

Book Reviews

Anyang. Li Chi. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1977. xviii, 304 pp., 1 map, 20 color plates, 65 figures, notes, appendix, bibliography, index. \$25.00 (cloth).

Reviewed by GEORGE W. LOVELACE, *University of Hawaii*

The discovery and excavation of Anyang, site of the last capital of the Shang dynasty, by Chinese archaeologists in the 1920s and 1930s is certainly a major event in the history of East Asian archaeology. One of the first scientific archaeological endeavors conducted in China, it established the accuracy of the legendary accounts of the Shang. The remains, which provided evidence of an early script, a developed bronze technology, and a highly stratified society, demonstrated the "civilization" status of the culture and forced scholars to extend backward the limits of history in this part of the world. An important aspect is that this major excavation was conducted primarily by Chinese rather than foreign researchers. As such, it not only combined an interest in national heritage and classical Chinese studies with Western archaeological techniques, but also served as the training ground for countless Chinese archaeologists who have continued to conduct research both on the Mainland and on Taiwan in the succeeding decades.

Anyang is a personal yet scholarly account of the site's discovery, the early years of oracle bone collecting, 15 seasons of archaeological fieldwork between 1928 and 1937, and the continuing analysis of the remains and data during and following World War II. There is no one better equipped to chronicle the archaeological studies of Anyang than Li Chi. By most accounts, Li is today the dean of Chinese archaeology. Following a classical Chinese education and graduate studies in anthropology at Harvard (Ph.D. 1923), Li returned to China and became involved in the archaeological studies just beginning. His involvement with the Anyang excavations began in 1929, when he was asked to organize and

direct the Institute of History and Philology's second season of fieldwork. In following seasons, he served as either field director or overall coordinator. When the excavations were halted by the Sino-Japanese war and then by World War II, Li oversaw transportation of the main collections inland, where study was continued. He was also placed in special charge when the Anyang materials were later (1948-49) moved to Taiwan. Since 1950, he has continued to study and publish on various aspects of the collections (most notably, the ceramics) while at the same time encouraging the involvement of younger scholars.

The first two chapters of the book set the stage for a discussion of the Anyang excavations, describing the discovery of the oracle bones, the early scholarly collectors and collections, and the realization of the bones' value as written documents. Chapter 3 discusses the introduction of Western archaeological techniques and the important contributions made by foreign researchers (e.g., Andersson, Black, and Teilhard de Chardin) to the study of prehistoric China. Chapters 4 through 8 chronicle the excavations and later analyses, providing information on the changing excavation strategy and the major discoveries of each season. Li weaves a highly readable and informative account, outlining the contributions of the people involved, the realities of conducting archaeological research in China prior to and during World War II, and the organization of the continuing analysis on Taiwan since 1949. The final six chapters, which basically summarize the results of the years of analysis, consider architecture, economy, art, genealogy, ancestor worship, and physical anthropology.

The book is not without shortcomings. Very little new information is offered in the data summaries. Those readers interested in more detailed discussions of the remains and interpretations of late Shang society and culture will be disappointed. The bibliography, however, provides most of the publications and research which the 1928–1937 excavations generated. As the data presented are primarily restricted to those gained prior to 1949, research on Shang remains in the Anyang area conducted by archaeologists of the People's Republic of China is largely overlooked, diminishing any chances of an adequate overview of this important site. Additionally, there is a very traditional (perhaps dated) quality about the summaries and interpretations. The chapter dealing with the physical anthropology of the Yin-shang population parti-

cularly reflects this approach. With regard to this chapter, the primary studies conducted by Hsi-mei Young, while mentioned in the text, have inadvertently been left out of the bibliography. Modern scholars who prefer to emphasize the "pristine" qualities of Shang civilization may also be disturbed by Li's inclination to believe that the custom of human sacrifice, certain aspects of both bronze technology and the astrological sciences, and the wheeled carriage were all introduced to Shang China through contact with the early Sumerians (p. 254). As a final note, the book seems overpriced.

These points aside, this reviewer found *Anyang* informative from the standpoint of the history of modern archaeology in China. For those scholars interested in this topic, the book is recommended.

Modern Quaternary Research in Southeast Asia. Volume 2. Gert-Jan Bartstra and Willem Arnold Casparie, editors. Rotterdam: A. A. Balklema, 1976. 76 pp., 6 illustrations, 5 maps in pocket, bibliographies. Price not listed (cloth).

Reviewed by HALLETT HAMMATT, *Archaeological Research Center Hawaii*

This is the second volume in a continuing series which is an outgrowth of a 1974 symposium on modern Quaternary research in Indonesia; papers from this symposium were published as volume 1. Although the first two volumes consist only of papers concerned with Indonesia, the third volume contains research reports from many regions in Southeast Asia. It is a safe projection that this series, if it continues to appear regularly, will become the main publishing organ for interdisciplinary Quaternary scholars working in the region.

