Kimsbury Camp or Painswick Beacon in the Cotswolds, Gloucestershire, UK. Although the name may be ambiguous, this site is clearly an Iron Age hillfort. The low, raking winter light emphasises the massive defensive earthwork ramparts and ditches characteristic of these well-developed later hillforts of the fifth and fourth centuries BC. Enclosing 6.5ha (almost 20 acres) a sizable population could have lived inside the fort but later activity (the low-light highlights evidence of stone quarries) and now the golf course, mean that much of this evidence will have been destroyed. The site is a stark reminder that many of our earlier landscapes are born out of conflict, in this case 2500 years ago, but they remain significant features in the modern landscape. Photograph: 3 January 2009, RHB-UK-03-01-2009-2162 (© Robert Bewley).

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The fifth-century AD keyhole-shaped Daisen Ryo (upper) and Kami Ishitsu Misanzai (lower) tombs, thought to belong to Emperors Nintoku and Richu respectively, Mozu tomb group, Osaka, Japan. The total length of the Daisen Ryo tomb is 850m. See review article by Richard Pearson in this issue. (Photograph © Osaka Furitsu. Courtesy of the Sakai City Museum; first printed in Osaka Furitsu Chikatsu Asuka Hakubutsukan. 2006. Ojin dai o no jidai [The period of the great king Ojin]: *86).*

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EDITORIAL

The G20 meeting in London raised expectations of large-scale government investment designed to get the global economy moving – and let's hope it does. Meanwhile the priority is to save existing jobs, create new ones and spend priming money wisely. We should insist that archaeology scores on all counts. We have ways of valuing the historic environment and making it safe for the future undreamt of 50 years ago. These rely not on gifted amateurs, but on a new kind of person – just as dedicated, just as inspired, but diligent and paid. We need to make sure this person survives. The government mission now should be to rescue the commercial archaeology profession by making sure it has something to do.

This should be attractive and affordable. In every country there are a thousand 'heritage' tasks which are only waiting for a political breather to get them done – and which in turn will streamline procedures when market confidence returns. To speak only of Britain, we have 300 historic towns each sitting on a heap of what the French would call 'the archives of the earth', only a handful of which already have their deposit model or their urban archaeological data base. There are tracts of countryside where roads and house-building is destined to come. Why not instigate predictive surveys as Glen Foard did for Northamptonshire, all those years ago? Why don't we get ahead of planning for once, instead of responding to it, too little, too late, and with endemic research frustration?

It isn't only mapping our resources for the better avoidance of damage that demands our attention. From Kent to Shetland there are places of outstanding natural beauty where outstanding archaeology also survives. But you wouldn't know it. There are a thousand guides to write, paths to lay, signs to erect. And while we are about it, why not invest in a few large-scale research excavations that might help us make sense of the million fragments unearthed by the industry each year? It would certainly be good to know what a Bronze Age harbour or an Anglo-Saxon temple looked like. And instead of nibbling it to death over 30 years, let's strip it bare in one glorious job-saving gesture. We have heard of mending the roof while the sun is shining – well since the weather is poor, why not decorate the living-room and tidy the desk?

Emerging in the earliest days of archaeology's trajectory towards the market place was that purest form of the archaeology professional, the independent specialist. These redoubtable and passionate enthusiasts formed a kind of cottage industry, working from home, with an attic full of mortaria or brooches, or a garage stacked high with animal bones, while colleagues from the academy and the industry came and went, bringing specimens and cheques. In some ways these were the only true experts that archaeology has; in another they were right at the end of the financial food chain. So when the industry stumbles, expertise is the first thing to go.

