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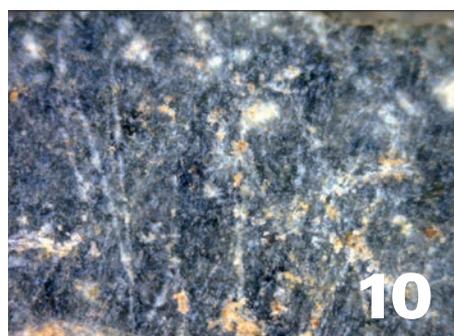
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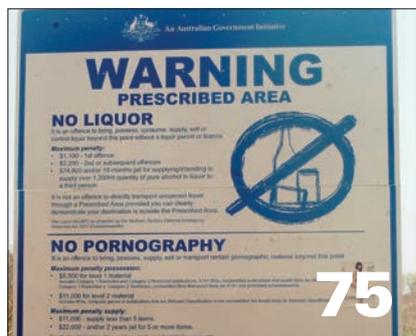
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that Japanese exploitation appears to be the oldest at 11,000 years BP, with dolphinfish remains also having been found in later archaeological deposits in Guam, Taiwan and the Philippines. The paper examines shifts in dolphinfish consumption patterns, indicating how it has more recently acquired a lower prestige status, despite a high social significance during the Edo Period.

The third section presents two discussions of material culture associated with marine exploitation in the western Pacific. The first, by Goto, examines a 'hybridised marine exploitation culture' in the Bonin and Hachijo-jima Islands. Goto presents several examples, including the use of the single outrigger canoe which was introduced to the Bonin from Hawaii in the 19th century. He examines a range of modifications, including hull building, which eventually incorporated Japanese cedar and boat-nails. He concludes by stating that these examples of 'technological integration' are not a result of diffusion, but of agency. This paper is paired with an ethno-ecological study conducted in the Mactan Islands, Philippines, by Tsuji, who examines the ecological and environmental impacts of moray eel capture through the use of bamboo basket traps (*bantak*). Tsuji concludes that further work is required documenting details on fishermen's strategies for trapping grounds, as well as a greater focus on the management of moray supply.

The edited volume closes with contributions discussing modern marine resource use. Suda presents changing subsistence activities in Oceania following the arrival of Europeans, and highlights the impact of modernisation and globalisation resulting in a focus on commercial fishing in lieu of traditional subsistence fishing in Ha'ano village, Tonga. Suda argues that, despite impacts not being noticeable thus far, attention must be paid to the possible deleterious outcomes of resources shifting beyond the immediate village area. Segi presents the final paper, exploring territoriality over traditional fishing areas on Cebu Island in the Philippines. He highlights the importance of further research into informal territoriality over designated fishing grounds and emphasises the deployment of feasible and sustainable strategies of co-management between authorities and fishermen.

The editors of this volume were faced with the challenge of connecting a set of topically wide ranging case studies within a geographically expansive region. The papers present varied data sets from prehistoric, historical and modern contexts, and the chronological and thematic organisation of these case studies provides clarity and cohesion. Owing to the wide scope of material, however, the volume has under-represented certain geographical areas, such as the Indian Ocean, with a disproportionate focus on island South East Asia and the Pacific. Additionally, despite a well-established practice of mollusc procurement and use in the region, a focus on vertebrate marine fauna is pronounced, with only two studies specifically dealing with shell. To my mind, the stand out papers are those by Christie, who examines status and differential resource patterning in the archaeological record in east Africa and Braje et al.'s examination of red abalone, sea otters and kelp forest ecosystems. This paper effectively illustrates the significant role that archaeology can play in providing insight into future sustainability plans.

In summary, *Prehistoric Marine Resource Use in the Indo-Pacific Regions* offers readers a range of data associated with marine resource use in the Indo-Pacific from varied

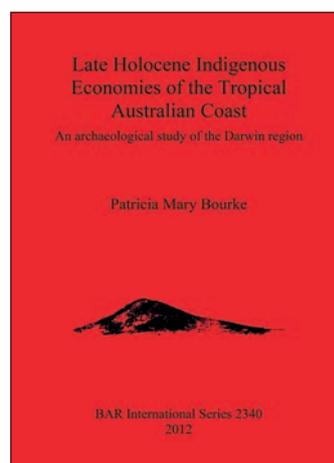
temporal contexts. The volume is successful in highlighting the relevance of a human ecology framework and the use of different methodological approaches to gain insight into past and present marine resource use and management.

