

the Irene site in Georgia, are also fully justified and, most importantly, point to a significant problem existing throughout the world in the archaeological interpretation of prehistoric sites.

With Durrington Walls we have an example of a circular ceremonial precinct with attendant structures, one form in an evolving British tradition beginning with causewayed camps and continuing through the full development of Stonehenge. The interpretation of such sites has only just begun and must ultimately be based upon careful excavations such as these.

Their choice of an interpretive archaeological analogue indicates that these problems of interpretation are not limited to the British Isles. As a New World archaeologist, I can only mention our own problem sites, Poverty Point, the whole Adena-Hopewell structural complex (and specifically a site such as Mt. Horeb), the "woodhenge" recently identified at Cahokia, the Rotunda at Irene, and a host of other examples. Surely there are underlying principles of spatial organization involved in the operating of human beings in a ceremonial context which would make a cross-cultural study of the sites profitable, and certainly make the evidence of one relevant to the interpretation of another. Thus I believe this volume is important to the archaeologist working in any area who is involved in the excavation and interpretation of explicitly ceremonial precincts.

Although in an expensive format, the reporting of the Durrington excavations is excellent, both well written and well illustrated. Also valuable is an overview of Grooved Ware, lately known as Rinyo-Clacton Culture. It reveals how little is known about the complex, importantly of its economic base, and how poorly understood are its cultural implications. The authors conclude that it is not the cultural monolith it has been felt to be. Rather it covers a series of regional styles whose origin and linkage forms yet another interpretative problem.

Denmark: An Archaeological History from the Stone Age to the Vikings. P. V. GLOB. Joan Bulman, trans. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1971. 351 pp.,

illustrations, maps, tables, appendix, bibliography, indexes. \$15.00 (cloth).

Reviewed by RALPH M. ROWLETT
University of Missouri, Columbia

Do not expect a synthesis of Denmark's prehistoric cultures in the standard manner here, for the title of the English edition is seriously misleading. The original Danish title, *Danske Oldtidsminder*, translatable as *Memorials of Ancient Denmark*, gives a truer indication of the contents. The book really is the first ecologically oriented work on archaeology for the educated public which might want to go see the archaeological sites mentioned in the text. The known cultures of Danish prehistory, defined as running from the end of Pleistocene occupation to the end of the Viking expeditions, are placed in their settings in the landscape, with the appropriately reconstructed climate, temperatures, wild and domesticated flora and fauna explicitly cited. The discussion, however, swings around the archaeological sites of which some traces still remain visible. This emphasis tempts a translation of *minder* as "monuments," but since the remains cited are more than just the visible monuments, the term *memorial* would be more appropriate. Cornell University Press certainly missed a good opportunity in their marketing by not indicating the ecological approach in the title or subtitle, now when this viewpoint is so popular.

Although copiously illustrated with 126 photographic plates (the author is to be congratulated for hunting down an in-focus negative of the Egtved trunk coffin even if his position as director of the National Museum did ease his task). The photographs are mostly landscapes or sites *in situ* with a few excavation shots and only *one* plate devoted to a portable artifact—an *oculus* incised potsherd of the TRB Culture. A bibliography of 159 entries exceeds that of supposedly more scholarly books, but the level of writing indicates that the work was intended for the Danish educated public interested in the national prehistory, and these people number in the millions in a country with a population of hardly five million. One chapter tells how to find the prehistoric monuments themselves in the fields while an appendix with five maps

pinpoints the sites and the nearby museums. This purpose for the book provides a context for understanding accurately such phrases as "the dolmen is the most universally known of all prehistorical monuments" (p. 53)—known in Denmark, that is.

The culture-historical model counterpoised with the ecological interpretation is the well-known European one, in which fairly extensive migrations of the people are invoked at major turns in prehistory, although the evidence for mass immigration into Denmark after the initial settlement is not good at all, except for the influx of the Corded-Ware Culture in late Neolithic times (and even this has been challenged by some). The absolute dating remains low; for example, the Corded-Ware horizon is dated about 2000 B.C. when Carbon-14 suggests that they must have been there before 2500 B.C. at the latest. The earliest clearly recognizable TRB farmers date to 3500 B.C., not 3000 B.C., while the Iron Age starts at least a century before the rounded off 500 B.C. This is not to say that the mature Glob has remained old-fashioned; far from it: his remarks on the possibilities of interglacial late Pleistocene occupation have been validated by finds of handaxes and the Hamburgian Variant of Magdalenian remains at the ice front of the glaciation after this book was written. The culture periods present the same old mish-mash, including some periods named after the supposed main source of diffused cultural items!

Those who have read this author's other works know that Glob is a writer *manqué*, but perhaps the pressure of too many duties diminished here the literary skill usually exhibited. In this case, the translation is also less adequate, unlike the superbly translated *The Bog People*, by Glob, so that the English at times is downright misleading in phraseology, as well as spelling. Translation of standard archaeological concepts are often rendered in unconventional terms. For example, one would think that the multi-roomed Barkaer houses were a series of little houses standing side-by-side.

The novel but fashionable approach nonetheless makes the book inherently interesting and many anthropologists will be interested in Glob's speculations as to the nature of society in the Bronze Age, an exurban cultural type relying on a metal

technology, totally unrepresented in ethnographic and historic literature and seemingly appearing only in Europe, southeastern Asia, and perhaps in northern South America. Glob envisions fairly large social-political units with a sharply bifurcated stratified society dominated by mercantile aristocratic families, perhaps widely linked by marriage, who oversaw the far-flung trade routes distributing the rare but critical tin and copper, as well as other resources. The supporting argument is not developed conclusively in the short space allotted for it, but does contain a number of points which could be operationally tested.

More specifically, beyond those concerned with ecological prehistory in Europe and ecological tourism, the book should appeal to any cultural anthropologist focusing on the European culture. In a way it is a sort of ethnographic item in itself, replete with recurrent Danish predilections, biases, and preoccupations, mirroring from period to period the contemporary Danish self-image. The limits of Denmark are defined here not according to the present day national boundaries but extending down on the Jutish Peninsula to the Shlei Vik (Schleiswig), where the old Viking town of Hedeby used to stand. Folklore and popular belief and practice are invoked tellingly in several regards (except that this is the least erotic of recent Danish archaeological works aimed at a broad audience). A chapter, "Hidden Traces of Antiquity," stands out as especially original and compelling—still revered sacred willows, hallowed oaks, and historical linguistics are presented all together. A tree in Denmark which is still used to scare away sickness in this widely acclaimed progressive land of pervasive socialized medicine is described, but then why would a populace, clearly devoted to the simplest of hedonistic pleasures and pacifism, provide a mass audience devoted to revivifying the heroic days of national antiquity? There are numerous other "whys" which can be answered only by a cultural anthropological study. There are more than peasants of cultural anthropological interest in Europe.

Northern Italy Before Rome. LAWRENCE BARFIELD. *Ancient Peoples and Places,*