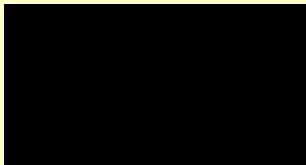
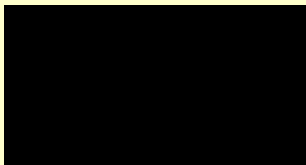


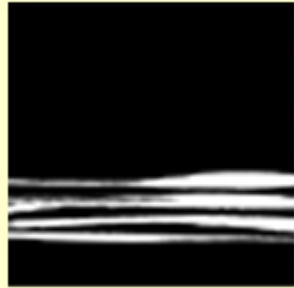
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Newsletter

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGISTS INC.

Issue Editor: [David Mott](#)

Number 106, October 2005

Email: newsletter@aacai.com.au

url: www.aacai.com.au/newsletter/

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Editorial

David Mott



Welcome to the 106th edition of the *AACAI Newsletter*.

Please consider making a contribution if you feel it will be of interest to members. We are

Workshop Series Renewal Form 

always interested to hear news of changes relevant to our members in each State and Territory. Job vacancies, conferences, lectures, workshops, seminars, legislative updates or comments, reports from State Executive Committees and short reports of interesting projects are just some of the topics that the newsletter is interested in covering.

Contributions can be made to either directly to [me](#) or to newsletter@accai.com.au.



Zhoukoudian: The Case of Peking Man and the Missing Millions

Tessa Corkill



If you Google Zhoukoudian, you are confronted with 22,700 references in 0.31 seconds; if you do the same for Peking Man there are more than twice as many - and those are just the ones in English!

But if you visit the actual site, as we did in April of this year, you are likely to find yourself the only tourist. Why is this so?

It is widely known that Dragon Bone Hill, near Zhoukoudian was, to quote the 1975 Mao era booklet, "the cave home of Peking Man" (Chia 1975:1). [Peter Brown's Australian & Asian Palaeoanthropology website](#) says, somewhat equivocally, that it is "arguably along with Olduvai Gorge one of the most widely known hominid localities on the planet". And in 1987 it was included on UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage list ([UNESCO website](#)).

Figure 1. Reconstructed skull of Peking Man.

Although Zhoukoudian is most famous for the early to mid-twentieth century discoveries of this Middle Pleistocene hominid, variously known as *Homo erectus*, *Pithecanthropus erectus* and *Sinanthropus pekinensis*, many remains of *Homo sapiens* (or *Homo sapiens sapiens* for the "splitters", rather than the "lumpers") have also been found in the sites that make up the complex, plus numerous artefacts manufactured by both species, ash from early fires, animal bones and plant remains (Chia 1978; [UNESCO website](#)).

The discovery of Peking Man contributed to the debate that had continued since the discovery of Java man in the 19th century and according to the [UNESCO website](#) "stands as an everlasting monument in the history of paleoanthropological research". After fossilized teeth and part of a mandible were recovered during

excavations between 1923 and 1928, and identified as belonging to a hominid genus not yet described, a well-preserved skull-cap was discovered in 1929 by Chinese workers and scientists (Chia 1975:11-12). Between that time and the 1937 start of "War of Resistance against Japan" (Chia 1975:13), many more fossil remains and artefacts were found.

Unfortunately all the hominid fossils were lost during WWII, supposedly "during an attempt to send them to the United States" ([Peter Brown's Australian & Asian Palaeoanthropology website](#)). Luckily detailed casts had been made and survived, which enabled studies of these remains to continue when research recommenced after the liberation of Peking in 1949. In addition, further fossilized remains were found during excavations between 1949 and the present (Chia 1975:13-17; [CCTV.com](#); [Peter Brown's Australian & Asian Palaeoanthropology website](#)). And to quote the [UNESCO website](#):

Since the systematic excavation of the Peking Man Site in 1927, more than 20 valuable localities have been discovered and excavated ... To speak on the grand scale of excavation, there is no such undertaking ever in the history of excavation in the world.