Late Holocene Indigenous Economies of the Tropical Australian Coast: An Archaeological Study of the Darwin Region by Patricia M. Bourke

2012. BAR International Series 2340. Archaeopress, Oxford, 202 pp. ISBN 978-1-40730-923-1 (pbk).

Reviewed by Sandra Bowdler

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Data-rich, detailed site reports are never going to appeal to the general public, but they are the essential building blocks of local archaeologies, without which regional, continental and global syntheses cannot exist. It is unfortunate that university presses in general are turning away from being organs delivering basic knowledge to academic communities, and seeking to

establish themselves more often as producers of academically informed, but not necessarily academic, books. In the present instance, this monograph is the published version of a PhD thesis submitted in 2000. The British Archaeological Reports (BAR) series provides a good service in publishing such works, although it does have a certain reputation for unrefereed and unedited editions—useful, indeed essential, but not necessarily elegant offerings. Bourke's volume typically provides basic archaeological information, informed by not just detailed analysis but also thoughtful interpretations, but it would have benefitted from a heavier editorial hand.

The subject matter is Bourke's survey and excavation of sites in the region of Darwin in northern Australia, mostly shell 'middens' of one sort or another, which are aged within the last 2000 or so years. Some of these are of the large mounded kind, better known perhaps from the eastern coast. The basic data sets are sites on Middle Arm, a peninsula within Darwin Harbour, and around the adjacent embayment, Hope Inlet.

In the introduction, Bourke provides a snappy account of previous research (p.1), then muddies the waters with a far-too-detailed paragraph on *Anadara* (which might be considered the protagonist of her thesis), that would have

been better positioned later in the book. She then lists her aims and 'specific objectives', but these are vague, inductive and not really specific at all. A useful introduction to the study area and the 'context of the research', with an interesting sidelight on the tribulations of working in a tropical climate (p.2) are, however, followed by a cogent discussion of previous research and current ideas which generate far more interesting and engaging aims and objectives. A brief discussion of the 'notional disappearance of Indigenous groups' (p.5) is well taken. Bourke's lucid discussion of 'intensification' theories in Australian archaeology (pp.6–7) makes a much better context for the aims of her research.

The second chapter, 'Changing environments, seasons and resources' is clear, detailed and professionally produced. Chapter 3, concerning ethnography and ethnohistory, is perhaps a bit thin, especially given the significance of these sources to the later interpretive part of the book. The discussion about the use of ethnographic analogy has a distinctly dated feel, and this was always really more relevant to the old world than the newer ones (p.22, also p.137). Betty Meehan's view¹ that ethnographic/ethnohistoric information is the 'top layer' in Australian Indigenous archaeology makes more sense than a debate about analogical reasoning.

The fourth chapter on methodology is well written, if inevitably bearing traces of its dissertation origins with the referencing of every tiny methodological decision or option. The penultimate paragraph (p.33) is rather opaque and possibly self-serving, with its 'would have' and 'could have', and lacks clarity. Chapter 5 presents the results of survey and is overall clear and well written. Some small niggles: why is much of the Darwin Harbour foreshore inaccessible (p.36)—environmental reasons, private property, government property? Some tables could bear with a more compact summary presentation, such as the raw materials table (Hope Inlet, Darwin Harbour, pp.54–55). The following chapter 'Considerations in midden analysis' seems not to be in quite the right place, and perhaps should have been in the methodology chapter. Chapters 7 and 8 are basically the results of the excavation of selected sites and, as such, are not exactly racy but sound and well-presented.

