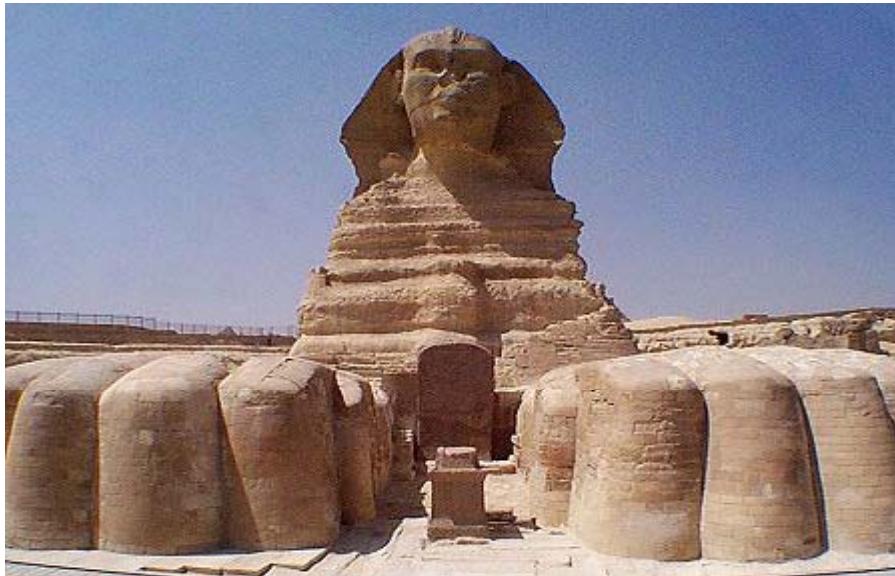


The Development of Archaeological Inquiry

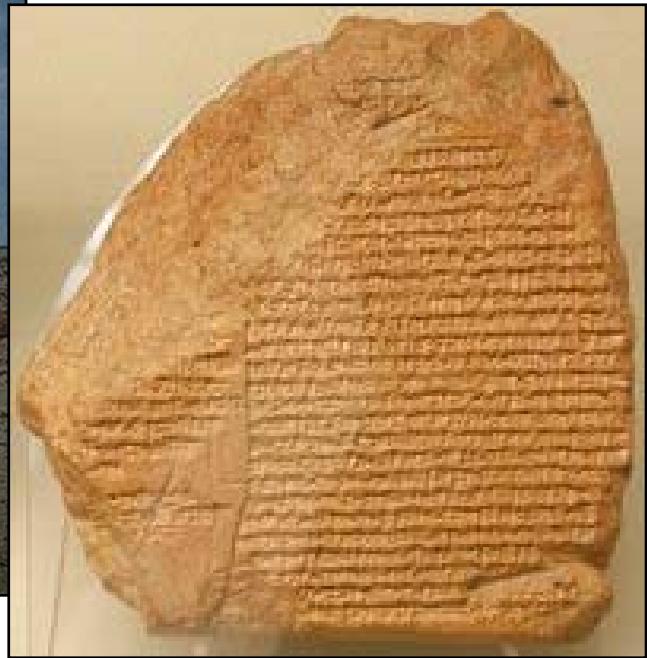


Teotihuacan, Piramide_03. Photo ca. 1930's

- The Aztecs exaggerated their Toltec ancestry
- They mistakenly associated Teotihuacán, abandoned hundreds of years earlier, with the Toltec
- They incorporated ceremonial stone masks from that site in the foundation deposits of their own Great Temple



- The Egyptian Pharaoh Tuthmose IV,
A pharaoh of the Egyptian New Kingdom c. 1500 BC
- Fascinated by the monument known as the Sphinx
- Restored this monument built more than a thousand
years earlier, and left an inscribed tablet that celebrated
that event.



- The Neo-Babylonian king Nabonidus, the last king of the Babylonian empire, who died in 538 BC
- An extremely religious man, rebuilt the ruined temple of ancient Babylon
- He had his scribes excavate the foundations of the temple to uncover the foundation stone which had been laid over 2200 years previously.
- Although Nabonidus was no archaeologist, he is important because **he looked in the physical residues of antiquity to answer questions about the past.**

During the European Middle Ages, the Christian Church dominated Western thinking, and the acceptance of the Biblical story of creation from the Hebrew Bible was widely accepted.

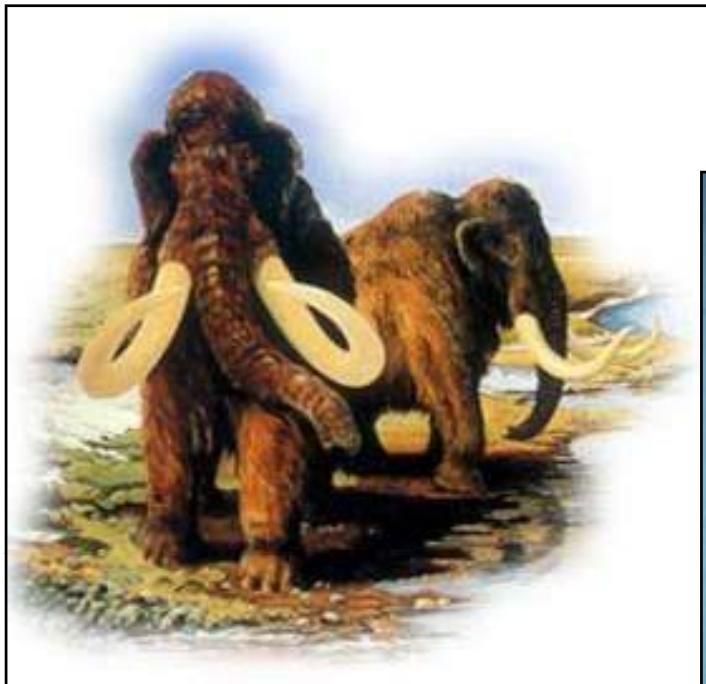


- During the European renaissance, nobility and cultured individuals began to collect ‘curiosities’, which included antiquities alongside other specimens of ‘natural history’ (minerals, fossils etc.).
- Also at this time scholars began to collect the relics of Classical antiquity from the Greek and Roman world, and to study the ruins of prehistoric mounds and stone monuments many of which dated back to the European neolithic (like Stone Henge).

- At this time the very idea of the antiquity of man was largely inconceivable
- As late as 1650, Bishop Ussher of Armagh in Northern Ireland calculated from a detailed study of the Biblical genealogies that the world was created in 4004 BC.



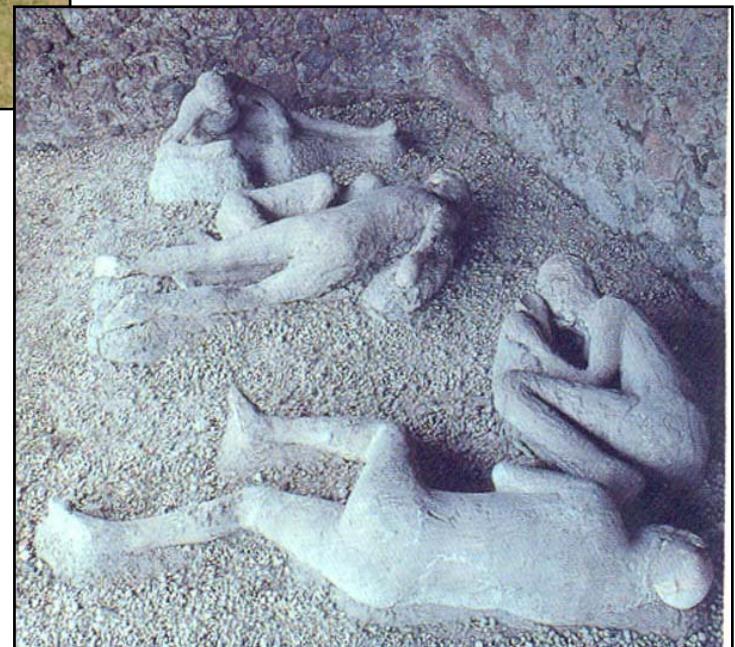
- Up to the early nineteenth century theologians and scientists were locked in a debate about the antiquity of humans
- Theologians said that man made stone tools found with extinct animals could be explained away by the story of the Biblical flood.

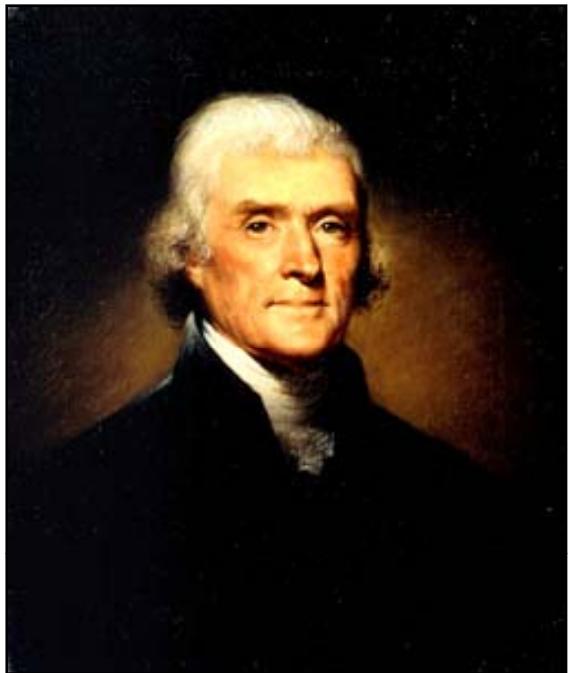


- In 1715 discovery of a stone tools (now dated to about 100,000 yrs bp) were found with the remains of elephant bones in a gravel pit in London England
- The finding of stone tools found alongside the remains of extinct animals led people to begin to question the established beliefs about the past, the Biblical creation accounts and Ussher's date of 4004 BC.



- In 1710 the discovery of the Roman city of Pompeii, which had been buried by ash from the eruption of Mt Vesuvius in AD 79, caused a sensation.
- Clearance of the ruins beginning of 1738 led to a greater public interest in the ancient world.





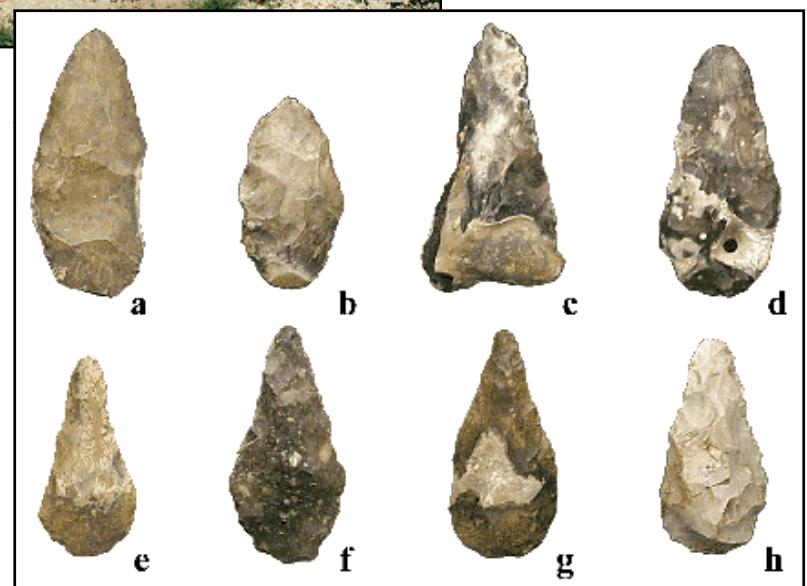
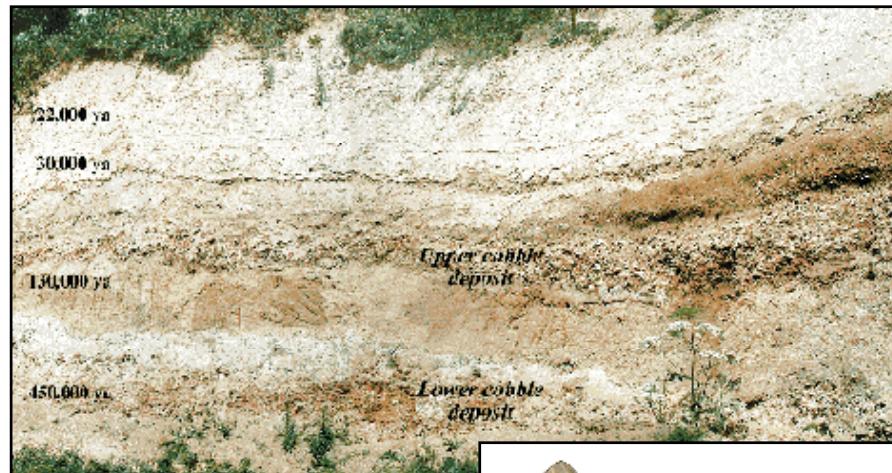
- In America, in 1784 Thomas Jefferson holds the claim to being the first investigator of antiquities through excavation in the New World when he excavated a trench across a burial mound on his property in Virginia.
- Jefferson's contemporaries speculated that the hundreds of unexplained mounds east of the Mississippi had been built not by the Indigenous American population but by a lost race of mythical mound-builders.

- Jefferson's excavations were way ahead of his time, in that he used a 'scientific' approach by testing this idea about the moundbuilders through a careful excavation which revealed detailed layers of the site.
- He concluded that there was no reason to assume that the sites were not built by the ancestors of the indigenous American populations.
- Jefferson's used deduction to understand the excavated evidence, which foreshadows later development in the early history of archaeology.

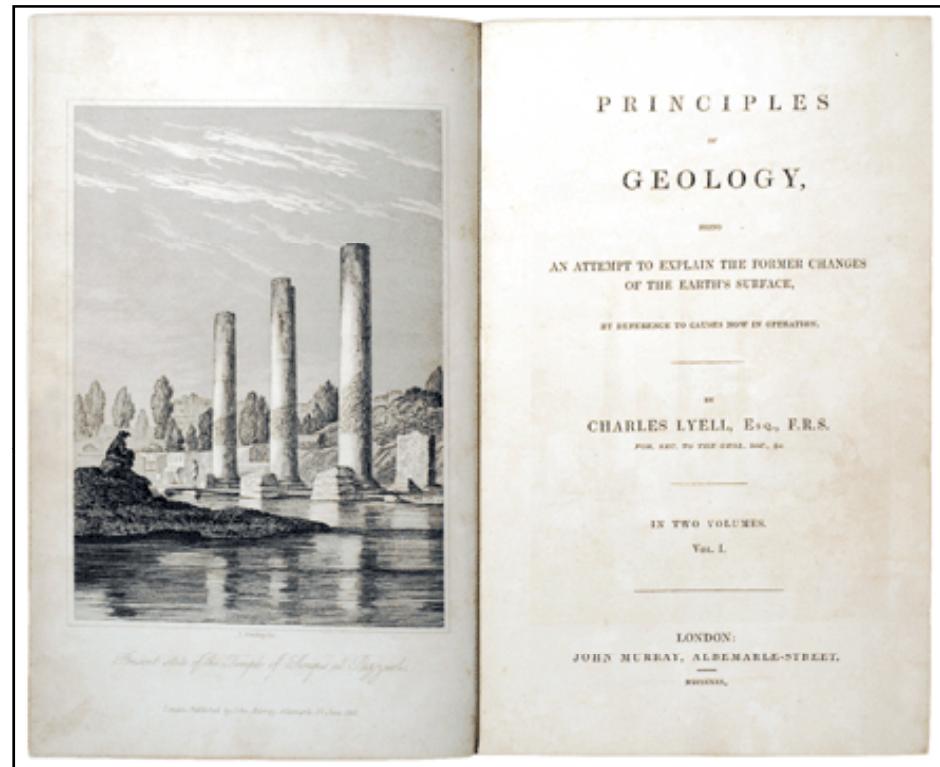
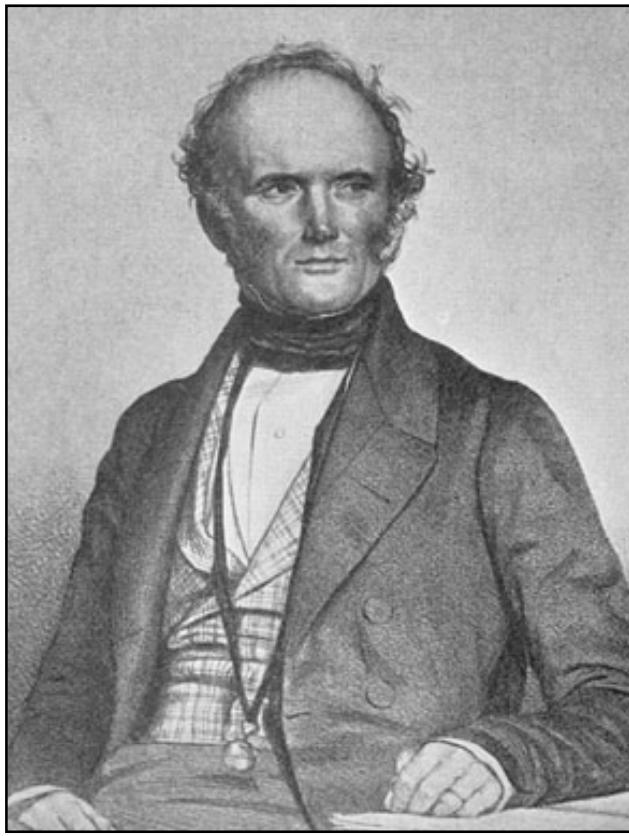


Christian Jürgensen Thomsen (1786 – 1865)

