Experimental Archaeology and Experiential Education Abroad:

A Review of EuroREA Issues 1-4

By Henry Glick, © 2007

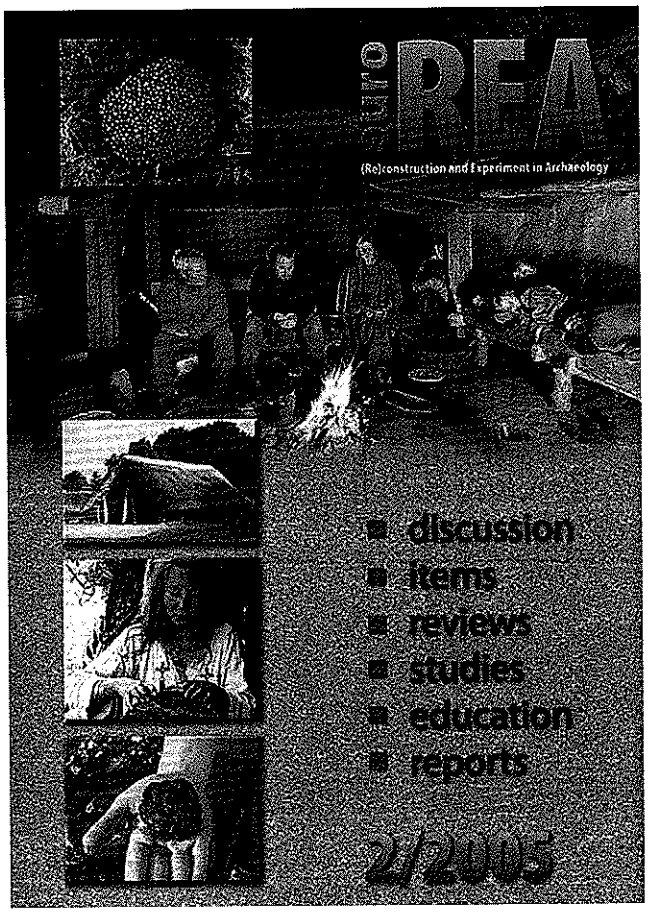
Experimental archaeology has grown in Europe since the mid-twentieth century. One indication of this is *EuroREA – (Re)construction and Experiment in Archaeology*, a journal recently released by the European Exchange on Archaeological Research and Communication. Here in, its current issues are evaluated, and then used to examine a possible paradigmatic shift from experimental archaeology's processual origins towards a more post-processual framework. The results indicate that although some researchers engage with human agency in experimental studies, the discipline is not undergoing any major theoretical or methodological revisions. Instead, it is still suffering from the long-term battle of *unreserved nomenclature*, in which non-experimental research, in various forms, is repeatedly presented under "experimental" labels. With growth reaching new levels, and digital communication breaking new barriers, larger international and regional hubs are called upon to help resolve this problem once and for all.

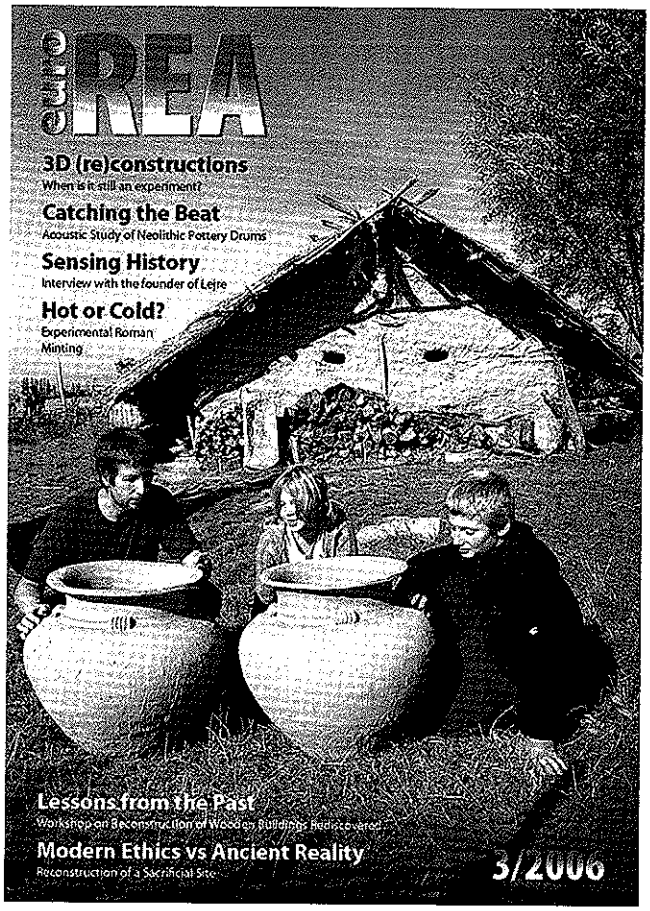
Introduction

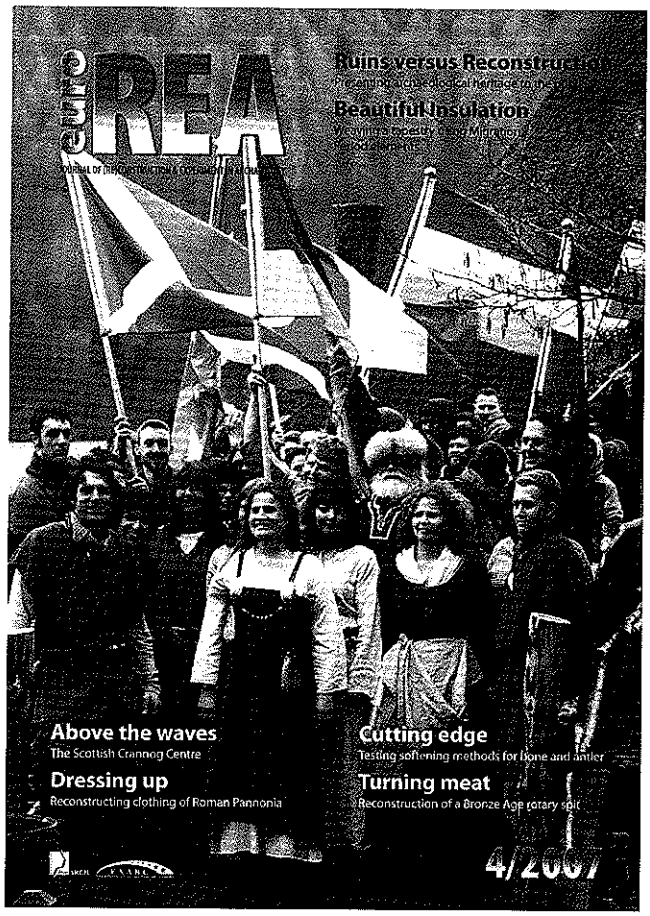
Experimental archaeology has struggled to find its footing during the past several decades, but with growing success overseas, it is only fitting that a publication devoted to the field should arise. Not since the 1980s, with the University of Southampton's *Bulletin of Experimental Archaeology*, has experimental research specifically, been constructively compiled in one place on an annual basis. As a model of success and insight from abroad, this journal is worth a few minutes of our attention.