During the 1950s a display centre was constructed on-site. This was expanded into an exhibition hall in 1972 "to assist the broad masses in their study of dialectical and historical materialism" (Chia 1975:14). Today, although the museum has been somewhat modernised and the political messages may seem less ideologically driven, it still has a somewhat "old-fashioned" feel (my emphasis): for example fossil and artefact labelling have little if any description of context. To be fair though, there are excellent biographical details of some early researchers and their involvement. But even these are very selective, with, perhaps understandably, a greater emphasis on Chinese archaeologists and palaeoanthropologists than the many Europeans and North Americans who were involved in the pre-World War II excavations. Chia (1975:13) states that "although all these finds were made at sites around Peking, since China was then ruled by a reactionary government, Chinese personnel were excluded from research work on human fossils."

Zhoukoudian is located 42km southwest of Beijing, at the foot of the Western Hills, where limestone strata are dissected by fast running streams and riddled with caves. The fossil remains were found in a number of what are referred to by researchers as "Localities", in strata that measure over 40m in depth. In all, human or animal fossils or cultural relics were found at 26 localities around Zhoukoudian.



Figure 2. Stratigraphy at Locality 1 (Peking Man Cave, now collapsed).

Thirteen stratigraphic layers were interpreted. At Locality 1 (the Peking Man Cave), Layer 10 (the lowest one containing *Homo erectus* fossils) is dated to 500,000 years ago, and Layer 3 (the

upper-most Peking Man layer) is dated to around 250,000 years ago ([UNESCO website](#)). Note that [Peter Brown's Australian & Asian Palaeoanthropology website](#) says it was Layer 9 and the notice board in front of Locality 1 says it was Layer 11.

A number of the Localities are situated in the area that is open to the public. Well made pathways wind around the hillside and there are classy new stainless steel noticeboards, with quite detailed information in Chinese and English, near the most important Localities. Standing next to an exposed 30 odd metre section of the excavated strata is an awesome experience, especially for someone used to excavations in the Sydney area, which are rarely more than 50cm deep!



Figure 3. Dancers at museum.

But despite the fact that this site is so famous, and that there were thousands of Chinese and overseas visitors at nearly all of the many archaeological sites we visited in April, we seemed to be the only tourists on the hillside. Similarly at the museum, there was only a group of dancers entertaining the staff in the courtyard, in front of a giant bronze sculpture of Peking Man's reconstructed head.

Why this is so I'm not sure. Certainly it's not as spectacular as the Xian Terracotta Warriors (see [Corkill AACAI Newsletter June 2005](#)), or other Beijing region sites such as the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace and the Great Wall. But I certainly found it fascinating and well worth a visit. It's also easy to get to from downtown Beijing, by bus, train or car - though Anna Wong, of Berkeley University, USA, seems to have walked most of the way:

I brushed away some drops of sweat that was dripping over my eye. Directly across the railroad was a gate leading to the top of mountain, and nothing more. I have reached my destination. This was where the anthropologists first found the remains of *Homo Sapiens* [sic]. This was where the famous Peking Man had once lived. It was three o'clock in the afternoon - six hours since I started my journey, unknown of the length - I have found *Zhou Kou Dian* ([Berkeley website](#)).

Peking Man is so famous an adventure movie was named after him in the 1970s. I haven't seen it so I've no idea of the story line or the quality, or even who played the man himself.



Figure 4. The Mighty Peking Man.

And he's also featured as the subject of a conspiracy theory. Writing

in 1981 of the "supposed" WWII disappearance of the fossil skeletal material, "Creationist author Malcolm Bowden discusses a curious episode in the history of Peking Man, and argues that scientists committed a colossal fraud by hiding the existence of ten skeletons" ([Talkorigins website](#)). Be that as it may, there is obviously a lot of interest out there somewhere. But nowhere better to cogitate on it than at the site itself.

