

## REVIEWS

S. L. Dyson (ed.), *Comparative studies in the archaeology of colonialism*, B.A.R. International Series 233, Oxford, 1985; pp. 183, figures 36, £10.00 (post free from B.A.R., 5 Centremead, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 OES, U.K.).

Like many such samples of recent research into historical archaeology, the present volume clearly bears the stamp of its editor. Stephen Dyson, Professor and Head of the Department of Classics at Wesleyan University, commutes professionally between the American New England and Northern Italy, the link between his studies of the growth of eighteenth and nineteenth-century Connecticut and the development of the Roman provincial villa being an interest in observing evidence for the effect on indigenous communities of introduced patterns of power and economy.

Frontier studies, of course, have long been at the core of United States history; the growth of industrialisation and the effects of an ever increasing variety of material goods and the concomitant trade routes again can be studied with profit—no pun intended—on a comparative basis through the archaeology of the Old World and the New.

The linking theme of this long-delayed collection of some nine essays prefaced by an introduction contributed by the editor, is to record the state of the art in what is termed 'a discipline of comparative colonial archaeology'. Though geographically the contributions range from Labrador and Sweden through California to the Caribbean and Australia, this is a volume devoted to the evidence for western colonialism in these regions; it is also yet another demonstration of the need for 'a full collaboration between the archaeologist and the historian' (p. 6).

The contributors (eight from the United States, one each from Australia and New Zealand—though the last writes on Scandinavian colonisation of North Sweden in the early historic period) are all concerned to bring out cross-cultural comparisons. There are three papers on Spanish colonial archaeology by, respectively, Kathleen Deagan on evidence from the Southeast and the Caribbean, Robert L. Hoover on California and Jack S. Williams on the archaeological evidence for military policy in northern New Spain. Of the other two American-based topics, the survey by Susan Kaplan of Eskimo-European contact in Labrador demonstrates, by combining the evidence of archaeology and ethnohistory, how a pattern of marine-resource exploitation preceding colonisation shows how extensive the material and social changes amongst the Inuit really were—a matter which can come as no surprise to the student of the Australian frontier.

Mary Beaudry, the excavator of Paul Revere's house in Boston, gives an account of continuing work on the site of Fort Christiana, laid out in Virginia in 1714 under the supervision of Governor Alexander Spotswood. Once more the establishment of such early centres to protect the frontier and the growing fur trade had, notwithstanding laudable but misplaced attempts to Christianize the natives, a devastating effect on traditional Indian life-ways through a growing dependence on European material culture and economy. A brief concluding paper by Ty Dilliplane on Russian America, lays down an agenda for research in a clearly fascinating but largely neglected field. There remains the opening essay by Brad Bartel, 'Comparative historical archaeology and archaeological theory', which, as the title indicates, is both wide-ranging and largely theoretical, drawing on a series of examples from the Roman world as well as later contexts to discuss a series of definitions and processes for such factors as colonialism and imperialism, the social perspectives of control, eradication and resettlement and policies of acculturation. 'Pattern recognition', as practised by Kaplan, is

extended here to an ingenious comparison of evidence for Roman central and eastern Europe and colonial New England.

In contrast, Ian Jack in yet another paper reviewing historical archaeology in Australia in the light of—or is it in spite of?—current Australian historical preoccupations reads, like its companion Australian papers elsewhere, more like an *apologia pro sua vita* than as a catalogue of outstanding success in the development of either generally applicable theory or technique. Not for the first time, alas, one is struck, despite a growing bibliography of Australian historical archaeology—which cannot but continue to expand thanks to this Society and this Journal—by a continuing dearth of really solid and complete publication of major excavations, let alone theoretical studies which develop not out of a slavish copying of trans-Pacific models but out of a relevant study of the nature of Australian colonialism.

In a multi-cultural society there would seem to be no more proper an archaeological goal and a thorough perusal of these comparative studies should at the very least contribute to this aim.

A final footnote: in these days of Antipodean financial gloom the spare presentation of no-longer-so British Archaeological Reports may seem not so splendid value for money as they once did; nonetheless it seems odd that to date no institutional library in Australia should seemingly possess a copy of *Comparative studies in the archaeology of colonialism*.

J.V.S. Megaw,  
Visual Arts,

The Flinders University of South Australia.

R. Irving (ed.), *The history and design of the Australian house*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1985; pp. 328, over 400 illustrations, \$50.00.

On first setting eyes on *The history and design of the Australian house*. I was reminded of the various National Trust publications that look like it: the kind of dust jacket and its lettering; the many pictures of 'historic homes'; the photographs at times almost too glossy; the coffee table format. A closer perusal of the book made me think of that pioneer of writing on the Australian house, Robin Boyd. His *Australia's home: its origins, builders and occupiers* was published in 1952. It was the first serious comprehensive comment on that ubiquitous commodity, the ordinary untutored suburban house. Its authoritative and systematic analysis, with informative details written in an easily accessible way, had a wide appeal. Boyd wrote with knowledge, insight and perception, but at a time that architecture was still predominantly a professional discipline rather than an academic one. Thus, apart from a few footnotes, his book carried neither references nor a bibliography. Its relatively few illustrations consisted of hand-drawn plans, elevations and details. Since then the literature on the subject has grown considerably.

Now, nearly 35 years later, echoes of Boyd's writings are compiled in this handsome volume under review. A brief further comparison may be of interest. Both Boyd's book and *The Australian house* are divided in two parts. In both cases the first part contains an historical overview; the second one deals with facets of the whole, called by Boyd 'architectural influences' and by Irving 'aspects of design'. Whereas Boyd places the emphasis on an Australian attitude to stylistic

applications, *The Australian house* sets the tone with a few solid chapters on the Georgian tradition in England and Australia, with an emphasis on the theoretical origins of the more tutored examples of domestic architecture.