Chapters 9, 10 and 11 are, to me, the most problematic and could have used an editorial hand. Dealing with, successively, a summary of the evidence for the past occupation of the Darwin coast, chronological change in the resource exploration in the late Holocene, and late Holocene economies in the Darwin region, it is immediately apparent that these are overlapping issues. The presentation does seem to jump around from topic to topic, and also methodologically, as some results are presented here seemingly for the first time, which makes for a thorny reading path. This is not at all to dispute Bourke's findings, nor their interpretation, which comprises a sensitive picking over of various cultural vs environmental options, but just to suggest that the presentation could have had more clarity if it had been better organised.

Some substantive comments of more and less importance arise. Radiocarbon dates should be reported with their laboratory numbers (p.67 and elsewhere), although I note these are shown for H181. 'Claassen ... found that mollusc gathering by humans occurred mostly during the mollusc's

fast growth period' (p.139); is rather a misleading quote—has this been found to be the case anywhere other than the specific region of the US about which she is writing?

I do have some small issues with the use of ethnographic/historic data. I really don't think J.G. Frazer can be cited as an ethnographic source in the same breath as A.P. Elkin—Elkin was a twentieth century anthropologist who actually worked firsthand with Indigenous people, while Frazer was a nineteenth century collector of other people's data; so who was Frazer citing (p.139, also p.150)?

Similarly, with respect to evidence for Aboriginal people drying plant or animal foods in the ethnographic present, Mulvaney (1975) is hardly a proper source in the way Thomson (1949) and Withnell (1910) are. The first is a secondary, if not tertiary in many instances, source, devoid of references, although in the second instance he is clearly referencing Withnell. In any case, none of them mentions drying mollusc meat, nor has anyone else I know of in Australia, and I think without some evidence the idea is drawing a very long bow.

The final chapter, comprising two pages of 'Summary, discussion and conclusions', is admirably concise, but a more balanced presentation with shorter preceding chapters and a final chapter including more actual discussion would have provided a smoother read and a better highlighting of the not-inconsiderable achievements of the work. In sum—and hardly doing justice to the intricacies of the argument—Bourke finds that to a large extent the human history evident in the archaeology of the Darwin region over the last 2000 years reflects a successful response to a changing environment, particularly the development of coastal wetland systems in high rainfall areas of northern Australia, and the impacts of the ENSO phenomenon. She rejects the concept of a mid-Holocene 'intensification', including population growth, but argues the archaeological signature of the area under consideration is 'the very visible remains of a small part of a broad-based and flexible economy characteristic of the earliest human foragers' (p.173). With respect to the 'highly visible mounds', she argues that these are aggregation sites indicative of 'ceremonial gatherings and/or exchange associated with alliance systems of social relationships extended beyond kinship to wider regional systems ... which were always an integral part of forager social organisation' (p.174). Thus she combines environmental with cultural factors in accounting for the evidence to hand, although there is a lurking materialist explanation here, of culture being primarily an adaptive force in relating to the environment. The socio-economic system she depicts is not quite the interface with the ethnographic 'upper layer', as she sees it changing within the last 500 years, probably under the stimulus of Macassan visits to coastal northern Australia, leading to a different resource procurement system which saw sea-going canoes enabling a reliance on saltwater turtles and dugong (p.175).

The actual presentation of the book is very nice. There are lots of good quality black and white photos in which salient details can usually be clearly described, and figures, graphs and tables are nearly all sufficiently large and clear to be easily read and interpreted, if, as mentioned above, they sometimes seem to comprise rather too much insufficiently digested data. In Figures 7.3 and 8.3, however, it is impossible to distinguish 'shell cap' from 'shell layer'. The sub-editing is excellent, with very few typographical,

¹ Personal communication about 30 years ago, but she may have said it in print somewhere.

grammatical etc. errors. The author should, however, make up her mind whether 'data' is a single or plural entity (I would support the latter on etymological grounds): p.98 'the data suggests' on p.98, but on p.127 'the data ... suggest' and again p.138, but on p.163, 'the data supports'.