References

Chia Lan-po. 1975. *The Cave Home of Peking Man*. Peking: Foreign Language Press



AACAI Workshop: Cultural Heritage Legislation on 22-23 October 2005

This is an intensive two day workshop examining Australian cultural heritage legislation. The workshop will cover international and federal legislation, but with a focus on Queensland legislation. Best practice models of CHMP processes and alternative agreements will also be discussed. The presentations will be in non-technical language and will use case studies from many parts of Australia. The workshop is hosted by the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Inc. Queensland Chapter.

Speaker: The workshop will be led by Dr Luke Godwin and Scott L'Oste-Brown of Central Queensland Cultural Heritage Management Pty Ltd. Luke has worked as a cultural heritage consultant and in state government agencies in New South Wales and Queensland as a cultural heritage officer. He has published widely on cultural heritage management issues in Queensland. Currently, he is providing technical advice on cultural heritage management issues to many Aboriginal organisations and development proponents throughout Queensland. Scott also worked in Queensland state government agencies before joining CQCHM. He has published widely on Queensland cultural heritage issues, including two major contributions on the Taroom Aboriginal Reserve and Bowen Basin Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Project published in the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency's Cultural Heritage Monograph Series.

Registration: Registration for this Workshop is now open. A full program, registration form and venue details are available at: www.aacai.com.au/workshops/qld_legislation.html



Remind to Send News Items for Inclusion in the Monthly Newsletter

Please don't forget to send in any items of news that might be relevant to members. These could include short reports of interesting projects, job and consultancy adverts, conference and seminar notices or interesting snippets of news. Many members have said how they find it interesting just to hear the range and types of projects that members are undertaking - so even if you don't have much time a series of dot points on recent projects keeps your colleagues in touch with what you are doing.



Employment Opportunities

Position: Historical Heritage Consultant, Newcastle

Description: Our client is a leading specialist environmental consultancy with an enviable reputation. Their professional and positive work environment is enjoyed by a team of 30+ people. Due to their expansion they are currently looking for an outstanding historical archaeologist consultant to join their heritage team located in the Newcastle area. The successful candidate for this opportunity will be able to demonstrate the following skills/experience: 5+ years experience in a similar role in government or private sector; demonstrated experience in leading historic archaeological site assessment, excavation and monitoring; a proven track record with timely project delivery; experience of conducting historic research and historic archaeological assessments; have the necessary qualifications and experience to obtain a permit from the heritage office to run a dig; and demonstrated business development skills and/or an established network of personal client contacts within NSW although not essential will also be highly regarded.

Closing Date: 7 October 2005

More Information: [Kay Farnell](#) or (02) 9966 0969

Position: Consulting Archaeologist (Level 2 - Project Manager & Technical Expert), Biosis Research Pty Ltd

Description: You are a highly motivated individual willing to participate fully in a team environment. You will be working with our senior consultants and will have sufficient archaeological field skills and experience in archaeology to provide cultural heritage advice and guidance to our clients. Your responsibilities will include participating in, conducting and managing projects, and the production of technical reports. Additional duties will include proposal writing, marketing and maintaining a profile in the professional community as an archaeologist and cultural heritage practitioner. Applicants should have appropriate tertiary qualifications and approximately five years field experience in archaeology. Previous

consulting experience is not essential, but is highly desirable. A background in applying current heritage legislation, previous archaeological fieldwork experience in pre- and post-contact Australian archaeology, a history of managing projects and well-developed team skills (including excellent communication) will be well regarded. Competency with computers and a current manual driver's licence are a must, along with a keen desire to be part of a team of specialist consultants. Remuneration package is negotiable based upon experience and will include a profit-share component. We will offer a starting salary commensurate with the level of experience of the successful applicant.

