

EDITORIAL

Many people regard editing as a mug's game or, at best, as a boring activity where all you do is put together pieces of writing that others have produced. Neither view could be further from the truth. The editing of a journal such as this one, in a subject that is just beginning to grow rapidly, is an exciting and rewarding activity. Rightly or wrongly, an editor has a sense of creating something, where nothing formerly existed. It is the editor's fervent hope, of course, that something of his own excitement is conveyed in the publication that he manages to put together. Here, with the appearance of the fourth volume of this journal, is yet another chance for the reader to decide whether this has been accomplished.

As with previous volumes, every effort has been made with this one to include as diverse a range of papers, both in subject matter and geographical origin, as possible. The eight papers presented here cover a variety of topics, from research excavation, to site survey, to conservation, to public awareness. They contain the results of work in New South Wales, Victoria, and (yes: for the first time) Western Australia. They even reach out to look at some of the things that happen on the other side of the moon: in Britain, in France, and in America.

The first paper is a most important one, in which Helen Temple argues that Australian archaeology should 'develop a strong and conspicuous public orientation'. She is concerned that archaeology should be marketed to the public, as is done in some of the overseas examples that she discusses. She is convinced that the Australian public should be far more involved in archaeology than is the case at the moment. The next paper, by Richard Mackay, examines a related theme: discussing the problems of conservation in industrial archaeology and describing some of the efforts by the National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.) to deal with such problems.

In the third paper, Grace Karskens discusses part of her work on the New South Wales Great North Road, different aspects of which have been the subject of several other papers by her, one of which appeared in Volume 2 of this journal. Here she examines the road's retaining walls and shows how they can inform us about the conditions in the convict road gangs that built them. This is followed by a paper by the editor, discussing excavations at the site of Sir John Jamison's mansion near Penrith in New South Wales, that he conducted in collaboration with Judy Birmingham in 1985.

The fifth paper, by Jack McIlroy, is a first in two respects. It is the first paper from Western Australia that has been published in this journal and the editor hopes that others in that state involved in historical archaeology (including maritime archaeology) will publish with us in future. Second, so far as the editor is aware, this is the first published account of the excavation of a shore-based tryworks in Australia. Its inclusion here is an excellent example of the service that this journal can provide: few people will ever see the unpublished report on this work that was produced by Jack McIlroy and David Meredith (reference 595 in our Volume 3 Bibliography) but very large numbers of people can now see and read it here. Other consultant archaeologists please note!

The following paper is also something of a first: the first contribution to this journal on the archaeology of one of the many mining sites in Victoria. We are grateful indeed to Christopher Davey for this very useful paper on the North British Mine at Maldon. The seventh paper is a further contribution from Damaris Bairstow about her industrial archaeological investigations in Newcastle, New South Wales. In the last volume it was breweries, in this one it is hydraulics, comparable examples, perhaps, of power transmission with fluids? It is this paper that has supplied this year's cover

picture, an illustration that tells us quite a lot about nineteenth-century pride in industrial development.

The final paper is a contribution from the western New South Wales town of Cobar, where Harold Boughen has carried out an archaeological survey of the unusual stone structures now known as Towser's Huts. His paper raises interesting questions about possible Italian influences in some nineteenth and early twentieth-century outback buildings. It also provides a sad lesson of what can go wrong when local enthusiasts attempt to organise the restoration of an historical structure.

There follows a collection of book reviews, from nine reviewers as last year but this time covering not nine but twelve publications. The editor is again grateful to the writers of these reviews: archaeological mythology would have us believe that there is even less to be gained from review writing than from editing! The editor is happy to find so many review writers who share his disdain for mythology.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the extensive help that I receive from others, without whose assistance this journal would never appear. It goes without saying that the efforts and cooperation of the authors of the papers and reviews is greatly appreciated. However, the editor is equally grateful to those whose efforts are not accepted for publication and would wish to thank them for the opportunity to see their typescripts. Particular acknowledgement for some two and a half weeks work on the drawings, is due to Douglas Hobbs of the Department of Prehistory and Archaeology in the University of New England. As with previous volumes, he has improved, relettered, and sometimes redrawn those of the illustrations which had technical problems. I am also grateful to Steve Clarke, of the cartographic staff of the Department of Geography in the University of New England, for photographing many of the drawings, and to the staff of the Photographic Department of the same university for technical work on some of the photographs used for the half-tone illustrations. Observant readers will notice that the number of illustrations in this volume is much increased on that of previous years. This has meant considerable extra work for those whose technical skills contribute so much to the journal's appearance. One person whose name has not been mentioned in previous years is Brett Cullen, who is responsible for design, layout and production. I remain extremely grateful to him for all his efforts.

There are many others to whom acknowledgement is due. Mrs Di Watson, the Secretary of the Department of Prehistory and Archaeology, who has put the Department's new Wang word processor to good use on the journal's behalf. The committee of the Australian Society for Historical Archaeology, whose continuing encouragement and support is so much appreciated. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the help that I receive from Rosemary Annable, who has never yet failed to be of assistance when a desperate editor phoning from the backblocks needs something sorted out in Sydney. Last but not least, I would like to thank my wife, Beryl Connah, who has again seen to it that I actually got the job finished.

*Graham Connah,
Department of Prehistory and Archaeology,
University of New England,
ARMIDALE, N. S. W. 2351.*

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