

in order to flourish or unfortunately to fail. Fifteen years ago in his insightful book, *Archaeological Theory and Scientific Practice*, Andrew M. Jones (2002) told us why we needed to merge archaeology's age-old division of science on one side and interpretative or humanist theory on the other to make a better informed archaeology for the future and how this might be achieved. He demonstrated that the success of archaeology depended upon the merging of scientific and cultural studies of objects, such as pottery, to move the discipline forward. This *Handbook* has many contributions which can help to reach such a possibility.

## REFERENCES

- Cruells, W., Mateiuciová, I. & Nieuwenhuys, O. 2017. *Painting Pots — Painting People: Late Neolithic Ceramics in Ancient Mesopotamia*. Oxford & Philadelphia: Oxbow Books.
- Jones, A.M. 2002. *Archaeological Theory and Scientific Practice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

ELAINE MORRIS

*University of Southampton, UK*

doi 10.1017/eea.2017.47

Lene Melheim, Håkon Glørstad and Zanette Tsigaridas Glørstad, eds. *Comparative Perspectives on Past Colonisation, Maritime Interaction and Cultural Integration* (New Directions in Anthropological Archaeology). Sheffield: Equinox Publishing Ltd., 2016, xii + 289 pages, 60 b/w illustr., 5 tables, hbk, ISBN 978-1-78179-048-9)

This edited book comprises thirteen papers with an introduction by the editors and an afterword by Matthew Spriggs. The papers are divided into three sections, which explore colonisation, maritime interaction, and cultural integration. These provide structure to a reconsideration of the centrality of movement to our understanding of past societies. The authors see it as a reestablishment of a traditional archaeological concern with movement that temporarily disappeared in the post-war period, when the stability of nation states suggested that the evolution of stable societies was the norm. This change is placed in the context of the recent influx of refugees which is clearly a significant European crisis with major cultural repercussions. A contemporary scientific revolution which is perhaps of greater disciplinary significance is the development of isotopic and ancient DNA analyses, which are beginning to provide us with

data that we can use to explore past movements. It might be pushing it to say we can use these data to explore movement in the past 'objectively', but these analyses are providing data that foregrounds questions of origins, movements, and relationships which are directly relevant to the themes explored here. Unfortunately, this volume appears to have come a bit too early for the most significant studies and none of the papers is focussed on this evidence. Some papers incorporate interpretations based on the science, such as the genetic origin and spread northwards of Iberian people in the Beaker period (Ch. 10, by Melheim & Prescott) and the regular contact between Britain and Scandinavia in the later Bronze Age (Ch. 12, by Rowlands & Ling), which would have benefited from greater critical attention than is presented here.

Part One on 'Colonisation' is perhaps the least coherent as it covers a range of

periods and regions which superficially have very little similarity. Furthermore, the approaches taken are variable and provide very different datasets and interpretations, some of which appear to have little general significance. It begins with a paper by Kriiska et al. (Ch. 1) on the early Mesolithic of the eastern Baltic region that is essentially an analysis of the lithic industries of two recently excavated sites at Saarenoja and Helvetinhardanpuro in Finland. The authors deduce the landscape was colonised fairly quickly around 8700 cal BC. Initially the colonists maintained connections to their homelands in the adjacent areas of Russia by establishing long distance exchange networks for the movement of good quality flint. These long distance links were eventually abandoned when population levels rose and small scale social networks were established that exploited local raw materials, such as quartz. The relative isolation of this paper, the only paper on early prehistory in the book, is mitigated by a detailed discussion of the Lapita colonisation of the Pacific in the Afterword by Spriggs (Ch. 14) which discusses another period of primary colonisation and which gives a wider context to the colonisation of Finland.

This is followed by a similar site-based descriptive paper by Chowanec (Ch. 2) that examines the very different Greek colony at Akrai in Sicily. It considers the various changes that the city was exposed to after the Punic Wars, as it was integrated into the Roman Empire. Most of the story is based on general historical and architectural evidence and, whilst the archaeological evidence is undoubtedly present and new excavations are beginning to recover important material particularly of mid-first millennium AD date, it is limited and this paper is perhaps a bit presumptive. It is followed by a paper by Nervi (Ch. 3) on the Roman takeover of

Sardinia which takes a broad holistic approach dividing the island into three regions based on the important Punic cities that dominated these regions: Olbia in the north east, Cornus in the west, and Nora in the south. This provides an excellent case study of the complexities of the colonisation process that highlights the strategies of rebellion, resistance, compromise, and collaboration that were adopted by the inhabitants to reach an accommodation with the dominant power in the region.

