V. Publications by subscribers

**Kaeser, M-A.** (dir.) *De la mémoire à l’histoire : L’oeuvre de Paul Vouga (1880–1940). Des fouilles de la Tène au “néolithique lacustre”*. Neuchâtel: Service et musée d’archéologie (Archéologie neuchâteloise: 35). Paul Vouga played an important part in archaeological science at the beginning of the 20th century. Although his name is mainly linked to the large-scale excavations of the site of La Tène, he was also a pioneer of the stratigraphic excavation of lake-dwelling stations. During his whole career, Paul Vouga demonstrated a notable methodological inventiveness. He proposed an innovative classification for the Neolithic, and lead a systematic survey of burial mounds in the Jura mountains. He also implemented new techniques for underwater research, and defined original applications for aerial photography.

**Bruce Trigger** has recently published the second edition of *A History of Archaeological Thought* (CUP). What follows is a selection from the publisher’s blurb:

In its original edition, Bruce Trigger’s book was the first ever to examine the history of archaeological thought from medieval times to the present in world-wide perspective. Now, in this new edition, he both updates the original work and introduces new archaeological perspectives and concerns. At once stimulating and even-handed, it places the development of archaeological thought and theory throughout within a broad social and intellectual framework. The successive but interacting trends apparent in archaeological thought are defined and the author seeks to determine the extent to which these trends were a reflection of the personal and collective interests of archaeologists as these relate – in the West at least – to the fluctuating fortunes of the middle classes. While subjective influences have been powerful, Professor Trigger argues that the gradual accumulation of archaeological data has exercised a growing constraint on interpretation. In turn, this has increased the objectivity of archaeological research and enhanced its value for understanding the entire span of human history and the human condition in general.


VI. Book reviews


Reviewed by Tim Murray, La Trobe University

This is a splendid little book. Hillel S. Burger’s photographs of representative artifacts from the collection (in 26 colour plates) are simply beautiful and the publisher has done them and the very useful text considerable justice by opting for a high standard of production.

Gloria Polizotti Greis has some fascinating stories to tell, not just about the Duchess but also about the fate of the collection which derives from excavations she undertook in Hallstatt and in modern-day Slovenia (then part of the Austro-Hungarian empire) between 1905 and 1914. The Duchess Paul Friedrich of Mecklenburg (1856–1925), to give her full title, was a wealthy amateur, who for reasons Greis is unable to explain, turned from an unhappy marriage (she was forced into a kind of internal exile by her husband because of her extravagant expenditure) to archaeology. In doing so the Duchess, who can be seen in the photographs on hands and knees in excavating garb (which included a marvellously broad-brimmed hat), made contact with scholars as eminent as Montelius and Déchelette. Indeed photo T3710 is a wonderful image of the excavators in action watched over by the Duchess and by Montelius in homburg and three piece suit. The caption informs us that Déchelette was also visiting the site of Sticna that day.

The Duchess’ connections with the Austro-Hungarian court were of great value in gaining access to excavation permits (especially as at the start she was almost totally ignorant of archaeological field methods). However it was her connection with another imperial court – that of Kaiser Wilhem II of Germany, that proved to be the most important. After 1912 the Kaiser became her principal sponsor and he fully and generously financed her excavations from then on. Greis tells the story of this unfolding relationship well, stressing through citations of letters and other documents, the role of archaeologists such as Montelius and Schuchardt in cementing the Kaiser’s support of the Duchess. However the Duchess’ career as an excavator was brought to an end by the Great War (the bulk of which she spent in Berlin) at the end of which she returned to Carniola to find her property confiscated by the new Kingdom of Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia. She died impoverished.

This sad end merely marks the beginning of the history of her collection, a story that includes high-level politics, fraud, sharp dealing and suicide. Suffice to say that the bulk of the collection came to the Peabody Museum during the 1930s. As Greis relates, the difficult history of the collection has meant that much important material (particularly elements of the extensive documentation kept by the Duchess – including illustrations and plans commissioned by her) has been lost. Nonetheless a