V. Publications by subscribers


VI. Book reviews


Reviewed by Tim Murray

This is an interesting book about someone who was very much larger than life. While there are already book-length biographies of Wheeler, Petrie, Stein, Woolley, Evans and Childe (and long biographical essays and journal articles about many others) there is plenty of scope for something longer about Kenyon.

The book is written in a clear, open and chatty style. Davis does a splendid job weaving details about family life into more complex narratives about Kenyon’s work and the controversies she seemed almost inevitably drawn to. Indeed Davis manages to deploy the very considerable amount of research this book must have taken, in a way that maintains interest and avoids long excursions into the tediously technical.

Although I very much doubt that there would be widespread agreement with the assertions in the final para of page 3, there is no doubt at all that the history of archaeology will be greatly served by the publication of this book. Because it is generally restrained in its presentation of Kenyon’s life (as distinct from her work) Davis’ book avoids needless controversy and helps keep the focus on both the good (and not so good) aspects of her archaeology. Davis is even-handed in her discussion of some of the more controversial passages of her career in Palestine.


Reviewed by David Frankel

Pottery has always had a central place in archaeology, its role evolving and reflecting the development of the discipline through the application of varied techniques, approaches and styles of research. Its more traditional use in constructing primary referential frameworks of time, place and association has been supplemented by studies of symbolism, function, manufacture, distribution and discard at scales of analysis ranging from the individual to large areas seen in long-term perspective. Within this broad spectrum Dean Arnold has led the way in exploring the social and material context of pottery production in living communities, both as a subject in its own right and as a way into understanding facets of past behaviour.