The final paper in this section, by Grøn (Ch. 4), is an ethnographic consideration of the settlement of North East Russia by food producing Yakut settlers. While this paper superficially contrasts significantly with the previous paper there are remarkable similarities which highlight the advantages of the thematic structure. The contingent nature of the colonisation process is demonstrated and the varied and opportunistic response of the indigenous hunter gatherers is emphasised. Many groups take advantage of the available food producing strategies when they can be made to fit their particular circumstances but they will be dropped quickly if these circumstances change. Nevertheless, the violence of the colonisation process is not ignored and significant massacres are noted.

Part Two on 'Maritime Interactions' is more focussed and comprises five papers concerned with Scandinavia and the Baltic in the Bronze Age and Viking periods. An important thematic unity is the belief that the voyage is a transgressive act that challenges cultural unity and creates a particular type of rapidly changing, materially focussed, unstable hierarchical society that is exemplified by the societies of the Bronze Age and the Viking period. Kristiansen's paper (Ch. 9) is particularly relevant to the themes of the book. He directly compares the Bronze Age and

Viking periods and finds a lot of similarity, which he explains as due to the surplus of young adult males that can be organised into war bands and sent off on overseas adventures to die, or return with wealth. This seems a plausible interpretation when related to these periods but becomes more problematic when one considers the broad sweep of history; what happens to the supply of surplus males in other periods that were not expansive, such as the Iron Age? Kristiansen's paper links with the paper by Glørstad and Melheim (Ch. 5) that develops Marshall Sahlins' consideration of Thucydides analysis of the Peloponnesian War. This paper, whilst initially focussing on the similarities in Viking and Bronze Age Scandinavian societies, discusses the significant social differences in the role of authority and the nature of power relations that explain some of the fundamental distinctions between the two periods. The paper by Horn (Ch. 6) also considers the importance of warfare and develops the wear analysis of Early Bronze Age swords and their distribution to suggest that the relevance of seaborne warfare in the Baltic should be extended back into the Early Bronze Age.

The paper by Price (Ch. 8) provides a detailed consideration of the Vikings as pirates and develops an interesting twist on the typical interpretation of these Nordic warriors. From the British perspective the Vikings tend to be seen as aggressive invaders from across the sea, but by exploring the pirate perspective we bring a Hollywood baggage of romanticism and camaraderie which challenges the negativity of this normal view. Price negotiates the different perspectives carefully and cleverly and clearly has identified a source that will provide an alternative perspective of some considerable depth. A contrast in period and approach is provided by Naum's paper (Ch. 7), which explores medieval population movements in the Baltic. The focus is the

development and maintenance of the German diaspora in the Hanseatic towns of Kalmar in Sweden and Tallinn in Estonia, who used material culture and architecture to maintain links with their homelands and differentiate themselves from the local population. Both historic sources and archaeological evidence are combined in this paper to provide a complex perspective on these relationships. This paper is more thematically linked to Part Three on 'Cultural Integration'.

This section on cultural integration contains four papers; three on the Bronze Age and one on the Viking Age. Melheim and Prescott (Ch. 10) present an important discussion of the beginning of the Early Bronze Age and the introduction of the bell beakers and associated artefacts in Norway. They interpret this as closely related to Bell Beaker prospectors exploring the region for exploitable metal sources. This paper provides a very interesting consideration of how a prospector might move through the landscape, whilst seeking to maintain their cultural identity and links with their parent community and closely interact with the local community who have the intimate topographic knowledge to guide them to their goal. This is worked through in relation to two locations in south west Norway where copper sources are available. At one location, a Bell Beaker settlement has been located, though there is no close relationship with the ores. The emphasis throughout the paper is that prospection and exploitation of the ores are two quite separate processes. Often prospection fails to identify useable ores but people have to move through a landscape to know there are no ores and such movements will inevitably lead to some associated settlement and cultural interactions.

The paper by Kneisel (Ch. 11) considers the distribution of face urns; a distinctive form of ceramic container that starts in Halstatt B in the Limfjord area of Denmark and spreads in Halstatt C into

the rest of Scandinavia, north Germany, and Poland. There is a major concentration around Gdansk in Halstatt D, when they spread further afield into Italy. In both Italy and Germany the tradition continues well into the Iron Age. The characteristics of the face on the urn vary significantly across the region with a considerable degree of complexity in Poland and distinctively naturalistic faces in Italy amongst the traits observed. Nevertheless, the author argues convincingly that this is a single tradition which indicates contact across the region, related to the exchange of commodities such as amber and staples such as salt. The diversity of these demonstrate that such continental networks occur between regional groups who preserve, and indeed desire to express, their cultural differences in a manner that can be comprehended by outsiders. That these urns are used for burials is implicit in the paper but it would have been useful to have a more explicit statement of their use and also a speculative consideration of the symbolic significance of the face in this context; does it allude to the individuality of the deceased or are we looking at an anonymous communal spirit of the dead?