Closing Date: 17 October 2005

More Information: [Jayna Ingram](#)



AACAI Workshops & Meetings

Date: 22-23 October 2005

State: QLD - Brisbane

Title: *Introduction to Australian Cultural Heritage Legislation*

Who: Luke Godwin and Scott L'Oste-Brown, Central Queensland Cultural Heritage Management Pty Ltd

Time & Place: 8am-5pm, TBA

Details: www.aacai.com.au/workshops/



Seminars

Date: 6 October 2005

State: SA - Adelaide

Title: *Challenging the Concept of the National Museum: The Smithsonian's New Museum of the American Indian*

Who: Claire Smith

Time & Place: 3-5pm, Room SSS 007, Social Sciences South Courtyard (bottom floor, western side of courtyard, closest parking - Car Park 4)

Series: Flinders University Department of Archaeology Seminars

Details: ehlt.flinders.edu.au/archaeology/resources/seminar.php

Date: 6 October 2005

State: NSW - Sydney

Title: *A New Geoarchaeological Approach to Open Site Survey: Some Insights from 10 years of Research in Western NSW*

Who: Trish Fanning

Time & Place: 6:30pm, Benledi Room, Glebe Library (Cnr Glebe Point Road & Wigram Road, Glebe, Sydney)

Series: AACAI NSW/ACT Chapter Occasional Meetings

Details: www.aacai.com.au/chapters/nsw/

Date: 7 October 2005

State: ACT - Canberra

Title: *Reconstructing Niah: Contextualising the Faunal Record and Getting Inside the Head of Tom Harrison*

Who: Katherine Szabó & Phil Piper

Time & Place: 3pm, MCC Theatre 6 (Manning Clark Centre), Australian National University

Series: Centre for Archaeological Research, Australian National University

Details: car.anu.edu.au/seminars05.php

Date: 7 October 2005

State: QLD - Brisbane

Title: *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls: The Neural Ecology of Figurine Use in the Formative Copan Community*

Who: Daniel Cummins

Time & Place: 3-4pm, Room 211, Gordon Greenwood Building (#32), St Lucia Campus ([map](#)), University of Queensland

Series: Working Papers in Archaeology

Details: www.atsis.uq.edu.au/workingpapers.html

Date: 7 October 2005

State: NSW - Sydney

Title: *Cold Adaptations in Australian Aborigines*

Who: Ian Gilligan

Time & Place: 3:15pm, Quad Latin Room S224 (ground floor, down a short corridor in the corner of the Quad which has the tree)

Series: Prehistoric and Historical Archaeology Seminar Series

Details: [Martin Gibbs](#)

Date: 13 October 2005

State: SA - Adelaide

Title: *Portonian Respectability: Approaches and Attitudes to the Working-Class Display of Respectability Through Material Culture in Port Adelaide*

Who: Susan Briggs

Time & Place: 3-5pm, Room SSS 007, Social Sciences South Courtyard (bottom floor, western side of

courtyard, closest parking - Car Park 4)

Series: Flinders University Department of Archaeology Seminars

Details: ehlt.flinders.edu.au/archaeology/resources/seminar.php

Date: 14 October 2005

State: ACT - Canberra

Title: *Angkor Urbanism, Water and Landscape: The Research of the Greater Angkor Project*

Who: Roland Fletcher

Time & Place: 3pm, MCC Theatre 6 (Manning Clark Centre), Australian National University

Series: Centre for Archaeological Research, Australian National University

Details: car.anu.edu.au/seminars05.php

Date: 14 October 2005

State: QLD - Brisbane

Title: *Mill Point Archaeological Project: 2005 Excavations*

Who: Karen Murphy

Time & Place: 3-4pm, Room 213, Gordon Greenwood Building (#32), St Lucia Campus ([map](#)), University of Queensland

Series: Working Papers in Archaeology

Details: www.atsis.uq.edu.au/workingpapers.html

Date: 14 October 2005

State: NSW - Sydney

Title: *From Radar Imaging to Rice Husks: New Techniques for Mapping the Decline of Urbanism at Angkor, Cambodia*

Who: Damian Evans

Time & Place: 3:15pm, Quad Latin Room S224 (ground floor, down a short corridor in the corner of the Quad which has the tree)

