



Review

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and silversmiths with a few lines and uses an absurdly small number of illustrations—especially as compared to the space given the Luristan bronzes. The book can scarcely be considered a “history” of the art of Iran; it is more in the nature of a personal narrative. In effect, it is a book on Luristan bronzes and Iranian architecture—a curious combination! One has the impression that the volume was intended to capitalize on the “coffee table trade” following in the wake of the Paris exhibition.

DOROTHY G. SHEPHERD
Cleveland Museum of Art

THE CLASSICAL WORLD, by DONALD E. STRONG. 176 pages, 93 figures, 128 illustrations in color on 80 plates, 2 tables, 18 plans, frontispiece, map on endpapers. McGraw-Hill, New York 1965 \$5.95

In this briefly titled volume the sphere of Graeco-Roman antiquity has been broadly and generously defined. Thus, the art of the Greeks and the Romans as well as that of their respective Bronze Age Aegean and Etruscan predecessors is included here.

Approximately three millennia of artistic development in Greece and Italy are selectively surveyed. The text is competent and pleasantly written but, understandably, rather condensed. Emphasis is placed on defining the high points of stylistic development and on briefly describing the significant monuments of a given era. Occasionally, the succinctness of the otherwise clearly written survey confused this reviewer—for instance, the statement that “Hellenistic architects” invented the arch (page 102).

The wealth of illustration provides a useful although none too aesthetically arranged accompaniment to the text. The color photographs are of fairly good caliber, but the over-all quality of the black-and-white photographs is mediocre. There are a number of typographical errors.

In short, *The Classical World* provides a generally reliable, visually appealing and reasonably priced review of three thousand years of Aegean, Hellenic, Etruscan and Roman art.

DIANTHA S. HAVILAND
University of Kansas



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THE SPIRIT OF ANCIENT EGYPT, by WILLIAM A. WARD. xx, 251 pages, 20 plates, frontispiece. Khayats, Beirut 1965 \$7.00

Most of us find it difficult to assess justly our contemporaries of different nationality and speech. It is a much harder task to understand vanished peoples of the past, who have left behind them only fragmentary records in languages long dead and scattered archaeological remains from which to determine their accomplishments and characters. In *The Spirit of Ancient Egypt* Professor Ward offers his estimate of the early inhabitants of the Nile Valley and their cultural achievement. His slender volume is among the best of the popular works that have resulted from the current Egyptomania. He brings to it a sound knowledge of the history and ancient languages of the Near East, where he has lived and taught for many years, and the ability to express his ideas simply and clearly.

His little book suffers, as do most such books, from the necessity of telescoping millennia of history into a very limited number of pages. Or does it? It inevitably contains, as he himself notes, some rather broad generalizations and a number of statements concerning which there are differences of opinion, but Professor Ward never loses sight of the public for which he is writing and wisely refrains from cluttering his text with too many qualifications and speculations. His book is intended to be not a scholarly treatise but an introduction to ancient Egyptian life and character for the use of beginning students and the lay public, carefully written by a scholar. The impression it leaves is one of sym-

pathetic understanding of an ancient people much like ourselves, as he justly says, in their fundamental needs and emotions, if apparently so different in their view of the world and the universe of which it is a part.

It might be added that the small volume is attractive in makeup, well printed and illustrated. In this connection it may be worth noting that a number of historians of art now attribute, on a stylistic basis, the famous “Salt Head” in the Louvre (illustrated on plate III-a) to the XVIIIth Dynasty rather than to the Old Kingdom.

ELIZABETH RIEFSTAHL
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CERAMICS AND MAN, edited by FREDERICK R. MATSON. xiv, 301 pages, 62 figures, 2 tables. Aldine, Chicago 1965 (Viking Fund Publications in Anthropology, 41) \$7.50

This volume represents the proceedings of a symposium held in 1961 at Burg Wartenstein, Austria, under the auspices of the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research. Dr. Matson, the symposium chairman, has brought the eighteen papers together into a most useful book.

For purposes of the symposium the subject matter was limited to unglazed pottery; beyond that the papers range widely. All major areas of the world receive attention except for sub-Saharan Africa, India and central and eastern Asia. A theme pervading the archaeological papers, and many of the ethnographic papers as well, is the significance of ceramic evidence as reflecting prehistoric cultural traits and processes; examples are papers by Linné on South American pot-

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tery making, by Griffin on the correlation between ceramic complexity and cultural complexity in eastern North America, by Vanden Berghe on prehistoric Iran, and by Iskander on the contents of an Egyptian tomb. However, one of the principal lessons to be gained from the volume is that caution must be employed in using ceramic evidence for purposes of cultural reconstruction.