To begin, the primary reason I was interested in thoroughly reviewing the material published in *EuroREA*, was to confirm or deny a hunch. From previous studies, I was led to believe that while many may still hold the potentially antiquated experimental ground rules as gospel, the bulk of contemporary experimenters do not operate from such footing. Instead, it seemed to me that many take a more post-processual stance, recognizing the value in considering individual human agency, and capitalizing on it as a research tool in the present (see Hodder, 1985, for introduction to post-processualism). Literature from both the U.S. and abroad had led to me to believe that whether or not it has been explicitly stated, practitioners have begun to turn towards experiential research involving individual human choices, creativity, and imagination, while consciously slapping the experimental label on it. In other words, I sensed that a tumultuous paradigmatic shift was in process, and wanted to put my finger on what was really going on. Was this the newest theoretical advancement in the field - an acceptance of experiential research as being as verifiably valuable as traditional experimental design within an academic framework? Were post-processualism and "experimental" studies forming a unique, albeit controversial, relationship?

Here in, I will first review the nuts and bolts of *EuroREA* in standard review fashion. Then, I will briefly refresh the reader in the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of experimental archaeology, as elucidated through both pioneering and more recent texts. I will then consider the journal in light of my primary area of inquiry, and will discuss the paradigmatic approaches to experimental research and presentation in archaeology that *EuroREA* reveals.







Backdrop and Backbone

The Society for Experimental Archaeology (SEA) of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, first initiated the publication of *(Re)konstrukce a experiment v archeologii (REA)* in 2000, to regionally address what seems to be an often ill-fated exchange of research and information among archaeologists and experimenters. Interest among an international audience grew over time, and demands for a more accessible publication within central Europe materialized. Thus, "to allow an exchange on an international level and at the same time not to disappoint the Czech public *SEA* split the original *REA* yearbook into two: a fully Czech journal *'(Re)konstrukce a experiment v archeologii - zivá archeologie' and an international '(Re) construction and Experiment in Archaeology - European Platform'*, generally known as *EuroREA*" (EXARC, 2007). Concurrent to *REA's* growing popularity was the development of the *European Exchange for Archaeological Research and Communications (EXARC)*. Martin Schmidt of Denmark, Tomas Johansson of Sweden, and Roeland Paardekooper of the Netherlands came together in 2000 to begin dialogue about what *EXARC* now refers to as a "grass roots" movement. In time, a European network of facilities focused on the presentation of heritage through experimental research and/or open-air museum environments was born. *EXARC* (2007) seeks to "establish a high standard of both scientific research and public presentation", "fosters quality of archaeological presentation in open-air centres and institutes alike", and suggests that "the idea of international exchange of knowledge, human resources, publications and facsimiles is to improve the quality of work for all associated members". It was *EXARC* that *SEA* enlisted to help launch *EuroREA*.

This journal was first released in 2004 as an annual publication. With its fourth issue newly released at the time this was written, it is clear that it is still going through the early stages of revision. Based on the publications themselves, and the growing *EXARC* network (having expanded from 35 participating institutions in 2000, to 46 at present), it seems clear that the success of this journal is on an upward cline.

Some Considerations

Let me remind the reader at the outset, that this bulletin, according to the cover of the most recent issue, is titled *EuroREA: Journal of (Re)construction and Experiment in Archaeology.* With this in mind, one can logically assume that much of its contents will be devoted to experimental research, and the (re)construction of archaeological material as it relates to archaeology and experimental underpin-

nings. Together, these presuppose a strong foundation in underlying theory and methodology. After all, how could a title like that exist without the background to support it? As noted above, none of the publications to date contain any explicit statements about the theoretical position or perspectives its board members operate from. This, as we will see, is not optimal.

"Experimental archaeology" was, according to Callahan (1981), a term first coined by Robert Ascher in 1961. Here, Ascher delineates between the experimental elements of traditional archaeology, and "imitative experiments" that revolve around simulation of cultural elements of the past. With its inception and subsequent growth during New Archaeology's hay-day (granted, "experimental" and experiential studies are age old), the drive for an explicitly scientific framework rubbed off on experimental studies. Early contributions to the field were both implicit and explicit about their presentation of operating principles, or rules of the game. Ascher (1961), Callahan (1981, 1995), Coles (1973, 1979), Kelterborn (1987, 1990), and Reynolds (1979, 2002) are among others in this group. Though contributions over the years have sought to reassess, and often break down the field into sub-categories (Anderson, 1984; Callahan, 1995; Ingersoll, Yellen, and Macdonald, 1977; Mathieu; 2002; Wescott, 1995), baseline conceptions of what experimental archaeology is, have been present all along.

As echoed repeatedly since earlier days, studies via experiment, and involving (re)construction of archaeological material culture, have at their core, the most basic, "explicitly scientific" process of experimentation. That is, to paraphrase Reynolds (2002), the establishment of a conclusion, or inference, paired against a hypothesis by way of a trial or test. The cyclic nature of the scientific process has also been noted or implied in experimental archaeological literature from time to time (Callahan, 1981; Lammers-Keijsers, 2005; Mathieu, 2002; Reynolds, 1978, 2002), revealing the basic steps leading from archaeological data, to hypothesis, to research design and experimentation, to preliminary results, to a comparison with the archaeological record, to conclusions, and finally back to hypothesizing. Whether or not this is an acceptable model is another discussion. The identification and reduction of variables in experimentation has been fundamental, though problematic (Ingersoll, Yellen, and Macdonald, 1977; Mathieu, 2002, for example). Research all along has stressed the need to engage in studies that are devoid of human influence, whether to dismiss the use of human variables outright, or to more circuitously avoid confusing role-playing with experiment (Callahan, 1995, 1996a, 1996b; Coles, 1996; Reynolds, 2002). In its most basic form, though Ascher (1961) identifies additional elements, the idea is that by removing uncontrollable "human" facets, analogy to the past becomes stronger. Analogy is the underlying theoretical backbone in experimental archaeology, as well as a research tool used in other archaeological spheres (e.g. ethnographic or environmental analogy) (see Gould, 1980, and Ingersoll, Yellen, and Macdonald, 1977 for examples). It relies strongly on ideas of historical continuity, corroborative evidence, invalidation of hypotheses, and experimental breadth and repeatability. Interestingly, for a field centered on cultural research, analogy becomes more "objective", thereby making the application of data produced through experiment and/or (re)construction to the archaeological record more valid, the more sterile it is. Clearly, the model employed, or at least the one suggested, begs the post-modernist question of whether such "objectivity", or sterility is really even possible, or, has the potential we may think it does.