Although many periodicals are devoted to Quaternary research, few are regional in focus. Frequently, reports on a particular area are scattered in journals of various disciplines or in Quaternary journals with international focus. For this reason, this new series is welcomed.

Quaternary research in Southeast Asia is not entirely new. However, after a surge of work in the twenties and thirties by well-known scholars such as Movius, Weidenreich, Terra, and Ter Haar, mostly inspired by the discovery of fossil hominids, the ravages of war and political unrest virtually terminated all work in the area. In the years following, there has been a slow rebirth particularly inspired by the discovery of late

Pleistocene human occupation in Australia and New Guinea.

Modern studies have been largely confined to areas with fossil human remains, and much of the Quaternary sequence is based on faunal evidence (Movius, Hooijer). Except for the Solo region of Java, there is almost a complete lack of physical stratigraphy (this circumstance is not simply a reflection of R. F. Flint's main interest in glacial geology, which explains his coverage of Southeast Asia in a few paragraphs in his great synthesis, *Glacial and Pleistocene Geology*).

This collection of papers and the series in general indicates the sudden rebirth of research in an area of the world potentially of as great an interest as east, central, and south Africa. Six individual contributions are mainly in the form of preliminary reports on mid-1970s fieldwork mostly focused on the Solo region of Java. The first two papers—S. Santono, "Genesis of the Solo Terraces," and G-J. Bartstra, Basoeki, and S. Azis, "Solo Valley Research 1975 Java, Indonesia"—are concerned with stratigraphic and geomorphological investigations of the alluvial succession in the area of the discovery of Solo man. S. Santono reports the discovery of two high and early terraces predating the

Getas and Ngandong terraces. These terraces are placed in the late Pliocene or early Pleistocene. Information about their deposits is sketchy. The terrace maps show a major early change in drainage pattern in the early to mid-Pleistocene due to tectonic activity. Although no finalized sequence is presented by Bartstra, Bosoeki, and Azis, there is some variance with Santono's view of six uniform-height terraces in the Solo Valley. They indicate that the influence of many local factors and postdepositional modification have created a situation in which "nowhere in the Solo Valley can an obvious system of terraces at fixed heights be determined." They take a more particularistic stratigraphic approach. The content is partly review and evaluation of past research, partly descriptive, and certainly preliminary. There was some field collection of stone tools with inferred geologic context within the high terrace gravels of the Solo and notes on the vertebrate fossils by D. A. Hooijer. Even though the results are sketchy and preliminary, this research is highly encouraging in that it is not based on standard conceptions of alluvial and climatic cycles and of the European glacial chronology, as are so many older works dealing with this area. Little or nothing is known of Quaternary climatic change in Southeast Asia. Those cyclical patterns which may or not mesh with the classic European glacial sequence must be

approached inductively and paved with complete and well-dated local and regional physical and biostratigraphies.

This contribution is followed by a summary and review article by T. Jacob entitled "Man in Indonesia, Past, Present and Future," with an emphasis on fossil hominid classification, racial variation, and a traditional view of Pleistocene climatic change in Southeast Asia. This article is useful as a quick catalogue of references for those new to the area. R. W. Brandt follows with "The Hoabinhian of Sumatra: Some Remarks," which contains a short review of attempts to classify Hoabinhian stone tools and some suggestions for future research on this "techno-complex." The concluding article, by A. T. Clason, is a preliminary report on the animal remains from Holocene archaeological layers in Leang I Cave, South Sulawesi.

Although there is little attempt, except for the partial emphasis on the Solo area of Java, to maintain a common theme in this volume, and editing of certain articles is a bit rough, formalized themes and editorial policies will surely follow if this series continues. As it stands, this series, and particularly this volume, is an encouraging beginning for modern interdisciplinary and archaeologically relevant Quaternary research in Southeast Asia. The series will grow and improve with the increasing quantity and scope of the research which it reports.

The First Radiocarbon Dates from China, Revised and Enlarged. Noel Barnard. Monographs on Far Eastern History, no. 8. Canberra: Department of Far Eastern History, Research School of Pacific Studies, Institute of Advanced Studies, the Australian National University, 1975. 94 pp., 22 illustrations including maps and line drawings, bibliography. \$5.95 (paper).