A number of papers present ethnographic or combined ethnographic and archaeological reviews of the rôle of pottery-making and use in such diverse areas as the eastern Mediterranean (Matson), North Africa (Balfet), Mexico (Foster) and Southeast Asia (Solheim). Several include methodological and theoretical discussions, and two, by Ehrich and Rouse, are specifically methodological. Some of the archaeological papers deal with specific problems, for instance, the delay in acceptance of the potter's wheel in the Netherlands until mediaeval times (Van der Waals) and the probable circumstances leading to the original manufacture of pottery vessels in the Middle East (Amiran). Other archaeological papers deal with specific regions but are more general in scope (Weinberg on cult and burial evidence in the Aegean, Mellaart on Anatolian prehistory). Other contributions are centered around technological studies (Shepard, Hodges, Trachter).

In many cases the papers incorporate materials from the transcribed discussions which formed an important part of the symposium, and a number of them acknowledge points made in other papers. By this means the volume achieves more of a feeling of unity than most publications of proceed-

ings. At the end are nine pages of questions on ceramic problems which embody points raised during the discussions.

Thanks to the organization, the perception and the attention to detail manifested in the contributions, the symposium makes useful and frequently engrossing reading for archaeologists and anthropologists, for whom it is primarily designed. Many of the papers should be of equal interest to the non-professional who enjoys a look into the field projects, laboratories and intellectual processes of persons occupied with research.

E. MOTT DAVIS

University of Texas

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PREHISTORY OF NUBIA, edited by FRED WENDORF. xxxvi, 164 pages, 93 figures, 12 tables, 4 maps. Fort Burgwin Research Center and Southern Methodist University Press, Dallas 1965 Paper \$4.00, cloth \$6.50

The Combined Prehistoric Expedition has been the largest effort devoted to Stone Age archaeology in the area to be inundated by the new Aswan Dam. In addition to Fort Burgwin Research Center (New Mexico) and Southern Methodist University, participating institutions included the Geological and Mineral Research Department of the United Arab Republic, Geological Institute of the University of Ghent, Laboratory of Prehistory, University of Bordeaux, the University of London, the Polish Academy of Science, Warsaw, Columbia University (1961-62) and the Museum of New Mexico (1962-63). The work here reported covers mainly the results of the 1963-64 season, in the form of a general review of the Stone Age sequence

and related geology, by F. Wendorf, J. L. Shiner, and A. E. Marks, and five reports on special problems in geology, particular periods or groups of sites. The proposed cultural sequence is tentative, and parts of it may be altered when more data are analyzed, but the broad outline and chronology seem quite reasonable. R. Said and B. Isaway present a geological-geomorphological study of the Nile Valley between the First Cataract and the U.A.R.-Sudan border, data on the Kurkur and Dungul oases, and climatic correlations. J. de Heinzelin and R. Paepe provide a comparable geological history of the Nile in Sudanese Nubia, with one conclusion that during most of the Pleistocene the Nile had not yet formed a channel across the Pre-Cambrian formation upstream from the Second Cataract.

J. and G. Guichard classify and analyze statistically the Acheulean and Middle Palaeolithic stone tools in the manner of F. Bordes, noting the high frequencies of Levallois technique and Mousterian forms. J. Waechter reports in detail on four Epi-Levallois sites near Wadi Halfa and Buhen, with extensive comparisons of other African stone industries; he finds some of the material is closest to Stillbay—a widespread horizon in East and South Africa, with two sites having resemblances to Magosian, centered in the East Horn region of the continent.

The last paper, by W. Chmielewski, is an account of a small area on the west bank of the Nile northwest of Wadi Halfa, with sites ranging from Acheulean and Sangoan to Sibilian. Data are provided on geomorphology as well as on prehistoric settlement patterns. Site Arkin 5 yielded an apparent habitation pit of Sangoan age.

The compilers are to be congratulated for presenting these papers so promptly. As they represent viewpoints of different workers dealing with problems widely separated in time and covering a fairly large area, some discrepancies and inconsistencies are to be expected. These are not really serious, however, and later publications of the Combined Prehistoric Expedition may resolve them. An index would have been helpful.

GORDON W. HEWES

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