Since its inception, the field has seen few contributions or advancements to this theoretical grounding. Older ideas, though valuable ones mind you, are regurgitated from time to time, and for good reason. We can view this as result of practitioners failing to follow the ground rules and their theoretical underpinnings, a problem that has been noted by other authors (Callahan, 1995; Coles, 1996; Reynolds, 2002). Despite this perceived need for repetition, experimental archaeology has shown only mixed success in conforming to the methodological, and thus theoretical, approaches set forth. After a brief surge, experimental research took a dive in the U.S., and is only just beginning to get its feet under it. Overseas though, the story has played out differently. Perhaps ultimately stemming from European archaeology's roots in the natural sciences, archaeologists abroad have recognized the value of experimental studies, helping to facilitate its upward trajectory. Experimental research and educational centers have clearly flourished in Europe, represented by the sheer quantity of published material and institutions currently in operation (see, for example, EXARC, 2007 bibliography). Why has this been? Does it relate to a possible change in core perspectives, from an "anti-human variables" model to a "pro-human variables" model? A shift from researchers devoted to strict, empirically oriented scientific process, towards a willingness to engage with the choices, creativity, and pursuits of individuals, either in the interpretational sphere, or more directly through the eyes of the researcher in the present?

It All Becomes Clear – Sterility versus Agency

Alas, to my demise, this shift does not appear to be happening, for better or worse (though that would have been exciting!). But, why it is that I had been led to believe that a paradigm revision was taking place, did become clear. The material in *EuroREA* can be broken into two principal camps. The first group (A) are those involved in what I will call explicitly scientific experimental archaeology, who are basically following the operating principles set fourth between the 1960s and early 1980s. Group A has published a variety of pieces, often in the Study section, and represent what this author feels to be true experimental studies. Their submissions are often

Who is EuroREA?

At the outset, the editorial board of EuroREA states that the publication "aims to be a discussion platform for the exchange of experience and information for all aspects of archaeological experiment, construction and the use of models in education". Further, they hope that "this yearbook will channel the interest of those involved in experimental archaeology and education in the field, at universities, open air museums, living history groups et cetera. EuroREA is not meant for specialists only but for anybody interested in prehistory and the Middle Ages". This division of time, into "prehistory" and the "Middle Ages", may raise some eyebrows, and its logic is unclear. In combination with the subtitle, (Re)construction and Experiment in Archaeology, these general aims leave things rather open-ended. In that "experimental archaeologists" are notorious for operating on varied and often faulty principles, hence the numerous methodological ground rule propositions (i.e. Callahan 1981, 1996b; Coles, 1973, 1979; Kelterborn, 1987, 1990; Reynolds, 2002), a notable, and surprising absence is an outline of appropriate theoretical and methodological underpinnings. This is a much-needed addition.

Over all, these objectives are relatively well addressed in content, though I would be hesitant to say that the material is not pitched towards specialists. Though accessible, the lay reader implied by "anybody interested in prehistory and the Middle Ages", is clearly not the audience. The reader will find that the aims of EuroREA are also fuzzy in that they are not consistently presented. The preface of each issue reveals what could be considered objectives, or focus areas, but ones particular to each publication. Issue 2005 for example, underlines experimental repeatability, the position of experimental research within broader archaeological circles, and the use of experiment in education.

The editorial board provides the backbone of the publication, acting as content managers and frequent contributors. Thirteen members strong, this is a sizable, yet diverse group. Beginning with nine men and three women, a fourth added in 2006, things are a little male-heavy, though it is hard to identify repercussions in the literature (male stereotyped activities aside). There are four representatives from the Czech Republic, one from Slovakia, two from France, one from the Netherlands, two from the United Kingdom (one originally from the Czech Republic), one from Germany, and one from the United States. This is relatively widespread, with a little extra weight on the Czech side, presumably as a result of the SEA's original enterprise. At least a third of them also hold positions at archaeological parks, traditional museums, or open-air museums; at least four of them have worked in academic institutions; several of them have significant publications outside of EuroREA; and at least a third of them are employed in a sub-field of archaeology. Their interests range from paleoeconomics to metallurgy, and from textiles to ceramics. Though it appears that they come from varied and qualified backgrounds, restricted access to information does not allow for further commentary.

What is clear though, is that the editorial board members have personally used EuroREA to publish everything from television reviews to experiments with ceramics and advice on publishing experimental research. The concern of whether or not an editorial board is augmenting, or swaying their publication, is a valid one when considering start-up publications like this. Initially, there would have been cause for concern, as they collectively occupied 25 and 23% of the published pieces during the first and second years respectively. This has been reduced to 19 and 7% in the last two issues, pointing the way towards a balanced future. Outside contribution appears to be increasing (read, journal length is not diminishing), and is a positive indicator of success. In that the board's contributions span the topical chasm of experimental research and heritage education, selectivity of what makes it into print, as a product of board bias, appears negligible as far as this reader is concerned.

the products of well thought out research designs, and respectively well-executed experiments. In written form, these authors are often direct about their background research, aims, methodologies, results, and conclusions, though, there is room for improvement in the application of results back onto the archaeological record (perhaps the most important part!). Group B, on the other hand, contains those whose primary foci are experiential education and the use of (re)constructions in archaeological or heritage-based interpretation. They cumulatively publish articles that are more narrative-based, or anecdotal, discussing topics such as open-air museums, experiential research, and participatory learning at archaeological centers. Their submissions are often less formal, though not by any means devoid of important insights, or critiques of experiment archaeology.

