

EDITORIAL

With the publication of the third volume of this journal, the Australian Society for Historical Archaeology has performed a most difficult hat trick. For such a small society, the production of a publication such as this each year is a mighty task involving substantial financial outlay. The Society can only succeed in this ambitious undertaking if enough support is forthcoming and the editor would urge all readers of this journal to become members of the Society and to encourage their friends to do so. As for those of you who are engaged in the ever-increasing amount of activity in Australian historical archaeology, this editor is looking for authors as well as readers. The discrepancy between work done and work published continues to be most disquieting and this subject can only make progress if there is a considerable growth in the body of published literature. The editor would like to hear from anyone with material for publication. The closing date for each year is the end of January but enquiries are welcome at any time. Papers on any aspect of historical archaeology are appropriate, including contributions from overseas providing they have some relevance to Australian studies. The editor is particularly looking for contributions from younger writers, whether professional or amateur. However, intending authors are asked to read the Instructions for Contributors at the end of Volume 1 (with its correction in the editorial of Volume 2) before submitting papers for consideration.

The present volume presents a wide selection of papers and an increased number of book reviews. The papers cover a number of subject areas, as well as a considerable geographical range including material on New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and New Zealand. This means that in only three volumes the journal has included papers from all but one state in Australia and from New Zealand. Western Australia where are you? Nothing from there as yet but the editor has hopes.

In the first of the papers in this volume, Jon Winston-Gregson provides a methodological study that demonstrates the value of the cadastral map as an aid in locating the sites of deserted rural settlements. This certainly seems to be a worthwhile approach in New South Wales and it would be interesting to know whether it could be applied successfully in other states. The second paper is also concerned with methodological matters and examines the subject of excavation methods and in particular the advantages and disadvantages of the various approaches that have been used in Britain. In discussing these, the author, Ted Higginbotham, espouses the cause of open area excavation. Some Australian archaeologists have been unhappy about this relatively recently developed approach, pointing out that it involves destruction of significantly larger portions of the archaeological resource. Others have argued that open area excavation is not merely (or even necessarily) a matter of bigger holes but is a long-overdue fundamental change from vertical to horizontal investigation. There will surely be some discussion of Ted Higginbotham's views on this matter?

The third paper consists of more additions to the journal's bibliographic presentations, this time compiled by Michael Pearson. We should all be extremely grateful for this further list of references, which is arranged in the same way as those previously presented in Volumes 1 and 2. Its compiler requests readers to notify the editor of their new publications (or unpublished reports) as they appear, or of other references that have not been listed so far. When enough references have accumulated in this way, a further bibliographic list will be published, probably in several years' time.

The fourth paper in this volume, by Tony Koppi, Brian Davey and Judy Birmingham is an important demonstration of the contribution that soil science can make to historical archaeological studies in Australia. It is to be hoped that the

two disciplines will continue to cooperate as effectively as is the case in this paper. The following paper, by Peter Coutts, continues his studies of New Zealand historical archaeology commenced in Volume 1. His paper is a timely reminder of the research potential of early sealing and whaling sites, on the Australian examples of which there is as yet little published archaeological material.

The next two papers are a new departure for this journal, as both are by architectural historians. The first, by Gordon Young, is an examination of early German settlements in South Australia and is a most interesting demonstration of how those settlements reproduced distinctive German layouts, buildings and constructional techniques. The other paper, by Miles Lewis, is a guide to the identification of prefabricated buildings. This is a fascinating subject and readers will surely be as intrigued as the editor to learn of gothic-styled corrugated iron churches and of houses made of papier mâché panels. It is hardly surprising that none of the latter are known to survive.

The last paper, concerned with two breweries in Newcastle, New South Wales, is a useful example of the interplay of archaeological and documentary evidence in much of historical archaeology and is a reminder of the many studies of standing structures of this sort that have now been done but of the relatively few that have yet become available in adequate published form. We are indebted to Damaris Bairstow for her paper and hope that it sets a new fashion.

This volume closes with nine book reviews and the editor is especially grateful to the writers of these for their efforts. It is hoped that readers will assist us in our endeavour to increase the number of such reviews.

As with previous volumes, the editor would like to acknowledge the assistance that he gets from many directions. First, the authors, without whom there would be no journal and who so patiently bear the editorial demands made on them. Next, Douglas Hobbs of the Department of Prehistory and Archaeology in the University of New England, whose drawing-board skills contribute a great deal to the appearance of many of the illustrations of this publication. Others in the University of New England, who alleviate some of the editor's woes, include Mr Rudi Boskovic and other cartographic staff of the Department of Geography, the staff of the Photographic Department, Mrs Di Watson who is the Secretary of the Department of Prehistory and Archaeology, and Mrs Noelene Kachel of the Faculty of Arts word processing service. In Sydney, Rosemary Annable, Ilma Powell and Judy Birmingham continue to provide all sorts of help and in Armidale Mrs Beryl Connah is rapidly becoming not only an expert copy checker and proof reader but very good at bullying the editor when he shows signs of working too slowly. To all these, and to those anonymous, unsung heroes who provide referees' reports on papers submitted for publication, the editor extends his grateful thanks.

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Finally, corrections to Volume 2. The only thing the editor has spotted is Figure 6 in the paper by Ian Jack, Kate Holmes and Ruth Kerr. Careful readers will have observed that the north arrow is pointing south!

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