THE MACMILLAN DICTIONARY OF ARCHAEOLOGY

MACMILLAN
DICTIONARY
OF
ARCHAEOLOGY

EDITOR

RUTH D. WHITEHOUSE

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TO ARCHAEOLOGY STUDENTS
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LANCASTER

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Introduction

Archaeology today is both a popular subject for the general public and a flourishing professional discipline. The appeal of the past is manifested by the large numbers who visit sites and museums, watch television programmes, read books and attend educational courses on archaeological subjects. At the same time the professional discipline has made great strides in the last twenty years: not only has there been a quantum leap in the rate of new discoveries, but developments in theory and methodology have provided powerful new interpretative tools for archaeologists. I hope that this Dictionary will be useful to all those interested in the past. Because the subject editors and other contributors are all professional archaeologists at the front of their respective fields, the Dictionary incorporates a body of up-to-date information which should be useful to students and to scholars in areas outside their own particular specializations. However, because the language is where possible non-technical, this information is accessible also to the non-specialist (necessary technical terms are either glossed or cross-referenced to the relevant entry).

The scope of archaeology today is enormous, encompassing the whole world and a timespan of some four million years, from the emergence of man or his immediate ancestors, to the study of recent centuries. It includes also a wide range of relevant approaches from traditional art-history and ancient language studies to modern techniques borrowed from the natural sciences, and the use of statistics and computers. It also involves the practical methods and techniques developed by workers in the field for the recovery, recording, conservation and interpretation of archaeological remains. The Dictionary covers all these aspects of archaeology. I cannot claim, however, that coverage is even. Some areas and periods have received far more study than others and these are inevitably covered more fully in the Dictionary. Moreover, decisions about what to include and exclude are to some extent arbitrary and no two scholars would ever agree entirely. My own prejudices, and to a lesser extent those of my subject editors, have necessarily prevailed.

For me, the most rewarding aspect of this task has been working with my subject editors and other contributors: their enthusiasm and efficiency have made the collaboration a great pleasure. In addition to the listed contributors, many other people have helped with research and advice. I should particularly like to mention Michael Ester, Beryl Smith, Elizabeth Bordt and Dorothy Mancilla, all of Rutgers University, Henry Hurst of Cambridge University and John Salmon of Lancaster University. I offer special thanks to Phil Howard, also of Lancaster University, who has produced the illustrations for publication and has put up with countless changes of content, layout and timetable with great good humour.

Finally, I should like to thank Margot Levy for her splendid work on copy editing, indexing, proof reading and generally making a book out of an amorphous typescript and assorted scribbles.

Lancaster
May 1983

How to use this Dictionary

The Dictionary has been designed to be as simple and convenient to use as possible. A number of points need some explanation.

Name forms, spelling and transliteration

Chinese names are given in the pinyin transliteration, with the form in the earlier Wade-Giles spelling given in brackets (even when the two spellings are the same). In most cases we have not given the Wade-Giles version a separate, cross-referenced entry. The only exceptions are where a site name is very familiar to Western readers in its Wade-Giles form and where this form is significantly different from the pinyin version; for example, we have given Choukoutien a separate cross-referenced entry, since the reader might not recognize the form Zhoukoudian.

Where languages other than Chinese are concerned we have been less consistent in our transliteration. We have chosen the versions that will be most familiar to Western readers. This may offend the purist but will, we believe, achieve the desired objective of getting the reader to the information desired with the minimum of delay.

Similarly, we have not been consistent about the choice of ancient or modern site names for headwords. Again we have chosen the forms which will be most familiar to the reader; the alternative names appear in brackets after the headword and as separate cross-referenced entries.

Cross references

The Dictionary makes extensive use of cross references. When a word that has an entry of its own appears in the text it is normally printed in SMALL CAPITALS the first time it occurs. This is not done, however, in the case of very common words where the general meaning is self-evident, e.g. pottery, bronze, Iron Age. Further cross references appear at the end of many entries.

Dating

Throughout the Dictionary we have employed the convention of using the lower case letters ad, bc and bp (before present) to indicate uncalibrated radiocarbon dates (the problem of radiocarbon calibration is explained in the entry on *radiocarbon dating*, p. 421). The capital letters AD, BC and BP are reserved for dates thought to represent 'real' (i.e. calendar) years: they include corrected radiocarbon dates, dates derived from documentary sources and dates derived from laboratory methods other than radiocarbon, which do not require calibration.

This convention is widely used by British archaeologists working in many different parts of the world; unfortunately, however, it has not been adopted universally. Radiocarbon specialists and the journal *Radiocarbon* publish all dates as 'before present' dates and they use the capitals BP. This practice causes no problems in that context, since everyone knows that they are writing about radiocarbon dates. However, for archaeologists working in fields that draw on a variety of dating methods, there is an urgent need for a method of notation that distinguishes between uncorrected radiocarbon years and dates in real years. The use of lower case letters is the simplest and least confusing convention available and is therefore employed in this Dictionary. When dates appear without associated letters, they refer to years AD, as in normal everyday usage.

While we have used this convention throughout, we have not been consistent in calibrating all

radiocarbon dates that can be calibrated (i.e. dates after 7240 bp, 8000 BP). Our usage varies according to the area of the world and the range of dating methods available for the periods in question. For instance, in African archaeology, a high proportion of all dates is derived from radiocarbon; moreover many site sequences run from before 8000 BP to afterwards. Therefore for most African entries we have used uncorrected radiocarbon dates and the ad/bc/bp notation. In China, by contrast, most dates do not come from radiocarbon and it is therefore more convenient to calibrate those radiocarbon dates that do occur, so as to provide direct comparison with dates derived from other sources. Therefore in Chinese entries we use corrected radiocarbon dates and the AD/BC notation.

One other point should be made about dating. When individual radiocarbon dates are quoted, they should strictly be quoted *either* with a central date and a standard deviation *or* as a range of dates. For instance a hypothetical date might be expressed in one of three ways: 2000 $\pm$ 100 bc; 2100-1900 bc (68% confidence) or 2200-1800 bc (95% confidence). Because of the awkwardness of such forms in normal text, we have normally used instead *circa* (*c*) symbols or words such as 'approximately' or 'about' to indicate the imprecise nature of the dates. We hope that our professional colleagues will forgive us for this usage; we believe that the general reader will prefer it.