So what's the problem? The confusion lies in that authors in Group B sometimes write as if they are from Group C, that slim conglomerate of contributors who conduct explicitly scientific research in the light of educational facilities or educational aims (the Historisk-Arkaeologisk

Forsogscenter, and the Butser Ancient Farm appear to be prime examples of this group). Starting to sound familiar? This problem is hardly new, but involving different people in different places, attached to different labels. As noted above, at least a quarter of all submissions are affiliated with experiential research, open-air centers, and educational objectives. It is no surprise that their cumulative pedagogy and "experimental" methodologies can be felt across the Atlantic, and can be perceived as a growing operational paradigm. In reality though, Group B is not conducting experimental archaeology, though they are billing it as such. Examples from the first issue, such as Tencariu's (2004) *"Experiments on Pottery Manufacture"* and Makys' (2004) *"Mock-up Presentation of the Gate Tower to the Hill Fort at Liptovska Mara"*, or Paskeviciene's (2005) *"The Taste of the Past in Kernave"* from the second issue, help to illustrate this. In all three, "experiment", as a distinct descriptive term, is used or implied in the way it should be in experimental archaeology. But in none do the project participants carry out or implicate "experimental" research in the ways pre-established by those who have suggested solid operating principles. Now, to avoid confusion, I would like to explicitly state that this is not to devalue their contributions in any way, or to suggest that *EuroREA* does not have any more stringent experimental projects, of which Osipowicz's (2005) *"A Method of Wood Tar Production, Without the Use of Ceramics"*, and Szu, Oka, and Madarassy's (2007) *"Reconstruction the Roman and Celtic Dress of Aquincum"* are better examples. Nor is this to suggest that practitioners are not aware of this dilemma (i.e. Lammers-Keijsers, 2005, *"Scientific Experiments: a possibility? Presenting a general cyclical script for experiments in archaeology"*; and Tichy, 2005, *"Presentation of Archaeology and Archaeological Experiment"*). Instead, it simply to suggest, again, that the orange is being called an apple.

Time to Step Up

Cumulatively, this publication has a strong empirical, scientific voice echoed explicitly and implicitly in a variety of pieces. But, the problem of misnaming experiential education-based studies "experimental" is not doing anyone any good, and appears more frequently than the former. This issue, which is, ironically, critiqued even alongside the offenders (Osipowicz, 2006; Comis, 2006), is not new, and I question whether it is productive to bring it to light once more (is it feudal?). Who or what is to blame? Osipowicz (2006) hits the nail on the head as far as one can discern from *EuroREA*. Europe's growing tourist industry has incorporated research involving archaeological remains into a sizable industry. Museum administration, interpreters, staff, and any others who fail to recognize the background of the field of experimental archaeology, or the application of true experiments in archaeology, often collectively mislabel their activities. The often overly receptive public helps to regurgitate this, and on it goes.

To put an (one) end to this ongoing problem of experiential archaeology, non-experimental reconstructions, and isolated facets of experimental archaeology all being passed off as Experimental studies, it seems that those who contribute need to engage a greater consciousness. To be blunt, the repeated confusion degrades true experimental research in the eyes of non-experimentally inclined archaeologists and academics, further perpetuating another long-time battle. The presence of repeated restatements of operating principles in literature is an indication that this problem is pervasive. Callahan (1995) in particular, has attempted to remedy this issue by going so far as to address this consciousness by creating distinct categories (e.g. Levels I, II, and III) that researchers can use to group or label their "experimental" projects. Through a broader lens, it appears that a substantial body fails to heed his advice. Here in, I have done little more than regurgitate myself, and though the value in addressing this dilemma once more is debatable, persistence seems appropriate for those advocating for a clean-cut, experimental-experiential division.

In its outward appearance, the reservation of nomenclature for a sub-discipline some consider questionable, seems trivial. But, as suggested above, it is exactly this lack of reserved terminology that prohibits experimental archaeological research from being considered as valuable and valid as it could be. Tulloch (2007) has remarked that, "Even the name [experimental archaeology] is off target", advocating for multiple definitions of the term, spanning the gamut of experiential and experimental primitive living projects (p. 16). I would counter, in that while experiential projects are of great importance in various spheres (and I have participated in several), many are not experimental except in the generic sense of involving a trial, or test, and this poses difficulties. For better or worse, academics, both archaeologists and non-, are often given the privilege of validating and disseminating knowledge. Though publications such as the *Bulletin of Primitive Technology* and *EuroREA* help to break down the barriers of highbrow academia's stronghold on what becomes fact, accepted knowledge, or respectable theory, there needs to be compromise from all parties, in terms of the credence given to each camp. Though many experiential practitioners are loath to participate in the often technical formalities of "academic" research or publication, believing that this poses an injustice on knowledge that is intrinsically part of communal tradition, and should therefore be made accessible to everyone, we all need to meet in the middle. David Hurst Thomas' (1986) oft-cited piece criticizing Flenniken's (1984) and Young and Bonnichsen's (1984) approaches to experimental flintknapping represents precisely this issue. Traditional archaeologists, and those less experimentally and/or experientially inclined, are not always able to evaluate both ends of the experimental spectrum with equal value judgments. That is, they do not always recognize that all modes of inquiry have something

Structure and Style

EuroREA's physical structure is, as could be expected, still under development. In the first two issues, though not in the following ones, its format is explicitly broken down in print for potential contributors. The journal has six sections, including ***Studies, Items, Discussion, Education, Reports, and Reviews****. The Studies make up some of the meat of each issue. Only one or two is included each year, sadly, and they are intended to report on experimental undertakings in full. Studies are usually completed projects, and more or less follow a clear-cut presentation pattern (e.g. sections on background, archaeological and/or ethnographic correlates, aims and hypotheses, methods, findings, conclusions). Originally up to 9000 words in length, they present the most informative, and often well-executed research, cumulatively providing an acceptable model for budding experimenters. There is only one article, focused on presenting a baseline, cyclical script for experimental research, that I feel was misplaced in this category. In 2007, for readability's sake, they reduced the length of the more data-heavy submissions, which mostly fell into Studies, to 5000 words. Paired down pieces are made available in full length at* ***www.eurorea.net****.*

The Items section is designed to contain "interim reports with a length of up to 1500 words. Reports on specific parts of projects, accompanied by comparative studies and contributions on methodology, can be up to 4500 words long". In print, Items are varied, including sections of larger experiments/experimental projects in condensed form, experiential projects, hypothesis forming studies, and reports on the development of educational centers. There are between two and six Items per issue, presenting such topics as the examination of burned down buildings, the process of fulling wool, and the manufacture of shell beads.

The Discussion portion houses pieces between 1500 and 3000 words, which often engage with methodological issues, or address specific topics chosen by the board. There are between two and five discussions per year. They tackle such topics as the role of archaeological museums in cultivating cultural awareness, the ins and outs of publishing experimental research, and where experimental research is heading in the future. The Discussion section seems, at times, to touch on theoretical issues, but more often not.