The book shows how the art—or is it the science?—of scholarly architectural writing has established itself. It is also evident how a body of knowledge about various aspects of the subject matter has been accommodated. Eight of the eleven contributing authors, each experts in their own discipline, collectively have produced over 500 references, which of course include Boyd. There is in addition a comprehensive and useful bibliography. It would, however, be appropriate if a reprint of G. Herbert's book *Pioneers of prefabrication*, published in 1978 and *Manning houses, their provenance and extent in South Australia*, Architecture Working Paper No. 4, Department of Architecture, University of Adelaide, 1979, could be added, as they contain substantial information on the Manning house.

Whereas Boyd, as the sole author, could produce coherence in the narrative, this is an obvious problem where a number of authors are contributing, as the editor points out in his Introduction. Thus, the historical overview has an *ad hoc* quality. Once that is accepted, the various contributions can be readily appreciated as comprehensive essays in their own right. The chapters on the Victorian House and the Federation Period are history beyond the experience of most of us. They require a writing approach that facilitates linking the reader with the past, if the material is to be regarded as more than historical evidence. The authors more than succeed in this. The next chapter, Between the Wars, is within the experience of many. It also heralds the beginnings of Modernity in Australian architecture. The relevant problématique of the era is suitably recognised by the author. Beyond the 1950s is a chapter that will have wide appeal, in that it picks up where Boyd had to stop. It is a coherent record of the development of the Modern Movement and its shift into the Australian historical and environmental contextuality. The last chapter in this part seems ill at ease with the historicist approach of the book; it deals somewhat speculatively with the as yet unevicted history of the future. As such, and together with the chapter before, they are a stimulating reminder that history is born, as well as reborn, every moment of the day.

The second part of the book is also a somewhat random collection of in themselves informative essays. It contains everything, including the kitchen sink, the history of which is traced with the same tenacity as that of other kitchen appliances and activities. This essay alone contains 113 references! Two of the other chapters deal with the aspects normally expected in this kind of book: interiors and gardens, both handled in a scholarly fashion. There is further the lucidly written story of the Australian Terrace, which, as the author points out, 'represents an aspect of urban life which in its day everyone took for granted, but which today is an item of history'. There is a chapter on the Portable House, an account of aspects and examples of prefabrication and transportability. A refreshing study about walls includes some rather interesting illustrations of early tools and machinery. The final essay is on the Queensland Style. It is a well argued testimony of the forces towards regionalism, even in such a seemingly originally homogeneous Anglo-Saxon culture as that of Australia. No other State receives this special treatment in the book. Thus, whilst evidence and examples are cited from all States, it seems somewhat amiss for a 1985 publication that two areas are neglected. One is the fast-growing Northern Territory, which has been developing a kind of regional character and which would have deserved inclusion, or at least an extended mention. The other is the fascinating and intriguing story of the Aboriginal shelter. The three or four pages on Aboriginal Habitation, curiously and incongruously included in the chapter on Georgian Australia, have little relevance. They lack perception and knowledge of the origin and nature and the functional purpose of the

Aboriginal Shelter and its transmutations to new ways of living.

The more than 300 closely printed pages include over 400 illustrations, many of them colour photographs. These are carefully and informatively annotated, although some of them seem over large for their purpose. One particular set of colour photographs is of interest in that they are of the same details as the drawings in Boyd's book, namely, the Federation style Melbourne terracotta roof ornamentation.

There are weaknesses in the glossary and index and in the presentation of the bibliography, all potentially valuable parts of a work of this sort. The glossary in this volume, if addressing architects and architectural historians is patronising (e.g. bay window, fascia, parapet, rebate); if meant for a wider audience a much more comprehensive glossary should have been extracted from the various chapters. The bibliography is visually not clear; each entry should be readily identifiable, as has been achieved in the Reference Notes. The index is disappointing for a work of this scholarly intention. The thoroughness with which names of people and buildings have been referred to should have been extended to ideas, architectural, historical and technical matters. Finally, an observation on the Notes on Contributors. They were, quite properly, to have been included on page 312, in the text. They now appear on the dustjacket, which means that in time—when jacket and book get separated—they will no longer be accessible to the reader.

Having said all this, *The history and design of the Australian house* is a book that very capably serves many purposes and will be of value to professional and amateur alike.

Albert Gillissen,  
Senior Lecturer,  
Department of Architecture,  
The University of Adelaide.

C. O'Connor, *Spanning two centuries—historic bridges of Australia*, University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, Brisbane, 1985; pp. xviii, 255, figures 175, \$40.00.

Bridges are among the oldest of mankind's engineering achievements. Down through the centuries, from the ancient era to the modern, bridges have occupied an important place in the history of land transport. Whether in times of peace or war, bridges have been the generators of concentrated activity at their sites as goods, people and armies crossed from one side of a river to the other. It is this link with the broad social history of all civilisations, that turns what could be a dull technical discourse into a fascinating story of human interaction with an inanimate structure. The proportions of the contents of Colin O'Connor's book, 228 pages about Australia's development and its bridges with only eight pages on technical terms, shows his awareness of where the public interest lies.

