

Producers, Traders and Consumers in Urban Societies
in Southern Britain and Europe



Producers, Traders and Consumers in Urban Societies in Southern Britain and Europe

Post-Excavation and Museum Studies
Presented to
Professor Mark Brisbane

Edited by

Mark Maltby and Deborah Hodges



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Figure P.1: Professor Mark Brisbane at Avebury Henge

Editors' Preface

Mark Maltby and Deborah Hodges

This volume celebrates Professor Mark A. Brisbane's career and his contribution to archaeological and heritage studies that have focused mainly on historic periods in Britain and continental Europe. We have gathered contributions from some of Mark's many colleagues, collaborators and students, who have had the privilege of working with him on a wide range of projects during his career. The main locations discussed in each chapter are shown in Figure P.2. Numbers in brackets refer to the chapters to which those named have contributed.

Mark's career in British archaeology began in Winchester in 1971 where he was a member of the Winchester Research Committee excavation team led by Martin Biddle. The first site he excavated on was Castle Yard, directed by Birthe Kjølbye-Biddle.

Mark obtained a BA in Archaeology at the University of Southampton in 1976. During his studies he participated in fieldwork on Melos led by the head of department, Colin Renfrew. His personal tutor, David Hinton (7), recalls 'when I took up a lectureship in 1973, I was expecting to be challenged and stimulated, and was not disappointed. I had not anticipated, however, that the students assigned to me as their Personal Tutor would be as broad-ranging and committed as they - mostly - turned out to be. One of the first to come through my door took me completely off-guard by having a strong north American accent; Mark Brisbane was one of the many bright young people attracted to Southampton by its growing reputation, but he was the first from overseas to complete an undergraduate degree'.

Mark's interests in medieval archaeology, particularly in relation to Saxon towns and ceramic studies, developed during and after his undergraduate studies (e.g. Brisbane 1980; 1981; 1988). He was inspired in both these fields of studies by David Peacock and Richard Hodges (1), who at that time was carrying out doctoral research in Southampton on imported ceramics in Hamwic. During the 1970s Mark gained further fieldwork experience in the towns of Winchester, York, Ipswich and Southampton. He also participated in other projects, including, in 1974, working as a site supervisor at the excavations of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Spong Hill, Norfolk led by Catherine Hills (9). Catherine recalls 'Mark and other diggers from the States gathering around the TV one night in celebration

to watch Richard Nixon resigning as President of the USA'. With Stephen Clews (15) he also investigated field systems on Bodmin Moor, Cornwall (Brisbane and Clews 1979) inspired by the work of Andrew Fleming on the Dartmoor reaves.

From 1978 to 1989 Mark worked for Southampton City Council, managing their archaeological unit, curating the Museum of Archaeology and leading a multi-disciplinary team presenting the city's Saxon and medieval heritage. As Phil Andrews (4) states, 'Mark Brisbane's was involved in the excavations, post-excavation and publication of Hamwic (and Southampton more widely) for over a decade, largely prior to the advent of developer-funded commercial archaeology. He took on responsibility for the publication of the Hamwic excavations following the demise of the Southampton Archaeological Research Committee in 1981'. Richard Hodges (1) adds 'Mark Brisbane's great contribution to English archaeology was to advance the making of Hamwic, Anglo-Saxon Southampton, as a remarkable port between the late 7th and early 9th centuries'. This volume has provided the opportunity for several former colleagues to provide updated evidence and debate on Saxon and medieval Southampton (concerning the origins and phasing of Hamwic, for example) in light of subsequent excavations and post-excavation studies (see also Brisbane and Hodges 2018). These include contributions from Ben Jervis (6) on personal artefacts from medieval Southampton and a discussion on the phasing of Hamwic comparing evidence from there and Saxon London by Ian Riddler and Nicola Trzaska-Nartowski (3). Ian comments that 'working with Mark Brisbane has always been a pleasure and we continue to discuss the archaeology of Hamwic, Southampton and the Ukraine with him to the present day. He has made an enormous and significant difference to the archaeology of Hamwic and this article is presented as a small tribute to that great work'. Matt Garner (2), who first worked with Mark in 1984, discusses radiocarbon dates and evidence for the boundaries of Hamwic. The latter is also a theme that is addressed in relation to Winchester's Saxon defences by former City Archaeologist Ken Qualmann (8), who also has had a long association with Mark since the early 1970s.

Mark joined Bournemouth University in 1989. In the early 1990s he developed the first undergraduate



Figure P.2: Locations of main sites discussed in each chapter
(maps produced by Harry Manley)

programme in Heritage Conservation in the UK and was instrumental in establishing museum teaching at Bournemouth. Three of the chapters in this volume reflect Mark’s interests in museum studies. Duncan Brown (5) was another who worked with Mark in Southampton in the 1980s; Yvette Staelens (19) led the first Museum Studies course in Bournemouth and David Gaimster (18), formerly at the British Museum, was one of Mark’s collaborators on the Novgorod Project.