These thoughts were prompted by the sad news of the early death of Alan Vince, a prominent figure in medieval Britain and its leading pottery specialist (see In Memoriam, online at http://antiquity.ac.uk/memoriam/memoriam.html). In any other country Alan would have been in a research institute or a university, not just publishing pottery but using it to prepare the books on urbanism and the early state that we all knew he should write. But in the nation of shopkeepers you are defined by what you can sell, and in Alan's case this

was the pottery report – pottery identified and explained, reports expeditiously delivered, pottery *du jour* like new laid eggs. But while an egg is only for breakfast, a pottery report nourishes a more permanent and broader kind of being. Alan's big book on how the English town came about never got written, and we are the losers.

☙ Readers will know something of the plans in the Emirates to found giant Western style museums well furnished with objects from Western antiquity. This focus has always made me a little uneasy, and it was good to see what Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi, director of the Sharjah Biennial since 2002 had to say in *The Art Newspaper* (No. 200 March 2009: 6). *'People don't come to Sharjah to see something that they've already seen in Venice'* she remarked, because unlike her peers she is laying plans to build a new museum which *'will be independent and will not link up with a foreign institution.'* As *TAN* correspondent Charmaine Picard comments: *'while neighbouring emirates are building massive art complexes, most notably the branded franchises of the Louvre and the Guggenheim in Abu Dhabi and the Universal Museum in Dubai, the Sharjah Art Museum has quietly been exhibiting and collecting art since 1997.'*

It seems likely that for the art-loving public archaeology, in the form of 'antiquities' – and Western antiquities in particular – are included under the general heading of art, and equally likely that the large purchasing power of the Emirates will affect the way that they are bought and sold. Plenty of archaeologists believe that antiquities should never be bought and sold at all; and for many of us they are not just art, they are *better than art*, since they store experience as well as transmitting emotion. But leaving that philosophical twizzler aside for the present, one hopes that the new museums in Sharjah and elsewhere will remember that many visitors come to a country mainly to acquaint themselves with the past of that region. The Gulf features one of the oldest seaways on earth, as a digital rifle through *Antiquity*'s online archive will show. What a fine mission it is to explore this ancient maritime space – and what a splendid opportunity to do so is presented by the current gigantic investment in museums on its shores.

☙ Edinburgh University archaeology students have taken me to task for implying that they no longer exist. *'Archaeology at Edinburgh is indeed alive'*, they say. *'We are a thriving community which both staff and students participate in'*. I'm delighted that the staff and students thrive, happy to be wrong and like the rest of the archaeology community I want them to thrive even more. For this they need, in my opinion, a professor of prehistory, and the Abercromby professor in particular (for details see http://dwharding.com/abercromby.html). It is an additional matter of anxiety that Scotland, which has some of the most exciting prehistory on earth, has no professor of Scottish prehistory in any of its universities.

The feisty committee members of the Edinburgh University archaeology society continue: *'the other points you raise are a matter for the university and not for us'*. Not so. The 'other' points I raised are the only points I raised, namely that archaeology at Edinburgh, as elsewhere, needs prehistory, and it needs to be assessed in the court of archaeological opinion with all the other places that profess prehistory. This is certainly a matter for its students and for archaeologists everywhere.

Edinburgh has created a School of Classics, History and Archaeology, but prehistory is not congruent with archaeology; it is its own subject with an agenda and subject area that goes beyond those of the three other partners and underpins all of them. To study any aspect

Trevor Watkins, Emeritus Professor in the School of History, Classics and Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh, during the 2009 Rhind Lectures 'New Light on the Dawn: a new perspective on the Neolithic Revolution', 3–5 April 2009 (photograph by Simon Gilmour, Director of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland).

of the past without its prehistory is like doing zoology without the origin of species. The remedy is simple. Edinburgh should advertise for the best prehistorian practising prehistory in the world today and invite them to fill one of the world's most illustrious chairs in prehistory, now vacant.

With perfect timing, a lucky few in the first week of April heard a stunning set of Rhind Lectures from Trevor Watkins, who explored the origins of social, symbolic and settled life in the Epipalaeolithic with an inspirational clarity. While such speakers are available in the fair city of Edinburgh, its potential role as a world leader in prehistory can never be doubted (find these lectures on the web at http://www.socantscot.org/article.asp?aid=257).