Bridges in other parts of the world were never designed and built in technical isolation. They were the result of satisfying three principal factors, the need, the knowledge and the resources. Only the middle factor has become dominated by the engineer/scientist. The other two encompass a wide range of social factors, particularly politics and the supply of money. So it has been in Australia, because Governments have been the main agents for providing bridges through their road and railway works programmes. This is evident from the table of contents and the amount of text devoted to this aspect for each Colony/State.

The story of Australia's historic bridges could not have been told until the bridges themselves had been identified, and to that extent, Colin's stint in the field searching the records of the road and rail authorities, visiting most of the bridge sites, and producing the 'Register of Australian Historic Bridges', has provided the essential skeleton of data. *Spanning two centuries* puts the flesh on those bones.

Strictly speaking, the period covered is not two centuries. The bridges are mostly from the colonial periods of the States and their early years of federation, about 130 years. But they were the important formative years of bridge engineering in Australia. It was a period that started with the complete domination by British technology and ended with local engineers, such as Bradfield and Monash, able to use the most appropriate technology from anywhere in the world.

A bridge engineer, like any technical expert, can only say so much in lay terms. Eventually some of the technical talk has to appear, but this is handled very well by the author in two ways: (1) the brief description of technical terms at the back of the book, and (2) the marvellous collection of photographs. The latter not only illustrate the function and technicalities of the bridges but show that bridges have character, a quality that can only have been achieved by a strong human involvement with their development.

The book will become a prime source for both social and technical historians, and is a very readable document for members of the general public, who after all are the chief beneficiaries of the bridges described.

Don Fraser,  
School of Civil Engineering,  
University of New South Wales.

A. McGowan, *Archaeological investigations at Risdon Cove Historic Site 1978-1980*, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmania, Occasional Paper No. 10, Hobart, 1985; pp. vii, 153, plates 6, figures 43, tables 5, \$12.00.

A. McGowan, *Excavations at Lithend, Port Arthur Historic Site*, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmania, Occasional Paper No. 11, Hobart, 1985; pp. 123, \$10.00.

These two occasional papers are welcome, if belated, reports of archaeological work undertaken on behalf of the Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service at Historic Sites administered by that body. In both cases the investigations described were completed nearly six years ago, reflecting a publication problem common to many conservation and management agencies, within which the demands for publication must compete with many other demands for a very limited supply of financial and human resources. Their publication is nonetheless a worthwhile addition to the still tiny body of published historical archaeological work in this country.

The more extensive of the two investigations was that undertaken at Risdon Cove, the site of the first European settlement in Tasmania in 1803. The settlement was surprisingly short-lived, being abandoned in 1804 in favour of Sullivan's Cove where a new settlement was established. To the new settlement went the people, some of the building materials, and the name of the Risdon Cove site, 'Hobart'. The Risdon Cove land was turned over to agriculture, and has continued in that use to the present day. It is perhaps not surprising that little evidence of the first settlement was found on the site, given the short duration of that occupation and the subsequent history of site disturbance through tillage.

The archaeological programme at Risdon was directed entirely at the requirements of the manager of the site. Key elements of the programme were to supply information and interpretations of site history for on-site public presentation and museum interpretation, and to directly aid site management by identifying areas containing sensitive physical remains which might be disturbed by natural processes or planned site development. No attempt was made to develop a broader research design, and this reflects the approach to historical archaeological investigations that was almost universal at that time. While the practical aims of conservation-oriented archaeology are valid reasons for such excavations,

it would now be frowned upon if a project such as this were undertaken without some wider cultural context being addressed, or at least one would like to think that this would be the case.

In attempting to define the extent of the site and the location of individual structures within it, a wide range of techniques was used. Geophysical surveys, consisting of resistivity survey, a magnetometer survey, and a seismic refraction survey, appear to have revealed nothing except the location of a former stream bank. Oblique aerial photography using both standard and infra-red film, indicated some form of field boundaries, but the conclusion was that the Risdon site was too rich and heavy for good crop mark studies. Some controlled surface collection was undertaken, but the most useful approach was through the study of historical documents and interviews with former occupants of the land. Documentary and oral evidence enabled numerous sites to be identified, and several of these were investigated by excavation.

The excavation of the storehouse both confirmed and expanded the documentary evidence, and demonstrated the fact that written evidence should not all be taken at face value. While the reports of the transfer of the settlement from Risdon to the present site of Hobart suggest that the storehouse was physically removed to the new site, the archaeological evidence indicates that only one wall may have been taken and that most of the building remained at Risdon and was subsequently rebuilt and used by later landholders for a variety of purposes. The identification, as an Aboriginal artefact, of a single glass flake with apparent retouching, located in the topsoil above the storehouse, must be regarded as speculative given its stratigraphic provenance and the comments of Allen and Jones (1980) on the identification of glass artefacts at Oyster Cove. The excavation of the Moun garrett house indicated an interesting cob and wattle and daub construction, although it is possible that the plaster bearing the impression of laths found in the excavation may represent some building technique other than wattle and daub. These finds are not described fully enough to convince the reader.

While the Risdon Cove investigation was aimed at expanding the knowledge of an entire settlement, the research at Lithend at Port Arthur, was a rescue excavation aimed at explaining the development of a single building and its site. Like the Risdon Cove exercise, that at Lithend reflects the state of conservation thinking common in the late 1970s, the excavation being undertaken concurrently with the commencement of conservation building works. The foreword to the report, written by Kristal Buckley, a member of the Port Arthur Conservation Project team and editor of the report, indicates that the approach developed at Port Arthur during the 1980s is very different to that described in the report, with comprehensive archaeological recording and investigation before and during conservation works now being standard procedure. The Port Arthur procedures now lead Australia in such projects, but unfortunately at the time of writing the team is being disbanded due to the withdrawal of Commonwealth funding and the reluctance of the state government to cover the costs.

