



## Book Reviews

### **ECONOMIC ZOOARCHAEOLOGY: STUDIES IN HUNTING, HERDING AND EARLY AGRICULTURE EDITED BY P ROWLEY-CONWY, D SERJEANTSON AND P HALSTEAD**

*Oxbow Books. 2017. 298pp, 69 figures, 10 maps, 46 tables, hb ISBN 978-1-78570-445-1, £40.00*

As a commemoration to the late great Tony Legge, *Economic Zooarchaeology* forms both a body of works on transitions in human exploitation practices as well as a printed memorial to the life and work of a much-loved friend and colleague to so many in (zoo)archaeology. These papers not only remind us of his extensive career, but also of the warm, funny, brilliant and outspoken man who produced so much valuable work for the discipline. I knew Tony only briefly towards the end of his life when he was conducting his emeritus research at the University of Cambridge. The papers which comprise this volume remind us not only of Tony's important contributions to archaeology, but of the man himself: plain-spoken, quick-witted and always with time to spare to teach and encourage the nervous young researchers. Outside of its memorial context, this volume additionally stands as a presentation of the current direction of research into zooarchaeological investigations of early farming societies across many regions.

The range of topics covered by papers in this volume make a fitting memorial to the range of Tony's work. Covering both the Near East and Europe from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age, these papers also show the range of zooarchaeological contribution to the study of hunting and farming – as well as important patterns in the consumption of both groups of animals. As we are reminded by Stimpson in his paper (Legge and Stimpson, this volume), Tony always wanted publications to '*show me the data*', this volume has met Tony at his word. A series of papers not only confirm several of Tony's former arguments, but do so with extensive reference to raw data published within the papers presented (Birch; Croft; Davis; Gillis; Halstead and Isaakidou; Legge; Legge and Stimpson; Tornero *et al.*). Multiple papers in this volume not only make valuable technical contributions to the discipline, but manage to do so additionally with the aim of settling wider debates within archaeology.

This volume is divided into six parts, each relating to an aspect of the life and research of volume's object. The papers within each section are tied together by their general approaches or geographical focus, but are in the main a collection of independent studies tied together only by their relationship to the research interests of Tony Legge during his lifetime. The first provides several anecdotal accounts of his life and career from colleagues and friends. This

section provides the reader with entertaining accounts of a life in archaeological research as well as the sometimes-unexpected implications of interactions. These include the use and dissemination of flotation machines in the papers by Higham and Sheldon and the research value of a feral pig hunt in the paper by O'Connell (as well as the paper by Legge in the second section). Contributions to zooarchaeological methodology by both Tony Legge and others are given in the second section. These also cover a wide range of topics but include several valuable contributions for future researchers. Legge and Stimpson confirm the lack of size reduction in post-Pleistocene barbary sheep (aoudad, *Ammotragus lervia*) from Haua Fteah. Simon Davis provides a simple metrical index for the discrimination of domestic sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goat (*Capra hircus*) astragali for use in combination with current morphological criteria. Waldron provides a well-organised and persuasive critique of the current methodological applications in studies pathological alterations (osteoarthritis and musculo-skeletal stress markers) and their archaeological interpretations. The third section is the most coherent grouping of articles, as all address domesticated mortality interpretations with regard to dairying. In practice, this section combines also the topics of the first two sections through Halstead and Isaakidou's review of Tony Legge's arguments for cattle mortality with dairying and ethnozooarchaeological research, Hadjikoumis's related paper on mortality patterns in sheep and goat husbandry on Cyprus and Gillis's review of the contributions of Tony Legge to dairying research. The second trio of papers by Crabtree, Outram and Bogucki all relate to a different aspect of research into dairying. Crabtree addresses domestic animal proportions and mortality in question to the scale of dairying in Iron Age Ireland. Outram critiques the comparative information which can be obtained from zooarchaeological and pottery residue analyses and the need to integrate these in studies of dairying. Bogucki takes a husbandry-focused approach to dairying and argues for the exploitation of saline-rich habitats by early farmers as preferred nutrient-rich locations for increasing dairy yields in cattle.

The fourth and shortest section in this volume contains three papers dealing with the exploitation of wild resources by early farmers. Driver and Badenhorst address the impact of farming on landscapes and the patterns of game exploitation for sedentary farmers lacking in domestic livestock. Tornero *et al.* combine with the first two sections of this volume in testing Tony Legge's theory for the seasonal exploitation gazelle at Abu Hureya through isotopic investigations of gazelle birth seasonality via sequentially-sequenced molar enamel. Greenfield considers the unusually high levels of hunting at Middle Neolithic Stragari. The final two sections are grouped geographically, with papers on prehistoric Britain (section five) and on continental and Mediterranean Europe (section six). Papers in these sections cover a breadth of topics of interest to Tony Legge in some of his key geographical areas of research. Rowley-Conwy argues for the use of birch bark canoes at Mesolithic Star Carr. Jones and Bogaard assess charred plant remains from Lismore Fields to argue for the stabling of livestock which

were fed on the by-products of cereal processing – suggesting a much more intensive reliance on plant agriculture than commonly argued for British Early Neolithic communities. Maltby summarises the current zooarchaeological understanding of Mesolithic-Bronze Age Dorset, with particular reference to the contributions of Tony Legge to the complex picture emerging for this region. Outside of Britain, Croft examines chronological changes in hunting and herding at sites of Pre-Pottery Neolithic Cyprus. Pilaar-Birch examines the effect of Neolithic expansion onto small islands of the Adriatic and the sparse evidence for locally-hunted wild game. Extending away from the Neolithic, Colominas identifies communal cooking areas rather than status-mediated differences in consumption at Mas Castellar de Pontós in Middle Iron Age Iberia and Kasparov looks at changing patterns of provisioning and consumption at medieval and post-medieval Vyborg, Russia (then part of Sweden).

Given the diverse nature of papers included in this volume, its impact will be directed less towards any one aspect of archaeological research but will instead serve as a series of ‘thinking pieces’ for researchers into the organisation of production and the integration of available technology. The post-mortem verification of several theories put forth by Tony Legge during his research career not only add to his legacy, but will also – hopefully – inform more comprehensive investigations and interpretations within zooarchaeology. While the organisation of papers into sections is somewhat idiosyncratic, the volume succeeds well in its overall aim of papers to interest Tony Legge. The breadth of papers contributing to this volume, then, contain topics to interest not only the subject of the volume but also enough variety for potential reader to find that one or more articles tickle their intellectual fancy.

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