☙ Congratulations to Mitch Allen's enterprising Left Coast Press for launching *Ethnoarchaeology* No. 1, with articles by Michael Schiffer, James Skibo and others. Edited by Lisa Frink and Kathryn Weedman Arthur, the journal aims to provide an intellectual platform for new ideas, methods and results coming from ethnoarchaeological approaches to anthropological research (http://lcoastpress.com/journal.php?id=9). Congratulations too to the Prehistoric Society on the launch of its Research Papers. These are intended to enhance the Proceedings (*PPS*, ongoing since 1935) by providing volumes in which multiple authors address key research questions. First in is *Land & People, papers in memory of John G. Evans* (edited by Michael J. Allen, Niall Sharples & Terry O'Connor), tribute to a leading environmentalist, and this will be followed by *Materialitas; shaping stone, carving identity* (edited by Blaze O'Connor, Gabriel Cooney & John Chapman). This intriguing collection promises to explore the power and effect of stone and people's encounters with its physical properties. May they be sweet and rousing.

☙ Your editor is attempting to bring order into *Antiquity*'s 82 year-old archive and would be most grateful for knowledge of any letters, records or anecdotes relating to the journal and its editors. According to his diary (in the library of St John's College, Cambridge), Glyn Daniel was able to reach acceptable standards of gastronomy throughout the 1950s. On 15 May 1957 he was dining at Oskar Davidsen's restaurant in Copenhagen waiting for his first course of asparagus and Madeira sauce. *'His menu is really more distinguished and exciting every time I come here'*, says Glyn. A little later: *'A bottle or two of Vouvray Sec, or rather Coteaux de Laye, followed by a Bougeuil followed by a Champagne Brut really took my heart as Editor of ANTIQUITY'*. But it was not all cakes and ale. A quoted review of the last *Animal Vegetable and Mineral* on 18 March 1959 was slighting: *'we had reached the remarkable situation in which the objects were much more interesting than the people. Of this the people seemed unaware'*

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French archaeologists respond to government in the traditional way on the Boulevard Saint-Michel, 10 February 2009. Our correspondent Nathan Schlanger writes: 'Double whammy for French archaeology: besides the ill-conceived reforms undermining research and higher-education institutions in France, a recently voted economic relaunch plan threatens to sweep aside legal and international obligations in matters of heritage protection.' *(Photograph Nathan Schlanger; see also http://www.liberation.fr/societe/0101318386-les-enseignants-chercheurs-a-nouveau-dans-la-rue).*

(Maurice Wiggins in the *Sunday Times* 22 March 1959). Subsequent TV producers have apparently taken this comment to heart: the *things* have disappeared almost completely and the programmes are now mainly about the people making them.

And talking of Oscars, the ANTIQUITY prize for 2008 (£1000) was won by Shadreck Chirikure and Innocent Pikirayi for 'Inside and outside the dry stone walls: revisiting the material culture of Great Zimbabwe'. The BEN CULLEN prize (£500) was won by Andrew Howard, A.G. Brown, C.J. Carey, K. Challis, L.P. Cooper, M. Kincey and P. Toms for their paper 'Archaeological resource modelling in temperate river valleys: a case study from the Trent Valley, UK'. This is a good moment to thank Ian Gollup for the annual donation he has made in commemoration of his friend. Henceforward the money for this prize will by found by *Antiquity*, and we will award it to the runner-up for best article (whatever their age), although we will keep the name. The FRONTISPIECE prize (£500) for the best photograph was won by David Kennedy and Bob Bewley for their aerial portrait of the Neolithic village at Ba'ja in Jordan. These frontispieces are hugely assisting our mission to improve archaeological photography and we welcome many more of them – perhaps especially of archaeologists, excavations and objects – to complement these masterpieces from the air.

Martin Carver
York, 1 June 2009

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