EuroREA is broadly divided into two sections: experimental/experiential research, and education related to that research. The Education section therefore, represents an important component speaking to the journal's underlying aims. Contributions are up to 1500 words, and include any reports or discussions on "educational activities which use experimental constructions, ancient technologies and archaeological models". There are between one and three per journal, on topics as specific as a review of historical workshops in Denmark, to as broad and overarching as a more theoretical discussion of the problems with historical interpretation through experience. As with the other sections listed thus far, there is some overlap between them. Studies for example, often include elements more suited to Discussion, while Education submissions may at times be more fit for Reports. As many articles involve components that could be grouped under more than one section heading, the reader must remain flexible in his or her interpretation of the labels Discussion, Items, etc.

Up to 2000 words, Reports are short notes on the goings-on of the European scene. This includes everything from updates on the development of archaeological parks and the growth of academic programs, to obituaries and notes on annual festivals. Journals contain between one and five reports. For American, or non-European readers, this is a valuable consolidation of up-to-date (within a year, that is) information that might otherwise be hard to obtain except through direct contacts with a variety of institutions and/or specialists. Additionally, it provides valuable insight into the development of open-air museums and archaeological parks, which is always useful in a country lacking somewhat, in this approach to museology.

Lastly, we have a Review section. Running under 2000 words, there are two to four submissions in the present issues, spanning the gamut from reviews of technical literature on bronze casting and teacher's manuals, to reviews of educational webpages. While some are more thorough than others, authors did not always provide an acceptable critique. Though praise and summary are components of most standard reviews, they should not obscure critical evaluation, as in Dvorakova's (2004) "Die Morgan Evans: Rebuilding the Past A Roman Villa", and Fox and Hollis' (2004) "Virtually the Ice Age".

The first two issues of EuroREA present the text with acceptable quality black and white images. By the second issue, color images were added, steadily increasing over the following years. In 2004 and 2005, the text was bound in a small, novel-like size (appx. 15x21cm), on matt paper. The change therefore, in 2006, to larger format and glossier paper (appx. 21x30cm), was a move towards greater quality. As the shear number of contributions is modest, the 2006 and 2007 larger format issues are more difficult to handle due to their physical thicknesses. Though, the glued binding is less prone to opening as in the earlier issues. High quality cover images make for an attractive journal, as does the relative lack of advertisements. It wasn't until the third issue that advertising was included, and subsequently, it has been limited to the three remaining cover surfaces.

The articles are presented in a consistent layout, but not in a consistent style. EuroREA publishes in

English, French, and German. While contributions come from far and wide, conveniently, at least for readers in the U.S., translations from Hungarian, Austrian, Czech, Swedish, and Slovakian to date, are transcribed into English. For those that are French or German, article summaries are included at the end of each piece in the respective two languages. As someone who is still working towards bilingual status, this made European research personally more accessible. As such, I shouldn't complain too much... but, there is great room for improvement. Grammatical errors were plentiful, principally, I suspect, as a product of translation and writing in non-first languages. In some articles, casual reading became difficult, though the number of errors decreased over the years. Two of my favorite examples include: "You can imagine that we are telling story about the farmers' children wore beautiful dresses every day and were healthy, clean and well nourished"; and, "Potter firing in simple devices needs to react to difficult to describe signs".

Who's Contributing?

Turning now to the contributing body, we find that this journal has an impressive geographic range represented in its articles. Twenty-one countries in Europe, and the U.S., are present in submissions ranging from single to several authors. Six countries contribute the bulk of material, with the United Kingdom ranking first with more than 18% of articles, followed by the Czech Republic with >13%, France with >10%, The Netherlands with >9%, and Sweden and Germany both with >8%. This places the center of gravity somewhere in more Northwestern Europe, though strong pull exists in both northern and southern regions. In that many authors write on regionally specific topics, or on subjects being researched within their home countries, this is an acceptable indicator of activity hubs. With this in mind, it is surprising that Denmark does not contribute more than 3%. It has some of the oldest and most developed experimental research and education centers. It may be that their well-defined national network of open-air museums publishes the bulk of its material in state, unbeknownst to this author.

Author affiliation reveals a nice blend of individual, and both small and large-scale organizational input. A quick tabulation shows that contributors' affiliations can be lumped into **five principle sources: open-air museums, regional/community-based research and educational centers, academic institutions, traditional museums, and a group whose affiliations are unknown.** Since many authors have contributed more than once, the following should not be viewed as a diversity indicator, so much as a shear representation of what quantities of articles can be attached to various categorical aims. While in many cases, author affiliation is an apt representation of the type of material they are publishing, this is not always the case. Also, inconsistency in publication style has undoubtedly left some organizations and institutions poorly represented, as well as others overly eye-catching.

Authors representing experimental research centers focused on archaeological or anthropological studies, often with interpretation and experiential participation in outdoor settings, contribute around 24% of articles. These centers range from the well know Butser Ancient Farm in Chalton, England, the Historisk-Arkaeologisk Forsogscenter in Lejre, Denmark, and The Scottish Crannog Centre in Kenmore, Scotland, to lesser cited, or more obscure ones (among American literature that is), such as Archäologisch-Ökologisches Zentrum of Albersdorf, Germany, or the Latvian, Senas vides Darbnica.

An appreciable quantity of pieces is also submitted from organizations devoted to cultural research and development, and interpretation and education, but which are not open-air centers. In many cases, they are more localized, community-level entities. The collaborative Czech-based civic association ARCHAIA, and the United Kingdom's Sun Jester – Consultants for Lifelong Learning, Historical Interpretation and Community Arts, are examples of this roughly 23%. Larger, or more established entities, such as the SEA and EXARC, were included in this statistic.

While many archaeological publications are nearly exclusive to academia, EuroREA has published little more than 13% of authors affiliated with academic institutions. Whether this is indicative of board oversight we cannot know. Principally, these include educators at the university level. The University of Exeter in Exeter, England and the University of A.I. I. Cuza in Lasi, Romania are two examples of this geographically diverse group. Those noting academic ties do not on the whole, stand out with more "academically" oriented "hard" research. Again, this may make research more accessible to some readers.