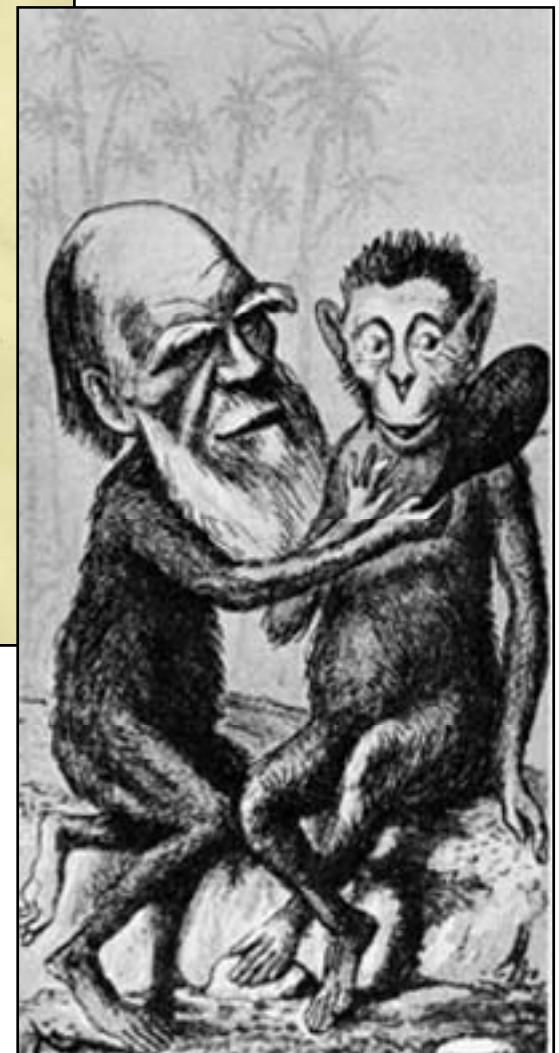
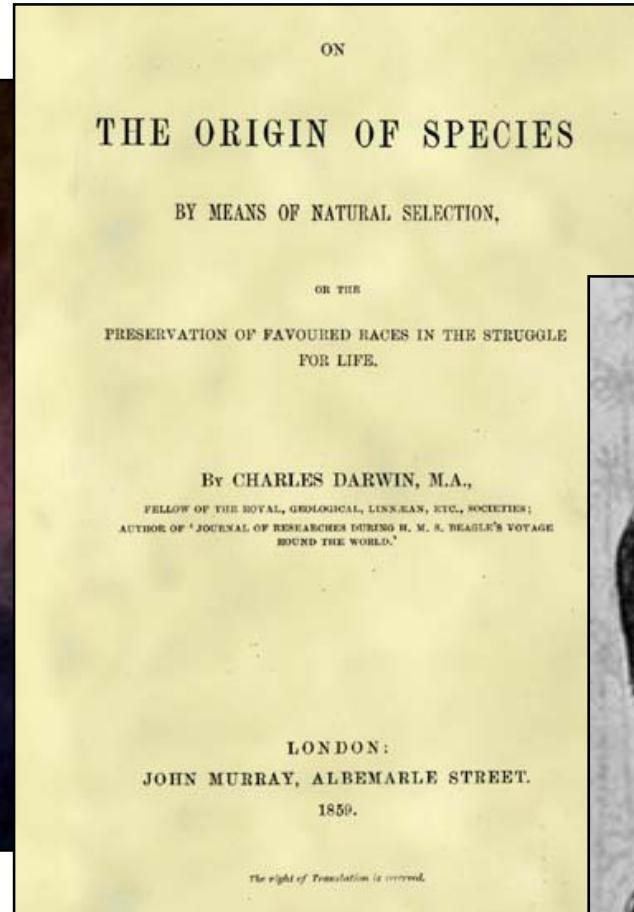
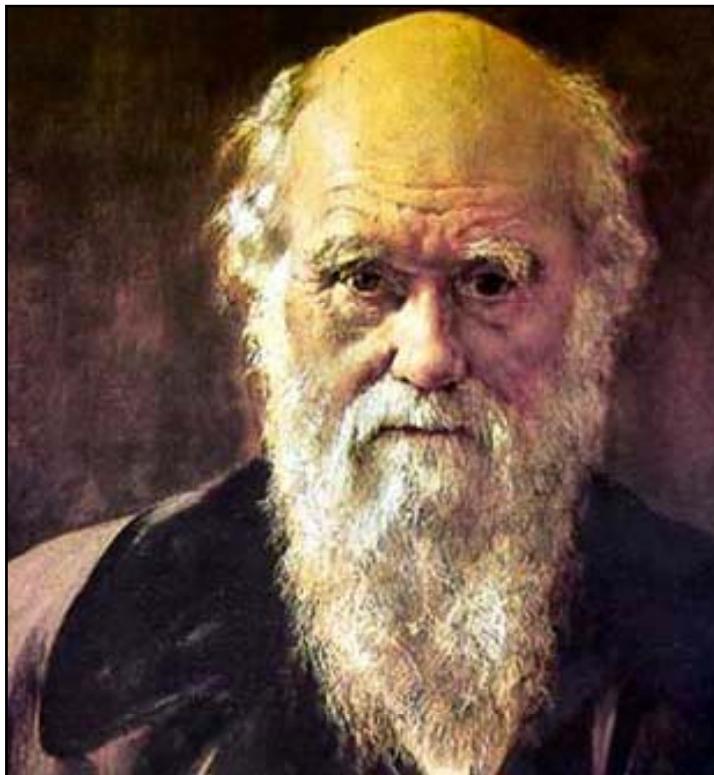
- In 1819, Christian Thomsen developed the **three-age system of Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age** while he was trying to organize his museum.
- Essentially a way of trying to understand the evolution of human culture through the appearance of varieties of technology.
- The three-age system formed the basis for all Old World archaeology.



- In France, in 1841, Jacques Boucher de Perthes published convincing evidence from his work in gravel quarries in the Somme Valley at St. Acheul, of the association of chipped stone axes (hand-axes or bifaces) with extinct animals.
- He argued that this indicated human existence long before the account of a biblical flood.
- Few accepted his assertions.

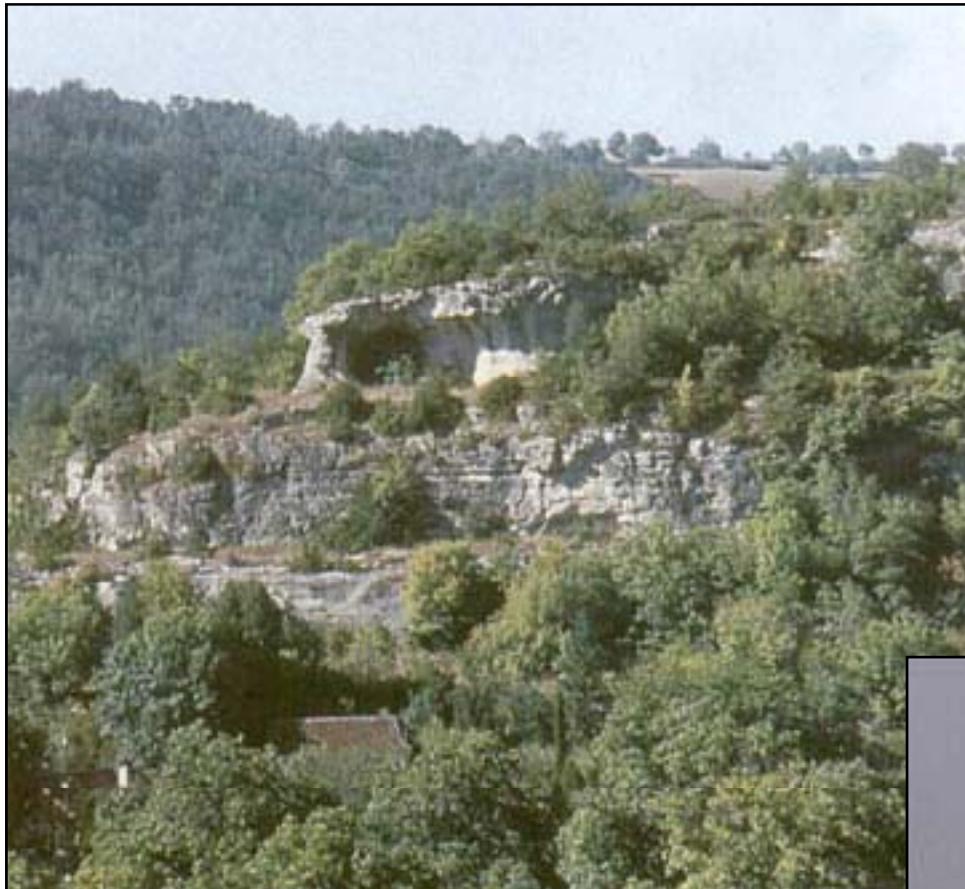


- In 1859 the British geologists William Smith and **Charles Lyell** were able to demonstrate that the earth had been formed by geological process of erosion and deposition and not by a ‘universal flood’.
- Their *Principals of Geology* provided the first use of ‘stratigraphic description, which becomes important for later archaeological methodology.



the publication of *The Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin in 1859, began to unravel the long held belief in the short 6000 span of humanity held for so long.

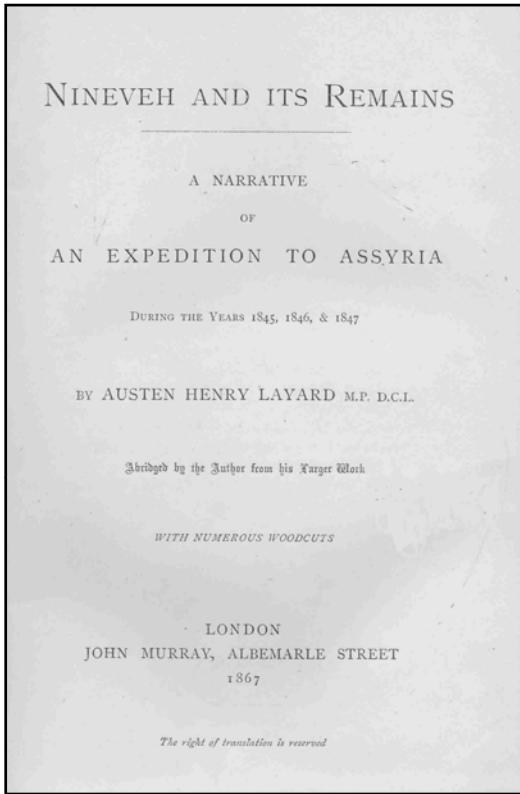
Darwin's views were highly controversial and in some parts of the world they remain that way



- In the nineteenth century interest in the past expanded rapidly.

➤ At the same time as Darwin's theory, evidence began to emerge of fossil evidence for ancient man with the discovery of "Neanderthal man" in the Neander valley of France in 1856.

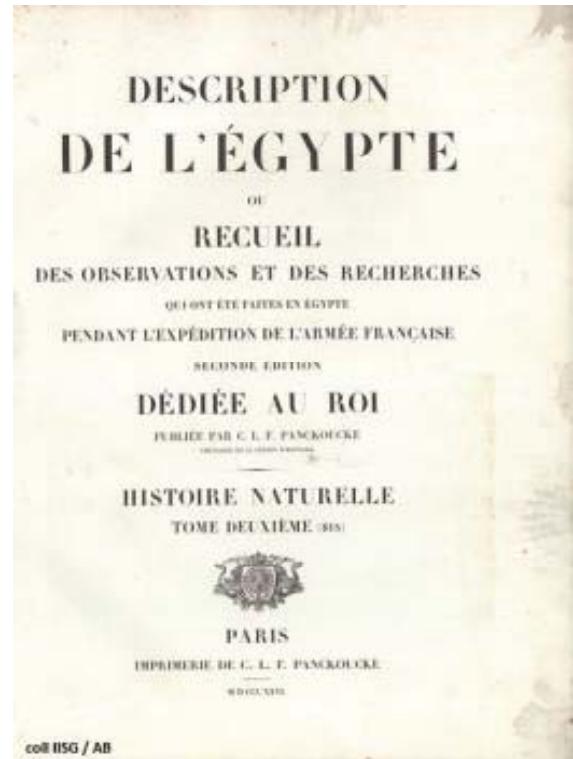




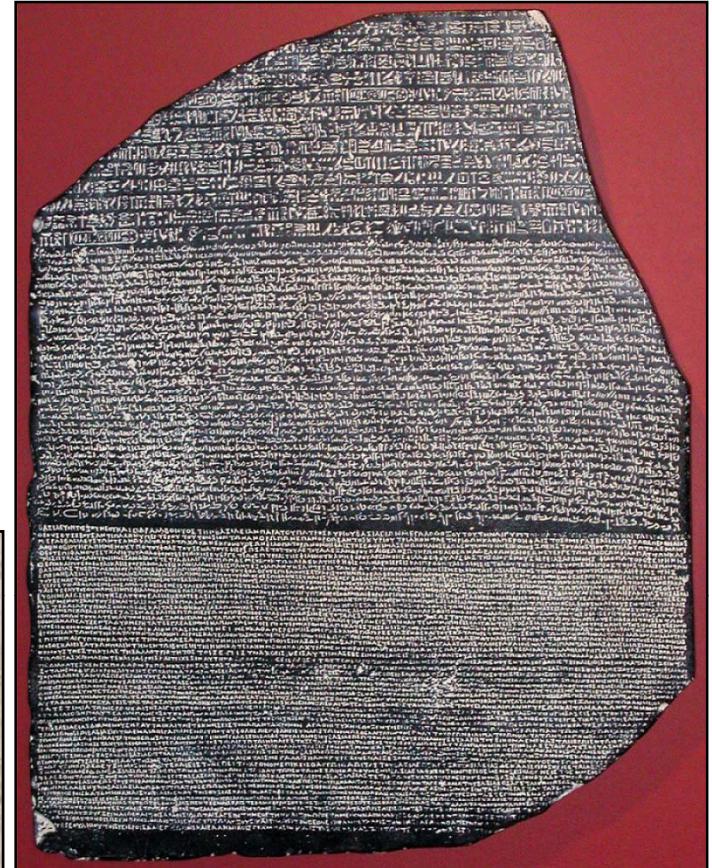
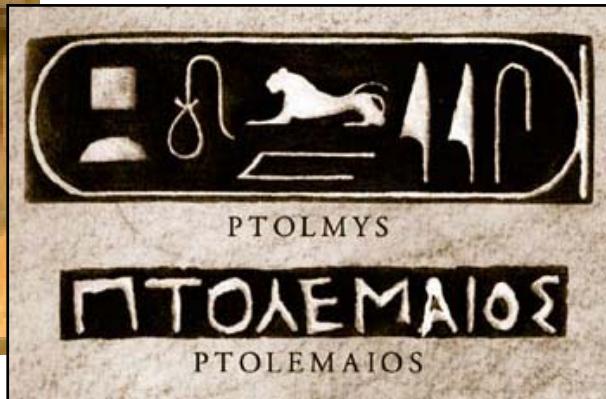
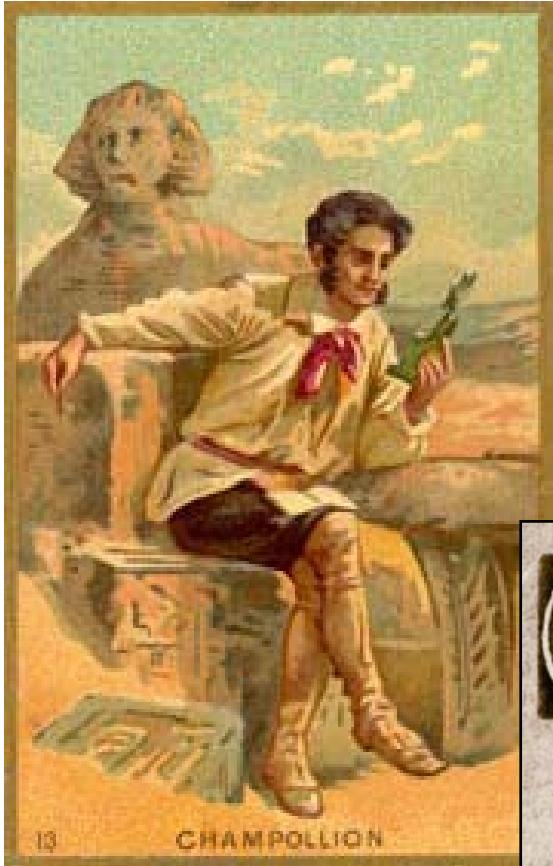
- In 1840 Austen Henry Layard travelled to what is now northern Iraq, and excavated at the mound of Küyünjik, and discovered what turned out to be the ruins of the palace of Sennacherib (700 BC) and the Assyrian capital of Nineveh.



- Tunnelling into the mound he discovered two palaces in a month.
- He also uncovered an archive of clay tablets inscribed in cuneiform, and shipped many artifacts and monolithic statues of ‘winged bulls’ back to England, where they remain some of the most spectacular finds in the British Museum.
- The re-discovery of the Assyrians, known from the Hebrew Bible, sparked a race of exploration in the Ancient Near East, and raised public awareness of the region and its history.

