Underground Archaeology
Studies on Human Bones and Artefacts from Ireland's Caves
Edited by Marion Dowd

Key Features:
· Presents new perspectives on the use and perception of caves at different times in the past, from the Early Mesolithic through to post-medieval time

· Reveals complex and varied funerary practices and rituals associated with cave burials

· Highlights the changing roles of caves as places for shelter, occupation, burial and ritual practices during the Mesolithic to Bronze Age

This book brings together a series of ground-breaking studies on human bones and artefacts recovered from Irish caves principally between 1870 and 1990. Until now these assemblages had either been completely neglected or had not been examined with modern techniques. The 15 expert contributions presented here shine a light on the use and perception of caves at different times in the past, from the Early Mesolithic through to post-medieval times.

The book opens with osteoarchaeological analyses of human bones from 24 caves, revealing complex and varied funerary practices and rituals. Shell beads and animal tooth pendants provide insight into the status of those whose skeletal remains were placed in caves. Studies on lithics, stone axes and prehistoric pottery highlight the changing roles of caves as places for shelter, occupation, burial and ritual practices during the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age. An examination of the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age metalwork contributes to wider evidence of votive deposition at natural places in the landscape. Several chapters focus on the wealth of early medieval and Viking-age activities, drawing on pottery assemblages from caves along the north coast, to ecclesiastical shrine fragments from sites in the south, as well as Viking material from a growing number of caves.

These studies will be of interest to osteoarchaeologists; to those who specialise in particular archaeological periods; to museumologists and artefact specialists; to cave archaeologists; and to everyone interested in Ireland’s past.

About the Author:
Marion Dowd is a lecturer in prehistoric archaeology at the Institute of Technology, Sligo where she specialises in the Archaeology of Irish caves and how they have been used from the Mesolithic through to post-medieval times, whether for burial, excarnation, veneration, occupation, refuge or as hideaways. She has many research interests including Mesolithic Archaeology, Folklore and archaeology, archaeology of emotion, Funeral Practices, and Votive offerings.
Ancient Lives
Object, people and place in early Scotland. Essays for David V Clarke on his 70th birthday
Edited by Fraser Hunter and Alison Sheridan

Key Features:
· This scholarly and accessible volume provides a show-case of new information and new perspectives on material culture linked, but not limited to, Scotland

Ancient Lives provides new perspectives on object, people and place in early Scotland and beyond. The 19 papers cover topics ranging from the Neolithic to the Medieval period, and from modern museum practice to ancient craft skills. The material culture of ancient lives is centre stage – how it was created and used, how it was rediscovered and thought about, and how it is displayed. Dedicated to Professor David V Clarke, former Keeper of Archaeology in National Museums Scotland, on his 70th birthday, the book comprises three sections which reflect some of his many interests. "Presenting the past" offers perspectives on current museum practice, especially in relation to archaeological displays. "Ancient lives and multiple lives" looks at antiquarian approaches to the Scottish past and the work of a Scottish antiquary abroad, while "Pieces of the past" offers a series of authoritative case-studies on Scottish artefacts, as well as papers on the iconic site of Skara Brae and on the impact of the Roman world on Scotland. With subjects ranging from Gordon Childe to the Govan Stones and from gaming pieces to Grooved Ware, this scholarly and accessible volume provides a show-case of new information and new perspectives on material culture linked, but not limited to, Scotland.

About the Author:
Dr Fraser Hunter is Principal Curator in the Department of Scottish History and Archaeology at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. Fraser's research focuses on the Iron Age and Roman periods, and seeks to put Scottish finds into their European context.

Dr Alison Sheridan is Principal Curator in the Department of Scottish History and Archaeology at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. Alison's research focuses on the Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Bronze Age of Britain and Ireland within their wider European context.
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Portable Antiquities, Palimpsests, and Persistent Places
A multi-period approach to Portable Antiquities Scheme data in Lincolnshire
By Adam Jonathan Daubney

Key Features:
• This book explores the significance of PAS data for Lincolnshire, in particular how these finds enhance the 'known' archaeological record

Every year thousands of archaeological objects and artefact scatters are discovered by the public, most of them by metal-detector users, but also by people whilst out walking, gardening, or going about their daily work. Once recorded, these finds hold enormous potential in helping us understand the past. In England and Wales these finds are reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), and since 2003 over one million finds have been recorded. This book explores the significance of PAS data for Lincolnshire, in particular how these finds enhance the 'known' archaeological record, and how they come together to form multi-period artefact scatters, defined here for the first time as 'plough-zone palimpsests'. A bespoke methodology is developed that allows PAS data to be analysed at different scales of time and place. This brings into focus different sources of bias and different interpretative possibilities. A series of case studies then explore these palimpsests on varying scales of time and place. These demonstrate how portable antiquities are important biographical components of 'temporally-sticky' or 'persistent places', and have the potential to reveal structuring within the landscape over long-periods of time. Combined with other evidence engrafted within the landscape, PAS data help to explain how the past influenced the subsequent use of places, and how the aftershocks of human activity resonate in the landscape today.

About the Author:
Adam Daubney is the Lincolnshire Finds Liaison Officer for the British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme. He has been recording archaeological objects in Lincolnshire for over fifteen years, and has a particular interest in Roman Britain, and the longer-term use of the rural landscape. Adam has a PhD from the University of Leicester, in which he explored the significance of multi-period artefact scatters in Lincolnshire.