Rowlands and Ling (Ch. 12) take a much more expansive view of the inter-relationship of the Bronze Age world. They argue strongly in their paper that the introduction of a distinct cosmology and a desire for metals that is identified by the Beaker phenomenon stimulates the development of seafaring technology and the creation of a maritime society in Scandinavia that may have led to expansive sea voyages that took Scandinavians from the North Sea to the Mediterranean and down the rivers of central Europe, and again direct comparisons are made with the Viking period. It would perhaps have been better placed in the previous section on 'Maritime Interactions'. As a British archaeologist I am not sure that the evidence for Scandinavian interrelationships

with the British Isles is anything like strong enough to support such sweeping statements and it would have been useful to see this evidence explored in a bit more depth than it is here. The distinctive cosmology and symbolism of Scandinavia is not present in Britain and this would suggest a very different structure to social relations in the region.

The role that children played in the Norse migration process is discussed by Hadley (Ch. 13). The author considers this a relatively unexplored aspect of the Norse period and suggests it needs to be taken more seriously as scientific analysis of the isotopic history of several Norse individuals have revealed they had complicated geographical histories which confirm the historical evidence that individuals were making significant geographical movements from an early age. There are also important burials such as that from Balnakeil in Sutherland (Scotland) where a ten-year old child was found in a richly equipped grave that included a distinctively Irish brooch. This paper alludes to the role that children might have had in the colonisation process, as anthropology and sociology suggest they often acquire language skills and make contact with indigenous communities with relative ease. Unfortunately, these issues are not explored in much detail; instead the author focuses on the archaeological record for toys and the possible use of children in pottery production, which is a pity as this would have been very relevant to the theme of this section.

This book is certainly a success in confirming the importance of the movement of peoples, and I am sure many of the papers will be referenced repeatedly in the future. There are considerable insights into the complex processes of colonisation, invasion, and integration that will stimulate debate, and the likelihood is that these debates will become increasingly more and more important as the scientific evidence for movement becomes more comprehensive and nuanced. The re-emphasis on the

maritime sphere of interaction is clearly long overdue but I wonder if the pendulum has in some cases swung too far. It is clear that many societies feel at home on the sea and can exploit it to their considerable advantage, but some societies are afraid of the sea, with good reason, and avoid it.

Those societies need to be considered and understood as well.

NIALL SHARPLES  
Cardiff University, UK

doi 10.1017/eea.2017.48

Evangelia Kiriati and Carl Knappett, eds. *Human Mobility and Technological Transfer in the Prehistoric Mediterranean* (British School at Athens, Studies in Greek Antiquity. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016, xvii and 278 pp., 26 figs, 2 tables, hbk, ISBN 978-1-14243-5)

This volume appears in a new, British School at Athens series published in association with Cambridge University Press; it represents the outcome of a two-day workshop held at the British School in June 2010. The long gestation of this work inevitably means that some of the volume's twelve chapters now show their age. Nonetheless, the editors obviously did their best to update the text and references in at least some of the papers. Even so, the 'current "mobility turn"' (p. xv) is no longer so current (e.g. Beaudry & Parno, 2013; Hahn & Weiss, 2013), but what makes this volume new and noteworthy is the aim of engaging mobility with the transmission of technological knowledge and practice, i.e. 'technological transfer'.

In the editors' words (p. 8, original emphasis), 'This volume therefore seeks to develop *technological* perspectives on the processes of human movement, focusing primarily on the diverse landscapes and seascapes of the prehistoric Mediterranean'. In so doing, it considers other issues of current archaeological interest—connectivity, communities of practice, the *chaîne opératoire*, the social life of objects, and more. The editors highlight what they see as two 'problems' with mobility: (1) a tendency to define mobility on only a single scale (e.g. 'migration'), when multiple

scales should be considered; and (2) the ways archaeologists conceptualize and understand (or not) the relationships between people and things (e.g. raw materials, artefacts, and technologies move along with people, in different ways, and for different reasons). The solutions the editors propose to resolve these problems are: (1) to be more explicit about who or what was moving and why; (2) to engage the diversity and abundance of material remains (e.g. not just pottery and metals but stone-working, fresco-painting, and glass—all treated in this volume), with some materials serving as a 'passport' to mobility, others perhaps hindering it; and (3) to problematize and attempt to gauge how technologies may be transmitted and transferred by different kinds of human mobility. The editors also emphasize the need to consider 'technological mobility'—e.g. metallurgical technology requires specialists (miners, metalsmiths) to traverse physical if not social landscapes to locate exploitable ores. Some types of subsistence or craft technologies seem to be adapted to particular material or social landscapes (stone-working, glass-making, ore prospection, and mining), whilst others may be more readily transmitted between socially and/or spatially separated groups or