Despite the problems involved in the topsy-turvy conservation planning process, McGowan has competently demonstrated the development of the building and has fitted it neatly into the historical context of Port Arthur's penal and post-convict development. The documentary evidence suggested a sequence of occupation for the site, commencing with a dockyard sawpit in the period 1834-1836, followed by the construction of a blacksmith's shop in 1841, which was subsequently converted into a residence after the closure of the dockyard in 1848. The building then underwent various alterations and additions until it was abandoned as a residence in 1970. The first phase, the dockyard sawpit, is represented archaeologically by a deposit of clay mixed with small wood chips found beneath several of the rooms, and cut through by the later building construction trenches. Perhaps the most

interesting phase is the construction of the blacksmith's shop. This is represented by wall footings which were incorporated into the later residence, by the remains of what is identified as a stoke-hole for a forge, and by a deposit containing casting waste of copper and lead, blacksmith's tools and many iron and copper fastenings. The third phase saw the rebuilding of the blacksmith's shop as a residence, utilising some of the footings. This cottage was progressively expanded from its original 4 rooms to the 9-room building it was in 1980. McGowan has been able to document this development archaeologically with some skill, giving evidence with which the documentary record can be interpreted, and filling in gaps in the understanding of the site's history.

Both the Lithend and Risdon Cove reports describe competent archaeological investigations. In both cases the resulting evidence expands and complements the documentary sources, and puts the history of the sites into a physical context in which it makes more sense to the manager and interpreter of the site. Archaeology of this kind is the essential ingredient which changes an understanding of written history into an understanding of place. At the time when these investigations were undertaken that was about as far as anyone in Australia has prepared to take historical archaeology. Times however have changed, and the survival of historical archaeology as a discipline claiming to have a valid intellectual basis, depends on research at sites such as those reported here being undertaken with reference to much broader conceptual frameworks. How, for example, does the planning and execution of the Risdon Cove settlement, its failure, and the lifestyles and social structuring of its inhabitants, compare with other early settlements in Australia and in other colonies? Were the details of Risdon's organization typical of British society and culture of that period, do they reflect a contemporary theoretical 'colonising model' of behaviour, or do they reflect behaviour learnt through experience in the New South Wales colony? Why was the Port Arthur boatyard a failure, and how does its rise and decline correlate with other Port Arthur convict industries? Only by addressing such questions, simple as they might be, can we get a better understanding of the past and begin to approach the human processes involved in that history. The reports on Risdon Cove and Lithend are laudable examples of the best of Australian historical archaeological research in the late 1970s and are valuable additions to the minute data base with which we all work. If the reports of the late 1980s are not successful in also sparking in the mind ideas on history, culture and process, then historical archaeology may be said to have failed as anything other than a tool for conservation, and the management and interpretation of historic places for the public.

Reference: ALLEN, J. & JONES, R. 1980. Oyster Cove: archaeological traces of the last Tasmanians and notes on the criteria for the authentication of glass artefacts. *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania* 114: 225-33.

Michael Pearson,  
*Australian Heritage Commission.*

P. J. F. Coutts, *Report on the results of archaeological investigations at the 1826 settlement site at Corinella*. Records of the Victorian Archaeological Survey No. 18, Ministry for Planning and Environment, Victoria. 1985; pp. vi, 202, plates 18, figures 60, tables 17, \$10.00 (plus postage).

My immediate impression on reading this volume of the Records of the Victorian Archaeological Survey is why? Why was what must have been a considerable amount of finance and resources pumped into an archaeological project which

to date has produced practically nil advancement in our archaeological knowledge of colonisation in Australia? Furthermore, why was this volume presented at this stage when throughout the text Coutts indicates that 'more work is required in this area' (p. 29) or results are 'of preliminary analysis' (p. 62)?

The answer to the first question is that the Premier of Victoria, in the face of proposed development, requested an archaeological and historical survey to assess the evidence relating to the 1826-1828 Corinella settlement. Thus, another case of historical archaeology in the context of salvage work. This makes research-orientated archaeology, with specific questions in mind, at best extremely difficult. Unfortunately, sites which require salvage work to be done on them, are seldom suited to the answering of specific research questions. The archaeological practice applied to these sites becomes one of dig it up and hope something can be made from the subsequent analysis. As will be shown, Coutts has failed even to achieve this.

To his credit, however, Coutts has ferreted out a mass of historical data. The true value of this project lies in the wealth of historical documentation that has been uncovered. It is this data which permits probing questions to be tackled, such as: How did the settlement develop? What changes took place through time in settlement patterns? What can these changes tell us about the social and economic conditions which influenced the development of this district? What can these changes tell about colonisation in general? The archaeological evidence revealed by Coutts contrasts with the wealth of historical data. For in Coutts' own words, the archaeology was 'insufficient [even] to enable the broad settlement patterns to be defined adequately' (p. 161). From the historical perspective, an addition has been made to the body of data already available on colonization in Australia. The same cannot be said for the archaeological evidence, which in my opinion added little to the historical evidence.

As to why this report was presented at this stage, I cannot say. It is really a technical report describing excavation results and analysis of artefacts to date, with limited interpretation. I am of the opinion that a volume on the Corinella settlement should have awaited the results of final analysis.