We include two chapters focusing on zooarchaeological evidence from the early medieval period. Pam Crabtree (11) provides a comparison of the evidence from two periods from the early medieval town at Antwerp. Pam recalls ‘as an overseas visiting postgraduate student at the University of Southampton, I was able to visit the Six Dials (Hamwic) site, which was then under excavation during the late 1970s. At the time I was working on the animal bone remains from West Stow

in Suffolk'. Pam subsequently analysed faunal remains from the 'wic' site of Ipswich. She adds, 'It was then that I truly understood Mark Brisbane's contribution to our understanding of the role of the 'wics' in the political economy of the middle Anglo-Saxon period. My chapter will serve to express my appreciation of Mark Brisbane's work on Hamwic and its importance to our understanding of early medieval urbanism'. Mark Maltby (10) reviews faunal evidence from several early medieval sites in Bedfordshire. He has also known Mark since 1977 and has been a colleague of his in Bournemouth since 1990. He remembers being bribed with a cup of coffee in 1992 to join the Novgorod project - a decision that he has (mostly!) never regretted.

The Novgorod project has been Mark Brisbane's most significant contribution to European archaeology. Between 1989 and 2009 he led international teams working in collaboration with Russian archaeologists and historians on the spectacular waterlogged medieval remains of the city of Novgorod and its hinterland, publishing numerous works related to this extensive research programme, which attracted major funding from EU sources. One of Mark's greatest strengths is that he is a selfless facilitator. The six edited volumes that were produced from this project included contributions from 65 collaborators, of which 45 were Russians, allowing their research to be available to a much wider audience (Brisbane 1992; Brisbane and Gaimster 2001; Brisbane and Hather 2007; Brisbane *et al.* 2012; Maltby and Brisbane 2020; Orton 2006). In addition to the edited volumes, results from the project were widely disseminated via journal articles and chapters in other edited volumes (e.g. Brisbane 2009; 2013a; 2013b; Brisbane *et al.* 2007a; 2007b; Brisbane and Maltby 2002; Brisbane and Reynolds 2004; Hamilton-Dyer *et al.* 2017; Maltby *et al.* 2020). In this volume, Clive Orton (13) provides a personal view of the benefits and challenges involved in working in Novgorod and its region,

while Mick Monk and Penny Johnston (12) provide a comparison of the plant remains from Novgorod and Winchester. Mick, who also first met Mark when he was conducting archaeobotanical research in Southampton and Winchester in 1974, adds 'both of us attribute the success of the Novgorod projects to Mark's excellent people management and administrative skills'.

Although Mark continued to liaise with colleagues in Russia, particularly in Saint Petersburg, during the next decade, the socio-political situation has changed dramatically culminating in the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Collaborations with Russia have now ceased and Mark has been actively supporting Ukrainian archaeologists during these stressful times. One of our Ukrainian colleagues is Sergiy Tarenenko (14), who has provided a chapter on craft production in early medieval Kyiv.

Another international collaboration with which Mark was heavily involved was the ECOSAL Atlantis INTERREG Project. A summary of this project and Mark's contribution to it can be found in Andrew Fielding's (16) chapter on salt production in Nantwich, Cheshire.

Mark has supervised many successful postgraduate students in Bournemouth and two of his most recent graduates have contributed chapters based on their research. Owen Kearn joins Stephen Clews (15) in demonstrating the value of using portable X-Ray Fluorescence in the study of building materials from Roman Bath and Dan Carter (17) discusses the evidence for Verwood pottery production in Dorset. Dan has stated that he was inspired to carry out PhD research on this topic following a lecture given by Mark to undergraduate students.

We hope that we have compiled a fitting collection of articles that do justice to Mark's long and distinguished career.

Introduction

Katherine Barclay

This is a book of wide-ranging focus. The 19 chapters forming its core touch upon the themes of the title in various ways, in a variety of voices. They include a spectrum of sub-disciplines which offer different perspectives, some more practical in outlook while others dip into theory.

The first of the two parts is focused on Southampton (Hampshire) where for some 11 years, Mark Brisbane worked in a combination of archaeological and museum service roles. We start at the underlying Middle Saxon settlement, Hamwic; in 1981 he became responsible for the organisation and publication of its excavations.

Using different, though overlapping datasets, and reviewing a half-century of evolving thought, four chapters address the relationship between physical excavated evidence for the settlement and changing interpretations from more recent analysis of all types of finds. The evidence for the extent, layout, dating, and nature of the settlement is discussed.

Hodges in Chapter 1 gives us an overview of the imported ceramics, with a reappraisal of evidence for their sources and dating. He reconsiders what the pottery and coins tell us about the role of the Anglo-Saxon church and state, in the emporia, and in the transition towards regional markets. As long-distance and continental trade declined, so too it seems, did Hamwic. Looking from another direction, the results of recent fieldwork and radiocarbon dating of human remains are brought together by Garner in Chapter 2, which looks at the implications of the dating of all Hamwic's cemeteries and re-examines the significance of the burial patterns in relation to the settlement boundary.

