



Book Reviews

MOVEMENT, EXCHANGE AND IDENTITY IN EUROPE IN THE 2ND AND 1ST MILLENNIA BC: BEYOND FRONTIERS EDITED BY ANNE LEHOËRFF & MARC TALON

Oxford & Philadelphia, Oxbow Books, 2017. vii + 304pp, numerous figures, hb, ISBN 978-1-78570-716-2, £48.00

This volume is based on a conference which took place in Boulogne in October 2012 to mark the start of the three-legged exhibition of the 'Boat 1550 BC' project. The centrepiece of the exhibition was a half-scale replica of the Dover Boat, so it is odd that the published volume does not contain a contribution on the sea trials of this reconstruction (which eventually proved successful as shown by a photograph on page 107) especially when the book is dedicated to one of the experimental archaeologists involved, Richard Darrah, as well as to the Atlantic Bronze Age maestro Colin Burgess.

It opens with a bilingual introduction by the first editor reflecting on mobility and identity in western Europe during the Bronze Age. Several of the following papers fall into groups. The first pair provide biographical sketches of two Belgian archaeologists. Guy De Mulder and Jean Bourgeois discuss their predecessor as Professor in Ghent, S J de Laet, who may still be best-known to British readers as author of the *Ancient Peoples and Places* volume on the Low Countries (*On migrations: Sigfried Jan De Laet (1914–1999): his role in Belgian Bronze Age archaeology after the Second World War and the diffusion of cultural characteristics*). M E Mariën was a curator in the national museum in Brussels where his most influential work was on Early Iron Age warrior burials from Court-Saint-Étienne (Walter Leclercq & Eugène Warmenbol, *Marcel Édouard Mariën (1918–1991) and the metal ages in Belgium. Undoing the Atlantic wall*).

The next two papers deal with metalwork in a cross-Channel context. Stuart Needham follows up his work on the seabed assemblages from Salcombe and Langdon Bay to consider the extent to which the Channel zone was unified at this time (*Transmanche in the Penard/Rosnoën stage. Wearing the same sleeve or keeping at arm's length?*). Steven Matthews deploys evidence from rapiers and the earlier swords to relate the Channel to the wider Atlantic Bronze Age (*At World's End: the Channel Bronze Age and the emergence and limits of the Atlantic complex*). The following contribution traces the Channel-North Sea group throughout the Bronze Age, concluding

that it was undermined from about 1150 BC by the increasing influence of north-Alpine culture (Cyril Marcigny, Jean Bourgeois & Marc Talon, *Rythmes et contours de la géographie culturelle sur le littoral de la Manche entre le Ille et le début du Ier millénaire*). Pierre-Yves Milcent moves on to consider the Early Iron Age in those parts of France beyond the areas dominated by Hallstatt C or early colonial cultures (*The Atlantic Early Iron Age in Gaul*). Then Peter Clark traces understanding of the sea and navigation from the inundation of Doggerland to the early modern period (*Following the Whale's road: perceptions of the sea in prehistory*).

Three papers deal with burial in northern France. Nathalie Buchez, Yves Lorin, Emmanuelle Leroy-Langelin, Armelle Masse, Angélique Sergent & Sébastien Toron consider what structures have been lost from within ring-ditches in northern France, dated mainly to the mid-second millennium BC; the traditional image of a central mound may need revision (*Circular funerary monuments at the beginning of the Bronze Age in the north of France: architecture and duration of use*). Ghislaine Billand, Isabelle Le Goff & Marc Talon analyse burials from the Early Bronze Age to the late first millennium BC in the Channel-North Sea complex based on radiocarbon dates from 42 sites (*Evolution of rites and funerary systems during the Early and Middle Bronze Age in the north-west of France*). Régis Issenmann, Capucine Tranchant, Alexis Corrochano & Émilie Dubreucq present a small inhumation cemetery of Middle Iron Age date near Caen in relation to the Iron Age culture of the Paris Basin (*La nécropole de Soliers 'PA.EOLE' (14): nouvelles données en faveur d'un complexe medio-atlantique*).

Moving on to settlements, Emmanuelle Leroy-Langelin, Yann Lorin, Armelle Masse, Angélique Sergent & Marc Talon review the evidence from 71 Bronze Age sites in the Nord/Pas-de-Calais accumulated over 30 years. While a few roundhouse plans have been identified, these are rare because of the apparent preference for an alternative structure to posts, though pits are common (*Open Bronze Age settlement forms in the north of France: state of knowledge and research strategies*).

Pottery is the subject of the next three papers. In a substantial contribution, including a catalogue of 27 finds from the Nord, Pas-de-Calais and Somme, Nathalie Buchez, Marianne Deckers, Caroline Gutierrez, Alain Henton & Marc Talon provide an up-to-date chronology and classification of Early, Middle and initial Late Bronze Age pottery from north-western France (*Les découvertes récentes de mobilier céramique Bronze ancien-début Bronze final dans le nord-ouest de la France*). Sébastien Manem compares *chaînes opératoires* for Middle Bronze Age pottery from selected sites in Normandy, Hampshire and Cornwall (*Bronze Age ceramic traditions and the impact of the natural barrier: complex links between decoration, technique and social groups around the Channel*). Alain Henton and Nathalie Buchez trace the evolution of pottery through the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age from the Nord and Picardy in the context of

surrounding areas (*Evolution des faciès céramiques au Bronze final et à l'aube du premier Âge du Fer, entre Somme, Escaut et rivages de la Manche (France, région Nord-Picardie)*).

In the final contribution on the core area of the conference, Patrice Brun revisits his earlier syntheses of the cultural geography of the Atlantic seaboard during the Late Bronze Age, with the latest version of his 1991 map (*The Channel: border and link during the Bronze Age*).

The two last chapters visit other parts of Europe. Christoph Huth discusses bronze finds from the Rhine between Mainz and Basel, though with particular reference to the objects of Atlantic origin (*Water between two worlds – reflections on the explanatory value of archaeological finds in a Bronze Age river landscape*). Finally, Mireille David-Elbiali examines selected objects found in western Switzerland and northern Italy (*Le passage des Alpes: voyages et échanges entre l'Italie et la Suisse (2200–700 av. J.-C.)*).

One minor point. The Preface acknowledges the work of the conference steering committee, including your reviewer. This is wrong, it should be Ben Roberts.

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Review submitted: July 2019

*The views expressed in this review are not necessarily those of the Society or the Reviews
Editor*