Coutts states on page 2 that his objectives in presenting this volume were 'to describe the methods employed to locate the remains of the 1826 settlement and present the results of investigations to date'. This he has done. There is a lengthy section on the field survey techniques employed to locate the 1826-1828 settlement. These techniques did not, however, locate the structural remains of the 1826-1828 settlement, these features being 'well hidden' (p. 161). Only one possible element of the 1826-1828 settlement was located. Exactly what this structure was could not be determined but it may have been associated with the Commandant's housing complex. What the survey techniques did reveal was a number of late nineteenth-century structural remains and features, some of which were excavated. Unfortunately, with the one exception (and it is a disturbed site), 'none of the excavations have been extensive, so that the information available for detailed analysis and comparative purposes is limited' (p. 161). Having said this, one wonders how Coutts can state that 'the research prospects for the future are encouraging' (p. 161). The report indicates that the research prospects at this site are very limited, in archaeological terms, for three main reasons. Firstly, the failure of Coutts, with the resources he had, to locate archaeological features capable of producing well provenanced data for comparative and research needs. Secondly, the disturbed nature of the area as a result of a variety of agricultural practices, such as ploughing and ripping. Thirdly, the residential development which is now taking place, further adding to the disturbed nature of the site.

In his summary of the field evidence (pp. 160-61), Coutts reaches four conclusions:

1. 'considerable changes in land ownership and land use within the Study Area since 1826'

2. 'land has been progressively subdivided'
3. 'Several of the blocks have gone through one and possibly more residency phases.'
4. 'Houses were constructed on them, gardens and orchards were established and some agricultural/horticultural and animal husbandry was practised.'

From a report on archaeological investigations, these conclusions are disappointing, as all can be deduced from the historical record. Indeed, with one exception, on page 111, where we are told that: 'The similarity between the MARTIN 4 and HAM 1 assemblages is striking, suggesting that the occupants of both houses were buying from the same markets . . .' etc., the archaeological data has not been used to gain an impression of life during the colonial period at Corinella.

In the concluding remarks (p. 161), Coutts makes the following statement: 'So far most of the archaeological evidence derives from only three of the six phases that constitute our Western Port contextual model.' This indicates that Coutts had a model for this site and that he may have been attempting to test its validity archaeologically. Unfortunately we will never know, as this model is not to be found in this report. In the List of Contents, a chapter called 'Corinella and District: A Contextual Model' is supposed to appear on page 3. It does not. Nor does it appear anywhere else in the text. Furthermore, a discussion on a model for social change in Australia was edited out. I view this as an error on the part of the editor, as this is one of the important aspects of historical archaeological research.

There are a number of ways in which this report could have been improved to facilitate ease in interpretation for the reader. The underlining of chapter and sub-section titles would have been useful. Interpretation of aerial photographs of the site (Plates 1–3) would have been much easier if outlines of the features being viewed had been incorporated. Admittedly, Figure 6 is a sketch map of the features in the aerial photographs. However, the plates and the figure are at opposite ends of this report, making it difficult to relate them to one another. For those not familiar with the south-west Gippsland region, such as myself, it would also have been helpful to have indicated the location of Corinella on the regional map which is Figure 4. Furthermore, Figures 7–11 have no keys associated with them, explanation of features indicated in these figures is to be found elsewhere in the text. Not only are there structural problems with some of the figures but some of them, specifically Figures 7 and 9–11, are poorly reproduced. There is a similar problem with Plates 4–10. These are photographs of a selection of ceramics from the Corinella excavations. These plates needed to be clear, sharp and well defined, and preferably in colour to be of value. This regrettably is not the case.

There are few typographical errors in this report but there are some. One which does cause confusion is in the List of Contents under 'Excavations'. 'MARTIN 2, CA 12A' should read 'MARTIN 3, CA 12A and Test Pits in CA 13A'. Another one concerns a Henry Preece, who in 1872 had the original licence issued to him for crown allotment 12A at Corinella, which was later 'purchased by him in July 1979' (p. 171). Two other areas of confusion exist. According to the List of Figures (p. iii), Figure 13 supposedly represents the stratigraphy of a test pit but according to its caption, it represents the stratigraphy of a drainage pit. Figure 20 is supposed (according to its caption) to have related explanatory information in 'Section 1' of the text. There is no 'Section 1' in the text and the first chapter bears no relevance to this figure.

Numerous references given in the text are not cited in the List of References. This includes a failure to indicate where certain references can be found, and a failure to give an indication of where certain people can be located and what their expertise might be in the context of cited person communications.

There are also other problems, of which two must be

mentioned. Figure 18 supposedly shows us the location PAP 1. It does not, nor does the text anywhere tell us what PAP 1 is. We are left to guess at whether it is land owned by Mr Papadopoulos or whether it is the Papadopoulos Da. The most annoying aspect of this report is the continual references to explanatory figures, tables and plates, for which no page references are given. Although they are listed at the beginning of the publication, no page numbers are given either. One is constantly flicking through the text to find these necessary figures, tables and plates.

Finally, the nature of this report is such, that if one is trying to gain insight into the settlement of Corinella, then it is essential to consult also Coutts, P. J. F. 1983. *Corinella. forgotten episode in Victorian history. Part 1: history and description of the settlement*. Records of the Victorian Archaeological Survey, No. 15.

Andrew Pip  
Department of Prehistory and Archaeology  
University of New England

P. Bell, *Timber and iron: houses in North Queensland mining settlements 1861–1920*. University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, Brisbane, 1984; pp. 244, \$40.00.

This is a rare kind of Australian book: a scholarly study of an ordinary building type—the miner's house—in a specific region, during the limited life of the industry that supported the settlements of which it was the basis. The research that produced it combined the documentary evidence normally sought by historians—including valuable pictorial material and a field survey of nearly four thousand houses in North Queensland towns.

