Ancient Irrigation Systems of the Aral Sea Area
By B. V. Adrianov and Edited by Simone Mantellini

Ancient Irrigation Systems in the Aral Sea Area, is the English translation of Boris Vasilevich Andrianov's work, Drevnie orositelnye sistemy priaralya, concerning the study of ancient irrigation systems and the settlement pattern in the historical region of Khorezm, south of the Aral Sea (Uzbekistan). This work holds a special place within the Soviet archaeological school because of the results obtained through a multidisciplinary approach combining aerial survey and fieldwork, surveys, and excavations. This translation has been enriched by the addition of introductions written by several eminent scholars from the region regarding the importance of the Khorezm Archaeological-Ethnographic Expedition and the figure of Boris V. Andrianov and his landmark study almost 50 years after the original publication.
The Ancient Yew

By Robert Bevan-Jones

Key Features:

· Third edition of this popular account of the history of the yew tree

· With additional photographs

· Contains a gazetteer with locations

The gnarled, immutable yew tree is one of the most evocative sights in the British and Irish language, an evergreen impression of immortality, the tree that provides a living botanical link between our own landscapes and those of the distant past. This book tells the extraordinary story of the yew's role in the landscape through the millennia, and makes a convincing case for the origins of many of the oldest trees, as markers of the holy places founded by Celtic saints in the early medieval 'Dark Ages'.

With wonderful photographic portraits of ancient yews and a gazetteer (with locations) of the oldest yew trees in Britain, the book brings together for the first time all the evidence about the dating, history, archaeology and cultural connections of the yew. Robert Bevan-Jones discusses its history, biology, the origins of its name, the yew berry and its toxicity, its distribution across Britain, means of dating examples, and their association with folklore, with churchyards, abbeys, springs, pre-Reformation wells and as landscape markers. This third edition has an updated introduction with new photographs and corrections to the main text.

About the Author:

Robert Bevan-Jones has been surrounded by foresters, timber merchants and craftsmen since infancy. His father and grandfather both started their own timber firms, and like his brothers, he has considerable experience in the industry, both preparing and selling native timber. He is also the author of Poisonous Plants: A Cultural and Social History (Windgather Press 2009).
Digging at the Gateway
The Archaeology of the East Kent Access (Phase II)
Volume 1: The Sites

By Phil Andrews, Paul Booth, A. P. Fitzpatrick and Ken Welsh

East Kent has been a gateway for new people, cultures, ideas and trade for thousands of years. The Isle of Thanet, now joined to the mainland following the silting and reclamation of the former Wantsum Channel, was at the forefront of these movements. A Kent County Council programme to build a new road link, the East Kent Access, in the south-east part of Thanet resulted in the largest archaeological project carried out in Britain in 2010. An Oxford Wessex Archaeology joint venture undertook the excavation of 48 hectares along the 6.5 kilometre route, revealing a wealth of archaeological evidence spanning the Palaeolithic to Second World War. Volume 1 describes the archaeological remains and discusses their wider significance in Thanet and beyond. Of note are two groups of Early Neolithic pits, 11 Bronze Age ring-ditches, Late Bronze Age settlement and two metalwork hoards. Amongst the extensive Iron Age remains is a unique trapezoidal enclosure and associated sunken-featured building. However, potentially the most important discovery is a large enclosure on the Ebbsfleet Peninsula which, it is argued, may have been associated with Julius Caesar's invasions of 55–54 BC. Rural Roman settlement was extensive and included one site with roundhouses showing continuity from the Late Iron Age and another with sunken-featured buildings of 3rd–4th-century date, along with at least three mixed rite cemeteries. Anglo-Saxon settlement and several cemeteries originated in the mid-6th century, but of particular interest is an 8th-century settlement and cemetery with associated evidence for shellfish processing. Medieval remains were comparatively sparse but, as with the earlier periods, their distribution reflects the changing use of different landscape units represented by the chalk ridge, the southern slopes of Thanet and the Ebbsfleet Peninsula.

Volume 2 presents the analysis of the finds, environmental remains and results of the extensive radiocarbon dating programme.