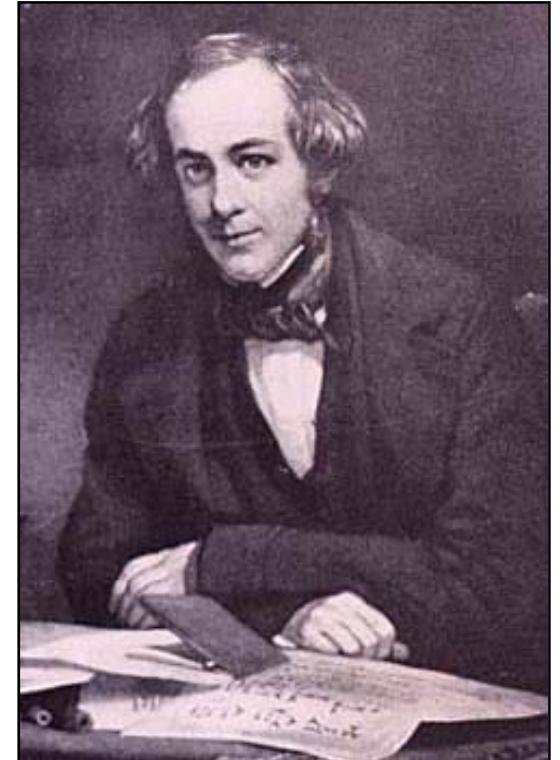
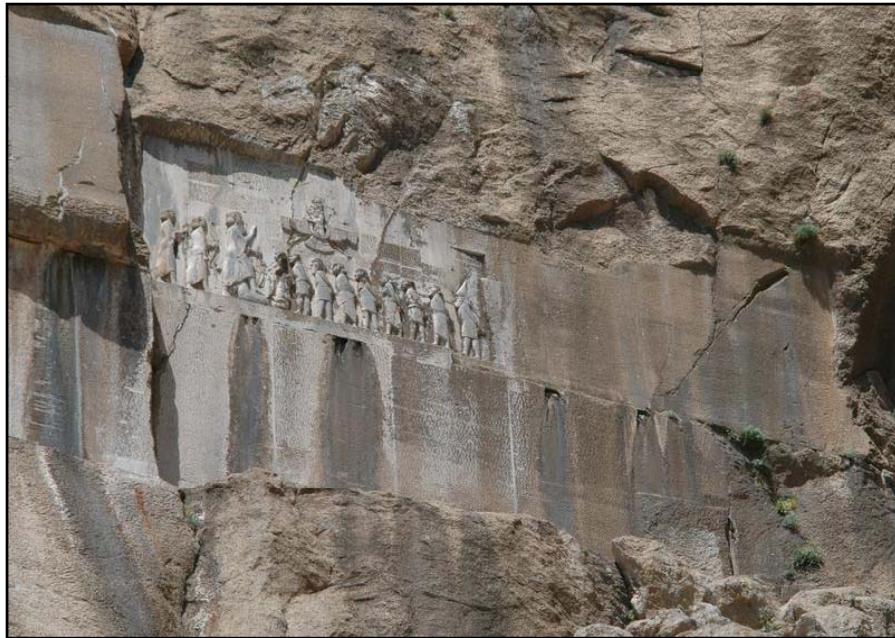


- Interest in the Ancient Middle East had already begun with the expedition of Napoleon Bonaparte to Egypt in 1798.
- Fascinated by the grandeur of the ruins, Napoleon had his team compile a volume on the ruins and antiquities of Egypt.
- The publication of this volume in France caused other nations to begin to send expeditions to Egypt although these were no more than collectors and adventurers, intent on acquiring monuments and treasures for their national museum.

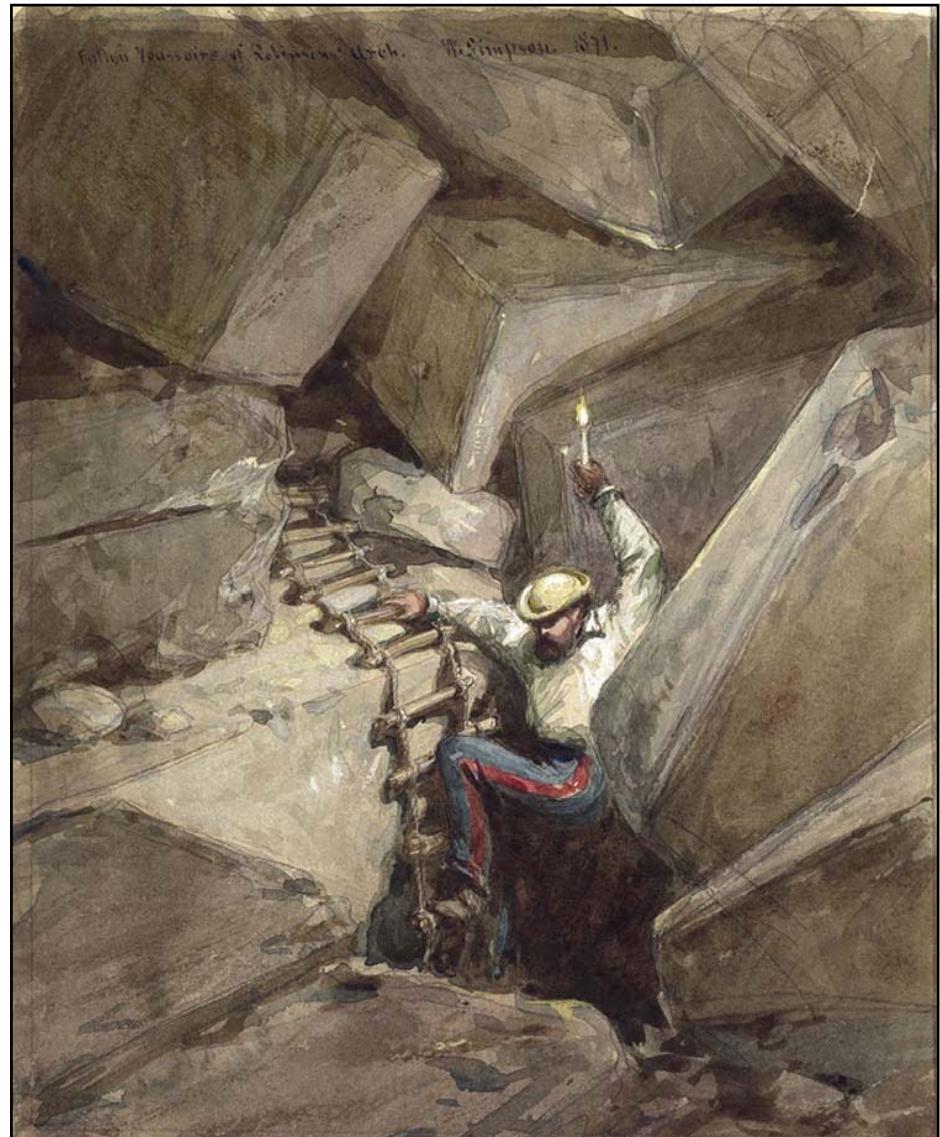
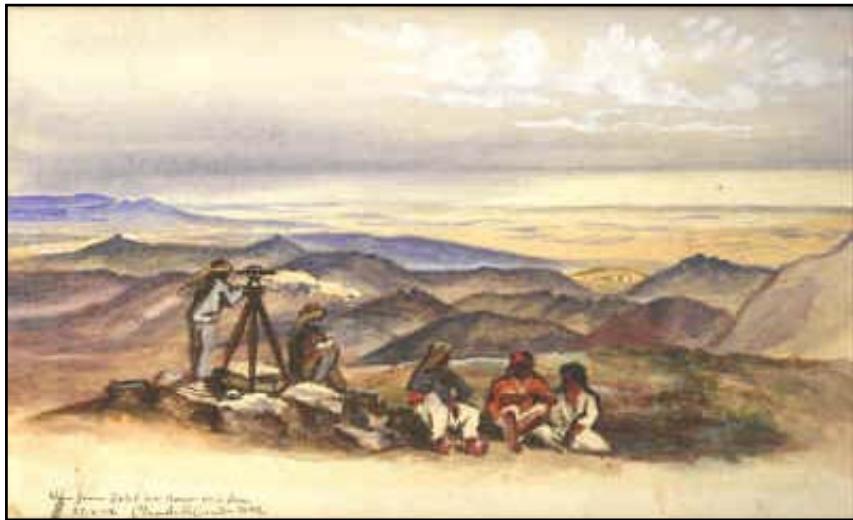


- In 1822, Jean Jacques Champollion was able to decipher the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs through his work on the Rosetta Stone, an inscription in three languages (Egyptian hieroglyphs, Egyptian hieratic and Greek).

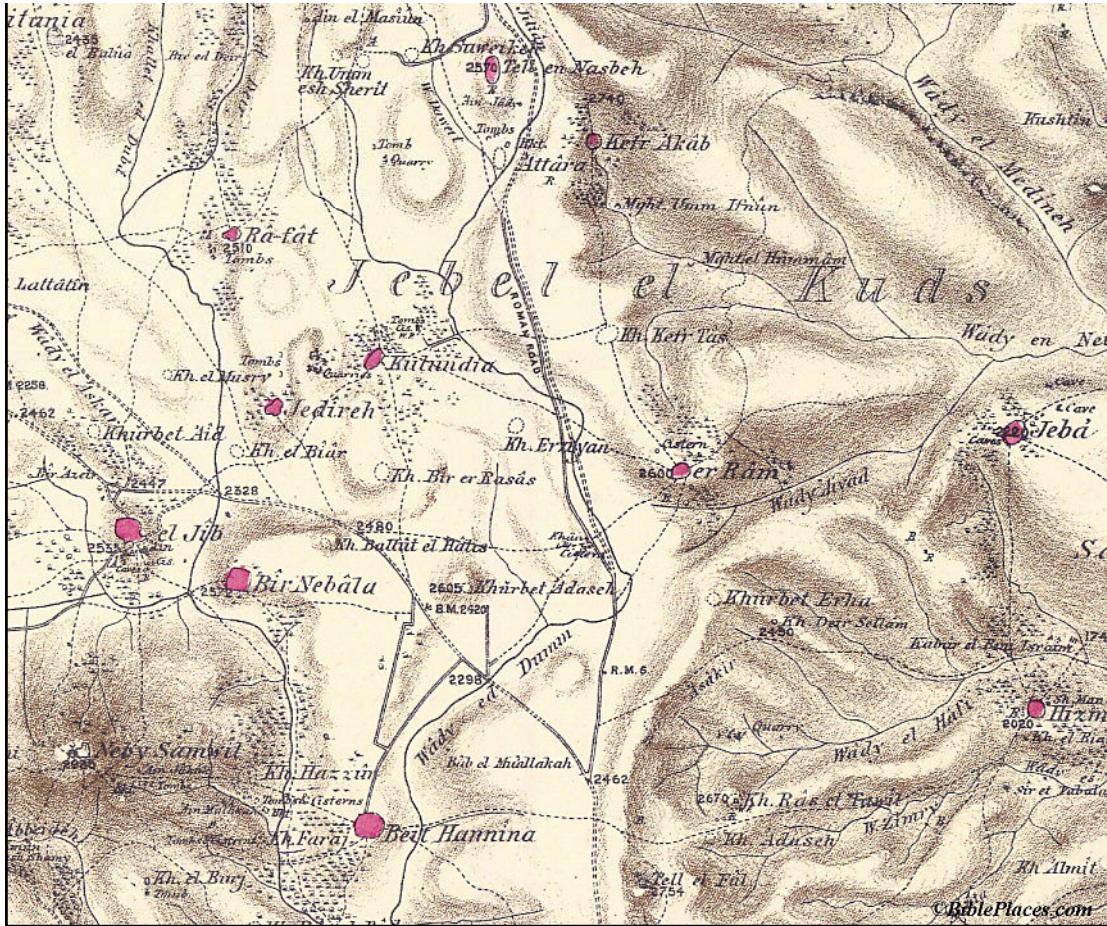
- In the 1850s a similar breakthrough in the decipherment of Mesopotamian cuneiform was accomplished
- Henry Rawlinson translated a massive 6th century BC inscription in three languages (Old Persian, Elamite and cuneiform) on the cliff face at the site of Behistun, located between Baghdad and Tehran.



- These discoveries opened up the ability to read the increasingly large numbers of texts from both Mesopotamia and Egypt, which opened up the study of these cultures from their own texts and records.

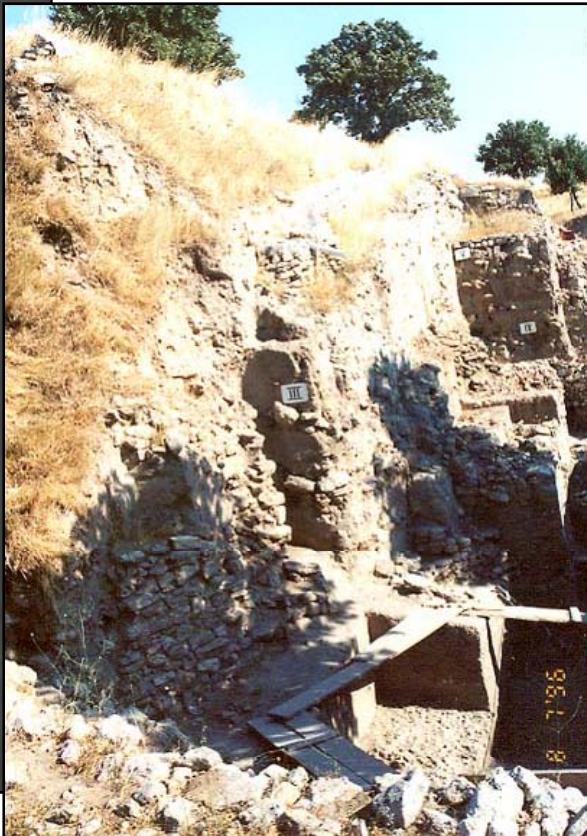
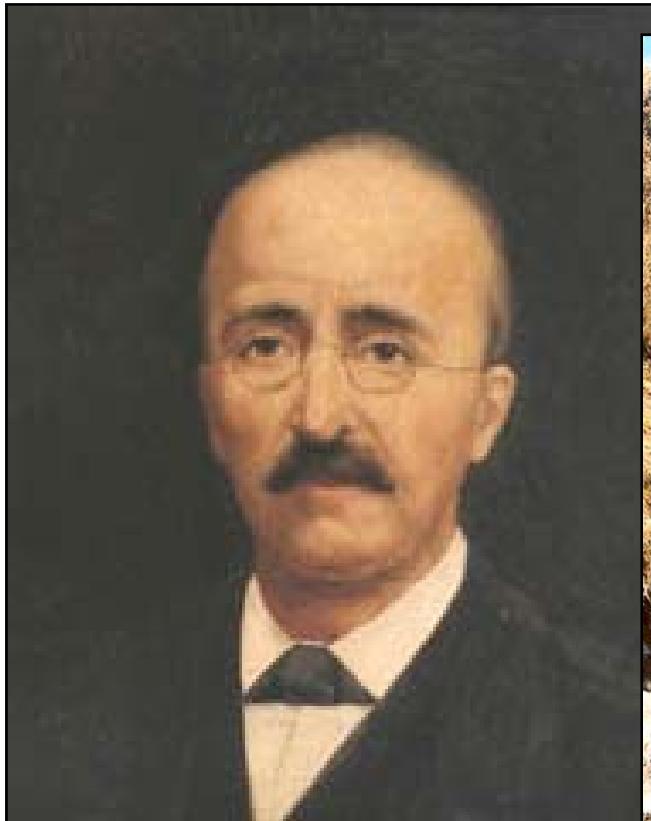


- This interest in the Biblical World brought the founding of the Palestine Exploration Fund in London in 1865.
- The Fund financed the mapping and excavations of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem by Charles Warren in 1867-70, and the survey of Western Palestine in 1875-81.



➤ At this same time the work of American ‘Biblical Geographers’ Edward Robinson and Eli Smith recorded the location of Biblical sites based on modern and ancient names.

- The re-discovery of the ‘Ancient Biblical World’ proved to be a turning point in sparking the public’s imagination
- throughout the nineteenth and early 20th century numerous expeditions were launched in search of these ancient cultures mentioned in the Bible, and to collect and catalogue more of the ancient texts of Egypt and Mesopotamia.



- Of course others were working in different parts of the Old World, and in 1871 Heinrich Schliemann, a Greek entrepreneur and amateur excavator discovered and then excavated what he believed to be the famous city of Troy.
- Using the Homeric text of the Iliad he located the mound of Hissarlik in western Turkey as the likely ruins of Troy, and excavated the site discovering numerous superimposed cities one on top of another.

- After his discovery of ‘Troy’, he was not content but later went in search of the victorious ‘Greeks’ of the Trojan War and the capital Mycenaean.



- Schliemann found the site in the Argolid of Mainland Greece and excavated it, revealing yet another ‘lost civilization’ – that of the Mycenaeans.
- His work there revealed not only the fortified city Mycenaean, but also discovered two large grave circles...

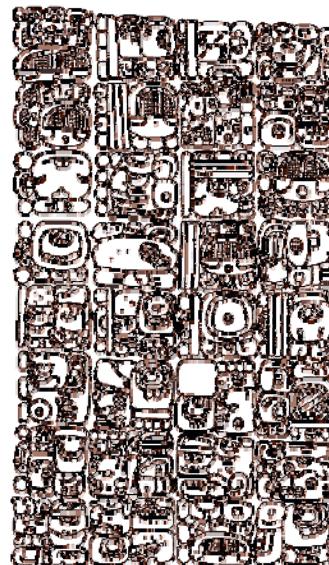


.... with fabulous gold masks, one of which he suggested was the mask of Agamemnon, the leader of the 'Greeks' and the King of Mycenae.

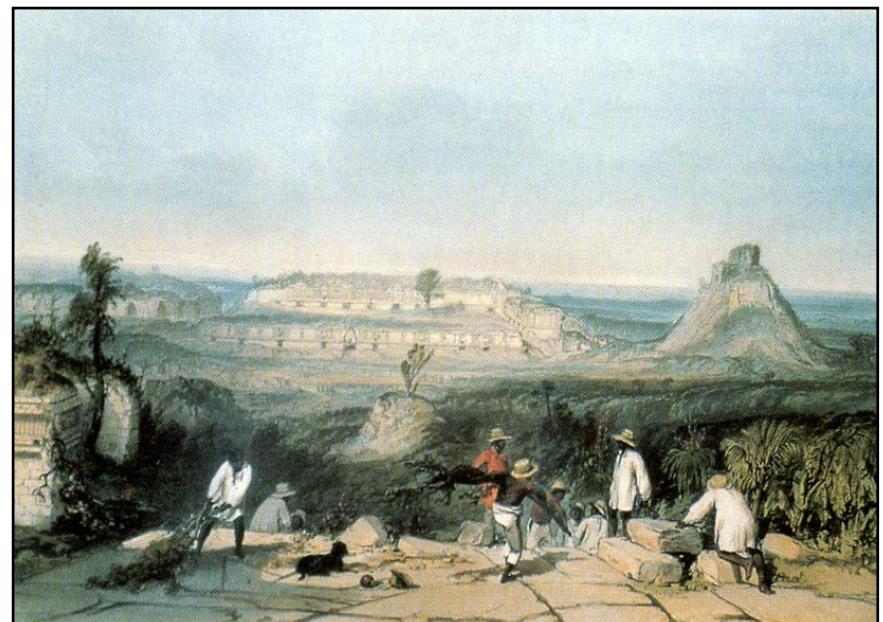
- Schliemann was a shrewd businessman, and he was able to put a face to one of the characters of the Iliad which caught the public imagination.