Peter Bell's objective is to explain the distinct and local character of the region's venacular timber-and-iron houses. Typically, it has one of only two basic floor plans, is elevated above the ground, employs a light framework exposed externally, and is not architect-designed. The combination of these characteristics is distinctive to the North.

In a benign climate where no warmth-conserving insulation is required, the protective functions of a building are reduced to providing privacy, securing possessions, and keeping out rain. Light timber construction achieved the first two, corrugated iron the third.

Bell has written a very human story of the mining communities, including their supporting activities such as provisioning and a burgeoning transport industry, which needed these houses. Ephemerality, induced by the constant fear of the mine's closing, with all that would mean to the settlement was probably the single most characteristic feature of a mining town. The populations, mainly British and Chinese, were careless of their environment, their comfort and their health, often living 'like pigs if they can only make money'. Such a setting and an attitude goes far to explain the nature of the sparse and distinctive dwelling of the region.

The chapter on the origin of the timber-framed wall is one of the most valuable in the book. Bell argues convincingly that the Queensland frame of tenoned light studs originated in Britain, and not in America as has usually been postulated. His discussion of sawn framing and the nailed joint in Britain and America and Australia is significant. But it is a pity that the butted connection, with skew-nailed fixing, which has been universal in Southern Australia for over a century, is dismissed as 'hasty, cheap construction', and the author makes no mention at all of the housing joint—that distinctive Australian connection of stud to plate. Nor are there enough drawings to show the actual joints used in these regional structures. Despite this omission, the excellence of this chapter alone makes the book worth buying.

The changes and variations in the two basic house plans—that of two rooms and that of four, are painstakingly chronicled

Houses were rebuilt, moved, enlarged, and altered after cyclone damage, for instance. Agglomeration, verandah expansion and infill, materials both local and imported, prefabrication, techniques, tradesmen, finishes and embellishment, are considered in detail. Careful analysis of buildings, written sources and photographic material has revealed all, and it is all meticulously recorded and illustrated.

*Timber and iron* is an important contribution to the history of Australian architecture. Bell's style is excellently informative, patient and thorough. His myriad sources are rigorously assessed and well cited, allowing the critical reader easy access to his fine methodology.

Robert Irving,  
Faculty of Architecture,  
University of New South Wales.

J.S. Kerr, *The conservation plan—A guide to the preparation of conservation plans for places of European cultural significance*. The National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.), 1985; pp. 39.

J.S. Kerr, *Goat Island—An analysis of documentary and physical evidence and an assessment of significance for the Maritime Services Board of N.S.W.*, The National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.), 1985; pp. 62.

J.S. Kerr, *Cockatoo Island—Penal and institutional remains—An analysis of documentary and physical evidence and an assessment of the cultural significance of the penal and institutional remains above the escarpment for the Department of Housing and Construction*. The National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.), 1984; pp. 62.

Rarely is the opportunity presented to review both the recommendations and the results of an author's attempts to define the current state of conservation planning in Australia. The trilogy of works recently published by James Semple Kerr presents such a chance.

In this, the second edition of *The conservation plan*, Dr Kerr has taken the opportunity to rework almost completely his earlier document and to incorporate the recently formulated guidelines to the *Burra Charter* developed by Australia ICOMOS. He then goes on to put his recommended methodologies into practice, with the assessments of cultural significance of the two islands in Sydney Harbour. In fact, chronologically, *The conservation plan* follows the two reports and draws heavily on them to illustrate the methodologies developed.

The new edition of *The conservation plan* is much improved, having been tested by numerous practitioners and client bodies since it was first published. In this new publication the two major stages of conservation planning, the assessment of cultural significance and development of conservation policy, are clearly set out, in a step-by-step fashion, with wide ranging and relevant examples for clarity.

A particular improvement, in the opinion of this reviewer, is the emphasis on bringing together the various strands of analysis into the one stream of argument. A problem with the earlier edition was the potential for separation of the physical analysis from the documentary, suggested by the original flow chart. Several rather cumbersome and to a large part, repetitive analyses were produced in recent years by taking this chart too literally.

The second major advance in this edition are the comments and snippets of advice on the practical aspects of conservation planning. Issues such as establishing a clear brief, consultancy arrangements, copyright etc, are covered in a separate section and reflect his and others' experiences in the 'rough and tumble' of the real world. Much has happened in conservation in the three years since Dr Kerr first attempted to set down a

clear methodology of what can be a very complex and circuitous exercise. These lessons have been well learnt.

Of great benefit to the reader is the inclusion at the end of the document of the *Burra Charter* and the accompanying *Guidelines*, for cultural significance and conservation policy. Together, these form a compendium for those involved in conservation planning and a useful explanation for those entering the field. In fact, to date, they represent the only comprehensive publication of these Australia ICOMOS works.

As noted earlier, the degree of cross referencing and use as source material, between *The conservation plan* and the analytical reports on Goat and Cockatoo Islands, make for an interesting trilogy. Rarely would two more complex sites be encountered, where the evidence of so many different historical layers serves to confuse the casual observer. The curious accident of history in which Goat Island was once called Cockatoo only deepens the curiosity.

Goat Island, although known to have been used by Aborigines, was first occupied by European settlers in the late 1820s, when a small stone quarry was established. It became the centre of attention in 1833, when a decision was taken to relocate colonial gunpowder storage to this relatively isolated location. Over the succeeding few years, convict labour gangs quarried away a large portion of the western side of the Island and erected a complex which includes probably the largest and finest stone gunpowder magazine in Australia.

