

Lawrence, Susan and Peter Davies, *An Archaeology of Australia since 1788*

New York: Springer, Contributions to Global Historical Archaeology, 2011. Hard Cover; 421 pages: 88 illustrations; RRP \$198.99: ISBN 978-1-4419-7484-6

Australian archaeology is often seen as consisting of two areas: the pre-historic indigenous archaeology and the colonial, convict archaeology, while other events and periods receive less attention. This book attempts to address this problem by providing a thorough, broad and well researched discussion of the contemporary issues of Australian archaeology. An introduction to Australian historical archaeology was provided by the 1988 book by Graham Connah, *The Archaeology of Australia's History*. He touched on themes such as the maritime, agricultural and manufacturing industries of early Australia. Since that time Australian archaeology has gathered momentum and this volume by Susan Lawrence and Peter Davies provides a long overdue review of the accumulated research produced in the intervening years. Lawrence and Davies are both researchers at La Trobe University which has enabled them to collate the experience and data needed to compile this volume.

There are thirteen chapters in total and they flow chronologically from 1788 to the end of the Twentieth Century, covering a synthesis of topics. Chapter 1, 'Introduction', presents an overview history of archaeology in Australia. In Chapter 2, 'Convict Origins', the background of convict transportation, labour and their role in forming Australia's earliest economy is overviewed. Chapter 3, 'Aboriginal Dispossession and Survival', provides insight into post-contact archaeology and the interactions between Indigenous and European communities. In Chapter 4, 'Shipwrecks and Maritime Trade', the maritime archaeological record, from coastal infrastructures to ship wrecks such as *Sydney Cove* and *City of Launceston*, is examined. 'Sealing, Whaling and Maritime Industries', the title of Chapter 5, follows nicely from the previous chapter and contains specifically the archaeological evidence for the sealing and whaling industries. Chapter 6, 'Pastoralism and Agriculture', addresses the broad implications of the results and conclusions

gathered from archaeological research into these industries. Within Chapter 7, 'Gold Rushes and Precious Metals', Lawrence and Davies outline how the presence of gold in Australia and the subsequent Gold Rush contributes to the vast number of sites related to this prosperous period in Australian history. Chapter 8, 'Manufacturing and Processing', discusses how technological change and transformation contributed to the landscape, providing archaeological evidence for the manufacturing and processing industry. In Chapter 9, 'Migration and Ethnicity', the cultures and identity of overseas communities are discussed, including the way people related and interacted and how the material record contributes to this understanding. Chapter 10, 'An Urbanised Nation', looks at urban Australia by examining the context and formation of neighbourhoods and cities. The title of Chapter 11, 'Australians at Home', follows on to examine the material culture found within the urbanised nation, contributing further to the ideas discussed in Chapter 10.

Chapter 12, entitled 'Death', concerns the topic of death in Australian archaeology. The authors examine religious and mortuary practices and how they vary depending on location, specifically the urban city and the bush. It demonstrates how the material remains contribute to our understanding of mortality in the nineteenth century, using as case studies the archaeological findings of skeletal remains at Cadia, St Mary's, Parramatta Convict Hospital and Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum. The discovery of material within coffins provides evidence of status, while the trends in cemetery landscape and stylistic changes in headstones, provide evidence for the role cemeteries can play in archaeology. Of particular interest is the discussion concerning the discovery of old burial grounds that are still located underneath modern urban centres and the contemporary archaeological potential this raises. The authors identify the topics of death in archaeology, not only by looking at cemeteries but by relating them to the historical social events like murder, execution and conflict.

Chapter 13, 'The Twentieth Century and Beyond', concludes the book by discussing the issues, recent research and historical archaeology of the last 100 years.

The authors admit that there are limitations in covering such so many topics and issues within a single volume, where gaps are unfortunately inevitable. The book contains numerous figures (black and white); however, colour pictures would enhance immensely the reader's experience. It is important to note that the price of the book (RRP \$198.99) would be prohibitive for students, an audience who would most benefit from such a text.

The narrative writing style is accessible for most audiences as they need not be well-versed in Australian archaeology to benefit from this book. The book is devoted to well-researched and influential themes of Australian archaeology and comprises figures, tables and numerous intriguing discussions that will precipitate and entice future research. The book was written to 'present an overview of the material evidence (artefacts, buildings and landscapes) of Australian post contact history and the conclusions reached by historical archaeology' (p2) and with much enthusiasm, the authors have achieved this aim.

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