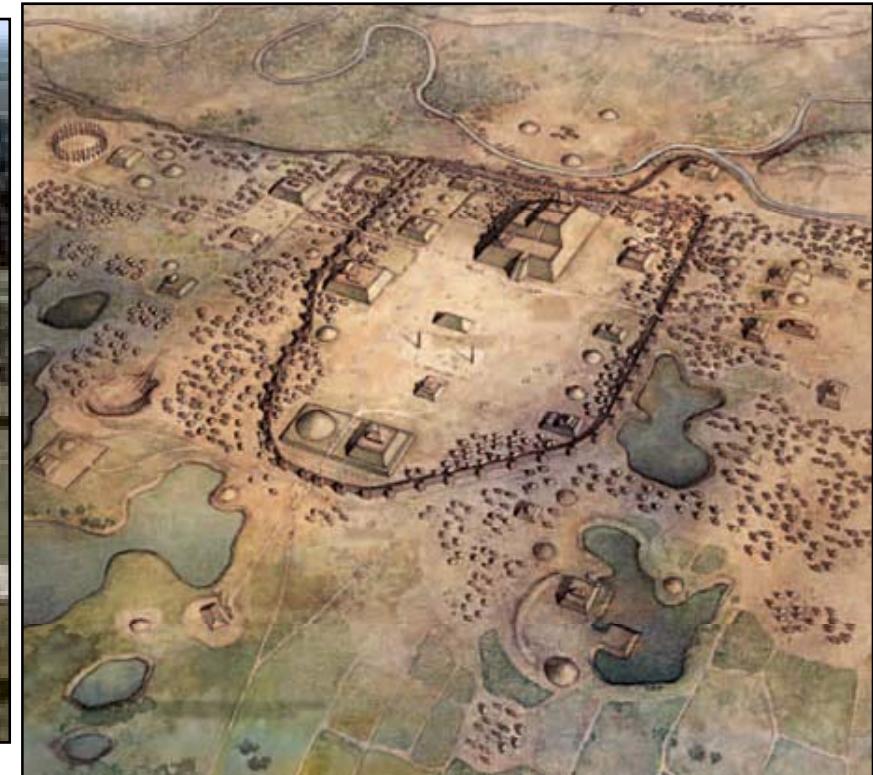
➤ Stephens also noted the Mayan hieroglyphs on many of the recorded buildings, but no counterpart to Champolion or Rawlinson was to emerge to decipher these until the 1960s.



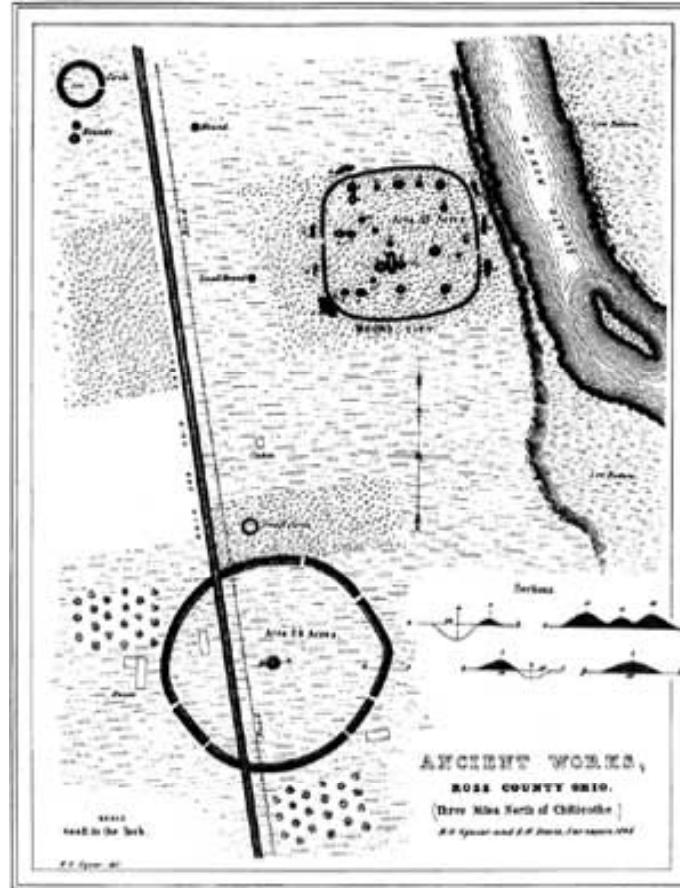
➤ In the New World, during the 1840s, the American John Lloyd Stephens along with English artist Frederick Catherwood travelled to the Yucatan in Mexico and illustrated for the first time the ancient Mayan cities, and published these drawing in superbly illustrated volumes.



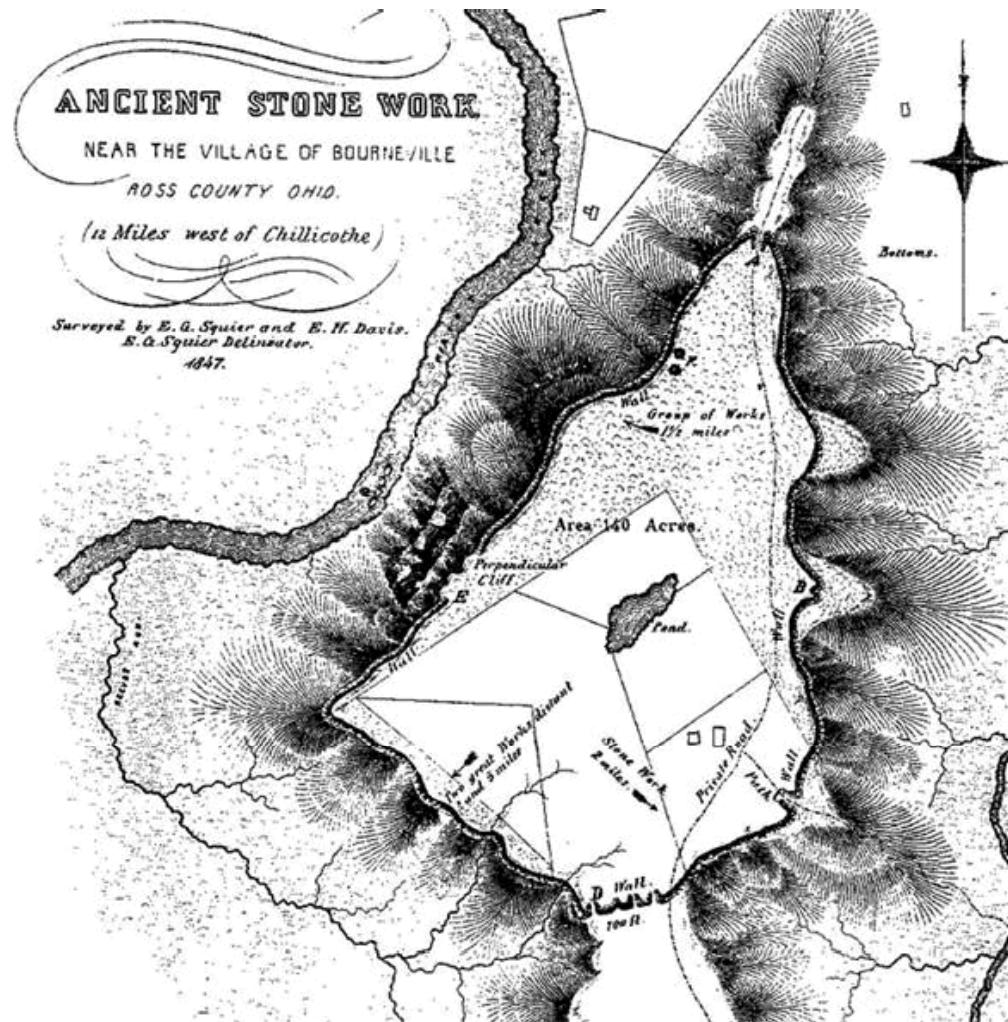
- Also in America, interest was generated by westward expansion into the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, the site of spectacular “mounds” (pyramids and platforms).
- Americans had a difficult time associating these mounds with the more “simple” native cultures they encountered.
- This brought about a view that the region must have been once populated by a race of “moundbuilders”, who were likely not the ancestors of the current native Americans.



- Also in America, between 1845 and 1847, an Ohio newspaper man by the name of **Ephraim Squier** along with Edwin Davis excavated over 200 mounds, and published in 1848 *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley*, which was the first publication of the newly founded Smithsonian Institution.



- The volume provided drawings and simple classification of the mounds (burial place, platforms, fortifications), and was able to record many of these sites which were being destroyed by westward expansion of settlers.
- Squier and Davis maintained the myth of the 'moundbuilders'.



ANCIENT MONUMENTS OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY



EPHRAIM G. SQUIER and EDWIN H. DAVIS
Edited and with an introduction by DAVID J. MELTZER

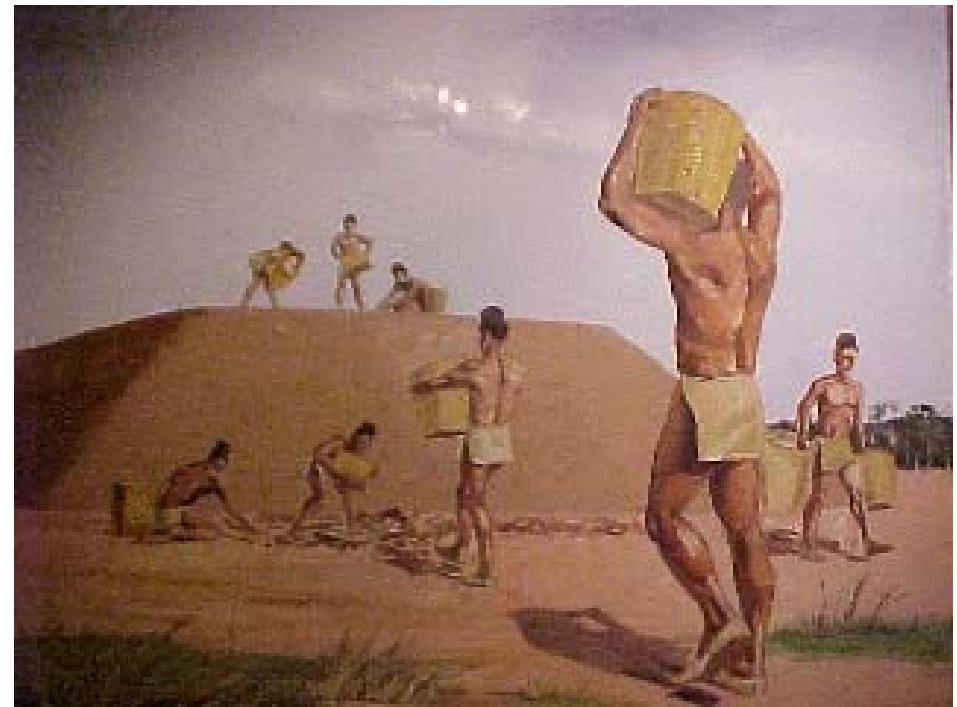
SMITHSONIAN CLASSICS OF ANTHROPOLOGY

In the Americas Squire and Davis pioneered **archaeological survey and publication of the data**



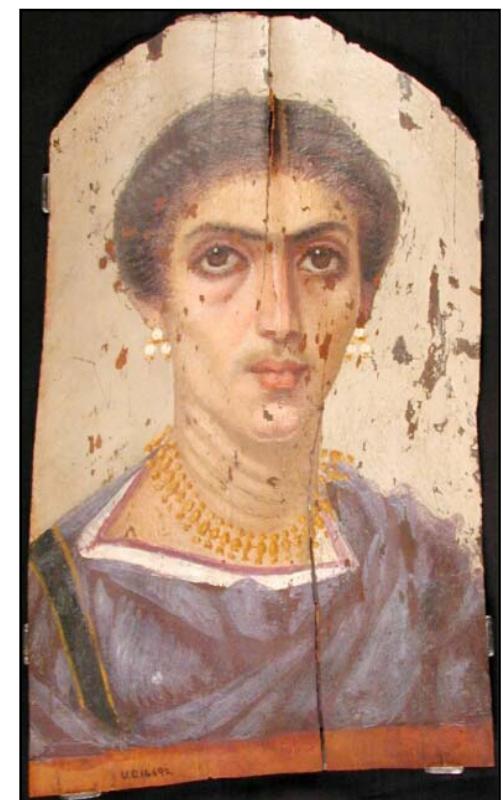
- John Wesley Powell, the head of the US Geological Survey, founded the Bureau for American Ethnology, an agency set up to study native American culture.
- Powell was a campaigner for native rights, recommended the setting up of reservations, and also began recording oral histories.

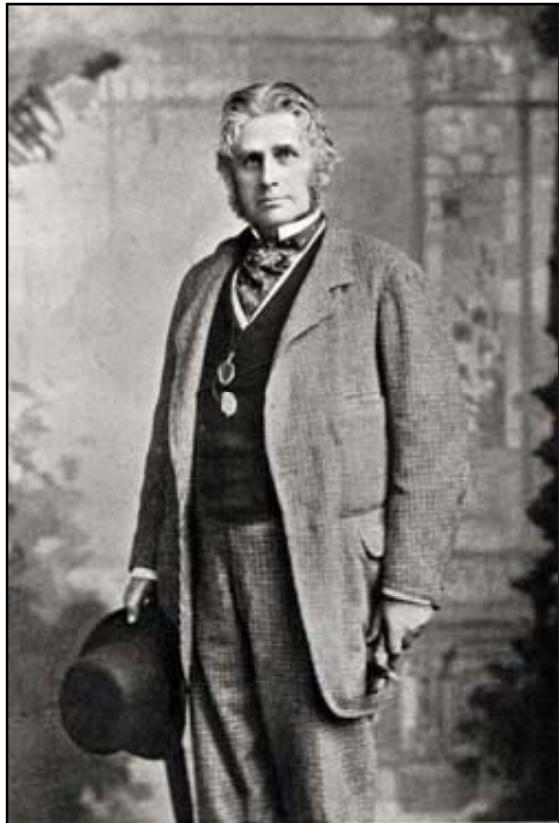
- In 1881 he hired Cyrus Thomas to head the Bureau, and to settle the question of the mound builders once and for all.
- After seven years of fieldwork and the investigation of thousands of mounds, he debunked the myth of the ‘moundbuilders’ arriving at the conclusion that the mounds had indeed been built by the ancestors of the native American peoples.





- In Egypt, exploration and excavation continued at a rapid pace, and the most prolific of these excavators was Sir Matthew Williams Flinders Petrie.
- Petrie, working for the Egypt Exploration Society in England would excavate in Egypt every winter, returning to publish his catalogues of finds in the UK each summer (when it was too hot to work in Egypt).
- Over the late nineteenth and early 20th centuries Petrie excavated many of the most famous Egyptian sites, and collected, recorded and published many volumes of these.
- Petrie was eccentric, but through his meticulous excavation, recording and excavation records, and also through his fine catalogues and drawings was able to document a vast amount of information about ancient Egyptian societies from the prehistoric through to the Roman period.

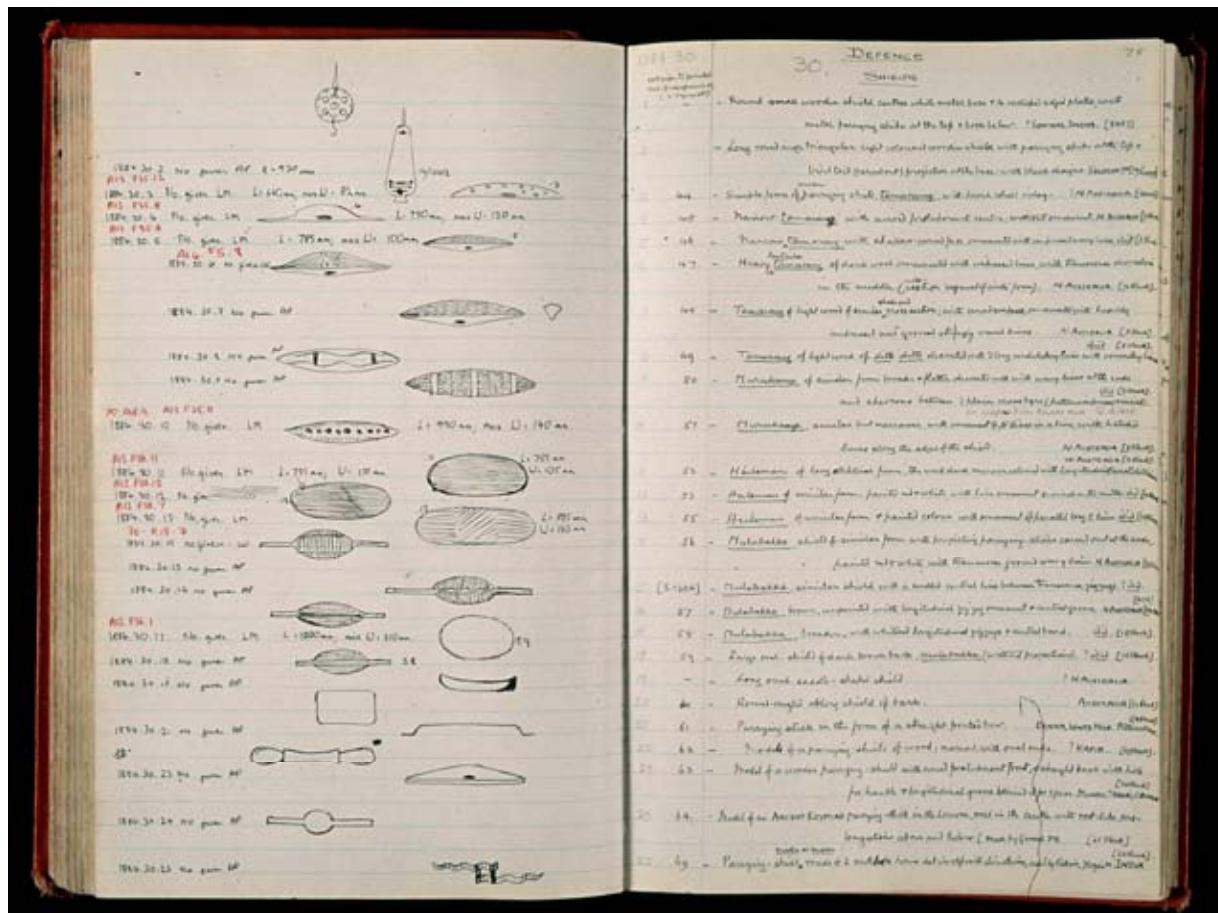


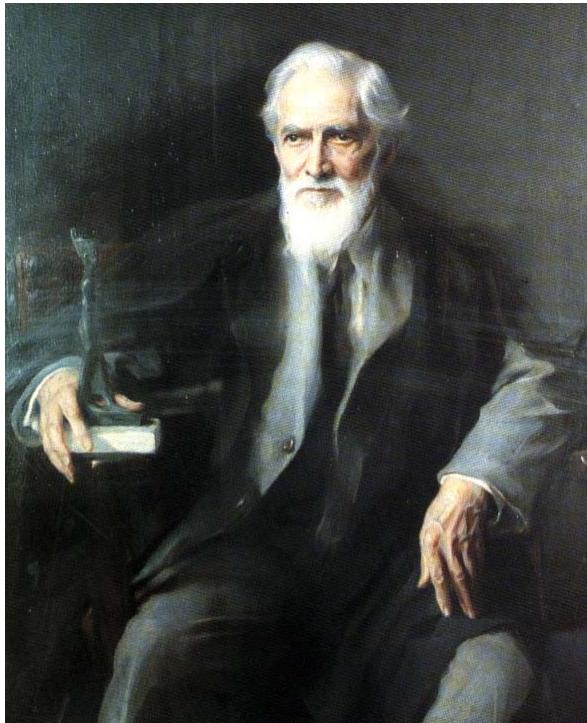


- With the excavations of Petrie archaeological methodology began to be re-fined.
- Petrie employed the techniques developed by the British aristocrat and soldier General Augustus Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers.
- Pitt-Rivers brought his long experience of military methods, survey and precision to the organization on his estates in southern England.