Simultaneously, the Colonial Architect, Mortimer Lewis, borrowing from Loudon, designed a small 'picturesque' cottage to serve as a new centre for water police surveillance of Sydney Harbour. Both functions continued, one at each end of the Island, until the 1860s when the Water Police moved away. Over the ensuing decades the changing nature and technology of explosives storage and the increasing demand for space, saw this function also moved elsewhere.

Following the outbreak of plague in 1901, the newly created Sydney Harbour Trust took over Goat Island and gradually developed it as an operational base for fire fighting, pollution control, port management and shipyard functions. These activities totally altered the face of the Island with wharves, sheds, cranes and slipways obscuring the remains of earlier functions. By the late 1970s even these buildings and structures had begun to be demolished in the face of obsolescence and changing use.

Cockatoo Island suffered an even more dramatic fate. Construction of a major dockyard by the Commonwealth so changed the lower parts of the Island, that Dr Kerr has limited his analysis to the escarpment above.

When they had completed their work on Goat Island, the convict labour gangs were transferred, in 1839, to Cockatoo to erect a penal establishment for prisoners brought back from Norfolk Island. The operation was supervised by the Commanding Royal Engineer, Capt. George Barney, who designed and saw carried out a large complex which includes accommodation for both prisoners and their guards and a series of gardens and workshops.

In 1869 the penal and engineering establishment was broken up and the former prison area re-used as an industrial school for girls. The girls were housed at the western end of the Island and separated from the by now expanding dockyard, by a tall corrugated iron fence. This arrangement proved less than satisfactory and was accompanied by appalling mismanagement.

Eventually, in 1888, the penal area once again reverted to its original function and remained so until the opening of Long Bay Gaol in 1909. It was transferred to the Commonwealth in 1913 and saw the progressive expansion of dockyard facilities with attendant service buildings. In much the same way as on Goat Island, although to a far greater extent, the earlier buildings and sites were laid over and obscured by later construction.

Goat Island was the first published attempt by Dr Kerr to set down in an orderly way a table, which gave a ranked order

of significance to the individual components of such a complex site. The report begins with an historical narrative of various precincts of the Island and goes on to describe the major elements, buildings, sites, landscape etc. It then produces a general statement of significance, drawing out the major themes, followed by the chart for individual elements. A similar format is used for *Cockatoo Island*.

This reviewer had the opportunity to test the Goat Island report, when commissioned by the Maritime Services Board in 1985 to prepare a conservation policy and management plan based on Dr Kerr's work. Additional analyses were developed by Elizabeth Rich and Wendy Thorp, of the Aboriginal and historical archaeological data respectively, aspects not originally covered by Kerr.

In general, the work proved to be a valuable source document, with the analysis of cultural significance both supported and then reinforced during the remainder of the work. One criticism was the rather confusing way in which the historical narrative leapt from building to building or precinct to precinct, not always in chronological order, and sometimes leaving the reader wishing that some of the gaps had been filled in. If anything the document suffered from its secondary aim of being published for the general reader as well as being a research tool. The demands of brevity and prose occasionally overcame the thrust of the narrative. Kerr rectified much of this shortcoming in *Cockatoo Island*.

Throughout both reports Dr Kerr makes extensive use of his, by now, well developed techniques of redrawing historic maps and producing charming sketches to clarify and illustrate his text. These are a great aid to the reader but on occasions when successive maps of the same area are drawn to quite different scales, orientation, coverage or detail, it is difficult to appreciate easily the continuity of development.

Let it be said in summary that these publications serve well to illustrate and to promulgate what can be considered as the latest state of the art in conservation planning. Subject only to the vagaries of the personality and approach of individual practitioners, the methodologies presented are a most useful guide to the novice and the experienced alike.

Graham Brooks,  
Schwager/Brooks and Partners Pty Ltd,  
Sydney.

L. Smith, *Investigating old buildings*, Batsford Academic and Educational, London, 1985; pp. 160, figures 53.

It was most refreshing to commence a book the opening sentence of which reads: 'In the investigation of old buildings the common feature of all good work is the recognition of its archaeological status'. That was written by an architect, who is also chairperson of an historical and archaeological society, and who regards the study of standing structures as a branch of archaeology. I'm sure this would be disputed by some conservation practitioners in Australia, who see ground level as the demarcation between archaeologist and architect (thus effectively divorcing the foundations [and basements?] from the superstructure).

Unquestionably, buildings are artefacts in the archaeological sense of being the tangible products of human behaviour. As Lance Smith points out, they have 'a place in social, technical and economic history', not just in architectural history. As proof of this one only has to look, for example, at the work of Glassie in Middle Virginia and Carson in the Chesapeake Region of the U.S.A.

It is also pertinent that Smith cites the work of General Pitt-Rivers as a precedent for good recording. Pitt-Rivers is widely regarded as 'the father of archaeology'.

The book follows a logical progression through three main sections: 'Materials and Construction', 'Fieldwork' and 'Research Background'.

Smith confines his discussion to the basic structural materials—timber, brick and tile, stone, iron and lime—and their constructional applications. There is also a short section on fastenings, which includes a handy nomenclature for timber nail types. The discussion is designed to assist identification of materials and construction techniques. In addition, data are provided for the use and introduction of various materials and for the introduction of machinery such as nail-making equipment and saws. As the majority of dates are pre-nineteenth century such information is of limited relevance to the Australian situation, but I must say I was more than little interested to find that a timber joint I had recorded in an Australian structure has its origins in the twelfth century.