Series: Prehistoric and Historical Archaeology Seminar Series

Details: [Martin Gibbs](#)

Date: 20 October 2005

State: SA - Adelaide

Title: *The Archaeology of the Russian Scare*

Who: Martin Wimmer

Time & Place: 3-5pm, Room SSS 007, Social Sciences South Courtyard (bottom floor, western side of courtyard, closest parking - Car Park 4)

Series: Flinders University Department of Archaeology Seminars

Details: ehlt.flinders.edu.au/archaeology/resources/seminar.php

Date: 20 October 2005
State: NSW - Armidale
Title: *Valuing History, Huts and Heritage: Cultural Heritage in National Parks*
Who: Piers Thomas & Christine Lehmann
Time & Place: 12pm, SHES2 or 3, School of Human and Environmental Sciences, University of New England
Series: Heritage Futures Research Centre
Details: [Andrew Piper](#)

Date: 21 October 2005
State: ACT - Canberra
Title: *Archaeology, Claimant Connection to Sites, and Native Title: Employment of Successful Categories of Data with Specific Comments on Glass Artefacts*
Who: Peter Veth
Time & Place: 3pm, MCC Theatre 6 (Manning Clark Centre), Australian National University
Series: Centre for Archaeological Research, Australian National University
Details: car.anu.edu.au/seminars05.php

Date: 21 October 2005
State: QLD - Brisbane
Title: *Backed Artefact Residue Analysis*
Who: Gail Robertson
Time & Place: 3-4pm, Room 213, Gordon Greenwood Building (#32), St Lucia Campus ([map](#)), University of Queensland
Series: Working Papers in Archaeology
Details: www.atsis.uq.edu.au/workingpapers.html

Date: 21 October 2005
State: NSW - Sydney
Title: *The Archaeology of Defence - Australian Bunkers, Tunnels and Tank Traps*
Who: Tim Owen
Time & Place: 3:15pm, Quad Latin Room S224 (ground floor, down a short corridor in the corner of the Quad which has the tree)
Series: Prehistoric and Historical Archaeology Seminar Series
Details: [Martin Gibbs](#)

Date: 27 October 2005
State: SA - Adelaide
Title: *Art and Community in Western Arnhem Land*

Who: Sally May
Time & Place: 3-5pm, Room SSS 007, Social Sciences South Courtyard (bottom floor, western side of courtyard, closest parking - Car Park 4)
Series: Flinders University Department of Archaeology Seminars
Details: ehlt.flinders.edu.au/archaeology/resources/seminar.php

Date: 28 October 2005

State: ACT - Canberra

Title: *TBA*

Who: Matthew Spriggs

Time & Place: 3pm, MCC Theatre 6 (Manning Clark Centre), Australian National University

Series: Centre for Archaeological Research, Australian National University

Details: car.anu.edu.au/seminars05.php

Date: 28 October 2005

State: QLD - Brisbane

Title: *Archaeology of the Upper Georgina River Drainage*

Who: Tom Loy

Time & Place: 3-4pm, Room 213, Gordon Greenwood Building (#32), St Lucia Campus ([map](#)), University of Queensland

Series: Working Papers in Archaeology

Details: www.atsis.uq.edu.au/workingpapers.html

Date: 28 October 2005

State: NSW - Sydney

Title: *Historical Archaeology at the KENS Site*

Who: Wendy Thorp

Time & Place: 3:15pm, Quad Latin Room S224 (ground floor, down a short corridor in the corner of the Quad which has the tree)

Series: Prehistoric and Historical Archaeology Seminar Series

Details: [Martin Gibbs](#)

Date: 6 October 2005

State: NSW - Sydney

Title: *The Aboriginal History & Connections Program at Sydney Olympic Park*

Who: Paul Irish

Time & Place: 6:30pm, Benledi Room, Glebe Library (Cnr Glebe Point Road & Wigram Road, Glebe, Sydney)