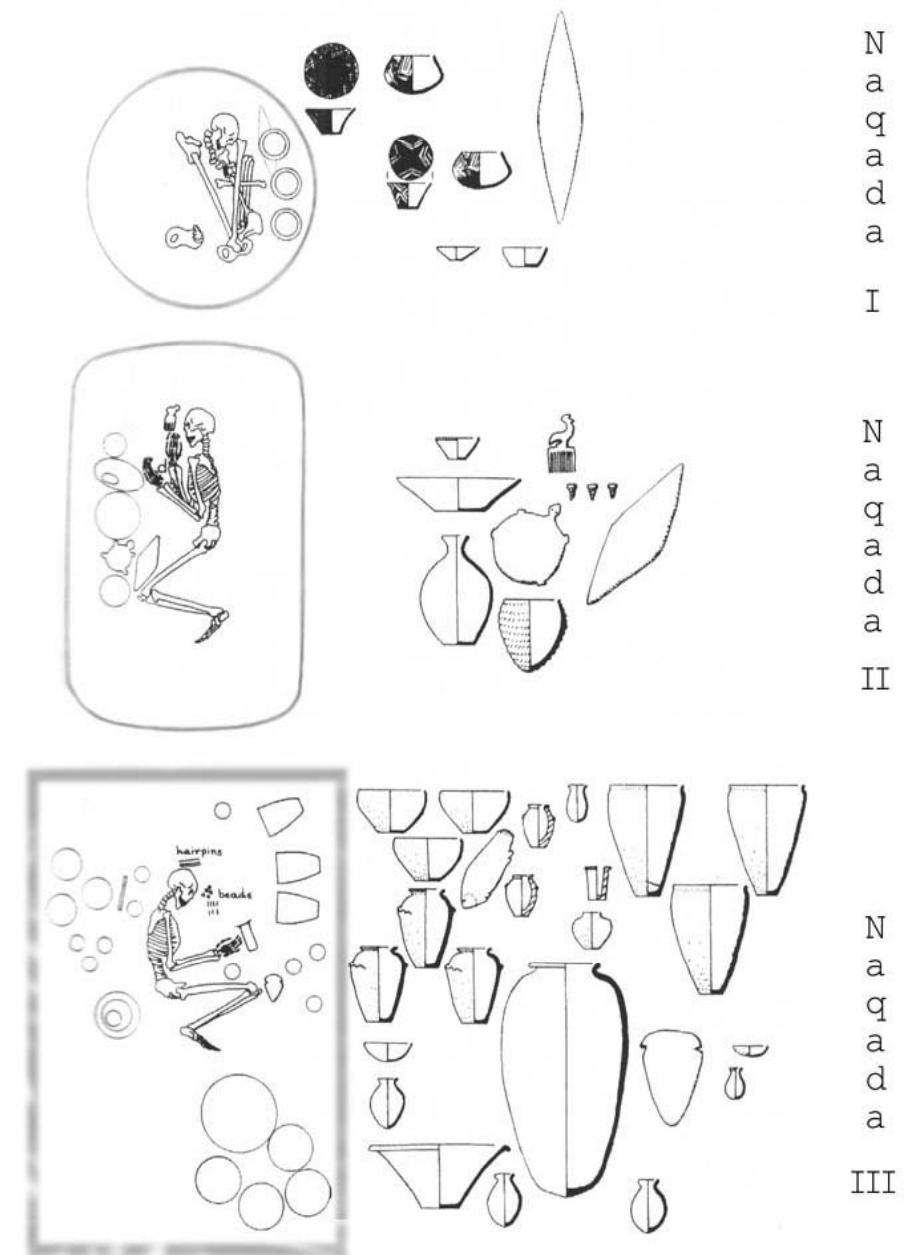


- He made plans, sections and even models and recorded the position of every object.
 - He pioneered the concept of ‘total recording’, recovering all objects no matter how mundane.
 - His private publication of four volumes on his excavations at Cranborne Chase from 1887 to 1898 were state of the art.





- Petrie used the Pitt-Rivers method in his excavations but also added a new technique which he called **seriation or sequence dating**.
- Based on his excavation of 2200 pit burials at the site of Naqada in the Nile Valley Petrie was able to place the graves in a chronological order based on artefact attributes.



General characters of tombs and grave-goods during Naqada I-III
(after B. Adams, slightly modified by the author)

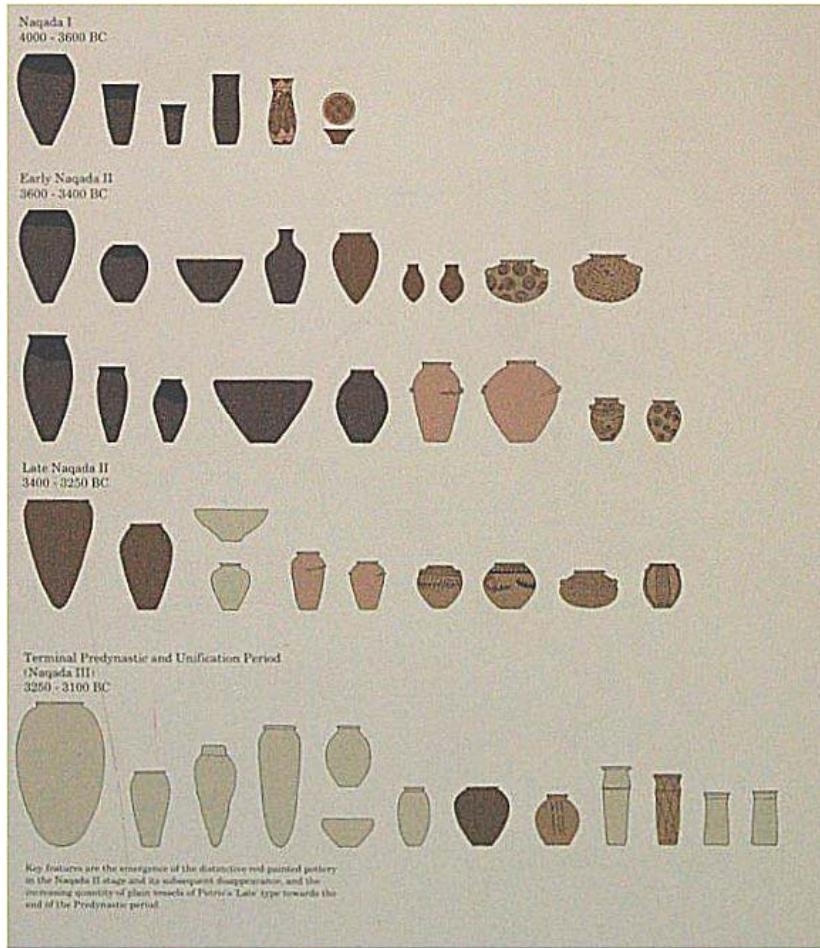


Naqada I

Naqada II

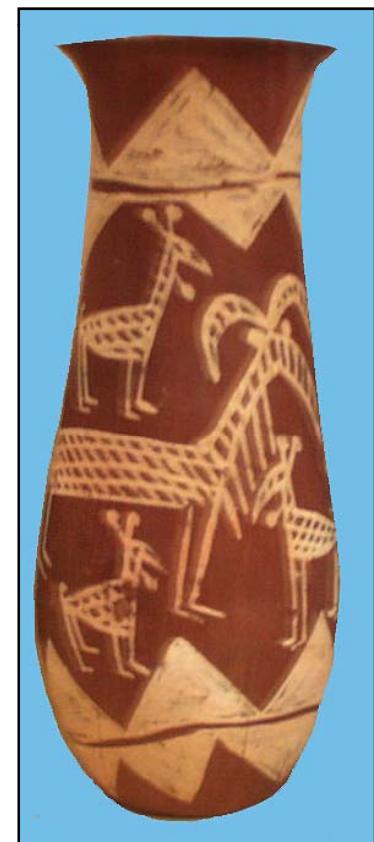
Naqada III

III



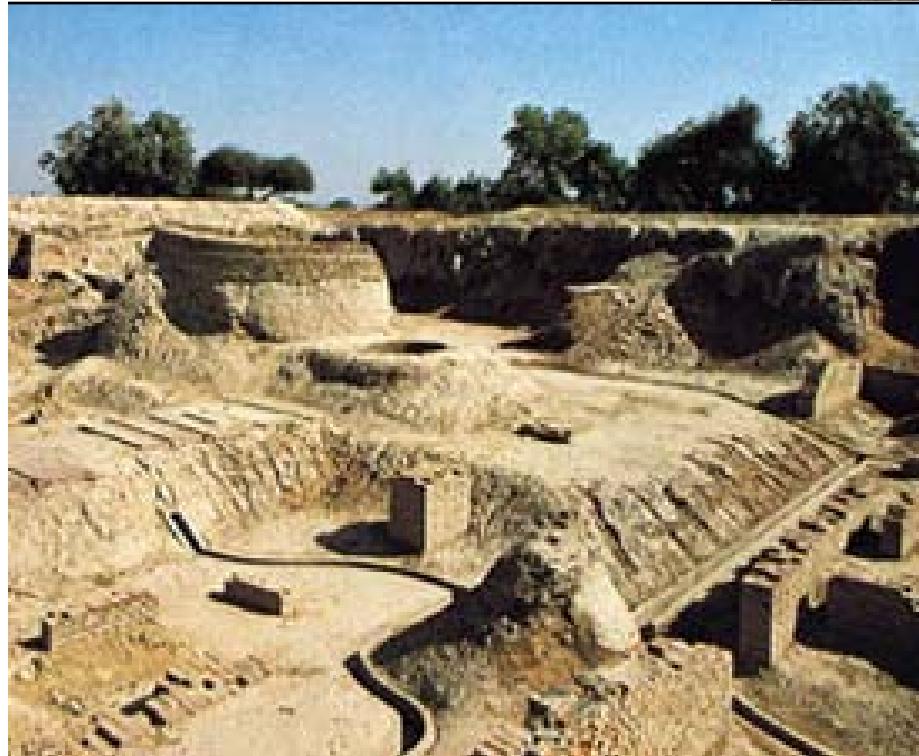
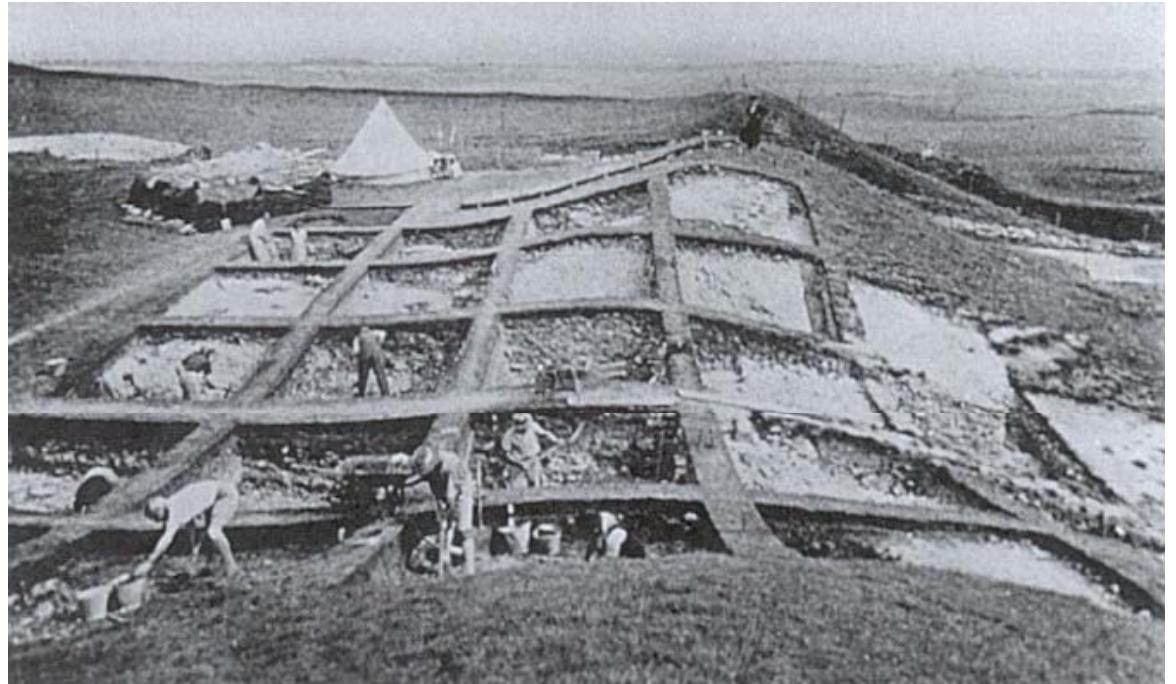
➤ He used the principle of ‘like goes with like’ and established the practice of seriation or dating of ceramics into relative chronologies.

➤ Even after many years and numerous studies, much of Petrie’s work in this area was proved remarkably accurate.

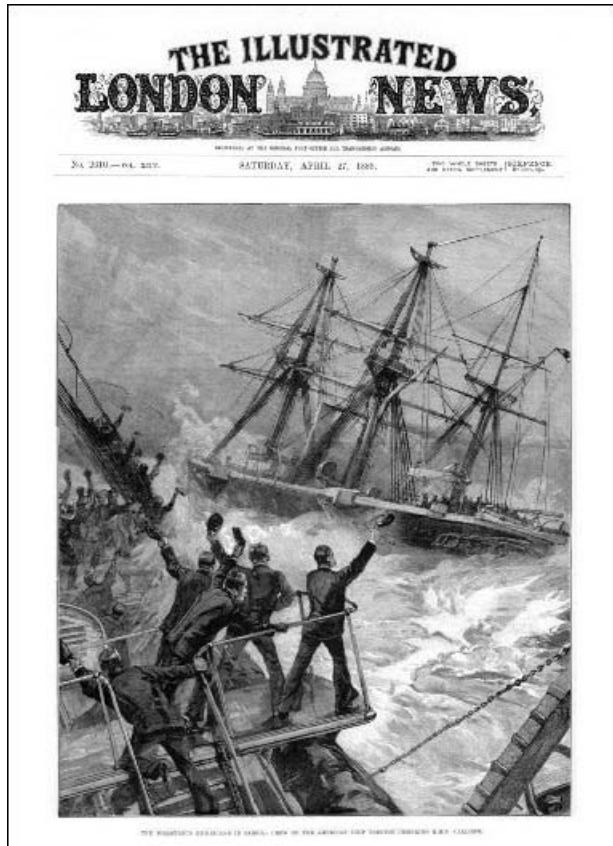




➤ Also building on the work of Pitt-Rivers, another British soldier, Sir Mortimer Wheeler added the practice of digging in '**grid-squares**' as a means of recording the stratigraphy of excavations.



➤ Wheeler used these methods first in the UK with his excavations at the Iron Age Hill Fort at Maiden Castle but also later, as director-general of archaeology in India in his work in the Indus Valley at important sites like Harappa and Taxila.



- The expansion of ‘National Schools’ in many of the countries of the Middle East, Egypt Greece and even Africa saw an exponential increase in both exploration and excavation as well as the public’s interest in these new finds.
- This fascination was fed through publications like the London Illustrated News, a heavily illustrated paper for less educated working class populations in the UK, which brought these almost daily discoveries to the publics attention, a fascination which has only increased over time.

- By the end of the 19th century the fundamental basis for the methods and practice of archaeology had been developed, and at the same time there was a vast increase in knowledge of ancient civilizations and cultures both in the Old and New World.
- Of course this exploration followed the colonial enterprise into the far corners of the earth, where archaeological sites of all kinds were recorded.