Though open-air museums appear to hold greater ties to published material, connections to more traditional museum are not absent. Slightly more than 5% of contributors note association with, or occupation by museums dedicated to the broad areas of culture, art, and history. These are more traditional, indoor museums that might include reconstructions and interpretation, though not as primary foci. Like the authors themselves, these cover great geographic breadth, and include such institutions as the Historisch OpenluchtMuseum of Eindhoven, the Netherlands, the Musée Labenche d'Art et D'Hisoire in Corrèze, France, and Warsaw, Poland's State Archaeological Museum.

So what about the rest? Nearly 40% of submissions don't list, or otherwise internally proclaim any connection to formal organizations or institutional bodies (if your wondering why these figures sum to

more than 100%, remember that authors can be affiliated with more than one of the identified categories). I would have a hard time accepting this figure as an accurate portrayal of author-based connections, and imagine that this discrepancy is the by-product of individual authors submitting notes on affiliations, rather than the editorial board requiring it for print. This is corroborated by the lack of official affiliation listed with some articles, for such prominent names as John Coles and Radomir Tichy. Interestingly, only a small fraction of authors have explicitly noted, or have attached to their names, archaeological occupation. Here too, I imagine that more contributors are practicing, or have practiced, as archaeologists, than one is led to believe. Of the authoring body as a whole, 64% are male and 36% female. Though a 50:50 split would obviously be ideal, I admit that I was surprised with these proportions, as they seem quite positive considering that archaeology as a discipline, is still overcoming its predisposition to male domination.

And what about the material itself? As mentioned above, articles cover a wide range of topics, ranging from experiments with wood tar production, bread baking, and building reconstructions, to discussions on the effects of experiential learning on youth, acoustic instrument development, and the minting of coinage, to reports on project Delphi and craft oriented folk schools. Among experimental studies, there is an absence of studies concerning watercraft research and transportation in general, as well as a notable dearth of lithics and pyro-based research. As a journal that is just getting into the swing of things, I would anticipate topical expansion over time, though clearly breadth is constrained by logistical limitations each issue. Though theoretical and distinct methodological considerations are broached intermittently, sometimes in the Discussions section and sometimes within articles, there is what I feel to be a problematic lack of such dialogue. Let us consider this topic further, and see where we end up.

to offer. Lumping together explicitly scientific experiments with participatory, experiential research does a disservice to both groups, restricting their respective developments into recognizable sub-disciplines. Their capacities to inform cultural research are significant, but until they are more formally established as respectable research strategies in the eyes of everyone involved in cultural research (from the laymen who could care less, to the academics who scoff at experimental research), *we may need to encourage their growths independently. That is, unless primitive technologists, earth skills enthusiasts, and experiential practitioners would like to remain a closed network.*

In keeping with this framework that supports a division, at least one new kernel can be popped into the foreground: as larger, international collectives such as *EXARC* grow stronger, there is the potential for this complex to be squashed once and for all. I would like therefore, to call on such hubs, including *EXARC*, the Czech *SEA*, the editorial board of *EuroREA*, the Society of Primitive Technology, the larger experimental centers, and others wishing to engage with experimental archaeology while at the same time capable of reaching a broader audience, to collectively set definitive theoretical and methodological guidelines for those wishing to publish, or become members of the organization. As Jones (2005) remarks, it is appropriate for us to dust these issues off every few years, and review and revise them if necessary. So while this discussion has cropped up from time to time in the *Bulletin of Primitive Technology* and the *Primitive Technology Newsletter* (Callahan, 1991a, 1991b, 2006; Wescott, 1995; Jones, 2005), I feel it should become an outstanding base that not only appears in every publication, but which helps to govern submissions. It would make an appropriate addition to the *BPT's* regular "Statement of Ethics" and organizational aims. Again, the values of experiential and educational models are not at stake here, for they have beyond a doubt demonstrated their worth. Nor is this to advocate for a heady, pretentious publication or organization spewing exclusivity and elitist overtones, for this arena has already been covered. In fact, I would argue that it is the capacity of the collective network of experimental and experiential researchers of all types, open-air centers, and those working with archaeologically-inspired reconstructions, to maintain accessibility of information for their audiences that helps to support their causes and missions. There needs only to be a constant reaffirmation that the experiential segment of research, Group B, should not be lumped together with Groups A or C, and vise versa. Consistent international recognition of what "experimental archaeology" really means, can, in our digital age, become a reality.

An Alternative View

So as not to paint myself into a corner, it seems appropriate to acknowledge that this is only one theoretical solution to this "problem". Attempting to separate experiential from experimental research is like trying to take the "jell" out of jelly. All experimental archaeology is necessarily experiential, and likely a predominant reason for its following. After all, working with the hands and body in a physical space engages mental faculties and modes of knowledge acquisition that are unique and alluring. We must ask ourselves therefore, if a separation is really necessary, or most appropriate. As reflected in *EuroREA*,

observes Martin Wobst (personal communication, Dec. 2007), experimental archaeologists and educators in Europe seem less attracted to buzzwords that define, compartmentalize, or otherwise alter one's conceptions of what "experimental" and "experiential" archaeologies are. They seem to coexist under similar headings, with only the occasional reminder of paradigmatic clashing. This raises various questions. Instead of writing articles advocating for distinction, should we all just become more tolerant and open-minded with the terminology, as Tulloch (2007) suggests? Or alternatively, do we really need widely recognized disciplinary labels to define our own modes of inquiry, or can we just rely on our "in-house" theoretical and methodological approaches to locate, process, and contribute to those research arenas in which we are most interested? Why does it need to be, at least in part, defined from without? Accepting segregation as a means of promoting respective recognition and peer endorsement, as suggested above, seems precarious. It forces us to ask if the struggle for recognition and the subsequent butting-of-heads of Groups A and B is really for the greater good of cultural research and education, or if it is actually an unconscious response to the lures of validation and respect within an exclusive academic framework. As independent networks and publications such as *EXARC*, *EuroREA*, the Society of Primitive Technology, and the *Bulletin of Primitive Technology*, reach broader audiences on their own, will this perceived want of a static paradigmatic outline diminish? These questions, among others, illustrate that the "need" for a division of experimental and experiential research is neither as clear, nor as necessary, as I, and others, have suggested.