Series: AACAI NSW/ACT Chapter Occasional Meetings

Details: www.aacai.com.au/chapters/nsw/

Date: 3 November 2005

State: SA - Adelaide

Title: *Trends in Australian Colonial-Period Shipbuilding*

Who: Rick Bullers

Time & Place: 3-5pm, Room SSS 007, Social Sciences South Courtyard (bottom floor, western side of courtyard, closest parking - Car Park 4)

Series: Flinders University Department of Archaeology Seminars

Details: ehlt.flinders.edu.au/archaeology/resources/seminar.php

Date: 4 November 2005

State: ACT - Canberra

Title: *Human Colonization and the Disturbance Ecology of Remote Pacific Islands: How Resilient was Island Biodiversity to the Exploits of the First Human Settlers?*

Who: Matiu Prebble

Time & Place: 3pm, MCC Theatre 6 (Manning Clark Centre), Australian National University

Series: Centre for Archaeological Research, Australian National University

Details: car.anu.edu.au/seminars05.php



Conferences

Date: 14-16 October 2005

Place: Perth, Australia

Title: *26th Australian Garden History Society Annual National Conference: From Sea to Scarp*

Convenor/s: International ICOMOS

Venue: Novotel Langley Hotel, Perth, Western Australia

Details: www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au

Date: 17-21 October 2005

Place: Xi'an, China

Title: *ICOMOS 15th General Assembly and Scientific Symposium: Monuments and Sites in their Setting - Conserving Cultural Heritage in Changing Townscapes and Landscapes*

Convenor/s: International ICOMOS

Venue: Xi'an People's Hotel, Xi'an, China

Details: www.international.icomos.org/xian2005/index.html

Date: 8-12 November 2005

Place: Ranataua, Tauranga, Aotearoa/New Zealand
Title: *The Uses and Abuses of Archaeology for Indigenous Populations [WAC Inter-Congress]*
Convenor/s: Des Kahotea & Joe Watkins
Venue: Ranataua, Tauranga, Aotearoa/New Zealand
Details: ehlt.flinders.edu.au/wac/site/confer_nz2005.php

Date: 25-28 November 2005
Place: Melbourne, Australia
Title: *Corrugations: The Romance and Reality of Historic Roads*
Convenor/s: Australia ICOMOS, Royal Automobile Club of Australia, VIC Roads
Venue: RACV Clubrooms, Melbourne
Details: www.corrugations.net.au

Date: 27-30 November 2005
Place: Fremantle, Australia
Title: *AAA/AIMA Annual Conference: The Archaeology of Trade & Exchange*
Convenor/s: Western Australian Maritime Museum and University of Western Australia
Venue: Maritime Museum, Fremantle, Western Australia
Details: www.aaa-aima-2005.conf.uwa.edu.au/

Date: 5-8 December 2005
Place: Kensington, Sydney, Australia
Title: *Molecules to Morphs: 19th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for Human Biology*
Convenor/s: School of Medical Sciences (Faculty of Medicine) and the School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences (Faculty of Science), University of New South Wales
Venue: BioMedical Theatre E, Building E27, University of New South Wales, Kensington Campus
Details: <http://notes.med.unsw.edu.au/medsciences.nsf/website/newsevents.calendarofevents.ashb2005>

Date: 12-15 December 2005
Place: Canberra, Australia
Title: *Australasian Archaeometry Conference 2005*
Convenor/s: Andy Fairbairn & Sue O'Connor
Venue: Department of Archaeology and Natural History, Coombs Building, Australian National University
Details: car.anu.edu.au/Archaeometry/archaeometry_conference.html

Date: 11-15 January 2006
Place: Sacramento, California
Title: *Life on the Edge [SHA Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology]*
Convenor/s: Society for Historical Archaeology
Venue: Hyatt Regency Sacramento

Details: www.sha.org

Date: 20-26 March 2006

Place: Manila, Philippines

Title: *18th Congress of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association*

Convenor/s: University of the Philippines, National Museum of the Philippines & W.G. Solheim II Foundation

Venue: University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, MetroManila

