

# EDITORIAL

This journal is the first production of the new editorial panel, following closely the best of the precedents set by its distinguished predecessor. It cannot yet fully reflect the new directions in the publication of historical archaeological writing which the panel would like to develop in the 1990s, since many of these papers were delivered at the ASHA Conference in Canberra as part of the Relics of Capitalism symposium. They are published here in place of the volume of collected papers formerly proposed.

The editorial panel regretted that Relics of Capitalism would not be available in its original form to become an immediate companion volume for Archaeology and Colonisation. Despite concern from many professional historical archaeologists about the non-accessibility of important new work, especially consultant excavations and studies, there is still a shortfall in the number of contributions available for publication in this Journal. Among other factors such as a perennial shortage of time, the present trend towards thematic conferences with follow-up publication of their papers, for example the recent Women in Archaeology Conference (Albury, February 1991), and ASHA's 1990 conference in Auckland, offers an attractive publication format for contributors and organisers alike. At the same time it has affected the supply of good articles for the Journal, which, as a fully refereed serial publication, is likely to prove more demanding in terms of the time required to prepare typescript and illustrations. Those seriously concerned to carry out their professional publication responsibilities may care to note that while ASHA is now promoting all publications (including collected conference papers) brought to its notice through the recently published ASHA List of Publications, the ASHA *Journal* has an established circulation to 25 libraries in seven countries, and already has a well deserved international reputation. The solution is to maintain a balance of publishing in both media.

Many of the articles are in line with the guidelines for the symposium, that they should be concerned with instances or issues in which industrial archaeology goes a stage beyond identifying the great firsts of technological history, describing places where technical processes were carried out, or chronicling industrial history. Several are important particularist studies in their own right. In the best of these

the depth and thoroughness of the enquiry reveals more general features of nineteenth century global networking. Others like Clough's article on New Zealand sites, are comparative studies of various industrial enterprises, with more scope for synthesis and critical comment.

Moving on from Graham Connah's pioneering work of the 1980s we continue to recognise the need to include new site-specific studies as they arise, but also emphasise the necessity now for national and international perspectives on the rich variety of historical sites and studies we already have available. The need for broader issues of more global interest to inform Australian particularist studies has been pressing for some time, and several of the articles in this volume show that this is now happening.

Studies involved with cultural process — that of indigenisation, for example, so ably identified for us by Deryck Schreuder from his southern African experience at the 1987 ASHA conference, the newly emerging opportunities presented by engendered historical archaeology, or the operation of small industry, and Braudel's competitive economy as appearing in some of the current articles — will be welcomed. So will contributions on archaeological dialectic and the construction of historical archaeological knowledge.

There is always a role for the well researched, well observed and well recorded site study, many of which are undertaken to record information soon to be lost otherwise without trace. At the same time if the Australian contribution to the discipline is to be a significant one the Australian experience has to take its place in world archaeological thinking and theory, a discipline can present itself in the terms of the global contribution it is on the very brink of making.

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