The Post-processual Air

So, was my original hunch entirely off-target? The simpler answer is no. Feeling confused yet? Though the agency represented by individuals, in this case active experimenters, is not often considered in experimental research, there are mumblings coming from various corners of the planet. *EuroREA* offers a few examples. Cunningham's (2005) "Assumptive holes and how to fill them", argues for a middle ground, in that following experimental protocol (e.g. like that of Reynolds, 2002, who argued strongly against keeping estimates of time and labor) too closely, reduces humanistic problem solving capacities (e.g. creativity and imagination) that can/should be present in studies. Marek's (2004) *"Problems of Measuring Physical Performance in Experimental Archaeology"*, is another prime example, seeking to address just what Reynolds (2002) has suggested against, and that which Callahan (1981) has expressed warning about. Do these and others, perhaps even Group B practitioners, relate to the surge of experiential education, and indicate that there is movement towards more humanistic and less sterile experimentation? Or, are these researchers too, contradicting the guidelines that have been laid before us? *A blend is possibly at work, suggesting that it may be time either to reconsider what guidelines exist for experimental archaeology, with an eye towards revision, or time to reassert what theoretical and methodological principles have previously been voiced (hence the above-mentioned call to action)*. In either case, it is time to think critically about the capabilities of experimental analogy, and the underlying impetus for this form of research.

A Last Word

In whatever shape or form experimental studies move towards in the near future, *EuroREA* is a quality publication. For American, or non-European audiences, it provides a fantastic outlet for the collaborative and individual advancements overseas, keeping us up-to-date, and on like trajectories. Its level of professionalism reflects its age, though it is clear that overall, it is on a strong upward slope. For readers looking for an accessible, but diverse publication on experimental research, experiential education, heritage-based interpretation, and the advancements of open-air centers across Europe, this is for you. With the above considerations in mind, I will only offer one last criticism: it only comes out once a year! As *EuroREA* becomes more established, I would hope that it's publishers find the resources to up its yearly appearance. It is well worth that effort! Further, it would do well to continue to pursue international collaboration. The Society of Primitive Technology, which offers both similar and unique contributions to like fields, would be wise to join forces with *EXARC* to further extend collegial exchange (IXARC in the making?). This is an exciting time for the development of non-traditional archaeological research, and with *EuroREA* well on its way, we can continue to expect good things from abroad.

REFERENCES

Anderson, J.
1984 ***Time Machines:*** *The World of Living History, The American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, TN.*

Ascher, R.
1961 *"Experimental Archaeology",* ***American Anthropologist,*** *no. 63, pp. 793-816.*

Callahan, E.
2006 *"From- Three Levels of Investment in Reconstruction: Therapy, Experience, and Experiment",* ***Bulletin of Primitive Technology,*** *No. 32, pp. 11-12.*

1996a *"In Defense of Level II",* ***Primitive Technology Newsletter,*** *no. 2, pp. 8.*

1996b *"General Operating Principles",* ***Primitive Technology Newsletter,*** *no. 2, pp. 9.*

1995 *"What is Experimental Archaeology?",* ***Primitive Technology Newsletter,*** *no. 1, pp. 3-4.*

1991a *"How to Make Science (Heaven Forbid)",* ***Bulletin of Primitive Technology,*** *no. 2, pp. 10-11.*

1991b *"A Pause for Thought",* ***Bulletin of Primitive***

Technology, *no. 1, pp. 5.*

1981a ***The Maturation of Experimental Archaeology: A Critical View,*** *Position paper delivered at the Second International Work Seminar in Lithic Technology, Lejre Research Center, Lejre, Denmark.*

1981b ***Pamunkey Housebuilding: An Experimental Study of Late Woodland Construction Technology in the Powhatan Confederacy,*** *The Catholic University of America.*

Coles, J.

1996 *"The Members Take Issue with Issue #1",* ***Primitive Technology Newsletter,*** *no. 2, pp. 4.*

1979 ***Experimental Archaeology,*** *Academic Press, New York, NY.*

1973 ***Archaeology by Experiment,*** *Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, NY.*

Comis, L.

2006 *"Diorama, (re)constructions and Experimental Archaeology",* ***EuroREA,*** *no. 3, pp. 78-82.*

Cunningham, P.

2005 *"Assumptive holes and how to fill them", EuroREA, no. 2, pp. 55-66.*

Dvorákova, K.

2004 *"Dai Morgan Evans: Rebuilding the Past a Roman Villa",* ***EuroREA,*** *no. 1, pp. 203-205.*

EXARC

2007 ***November 14-last update, European Exchange on Archaeological Research and Communication*** *[Homepage of EXARC], [Online]. Available: www.exarc.net [2007, November/2].*

Flenniken, J.

1984 *"The Past, Present, and Future of Flintknapping: An Anthropological Perspective",* ***Annual Review of Anthropology,*** *no. 13, pp. 187-203.*

Fox, K., and Hollis, H.

2004 *"Virtually the Ice Age",* ***EuroREA,*** *no. 1, pp. 197-202.*

Gould, R.A.

1980 ***Living Archaeology,*** *Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England.*

Hodder, I.

1985 *"Postprocessual Archaeology" in* ***Advances in Archaeological Method and Theory,*** *ed. M. Schiffer, Academic Press, New York, NY, pp. 1-26.*

Ingersoll, D., Yellen, J. & Macdonald, W. (eds)

1977 ***Experimental Archaeology,*** *Columbia University Press, New York, NY.*

Jones, S.

2005 *"An Advanced Reply to Jergen Weiner",* ***Bulletin of Primitive Technology,*** *no. 29, pp. 8-10.*

Kelterborn, P.

2005 *"Principles of experimental research in archaeology",* ***EuroREA,*** *no. 2, pp. 120-122.*

1990 *"Preconditions and Strategies for Experimental Archaeology",* ***Cahiers du Quarternaire,*** *no. 17, pp. 599-602.*

1987 *"Principles of Experimental Research in Archaeology",* ***Bulletin of Experimental Archaeology,*** *no. 8, pp. 11-12.*

Lammers-Keijsers, Y.

2005 *"Scientific experiments: a possibility? Presenting a general cyclical script for experiments in archaeol-ogy",* ***EuroREA,*** *no. 2, pp. 18-24.*

Makys, O.

2004 *"Mock-up Presentation of the Gate Tower Hill Fort at Liptovska Mara",* ***EuroREA,*** *no. 1, pp. 137-149.*

Marek, S.

2004 *"Problems of Measuring Physical Performance in Experimental Archaeology",* ***EuroREA,*** *no. 1, pp. 11-34.*

Mathieu, J.

2002 ***Experimental Archaeology: Replicating Past Objects, Behaviors, and Processes,*** *Archaeopress, Oxford, UK.*

Osipowicz, G.

2006 *"The list of experiments which are still waiting to be done is as long as the inventiveness and resourcefulness of the people in the past",* ***EuroREA,*** *no. 3, pp. 3.*

2005 *"A Method of Wood Tar Production, Without the Use of Ceramics",* ***EuroREA,*** *no. 2, pp. 11-17.*

Paskeviciene, J.