NEW RELICS OF ANCIENT EGYPT 7000 YEARS AGO: TOOLS,

PHOTOGRAPH BY THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN



FIG. 4.—BRONZE METAL DISPLACED FLINT; TWO TYPES OF KNIVES—BARRROW, WITH THICK BASE, FOR SCRAPING; WIDE AND THIN, FOR SLICING.



FIG. 5.—BURIED WITH THE DEAD AS A FOOD SUPPLY FOR THEM IN THE NEXT WORLD: MODEL GRANARIES OF MUD, FROM TOMBS NEAR ABYDOS.



FIG. 6.—MADE WHEN THE INVENTION OF METAL-WORK WAS REVOLUTIONIZING EARLY CULTURE: COPPER KNIVES, NEEDLES, BANGLES, AND OTHER TOOLS.



FIG. 7.—THE SCRIBE'S BATON: AN OBJECT USED WITH HAIRY HEAD TIP, USED TO BEAT TIME IN DANCING.



FIG. 8.—WITH JUDICIAL SCALES OF EBONY.

GAMES, AND TOILET ARTICLES OF THE FIRST DYNASTY.

EGYPT, BY COURTESY OF PROFESSOR W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE.



FIG. 9.—AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN COUNTERPART OF THE MODERN CEMETERY CHAPEL: A SMALL BRICK SHRINE, WITH PANELLED WALLS, NEAR THE ABYDOS TOMBS.

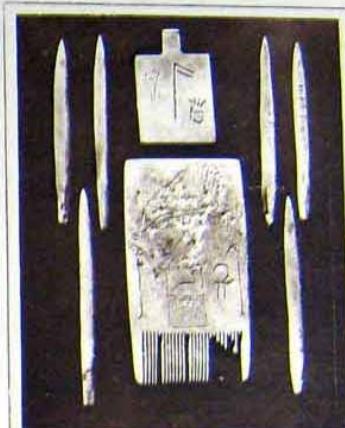


FIG. 10.—WITH THE SUN-GOD'S BOAT OR FLYING WING OVER THE NAME: NAME: AN IVORY COMB OF KING UT-HOR-KA, THE EARLIEST ROYAL OBJECT FOUND.

THE objects here illustrated represent an unexpected addition to our knowledge of the history of ancient Egypt known as the First Dynasty, which flourished about 3000 B.C. Professor W. M. Flinders Petrie, who has excavated the royal tombs at Abydos, in Upper Egypt, where the ruler of this period was recently cleared by him over twenty years ago, and it was thought that his labours had been exhausted. Another excavator, however, has since cleared on further proofs of that fact, about a mile away from the royal tombs, and accordingly the British School of Archaeology in Egypt began work last winter in the neighbourhood of some ancient strongholds known as the Coptic Dara and the Shensu. These great groups of graves, from 200 ft. to 400 ft. wide, were found, which had contained in all more than 500 burials. Their date was indicated by a pottery found in them, as well as by metal-work and ivory carvings, which bear the names of Kings Zet, Zet, and Neferkare, of the Second Dynasty, and fifth reign of the First Dynasty, from 3450 B.C. to 3300 B.C. in Egyptian reckoning. Among the ivory carvings was an ivory comb inscribed with the name of King Zet (here illustrated), and a dog-sistrum bearing the name of a Queen, Merneith. The figures of lions were used as pieces in some game. Some of them, wearing collars, were evidently meant to represent tame lions used as beasts in lion-hunting. There were also found hundreds of ivory arrow-points, and numerous copper tools in good condition. When the latter had been cleaned, royal names were seen to be engraved upon them in minute characters.

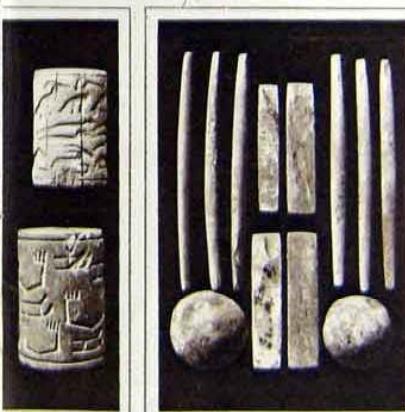


FIG. 11.—RELICS OF UNKNOWN GAMES: PIECES CONSISTING OF BONE, PLAQUES, AND A SEMI-SPHERE OF IVORY.



FIG. 12.—PLACED IN TOMB TO AMUSE THE DEAD IN THE OTHER WORLD: EBONY LIONS, WITH COPPER OBJECTS AND BALLS, USED IN GAMES.

Londoners have an opportunity this month of examining, without being called upon to make any payment, a remarkably interesting collection of newly found relics of the earliest age of Egyptian culture, that of the First Dynasty, about seven thousand years ago. They were unearthed during the latest excavations carried out by the British School of Archaeology in Egypt, in a further series of burial grounds, discovered near the royal tombs at Abydos, in Upper Egypt. Some of the new "finds" were placed to the Cairo Museum, but the bulk of them has been brought to London, and will be on view at University College, Gower Street. The exhibition will be open to the public, free and without ticket, from July 3 to 26, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., and on the

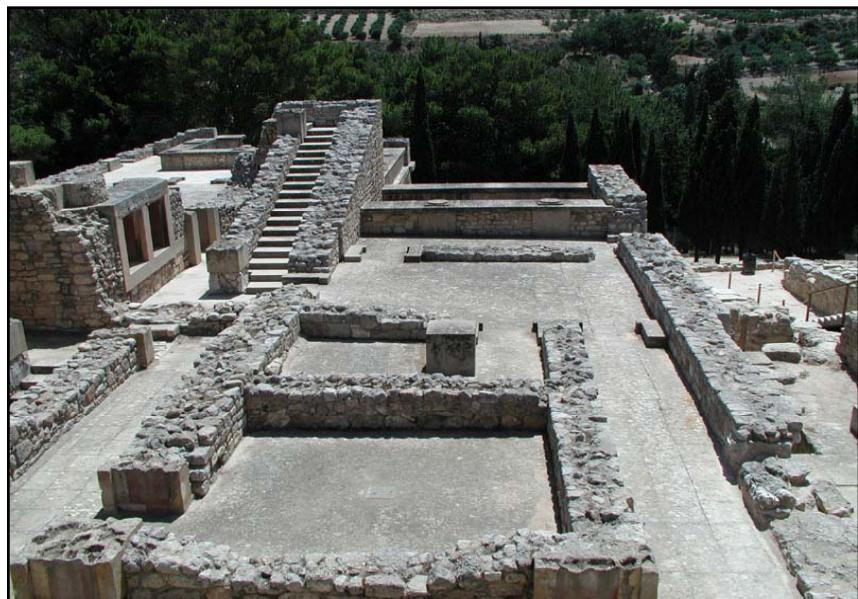
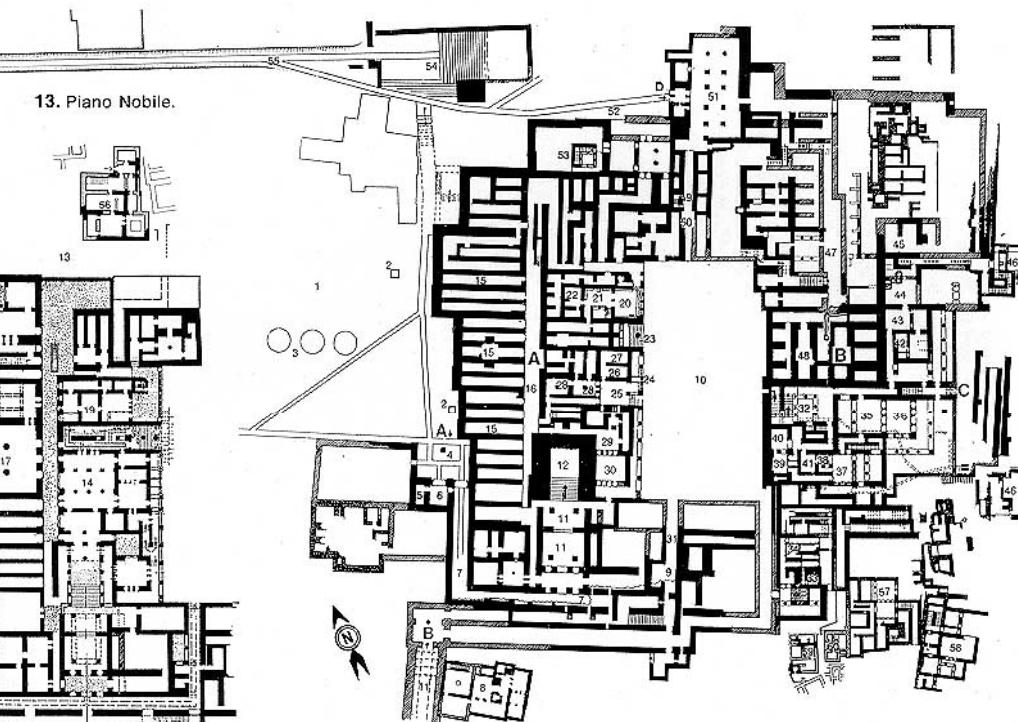
evenings of July 8, 15, and 22, from 7 to 9 p.m. We illustrate some of the most interesting discoveries above and on another page, where will be found an explanatory article by Professor W. M. Flinders Petrie, the famous Egyptologist, who has also supplied the photographs. His description of each can easily be traced by means of the reference numbers. Professor Petrie spent 41 years (1880 to 1921) in excavating in Egypt, with results recorded in his many well-known works, and has since held the Edwards Chair of Egyptology at University College, in the University of London. He founded the Egyptian Research Account, which grew into the British School of Archaeology in Egypt.

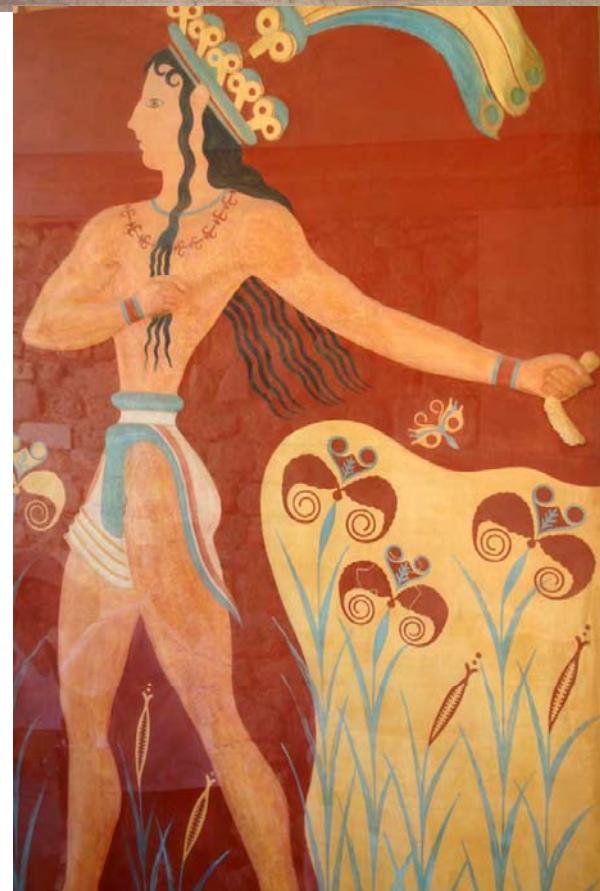
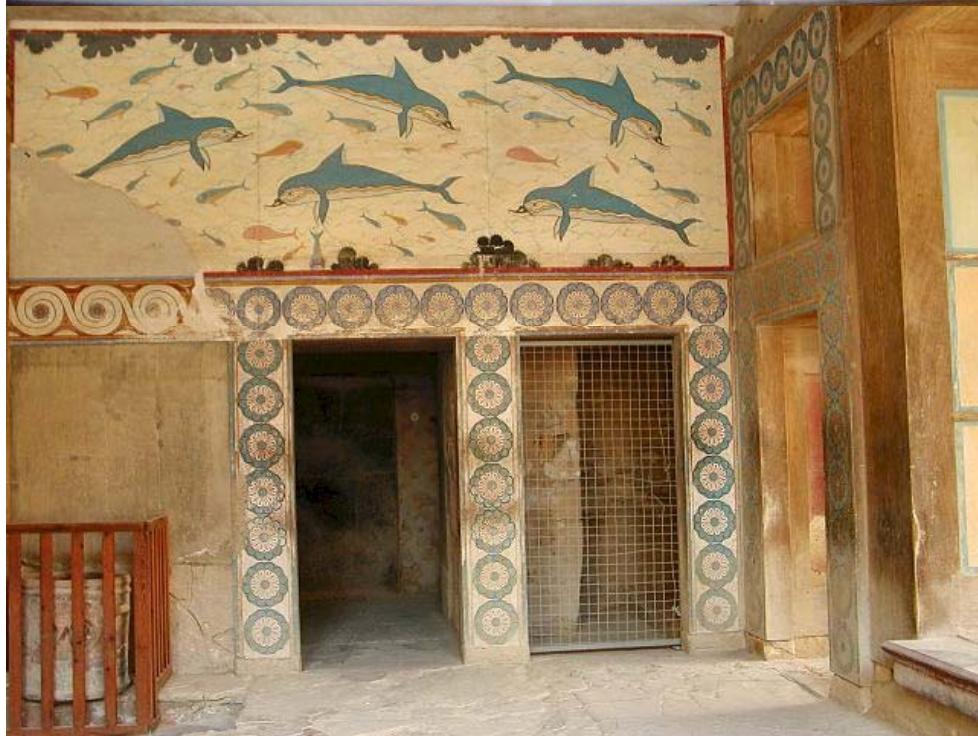
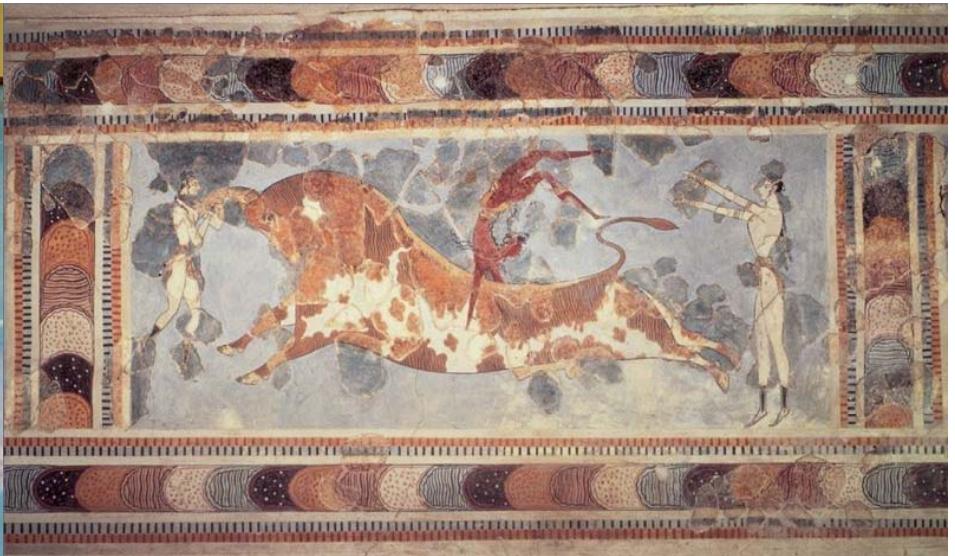


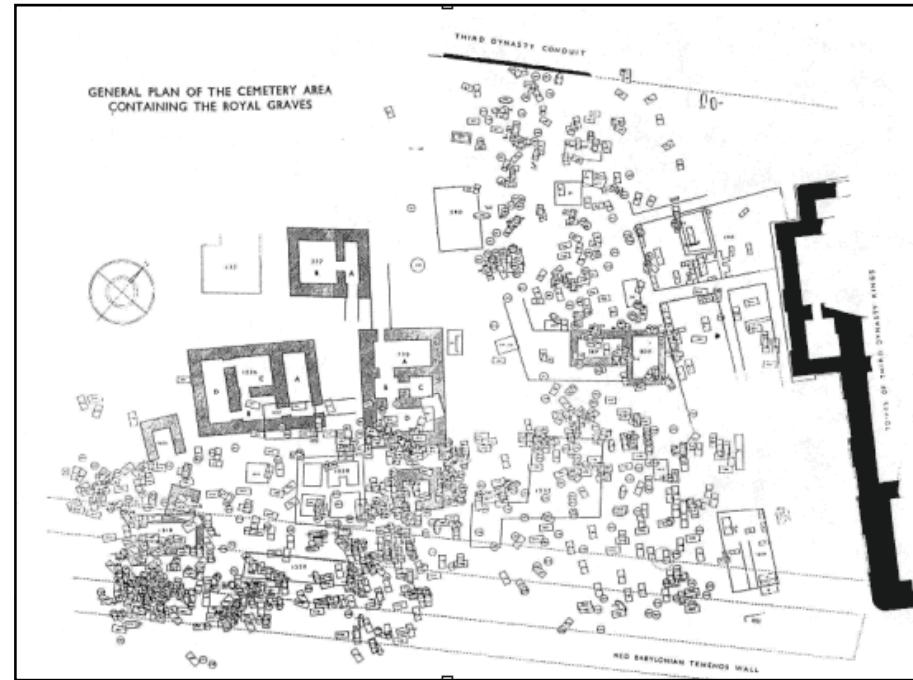
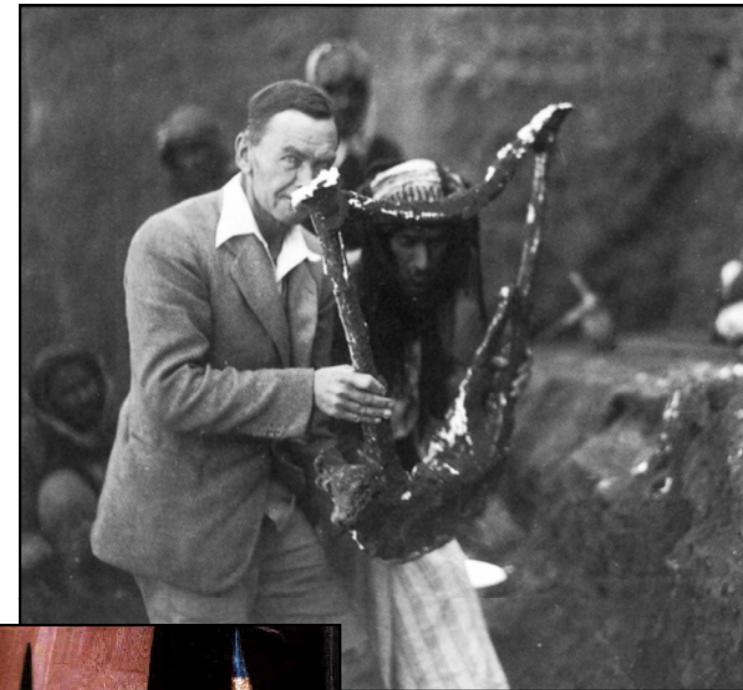
- The Minoans had developed a highly organized maritime culture which spanned the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC, and which had extensive trade contacts with Egypt and the Aegean.