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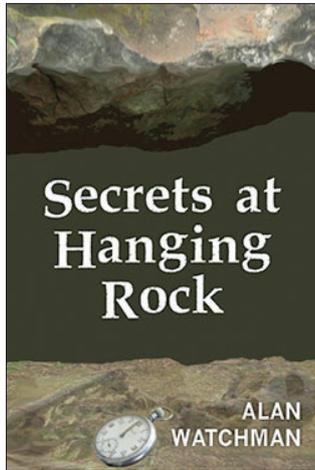
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Secrets at Hanging Rock by Alan Watchman

2013. Vivid Publishing, Fremantle, 191 pp.
ISBN 978-1-92220-468-4 (pbk).

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On Valentine's Day 1900, a group of schoolgirls from Appleyard College picnicked at Hanging Rock, near Mt Macedon in Victoria. During the afternoon three members of the party disappeared without a trace. In 2008, a group of archaeologists are excavating the interior of a rockshelter when they discover a narrow opening blocked by a fallen slab of stone. Within this cavern, they discover human skeletons—are these the remains of the missing girls Miranda St Clare, Marion Quade and their governess Miss Greta McCraw, or has the archaeological team uncovered something else?

While Hanging Rock is an actual geological feature near Mt Macedon, the story of the missing girls is fictitious, and Watchman's novel extends upon this storyline by presenting a fictional account of the potential archaeological discovery of the girls' remains at Hanging Rock. The reader alternates, chapter by chapter, from the nineteenth century investigations that occurred immediately following the disappearance of the girls (with a particular focus on an inquest in August 1900), to the potential discovery of

their remains by a team of archaeologists in 2008. While an excellent tool for providing background to readers unfamiliar with the history of Hanging Rock, each time period could arguably be a stand-alone story—there are no links (other than the topic of the missing girls) to bring each time period together into a directly cohesive storyline. As a fictional novel, Watchman had the potential to tie the two time periods inexorably together, perhaps by inserting clues or unanswered questions during the 1900 inquest (mystery artefacts, perhaps), which the archaeologists uncover and resolve during their 2008 investigations.

Initially, the chapters are kept very short, which, coupled with different writing styles for each time period, created a somewhat uneven tone. The 1900 flashbacks are told from the point of view of Michael Fitzhurbert, who was present at Hanging Rock the day the girls went missing and became integral in their search in the week following their disappearance. These flashbacks present an eloquent re-imagining of the day the girls disappeared, the experiences of those involved in the search and the August 1900 inquest that followed. This style of writing is in stark contrast to the 2008 archaeological investigations, where language is very casual and occasionally feels a little stilted and unnatural. Watchman may have purposefully done this in order to highlight the different time periods; however, this also has the potential to create a somewhat disconcerting experience for some readers. Towards the end of *Secrets*, the focus shifts entirely to 2008, and the pace picks up as clues build and some answers are forthcoming. While the main characters of the 2008 investigations are fictional, Watchman has them interact with, and refer to, present-day, real-world archaeologists, in an interesting interplay between fiction and non-fiction.

Throughout *Secrets* there is a strong focus on the relationships between archaeologists. Three chapters in particular (Chapters 8, 14 and 17) are devoted to people in the archaeological team agonising over current, past and potential future relationships. In fact, most chapters set in the 2008 time period contain some level of relationship tension and/or sexual innuendo. While such content has its place (and perhaps is an accurate reflection of the discipline?!), it did feel unnecessarily heavy-handed and diverted without a clear purpose from the overall storyline.

Secrets contains very few grammatical errors, although the incorrect spelling of Wurundjeri (Wirundjeri e.g. pp.16, 93) is surprising, and abbreviations used are not always appropriate (e.g. id for identification would be best spelt out in full [pp.35, 158], as would JCU for James Cook University [p.35] and XRD/SEM [p.35]).

Secrets at Hanging Rock is a short, easy read aimed at a general readership with only minimal technical information. It takes a little while to find its stride, but once it does it presents an interesting fictional account of what it might be like for a group of archaeologists to, over 100 years later, potentially solve the mystery of the three missing girls at Hanging Rock. My main criticism is that, as the storyline reaches its peak, the book ends with many questions left unanswered. Is a sequel forthcoming, perhaps?