

# What are you looking at?



Editors:

Jaime Almansa Sánchez & Elena Papagiannopoulou



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*Online Journal in Public Archaeology*

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## REVIEWS



Doug ROCKS-MACQUEEEN

### **Breaking New Ground: How Professional Archaeology Works**

[Kenneth Aitchison]

Landaward Research  
2013 Kindle Edition

The first thing a reader will notice about this book is the lack of a hardcopy or softcopy editions. That is because the author, Kenneth Aitchison, has forgone the slower process of print publication and has jumped into the exciting new world of digital publishing. This piece is completely digital and can be downloaded from Amazon currently at £2.87. Though do not let the medium or the price lead you to believe that it is not a quality publication because it is.

The book covers the development of commercial archaeology in the UK, with specific emphasis on the time period between 1990 and 2010. As the author describes, it is an examination of contemporary history or at least some of the readers' contemporary history—many of the current batches of undergraduate archaeology students in the UK will have been born after 1990, the start date for the contemporary history of the book. However, it is these students who should read this book, as they will be the ones who can get the most value out of it.

After his first chapter, which introduces the book, the author devotes a whole chapter to reviewing the history of archaeology in the UK, leading up to 1990. It plots out the development of Rescue Archaeology and RESCUE. We learn about the first archaeologists with the Council for British

Archaeology and how the UK tried to come to grips with the massive loss of cultural heritage because of post-war development—an element of history that is unfortunately lacking in most archaeology programs in UK Universities.

Moreover, because the book covers more contemporary history, it will help new archaeologists understand the current system. The final two chapters of the four-chapter book, covering the periods of 1990-2007 and 2008-2010, are especially important for students to pay attention to as they review Rescue Archaeology in its more recent form: polluter pays Commercial Archaeology. Each chapter has a series of case studies that look at the wider themes on a local level. These case studies cover many of the more famous or infamous Archaeology projects, such as the Rose Theatre or Heathrow Terminal 5. These are projects that new diggers will hear about when entering the profession, but that most will be clueless about. While there is no end to the number of case studies, one could say there is a limit to one's patience to read about them all, which the author acknowledges by picking some of the more important ones to focus on and reviewing them.

Some of the case studies look at individual organisations that are involved in Commercial Archaeology. It is very helpful for those who might be employed by these organisations to understand how they were formed and their remits. Though these case studies tend to focus on the larger commercial units, such as Oxford, Wessex, York Archaeological Trust and Museum of London Archaeology, case studies of smaller units or self-employed archaeologists are left out. That being said, no book can cover everyone's needs and the case studies do cover the major employers in Commercial Archaeology.

As someone who has only joined Commercial Archaeology in the UK in the last few years, I found this book incredibly insightful. It fills in the blanks for many of the projects and organisations I have heard about in the site hut. I would personally recommend anyone considering undertaking work in UK Commercial Archaeology to read it, as it will give you a better understanding of why Commercial Archaeology is undertaken and how the system has developed. In my personal opinion, it should be required reading in all Archaeology Courses in the UK.

## **BLOG REVIEWS UNTIL VOL 4**

Almansa-Sánchez, J. Audiences... A review of the CASPAR session at TAG-on-Sea 2013 (Bournemouth University) - 11 February

Papagiannopoulou, E. Multivocality and Technology: Review of a lecture at the Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies at Athens (IIHSA) - 14 February

Touloupa, S. A 30-year retrospect of the Greek Ministry of Culture educational programmes: an insider's insight - 25 April

Touloupa, S. When Public Archaeology is conflated with Cultural Tourism - 7 July

Ion, A. Some thoughts on the 20th European Association of Archaeologists Conference in Istanbul - 26 September

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<http://arqueologiapublica.blogspot.com/> - Reviews

## HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

AP: Online Journal in Public Archaeology welcomes original contributions that match the aims of the journal and have not been previously published anywhere else, or are not on the way to be published elsewhere. Being online and free can be understood as a sign of quality degradation, but this is not a barrier. It is just a way to adapt from the very first moment to the new panorama in research, where the Internet is the main vehicle for transmission, and more specifically in our field, where the prices of journals are unaffordable for any researcher that is not linked to a research institution. We try to give the widest publicity to the journal, to make it Public.

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Full articles - We will only accept papers of less than 10.000 words (including notes and references) with a maximum of 10 figures (tables are counted as text).

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Reviews – We will only accept papers of less than 2.000 words (including notes and references) with 1 figure, that in case of book reviews will be the cover. In other events (conferences, film festivals...), the figure must clearly reflect the event.

#### Presentation:

To follow the indications of Public Archaeology ([www.maney.co.uk/journals/pua](http://www.maney.co.uk/journals/pua)), and aiming to standardize the procedures from our side, all material should follow the MHRA Style Guide, which can be freely downloaded from:

<http://www.mhra.org.uk/Publications/Books/StyleGuide/index.html>

#### Figures:

The quality of figures should be good enough to be clear in a PDF file. There will not be any weird rule for the submission of the files. Just submit the figures in any readable format (able to be edited in Adobe Photoshop ®). Every camera, software of scanner can make good quality images, so just submit originals. If any figure is subject to copyright it will be essential to attach a written permission from the holder of the rights. To avoid any inconvenience, we encourage the publication of self-owned images. In any case, the author will be responsible for any violation of copyright issues.

#### Notes and references:

It is preferable to avoid footnotes in the text, just quote or explain in brackets.

For references use Harvard style (Author 2010: 322) followed by a final bibliography. For example: 'according to Author (2010: 123) Public Archaeology can be...' or 'it has been pointed out (Author 2010: 13) that...' etc.

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Where an author has several publications from the same year, distinguish them with 'lower-case' letters (Author 2010a, 2010b). Do not use *ibid*.

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### *Journal article*

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### *Book*

Demoule, J. P. 2007. *L'archéologie préventive dans le monde. Apports de l'archéologie préventive a la connaissance du passé*. Paris, La Découverte.

### *Edited book*

Durbin, G. (ed.) 1996. *Developing Museum Exhibitions for Lifelong Learning*. London, GEM.

### *Section in book*

McEwan, C., Silva, M. I. and Hudson, Ch. 2006. Using the past to forge the future: the genesis of the community site museum at Aguablanca, Ecuador. In H. Silverman (ed.), *Archaeological site museums in Latin America*. Gainesville, University of Florida Press, 187-216.

### *Internet reference*

United Nations 1992, *Agenda 21*. Retrieved on 29 January 2010 from WWW [[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21/res\\_agenda21\\_00.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21/res_agenda21_00.shtml)]

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In the case of any other kind of reference not mentioned here, please contact the editor.

Once the article has been received:

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Work reports and reviews will not need to pass the peer-review process, but will be commented by the editor.

We will be publishing one volume per year (first trimester) and although we are willing to receive papers the whole year, full articles for next-year's volume should be sent before October in order to complete the process with time.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the editor at: [jasarqueologia@gmail.com](mailto:jasarqueologia@gmail.com)

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Thank you very much:

Vicky Papagiannopoulou  
Giannis Papagiannopoulos  
Alipio Sánchez  
M<sup>a</sup> Ángeles Sánchez  
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Cover Image: *What are you looking at?* (CAC)

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ISSN: 2171-6315

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