war* takes the opportunity to reflect upon two decades of archaeological exploration of the Western Front in Belgium. A companion to

the recent exhibition of the same name at the In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres, it brings together a wealth of information about Flemish First World War archaeology, with easily accessible text and excellent images. Making sense of a conflict on the overwhelming industrial scale of the First World War, with its mind-numbing statistics, is sometimes a challenge, but it is deftly accomplished in *Traces of war*: it is through archaeology that we “can make the past tangible, illustrating day-to-day life in the trenches and military camps behind the front; the continual battle against the elements; coping with death” (p. 18).

The book itself is well designed, with thick matt paper pages and a wealth of high-quality images, including historical and aerial photographs, archival documents, maps, plans, excavation photographs, images of artefacts and geophysical survey interpretations. Illustrations are accompanied by informative captions, and the text is sign-posted with useful sub-headings and occasional pop-out text blocks with interesting facts.

Traces of war is arranged in 11 short chapters that cover a number of discrete but interlinked themes. It begins with an introductory overview of First World War archaeology, particularly the shift from treasure-hunting in the mid twentieth century to increasingly professionalised excavations from the 1990s onwards. First World War archaeology was pioneered by dedicated volunteers and a few professional archaeologists who dug on their holidays. Other than the efforts of these individuals, First World War remains were recorded only when they intersected with older archaeology. In the 2000s, an increased interest in the history and culture of the First World War, alongside large-scale infrastructure projects in Belgium, highlighted the potential of, and provided the opportunity for, professional excavation. By the mid 2000s there were several very good English-language publications (for example, Barton *et al.* 2006) about the archaeology of the First World War in Flanders, but these were written by British archaeologists who were concerned specifically with the British war experience. Flemish publications were not often translated. It is worth highlighting that *Traces of war* redresses this balance, presenting research by the Belgian archaeological community (expertly translated into English).

The first chapter looks at the area occupied by the 23rd German Reserve Corps at Bikschote from the start of the war. By focusing on one unit, it offers a look at the

human cost of war, including the discovery of human remains, as well as illustrating the learning curve for the German army as they constructed *ad hoc* entrenchments, which would be improved upon as the war dragged on into 1915 and beyond. Chapter 2 offers a detailed look at the northern Ypres Salient, compiling information on over a decade of different excavations. It shows a timeline of how trench warfare developed and how different the reality of trench life could be from the standards set out in official documents. Archaeology’s role in uncovering and identifying missing soldiers is considered in the third chapter. The memorial landscape of Flanders is highly visible, from the Menin Gate in Ypres to the rows of white headstones in military cemeteries such as Tyne Cot. Discovering and, if possible, identifying the dead has long been an emotive part of First World War archaeology. Archaeologists work hard to tease out individual stories from the statistics, returning identities to the anonymous dead and trying to trace their living family members. Most remains, of course, will never be identified, and the authors describe the different types of burial contexts on the Western Front, from shell holes to mass graves to cleared burial grounds. The fourth chapter examines life behind the front lines, in locations such as hospitals and camps. This includes a discussion of First World War archaeology’s rich record of small finds, which give us a glimpse of everyday activity and the adaptation of mass-produced items into personal objects. Chapters 5 and 6 look at more focused themes: the use of horses and mules at the front, and food (sometimes the former becoming the latter). Chapter 7 considers the geographic reach of total war far from the frontlines, including training trenches and airfields, reminding us that the impact of war stretched well beyond the trenches. This wider geography is captured again in the following two chapters, which examine historical and new aerial photography, and laser scanning from the air. The In Flanders Fields Museum has established the Centre for Historical & Archaeological Aerial Photography (Centrum voor Historische & Archeologische Luchtfotografie), and this chapter includes many excellent images. The results of laser scanning with aircraft-mounted lidar (light detection and ranging) are reported and hundreds of new sites of interest are highlighted. Chapter 10 continues the discussion of non-invasive survey, this time reporting the results of on-the-ground geophysical survey. The visual interpretations of this survey, as well as that of the lidar survey in the previous chapter, are clearly presented and

transcribed so that they are easy to understand. *Traces of war* concludes with an assessment of heritage policy towards First World War remains in Belgium, from early efforts at establishing open-air museums and post-Second World War commemoration, to full-scale inventorying at the start of the twenty-first century and recognition of the battlefields as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

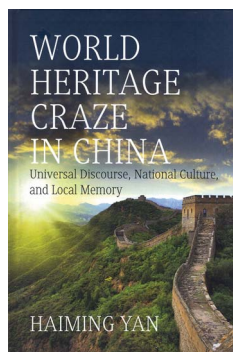
Traces of war is a good compilation of the archaeological investigations of the Western Front in Flanders. It is accessible for a popular audience with engaging, easy-to-read text and excellent images, but with enough detail to please specialists. It charts the development of First World War archaeology and shows that, despite the fact that 1914–1918 was a period rich in documentation, including letters, photographs, films and bureaucratic reports, archaeology has much to add, not the least of which is a tangible connection to a past no longer in living memory.

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HAIMING YAN. *World Heritage craze in China: universal discourse, national culture, and local memory*. 2018. Oxford: Berghahn; 978-1-78533-804-5 £85.



World Heritage craze in China demonstrates the commitment of the Chinese Government at all levels to the protection of the traditional cultural heritage of the Chinese nation. This commitment results in a desire to uphold the national cultural sovereignty, and to seek acceptance and recognition from UNESCO in a variety of ways as efficiently as possible. Yan offers a thought-provoking way to think about China's unique cultural heritage, social background, heritage discourse and basic values, as well as national practices and the

local responses, and how all of this interacts with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

Apart from the Introduction and Conclusion, Yan presents a brief and concise heading for each chapter, which attempts to describe the transition from Chinese cultural heritage discourse to world heritage discourse, both in theory and in practical responses. Beyond that, readers should bear in mind that the subtitle is slightly misleading as the monograph does not comprehensively cover every aspect of world heritage and only focuses on the Chinese Government's current concern with placing its heritage in a certain kind of global context, and on the extent to which they have succeeded in this. As the most frequently used basic terminologies in the field of cultural heritage studies, 'Universal discourse', 'National culture' and 'Local memory' are different but related in concepts, languages, models and practices.

The research methodologies adopted in this monograph are not limited to empirical studies of the world heritage craze in China, although three World Heritage Sites, namely, Fujian Tulou, Mount Songshan and the Great Wall receive chapter-length considerations (Chapters 3–5). Methodological elements from social sciences including history, art, law, sociology and ethnology are embedded in these discussions. This monograph is written in a way that juxtaposes the attitudes towards the world heritage craze in China and the relevant protection activities, with the social, cultural and political systems of wider society. At the end of the Introduction, Yan introduces the approach of neo-institutionalism, which is based on a traditional theory in economics, to discuss China's world heritage system and the world cultural model, and its related discursive system as well. It should be noted that neo-institutionalism sketches the process of 'heritagisation' within nation-states and the 'politicisation' of world heritage, and points out the constituent elements of the state's discursive power over not only cultural affairs but also political agendas.

Chapter 1 briefly introduces 'Cultural relics' and 'Cultural heritage' as the two core concepts in China's cultural conservation, and elaborates on the bureaucratic legal transformation from the former to the latter in great detail. The wording change—'Heritage' replaces 'Relics'—represents a kind of discursive transition that is in accordance with international conventions and practices. Several living examples are given in this monograph to illustrate that the Chinese Government

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