

EDITORIAL

Do you have a pet theory or piece of received wisdom that you love to hate? Why not write about it for pleasure (but not profit) in Circaea? The Editors wish to produce an issue devoted to 'iconoclasm', to give contributors an opportunity to express their misgivings about, or downright disbelief in, some of those cherished theories and practical methods that appear to have stood us in good stead for years. We wouldn't want to encourage criticism for its own sake, but a forthright though constructive reconsideration of old ideas can only be refreshing and productive. Short contributions will be welcome, as well as longer, more formally structured papers.

As many of you will already know, a new journal has appeared in recent months - Archaeozoologia - published by La Pensée Sauvage, and edited by Pierre Ducos at Bordeaux. At Prof. Ducos' suggestion, the Editors of this journal have agreed to exchange copies of each issue of Circaea and Archaeozoologia and to reproduce in each summaries of papers published in the other. (This, of course, makes it more imperative that our contributors supply a summary!) Despite its name, Archaeozoologia is thus far devoted entirely to papers about bones. Those who work on invertebrate remains in archaeology should obviously be encouraged to offer contributions to it, to prevent it becoming yet another 'osteocentric' publication.

Many others of you (probably not the same group) will be aware that 'CTW' (Flora of the British Isles) has reached a third edition (published by the Cambridge University Press in May this year, and now authored by Clapham, Tutin and Moore). It costs a staggering £65 (staggering, considering its potential sales) and, although now in a somewhat easier-to-handle format, one family is completely missing from the text. OK, so it's only Zannichelliaceae - about half-a-page's-worth - but one might have expected better. This is not simply a minor omission, since all subsequent families are misnumbered - and do not therefore tally with the Synopsis of Families at the front of the book, where Zannichelliaceae is listed. One wonders whether 'CTM' will be dumped in a few years' time like Godwin's second edition 'HBF', when the cost of storing over-priced tomes outweighs any profit CUP are likely to make!

Following a comment from a reader, we must set the record straight by revealing that the Sherlock Holmes parody in Circaea 4(2) emanated from Philippa Tomlinson, although most people probably guessed! Michael Ryder also wrote in response to this piece - more of that below. This kind of mischief draws forth a mixed response, but on the whole we would prefer to encourage humorous articles providing that they have a serious underlying point.

Last, but certainly not least, the Editors would like to thank Kate Watson and Tracy Painter, employed at the Environmental Archaeology Unit on a Manpower Services Commission Community Programme scheme, for transferring most of the copy for this issue of Circaea from typescript to floppy disk.

Front cover: The warty-shelled egg of the maw-worm, Ascaris (probably A. lumbricoides (L.)). Based on an original photomicrograph of a fossil specimen from Lindow Man, by Dr A. J. Wilson (Department of Biology, University of York).