2005 *"The Taste of the Past in Kernave", EuroREA, no. 2, pp. 142-148.*

Reynolds, P.

2002 *June 1-last update,* ***The Nature of Experiment in Archaeology*** *[Homepage of Butser Ancient Farm], [Online]. Available: http://www.butser.org.uk/lafexp_hcc.html [2005, May 12].*

1979 ***Iron-Age Farm: The Butser Experiment,*** *1st edn, British Museum Publications Limited.*

1978 *"Archaeology by Experiment; A Research Tool for Tomorrow",* ***New Approaches to Our Past - An Archaeological Forum,*** *eds. T.C. Darvill & M.P. Pearson, University of Southhampton, United Kingdom, pp. 139-155.*

Szu, A., Oka, I. & Madarassy, O.

2007 *"Reconstruction the Roman and Celtic Dress of Aquincum",* ***EuroREA,*** *no. 3, pp. 3-10.*

Tencariu, F.

2004 *"Experiments on Pottery Manufacture",* ***EuroREA,*** *no. 1, pp. 85-92.*

Thomas, D.

1986 *"Contemporary Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology in America",* ***American Archaeology, Past and Future: A Celebration of the Society for American Archaeology, 1935-1985,*** *eds. D. Meltzer, D. Fowler, and J. Sabloff, J. Smithsonian Institution Press: Washington, D. C., pp. 237-276.*

Tichy, R.

2005 *"Presentation of Archaeology and Archaeological Experiment",* ***EuroREA,*** *no. 2, pp. 113-119.*

Tulloch, A.

2007 *"Going Wild: Organizing a Primitive Living Experiment",* ***Bulletin of Primitive Technology,*** *no. 34, pp. 14-16.*

Wescott, D.

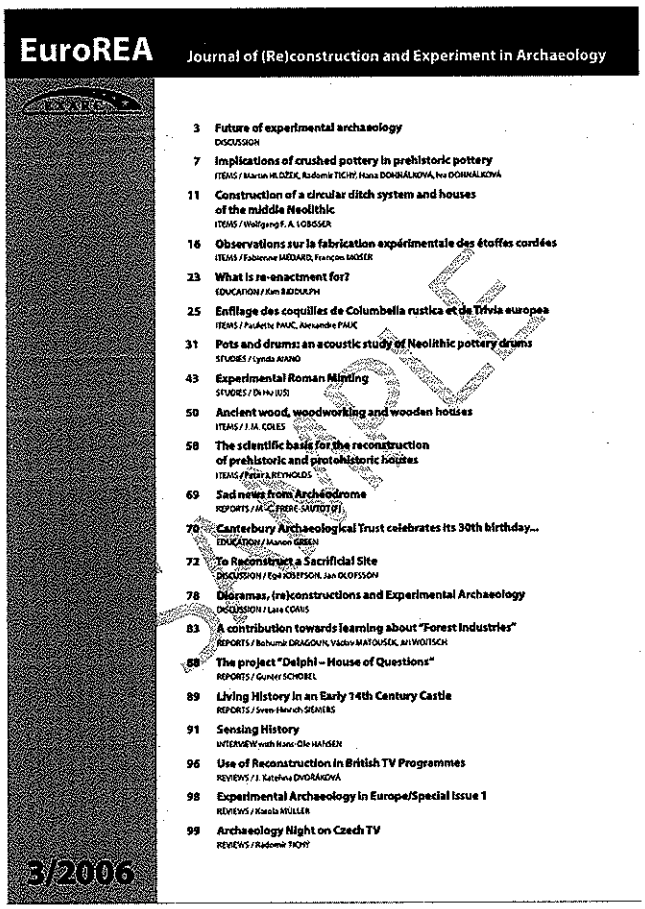
1995 *"The Society of Primitive Technology and Experimental Archaeology: Who Are We?",* ***Primitive Technology Newsletter,*** *no. 1, pp. 8-11.*

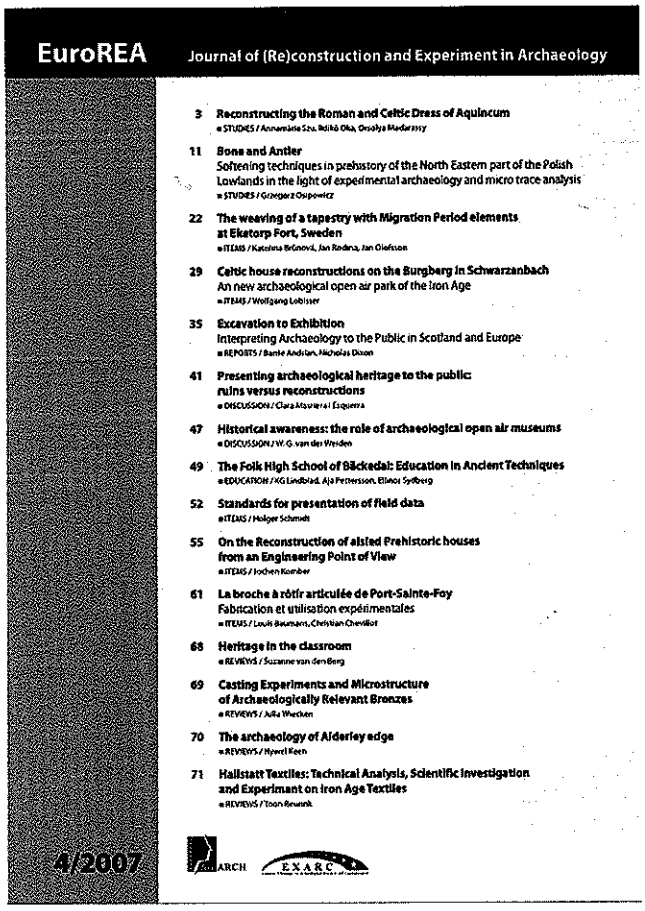
Yellen, J.

1977 ***Archaeological Approaches to the Present: Models for Reconstructing the Past,*** *Academic Press, Inc., New York, NY.*

Young, D., and Bonnichsen, R.

1984 *"Understanding Stone Tools: A Cognitive Approach",* ***Peopling of the Americas Process Series,*** *no. 1. University of Maine, Orono, ME.*





EuroREA can be purchased through www.eurorea.net. Present prices hover between eight and ten euro, and the current four issues can be had for less than $40.00 USD, shipped from the Netherlands.

Acknowledgements: My thanks to Martin Wobst, for his commentary and suggestions along the way.