Reviewed by RICHARD B. STAMPS, *Oakland University*

As the author states (xiii), this book is an expanded version of what, in its original form, was to appear as a table accompanied by a long and rather detailed caption in one chapter of the author's book, cowritten with Sato, *Metallurgical Remains of Ancient China*. The table was expanded, given a postscript, and then revised into its present form. As such, the report suffers from the problem of being an enlarged-revised edition; at times, it seems cluttered and confusing. For example, the paragraphs after the

samples on pp. 39, 40, 42, et passim are not indented, suggesting that they are a carryover from the previous page. One is also distracted by the numerous and long footnotes that take up to half a page (p. 19). Figure 3, although informative, is difficult to read and thus defeats its own purpose. Figure 4 is a nice chart, but does it really belong in *this* report? The interest sparked by the comment (note 6, p. 4) that a "full editorial statement regarding the highly questionable conduct of the two publishing parties is

recorded later under item 6 in the Bibliography" was dulled by the time I found the comment later, not under item 6 but instead under item 11 and then at the end of the bibliography. The additive character of the "revised and enlarged" version can also be seen in the front matter (v), where the author assumes that the reader understands "one sigma," but then he explains it on p. 10 in Figure 2, and again on p. 20.

I question whether this report is the proper forum for the author's observations, "offered in a mildly critical tone," in an attempt to change certain shortcomings in the dating methods used (p. 37). The criticisms are valid and possibly appreciated, but who is the audience for which the report was written—thirty decision-making archaeologists in China or, hopefully, a larger group of archaeologists, historians, and sinologists interested in the topic defined in the title? I agree that constructive comments should be directed to those in charge, and, as mentioned, it is good for interlaboratory coordination, but I question the length of the discussion (pp. 9, 12) for this audience.

The author considers himself in the humanities, and this orientation clearly emerges in his writings. Surprising, however, was the use of such loaded phrases as the "period of cultural

stagnation" in reference to the period of the Cultural Revolution.

The author makes a good point on the need for clear documentation (viii), which all of us should keep in mind. I also admire his honesty in stating his bias toward "the orthodox chronology of the Shang and Western Chou and of the independent nature of the discovery of metallurgy in China" (xiv, vi, ix).

The major contribution of the work is in bringing together a wealth of information and data on the radiocarbon dates from China. Helpful are the maps (figs. 7, 9, 10, and 22), which locate the sites and give the age determinations. The report would have been strengthened, however, by including the recent dates from Taiwan reported by K. C. Chang in 1974; with this material, the author's Figure 7 would look quite different.

I was disappointed that the report contains no concluding comments. The remarks at the end of the "third batch" (pp. 71-81) deal with metallurgy and seem to be more of a review of the author's *Metallurgical Remains* than an analysis of the dates themselves. In conclusion, the book, though generally hard to read because it does not flow smoothly from point to point, is still a treasure trove of information, detail, and ideas.

Book Notes

An Annotated Catalogue of Ainu Material. Kirsten Yumiko Taguchi. Lund, Sweden: Studentlitteratur, Scandinavian Institute of Asian Studies Monograph Series, 1974. 136 pp., appendices, index. \$7.00 (paper).

Taguchi's work briefly introduces the Ainu people of Northern Japan and lists various sources of research and archival materials available for study. These diverse materials include published and unpublished writings, tape recordings, and artifacts. The annotations for the published works are especially valuable. A list of various pictures of Ainu, by no means complete, is included. The volume will be useful to scholars concerned either with the peoples of East Asia or with former hunters and gatherers.

East Timor: Nationalism and Colonialism. Jill Jolliffe. St. Lucia, Queensland: University of Queensland Press, 1978. 362 pp., 4 maps, 35 plates, appendices, notes, index. \$21.95 (cloth).

This book concerns recent history in former Portuguese Timor. The discussion centers on the 1975 conflict and the Indonesian landing. Jolliffe is, among other professional activities, a political writer. The quoted price is according to information from the American distributor; a University of Queensland notice indicates an \$11.75 price.

Indonesia: Selected Documents on Colonialism and Nationalism, 1830-1942. Chr. L. M. Penders, editor and translator. St. Lucia, Queensland:

University of Queensland Press, 1977. 367 pp., glossary, index. \$22.50 (cloth), \$11.99 (paper).

Penders has translated from Dutch and Indonesian selected archival materials of use to students of history, political science, and anthropology.

China in Antiquity. Henri Maspero. Translation by Frank A. Kierman, Jr.; introduction by D. C. Twitchett. Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1978. xxxii + 527 pp., 3 maps, notes, appendices, general bibliography, bibliography of the writings of Henri Maspero, index. \$25.00 (cloth).

This book is an English translation of the posthumously revised and published second edition (1955) of Henri Maspero's classic study of early Chinese history and society, *La Chine antique* (first published in 1927). Maspero, a scholar of enormous breadth and dedication, was one of the leading figures in the early twentieth-century French school of sinology. Though more recent scholarship has rendered many of the conclusions problematic, the author's views and contributions to the study of early China, summarized in this volume, are important to an understanding of the foundations and growth of sinological studies. The translation is highly readable while striving to retain much of the style of the original French version. The book should be attractive to English-speaking scholars unable to read French or in need of a translation for reference purposes.

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