- Archaeological excavations continued throughout the first half of the 20th century despite the disruptions caused in many parts of the Old World by the First and Second World Wars.
- During the early part of the 20th century notable discoveries continued first with the work of Sir Arthur Evans on the island of Crete, where he discovered an Aegean culture even older than Schliemann's Mycenaeans.

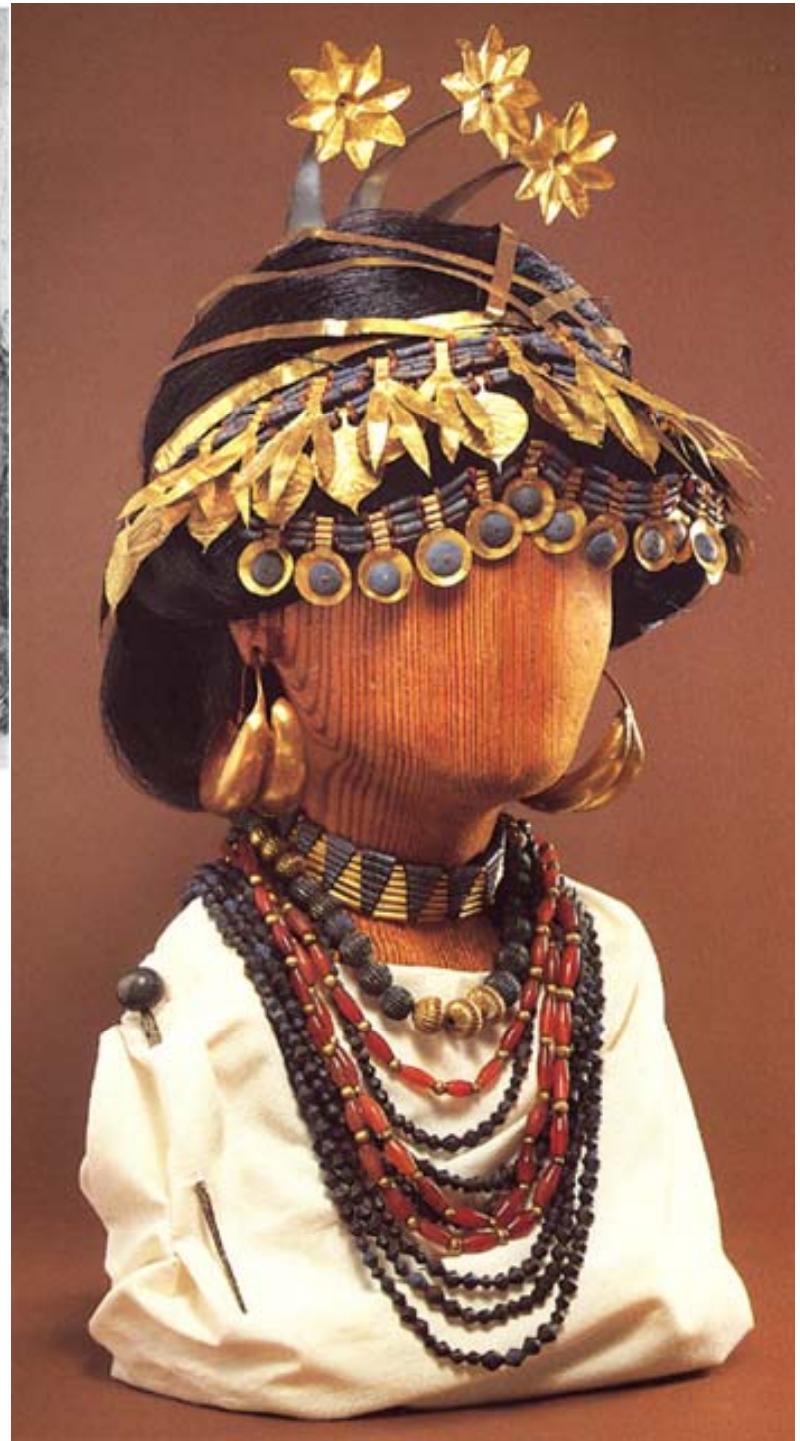


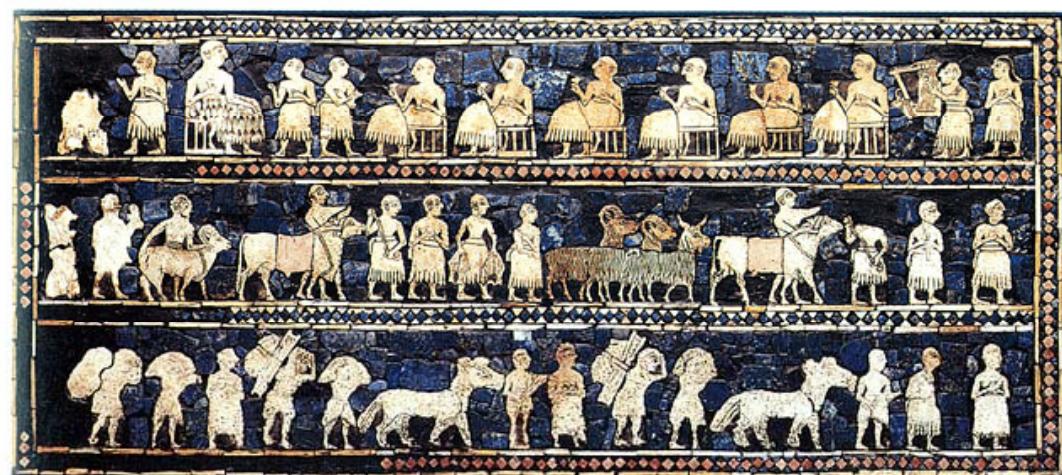
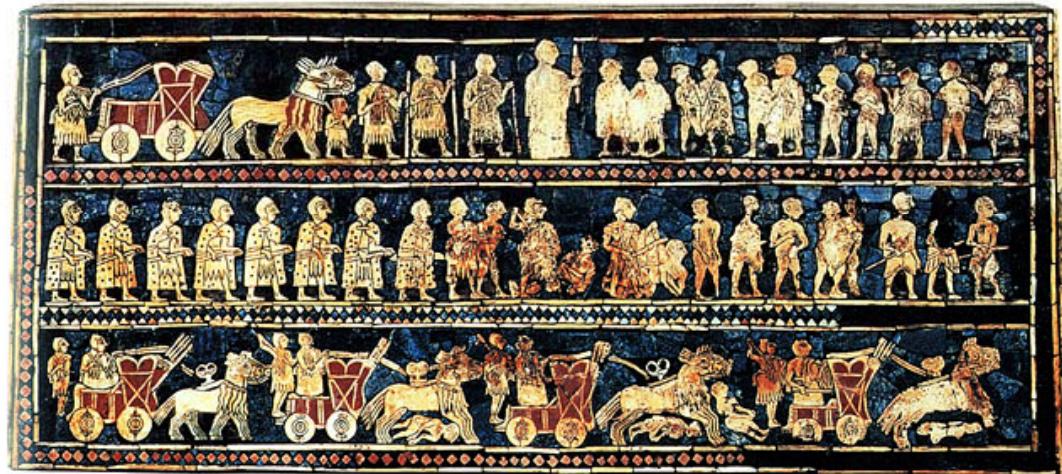






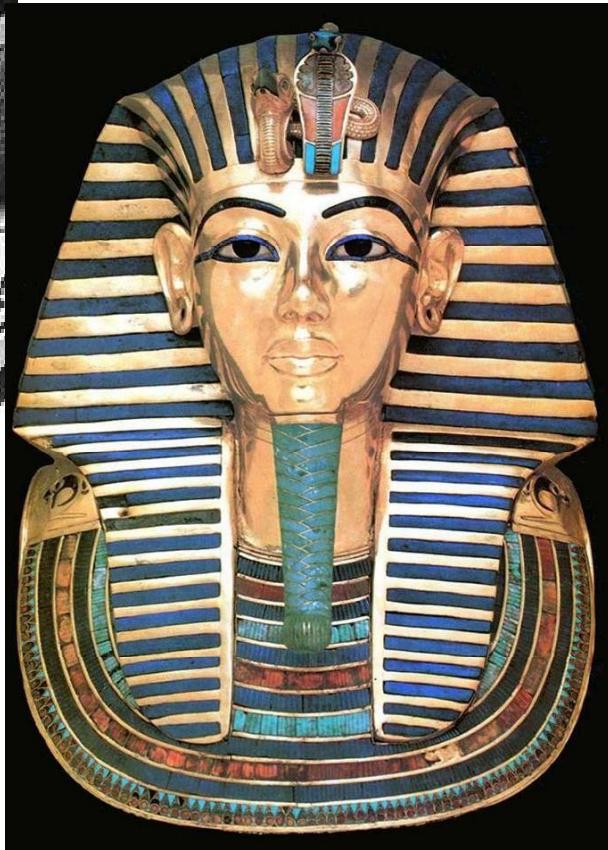
- In Mesopotamia the excavations of Leonard Wooley at the city of Ur in the 1920s and early 1930s were possible due to the division of the Ottoman Middle East amongst the successful British and French powers.
- Wooley's excavations on behalf of the British Museum pushed back Mesopotamian history into the fourth and fifth millennia BC, and established the groundwork for the understanding one of the earliest cultures of Mesopotamia, the Sumerians.

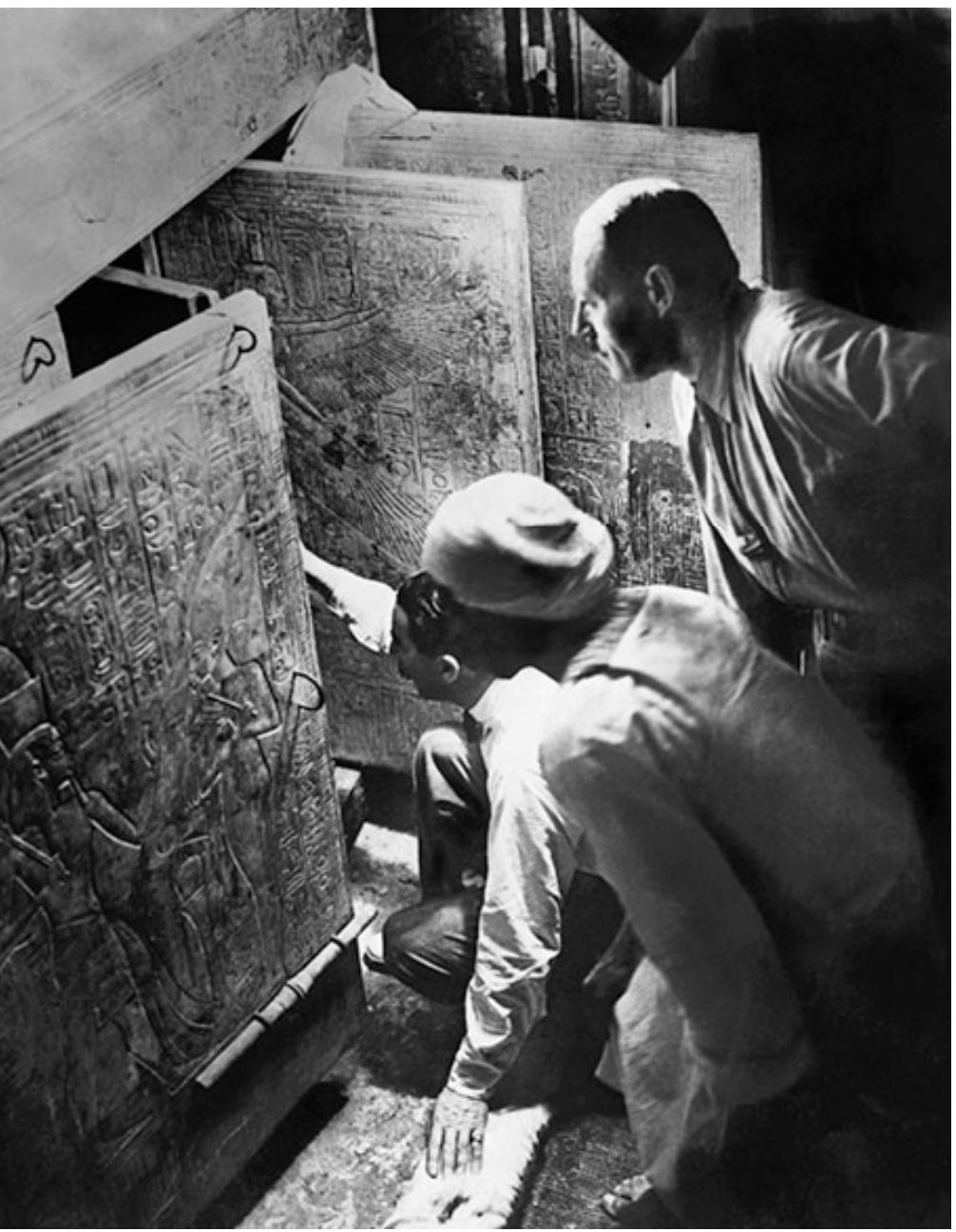


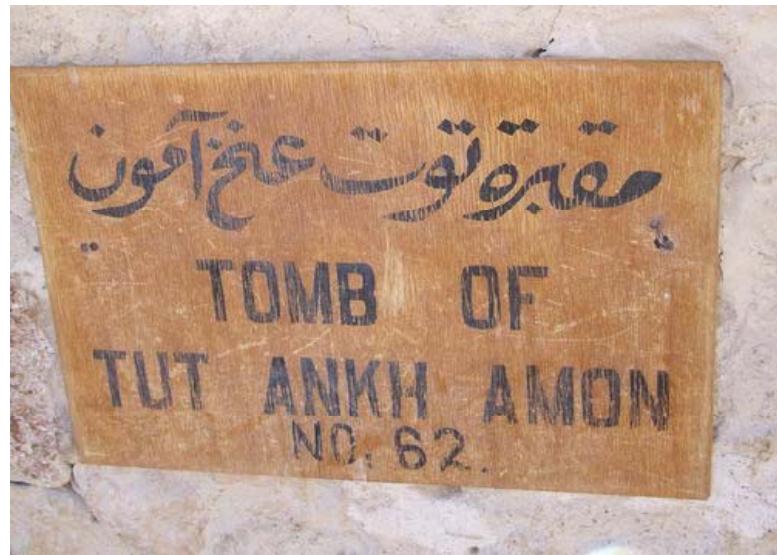
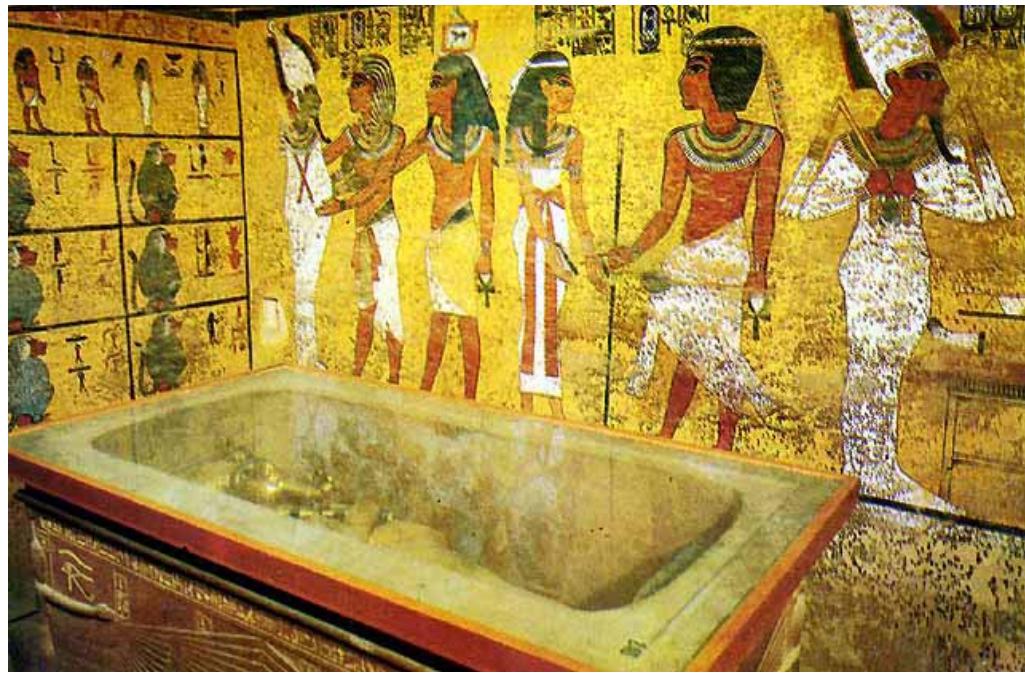




- In Egypt, Howard Carter shocked the world with his discovery of the largely unrobbed tomb of a minor Pharaoh of the 18th Dynasty by the name of Tutankhamen.
- Although he reigned for only a very brief period, the splendour of the grave goods from this tomb, were broadcast around the world by the skilful photography of Harry Burton.