The section on timber provides a clear analysis of the structure of wood and the methods of converting it into building timbers. The various tools employed in the latter methods are discussed and some of the characteristic marks they leave on the timber are described. However, this could have been achieved more successfully by including drawings depicting these marks. From experience, the identification of tool marks is a matter of some confusion and dispute among practitioners and students alike.

The treatment of brick and tile is similarly comprehensive and over ten types of bonding are described and illustrated. A discussion of the reasons for the types of bond used, the structural strength and a method for determining the economy of a bond (based on the fraction of the wall face area which consists of headers), makes the study far more useful, and shows a greater degree of understanding, than mere brickwork elevations.

The survey of materials and construction does not purport to be an exhaustive study, as there are numerous books (such as Clifford-Taylor's *Patterns of English building* and earlier works such as Lafever's 1833 *A modern builder's guide*) which deal with these topics in much greater depth. However, the notable absence of glass from the list of materials does lessen the value of what would otherwise be a most succinct survey.

Similarly, there is no discussion of joinery details or finishes. This would be an enormous task, but even a brief survey of these elements through time would assist the investigator in identification and dating exercises.

The fieldwork chapter deals with 'Reconnaissance Questionnaire' and 'Measured Survey' and the type of recording required in each. The chapter follows through through one example from the initial observations to the finished drawings. It indicates the kinds of features which should be recorded and at what 'level of intensity'. But to his list would add 'wear marks' (which indicate functional usage) and 'surface finishes' (which can provide evidence of room function and structural alterations).

The strongest parts of the book are contained in the fieldwork chapter: the sections 'Measured Survey' and 'Drawings'. This is as one would expect from an architect. In fact I would recommend the book on these sections alone especially to those who have not undertaken architectural or technical draughting courses.

There is a curious heading—'Archaeological Survey'—which deals with accurately drawing a 'specimen of construction' by photogrammetry, perspective drawing (using a photographic slide) and gridded measurement methods. In addition, it includes rules to be followed when 'recording for removal'. This is not quite what one expects under a heading of archaeological survey.

If Smith's draughting is his strong point, then his dating section is his weakest. His introduction merely states that material and technical innovations, comparative examples, building form, developments in the production of materials, structural features and ornamental details, can be used to

date buildings. Nevertheless, he qualifies this by stating that date ranges obtained by the above methods may only be appropriate to locality.

A contribution this section makes is the application of logical archaeological reasoning to the dating of structures—*terminus post quem* (earliest possible date) and *terminus ante quem* (latest possible date). The two examples cited rely on the discovery of datable artefacts (ceramics and coins) to establish possible date ranges. Whilst this situation may be common in Britain, it is not so in Australia.

The main omission relates to the identification of additions, alterations and refurbishments. Smith acknowledges the importance of what he terms 'builds' (wing or block additions), though he places little emphasis on minor alterations. He equates the detection of builds with the task of distinguishing phases in an archaeological excavation. However, if a building is to be placed within an historical, technical or social framework, the key exercise is to determine its structural evolution. Unfortunately, Smith fails to address this point and the concept of relative dating receives only cursory reference. He provides no clues as to how one can identify additions and alterations. Although he touches on the problem of identifying repair work, he offers no guide or solution. Similarly, there is no mention of how one identifies and copes with recycled elements.

From experience, these clues can be very slight and their detection and correct interpretation depends on the skill of the investigator. Such skill will not be developed by reading this book.

Another unfortunate result of this omission is that there is no methodology or system, such as the structural sequence matrix employed at Port Arthur, for recording these potentially complicated evolutionary sequences. However, what is in effect a matrix is used to show the time sequence of constructing a wall.

The book is written for British readers and hence date ranges, stone types, research avenues and record repositories, are of little relevance for Australian readers. In some instances the Australian situation is completely different from that in Britain, where, for example, the 'wedged type [of scarf joint] fell into disuse during the Middle Ages, but . . . re-appears in nineteenth-century engineering carpentry' (p. 33). There are numerous examples where this joint is used in Australian domestic carpentry.

However, there are sections which transcend geographical boundaries and are of direct relevance, in particular 'Materials and Construction' and 'Measured Survey'.

It is undoubtedly a very useful publication for students and interested amateurs and, to a lesser extent, non-archaeologically trained conservation practitioners. It doesn't provide any revelations or new insights for the professional archaeologist but contains information which will be of value.

The book is recommended reading if you're into standing structures.

Martin Davies,  
Sydney.

O. R. Jones and E. A. Smith, *Glass of the British military, 1755–1820*, Parks Canada, Ottawa, 1985; pp. 134, figures 137, \$Can. 9.55. Obtainable from the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Supply and Services Canada, Hull, Quebec, Canada K1A 0S9.

This book covers much more than a narrow interpretation of its title would imply.

It is not only a profusely illustrated and annotated account of the types of glassware in use, and their development between 1755 and 1820, but it also provides a fascinating insight into the social habits of the upper-class Europeans during the period.

The text is based on a thorough research of archaeological findings, military and merchant records, and the detail from early newspaper advertisements. This extensive reference material is summarized in the sixteen-page 'Endnotes' and 'Bibliography'.

Without stepping outside the bounds of their research material, the authors have succeeded admirably in outlining the subtle changes in shape and style of the glassware, according to their uses at the time: drinking (pp. 7–57), eating (pp. 58–85), health and personal care (pp. 86–103), lighting (pp. 104–106) and miscellaneous activities (pp. 107–112).

This book should also form a valuable guide to similar early colonial glassware imported into Australia.

James Boow.