Details: arts.anu.edu.au/arcworld/ippa/ippa.htm

Date: 30-31 March 2006

Place: Canberra, Australia

Title: *Strangers on the Shore: A Conference on Early Coastal Contacts with Australia*

Convenor/s: National Museum of Australia, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and Australian National University

Venue: National Museum of Australia

Details: www.aiatsis.gov.au

Date: 19-23 April 2006

Place: Newport, Rhode Island, United States

Title: *From World Heritage to Your Heritage: The 9th US/ICOMOS International Symposium*

Convenor/s: US ICOMOS

Venue: Newport Marriott, Newport, Rhode Island

Details: www.icomos.org/usicomos/Symposium/SYMP06/2006_Symposium.htm

Date: 15-18 May 2006

Place: San Juan, Puerto Rico

Title: *Heritage Interpretation*

Convenor/s: The Association of Interpretation

Venue: TBA

Details: www.interpnet.com/iwh/

Date: 9-12 July 2006

Place: Launceston, Tasmania, Australia

Title: *Performer, Practitioners and Audiences in American Studies: 2006 Biennial Conference of the Australia New Zealand American Studies Association (ANZSAA)*

Convenor/s: Australia New Zealand American Studies Association (ANZSAA)

Venue: University of Tasmania, Launceston

Details: www.anzasa.arts.usyd.edu.au

Date: 18-23 July 2006
Place: Sydney, Australia
Title: *Angkor - Landscape, City and Temple*
Convenor/s: University of Sydney
Venue: University of Sydney, Sydney
Details: conferences.arts.usyd.edu.au/index.php?cf=9

Date: 4-9 September 2006
Place: Lisbon, Portugal
Title: *XV UISPP 2006 Congress*
Convenor/s: Union Internationale des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques International – Union for Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences
Venue: University of Lisbon
Details: www.uispp.ipt.pt

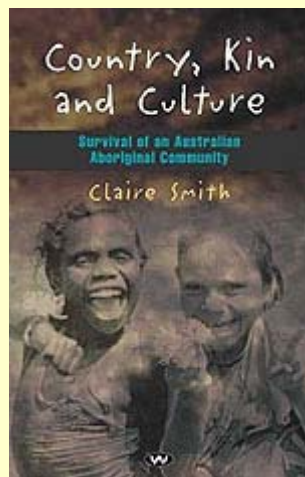


New Publications



The Looting of the Iraq Museum, Baghdad : The Lost Legacy of Ancient Mesopotamia edited by Angela M.H. Schuster and Milbry Polk

"At once heartbreaking and inspiring, this remarkable art book seeks to document what was lost when 15,000 objects at Baghdad's Iraq Museum were lost in the 2003 war and the ongoing art destruction. Treasures like the beautiful carved-ivory Mona Lisa of Nimrud survived ten centuries, only to fall victim to chaos and looters, some sent by international art dealers. The scholar authors show that the loss isn't local, it's everybody's. Iraq saw the birth of cities, epic verse, and codified religion; the lions guarding the New York Public Library are esthetic descendants of the smashed terracotta masterpieces of Baghdad. The book is a quickie history course, with 190 handsome color illustrations. Editorially, it's a bit rushed and confusing. But look: these aren't ivory-tower scholars, they're heroes putting themselves on the line to save humanity's legacy. One had to be rescued from kidnappers with the help of Muqtada al-Sadr. Part of what you pay for the book goes to reconstruct the museum, and the book itself constitutes a kind of virtual museum preserving some works that are lost, and some that will be relocated, in part because it exists" ([ref](#)).



Country, Kin and Culture : Survival of an Australian Aboriginal Community
by Claire Smith

"This work paints an intimate picture of historical and contemporary Aboriginal life and also presents a unique case study of the Aboriginal experience. Interviews with both Aborigines and Australian government officials, as well as archival documents, illustrate the cultural, social, and political survival strategies developed by Aborigines faced with British colonization" ([ref](#)).



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