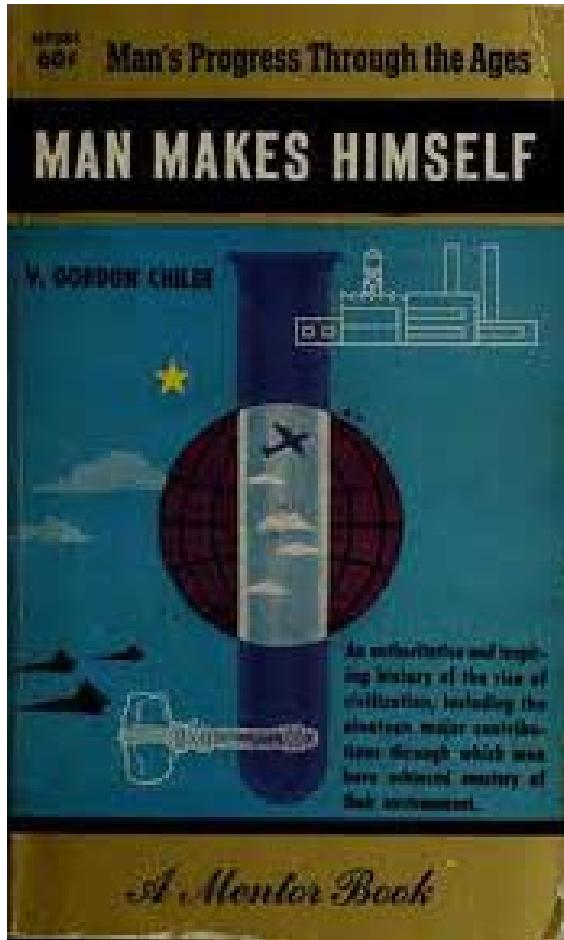








- Gordon Childe, Professor of Prehistory at Edinburgh University was able to almost single-handedly re-write and synthesize European Prehistory.
- Through his work Childe made explicit the assumption that an recurring collection or assemblage of artefacts should be termed a '**culture**', and taken as the material equipment of a particular group of people.
- In his books '*The Dawn of European Civilization*' (1925) and '*The Danube in Prehistory*' (1929) Childe went beyond description and correlation of culture sequences and began to try to account for their origin.

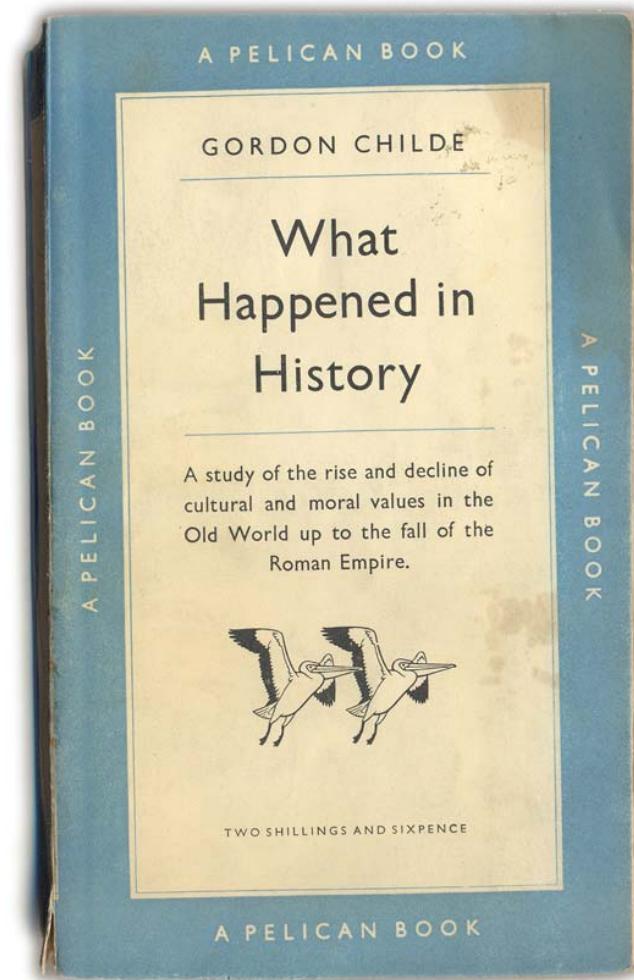


- Late nineteenth scholars had argued that all attributes of advanced civilizations had first arisen in the Near East and had spread or ‘diffused’ to Europe and beyond either through trade or migration.
- Childe’s work modified this extreme diffusionist approach by arguing successfully that Europe had undergone some indigenous developments (although still attributed major cultural changes to the Near East).
- In one of his final books, ‘*Man Makes Himself*’ (1936), Childe tried to answer the question of why civilization had arisen in the Near East.



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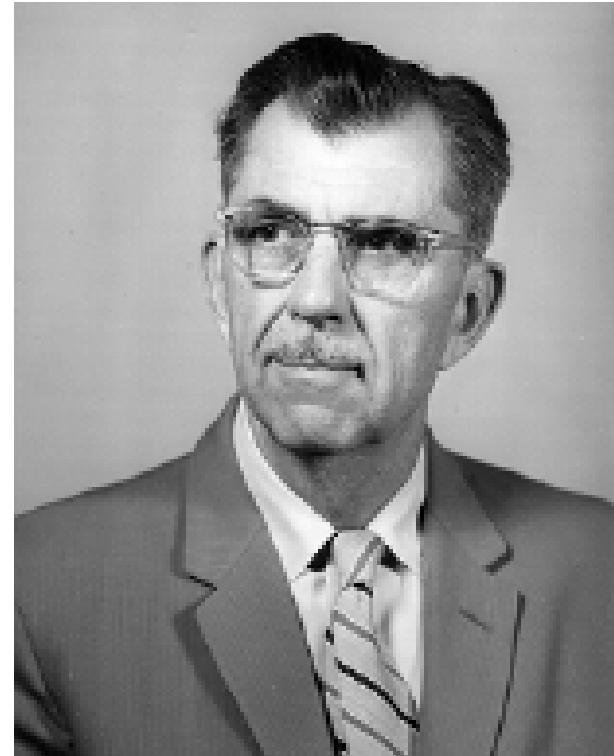
- Childe is a significant figure in the history of archaeology because he was one of the first to move beyond simple questions of classification chronology or the development of ‘cultural sequences’ **to try to understand how and why things changed in the past.**
- Childe also did a great deal to bring the study of the past to ordinary people, through his popular (non-academic) writing, with books such as *What Happened in History*



Julian Steward (1902 – 1972)

Ecological Archaeology

- Like Childe, Steward was interested in **explaining cultural changes**
- Steward highlighted the fact that people and cultures not only interact, but that they also interact with the environment and the physical landscape
- **Steward was particularly interested in how human interaction with the environment caused cultural changes**
- He called this ‘cultural ecology’



Gordon Willey (1913 – 28 April 2002)

Settlement patterns

Willey was a student of Steward, who undertook the first large scale survey and excavation of the Viru Valley in Peru

His contribution was to understand the geographical **distribution of the sites** within the valley, and to see these **against the changing environment through time**



Graham Clarke (1907–1995)

Environmental adaptation

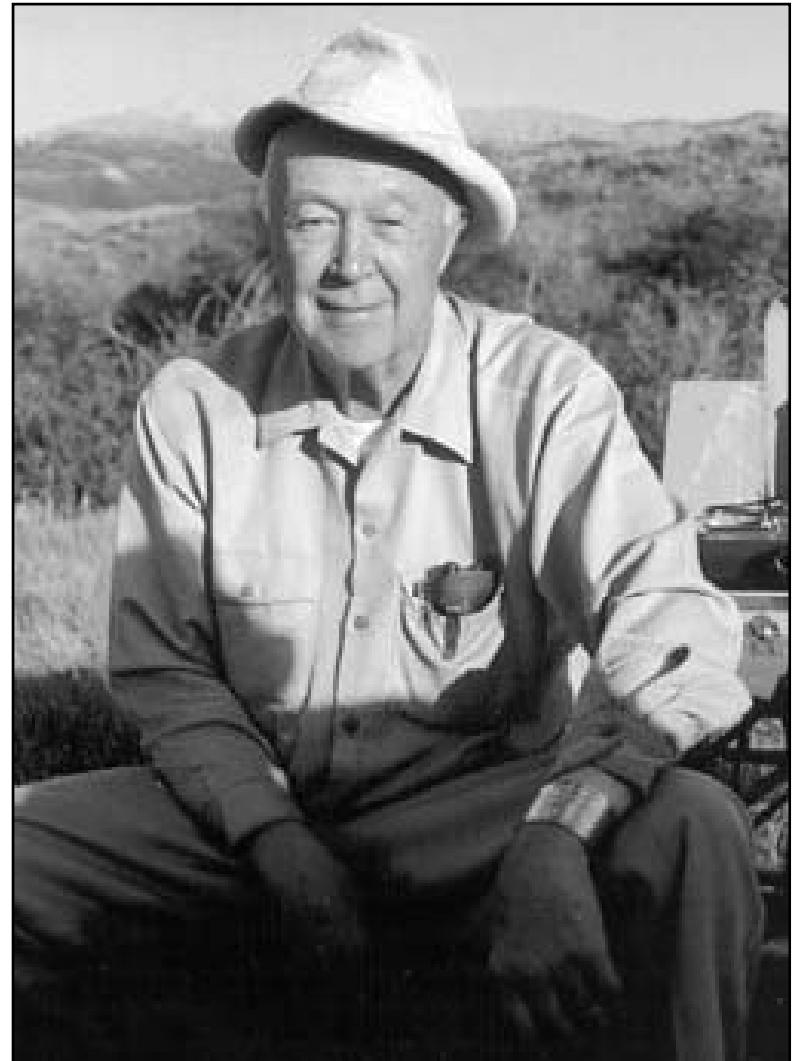
- 1950s - excavations at Starr Carr in North East Britain
- collaboration with specialists (botanists, biologists, palinologists (pollen))
- focus upon environmental analysis and recovery of organic remains
- 1952, wrote *Prehistoric Europe: The Economic Basis*



Walter W. Taylor Jr. (1913–1997)

**agitated for a more scientific
approach**

- wrote scathing indictment of the work of the current generation of archaeologists when he was just a grad student
- 1948 *A Study of Archaeology*, and argued for a ‘*conjunctive approach*’ which would take account of whole cultural systems



➤ In his ‘**conjunctive approach**’ he proposed that archaeologists should:

- excavate larger areas and look at patterns within sites
- quantify their data
- collect evidence, not general impressions
- use a *hypothesis-testing approach* like the hard sciences

- pay attention to the less dramatic aspects of the record, like food garbage and manufacturing waste (stone flakes in addition to finished tools, etc.)
 - use more qualified specialists for analysis
 - write detailed, systematic site reports so that others could fully evaluate or reanalyze the findings
- This caused a big stir, but did not develop much of a following at the time

In 1958 Gordon Willey and Philip Phillips wrote *Method and Theory in American Archaeology* and arguing for an emphasis on **the process of social and cultural change in the past**

From this came the phrase '**Processual Archaeology**'

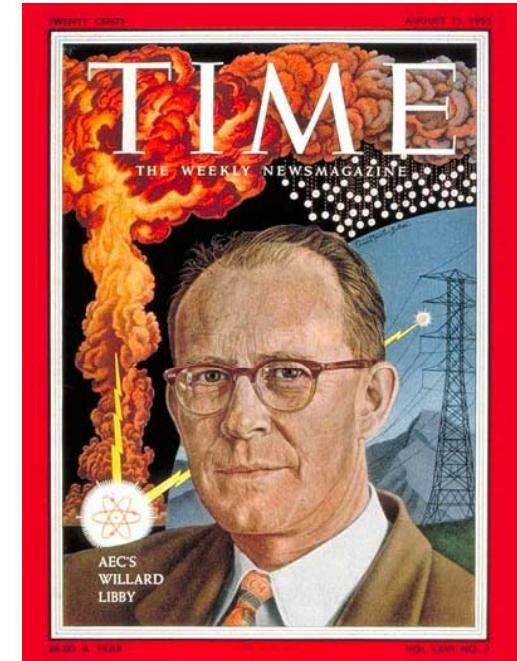
Key Concepts of ‘Processual Archaeology’

The nature of archaeology	<i>Explanatory</i> rather than descriptive
Explanation	<i>Culture Process</i> rather than Culture History
Reasoning	<i>Deductive</i> rather than inductive
Validation	Relies upon <i>testing</i> not authority (authorship)
Research Focus	<i>Project Design</i> rather than Data accumulation
Approach	<i>Quantitative</i> rather than simply qualitative
Scope	<i>Optimistic</i> rather than Pessimistic

After Renfrew and Bahn 2004

1960s

- *Archaeological Science*
- Radiocarbon dating (Willard Libby 1949)



- By 1963 Brothwell and Higgs publish *Science in Archaeology*, with contributions by 55 scientists on all sorts of varieties of techniques and methods to study archaeological materials

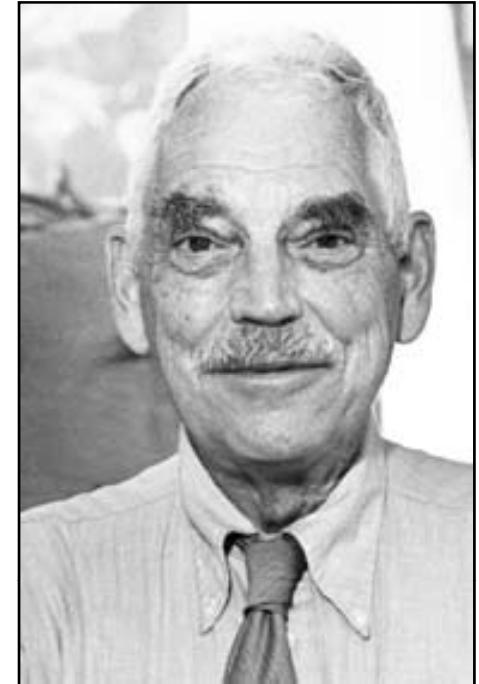
Robert Braidwood

Research on the origins of agriculture and animal domestication in the Ancient Near East

Went to northern Iraq, the location of the ‘wild ancestors’ of sheep, goat and cereals (wheat, barley, legumes)

Incorporated several scientists into his research team to explore the environmental and archaeological data

Using new environmental and archaeological data he suggested the steppe zones the likely origin of domestication



Lewis Binford

- again agitated for a more scientific approach
 - but unlike Taylor he succeeded in really stirring up a lot of new research and changing how archaeologists worked
- Binford and his crowd (there were many in this movement) promoted the '**New Archaeology**'
- **much of which was an update of Taylor's conjunctive approach**, although they generally did not credit him with it



- The ‘New Archaeologists’ felt that archaeologists should:
- interpret evidence in terms of culture and behavior
 - for example, they pointed out that pottery styles don't just change over time, spread from one place to another, influence each other, etc. by themselves - these are reflections of things going on with the people who made and used them
 - study living people in order to make more realistic models of what the archaeological evidence means
 - ***Ethnoarchaeology***: Binford studied Nunavut Eskimo stone workers in order to draw better conclusions from the distribution of stone flakes in archaeological sites

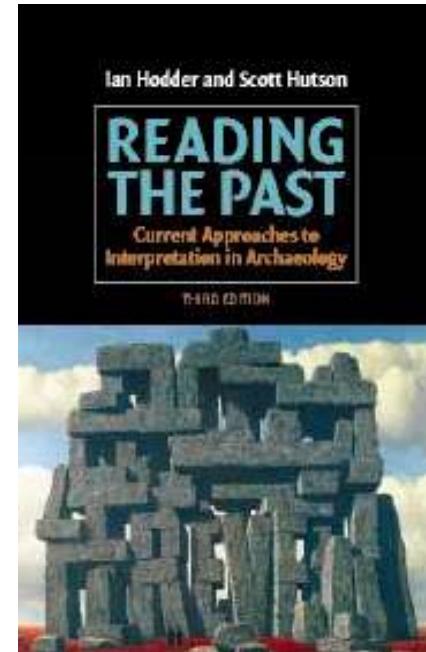
- use a formal hypothesis-testing approach in order to come to well-supported conclusions
- quantify their data
- use random sampling to collect data that is truly representative of the site or culture being studied
- if you intentionally dig all your pits in ruined temples, you get a skewed view of what was going on!
- emphasize the function of societies and technologies as adaptations to the environment

The New Archaeology

- Developed within the spirit of ‘Processual Archaeology’ as described by Willey and Phillips
- Sought to explain rather than describe
- As in all sciences they were seeking generalizations about past human culture
- The scientific approach of the ‘New Archaeology’ moved archaeology away from the historical origins of the discipline.
- This is reflected in writings at the time such as David Clarke’s book *Analytical Archaeology*

Reaction against the ‘New Archaeology’

- A number of archaeologists reacted against the drive to be ‘scientific’, and developed critiques of Processual Archaeology
- In particular Ian Hodder was seen as one of the primary critics, and his numerous books sketched out a new form of archaeology which echoed the postmodern movement in literature and the social sciences
- For what came to be known as the ‘Post-Processualists’ the scientific nature of the New Archaeology seemed to be going in the wrong direction and was seen as ‘scientistic’



- The term ‘Post-Processual’ is not a very good term, since the vast majority of archaeologists remained firmly committed to ‘Processual’ archaeology
- Perhaps more fitting is the term ‘Interpretive’ archaeologies_(plural), which highlights the various methodologies and theoretical orientations of the various proponents
- Processual archaeologists reacted against the ‘Post-Processual’ movement, finding them too philosophical, critical and pessimistic in their outlook
- The most severe of the Post-Processualists (Michael Shanks) simply stated that the past was ‘unknowable’ and that any attempt by archaeology to write an account of the past from archaeology was doomed to failure

- These ‘Interpretive’ archaeologies (plural) were not completely negative however, since they had the effect of causing archaeologists to consider the way in which they study and write about the past
- A number of Processual archaeologists as a result take much more seriously making their theoretical approach more explicit
- It also had the effect of making Processual archaeologists consider aspects of the past too often ignored, such as gender and children, as well as the ‘colonial’ nature of so much nineteenth and early 20th century archaeology
- Last of all it also revealed just how ‘political’ archaeology has and could be, and the way that talking about and writing about the past impacts upon modern societies.