To accommodate the early dating of the St Mary's Stadium cemetery, in Chapter 3 Riddler and Trzaska-Nartowski have reworked the Hamwic phasing. Rather than three phases, they propose five, beginning with a 'new', early, possibly multi-focal phase, extending back to the early 7th century if not before. This, they suggest, is a date more in keeping with Lundenwic and other wic sites on both sides of the Channel. In his complimentary Chapter 4, Andrews highlights the range of more recent investigations - including information from various artefact and environmental assemblages - and assesses

how these contribute to advancing knowledge of the extent, layout and nature of the one or more settlements at Hamwic. Was it a monopolistic emporium or part of a polyfocal settlement?

Chapter 5, on a different tack, looks at methodology, using as a case study the presentation of Hamwic's archaeology to the public. The original design and display of Southampton Museum Service's Hamwic gallery, at their archaeological museum, was overseen in the mid 1980s by Mark. Brown summarises the process of re-designing the gallery in 2007, to incorporate changes in archaeological knowledge, and in museology. The last chapter (6) of Part 1, by Jervis, presents a survey of the small finds from excavations in the 1970s in medieval Southampton, and sets them in contrast with results of earlier and later work on the town. Taken alongside information from written records, the small finds give a more everyday picture than the better-known exotic ceramic imports have suggested and facilitate comparison between life in the port of Southampton and other towns.

In Part 2 attention shifts beyond Southampton; its chapters (7 to 19) cover a wide variety of topics, from a range of countries, places, eras and projects, with all of which Mark has been involved. Firstly, complimentary to Part 1, in a regional review, with particular reference to post-Roman and early Saxon Dorset and Hampshire, Hinton (Chapter 7) shows how results from excavation, scientific analyses, metal-detecting and documentary evidence are together contributing to our understanding of elite influences upon the religious and economic development of both urban and rural places.

Two chapters reconsider their authors' earlier publications and address further evidence. Chapter 8 brings together results from several excavations in Winchester (Hampshire), where Mark began his career in archaeology, as a digger. Qualmann analyses evidence for works undertaken to re-fortify the late Saxon town, works which at the same time provided for the development of a western suburb.

Following recent research by other writers on early Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery vessels, showing internal pitting and the presence of lipid residues,

Hills and Lucy (Chapter 9) consider the new evidence that some vessels may have been re-purposed after domestic use, and look again at the Spong Hill (Norfolk) cemetery (where Mark worked on ceramic analysis). Were Anglo-Saxon funerary pots being made solely for burial?

Food consumption is a theme of the next three chapters. In a preliminary study, Maltby (Chapter 10) evaluates zooarchaeological data from several early medieval Midlands sites, to look at evidence for diet, husbandry practices, and carcass processing, which collectively provide indications of human attitudes to animals during the Saxon period. Then we cross the Channel to Antwerp (Belgium), where excavations in the city have produced sufficient data for Crabtree (Chapter 11) to compare information from the earlier, eighth- to tenth-century sites at Burcht with the later post-eleventh-century Gorterstraat sites, revealing changes in animal provisioning and human diets between the two periods.

From animals we move to plants, and a wide-ranging look at two cities on opposite sides of Europe. Monk and Johnston (Chapter 12) begin with a summary of the background - origins, historical sources, topography - for two high-status medieval urban settlements, Winchester and Novgorod (Russia). The authors compare the archaeological strategies followed in major projects in the two towns, and then look in more detail at the recently published archaeobotanical results. They examine their respective plant environments, the role of rivers and water meadows, and the crops exploited, whether as exotic imports or from local harvests. They also consider cultural influences.

Staying with Novgorod, after a nine-year programme of excavation, research, and publication (in a project led by Mark), Orton (Chapter 13) compares British and Russian archaeological practices and discusses the benefits and problems of international collaborative projects. Next, we turn to the medieval city of Kyiv (Ukraine), where archaeological evidence demonstrates a diverse network of craft associations. Tarenenko in Chapter 14 looks at the inter-relationships between the city and its producers and how they affected its urban development.

Back in Britain, Kearn and Clews in Chapter 15 look back at the evolution of the Building Roman Britain Project (which Mark directed) from a multi-site study to focus on Roman Bath. They consider the reasons for modifications, the impact of those changes on intended outcomes, and the achievements of portable X-Ray Fluorescence analysis later encapsulated in Kearn's doctoral thesis.

Specialised brine storage apparatus ('salt ships') used in medieval Nantwich (Cheshire) is explained by Fielding in Chapter 16. He then describes the ongoing recording of all historic UK salt-making sites and what they did, with the ultimate aim of digital reconstruction - a considerable undertaking which has developed out of the ECOSAL Atlantis INTERREG Project (for which Mark was the UK lead).

Chapter 17 stems from work done as part of Carter's PhD (which was supervised by Mark). He considers ethnographic, historical and archaeological evidence of changes in technology at kilns used for Verwood-type wares. Although its last kiln did not close until 1952, this pottery type developed from a medieval tradition; in the 18th century the wares were used across southern England. Carter considers how potters at some 37 sites in Dorset and west Hampshire, shared experiences of, and adapted, newer technologies, to suit traditional methods.

The last two chapters are focused on museum studies, a subject introduced by Mark to Bournemouth University's curriculum. Gaimster in Chapter 18 presents a focused archaeological analysis of mid nineteenth-century British military 3-D models of two Māori Pā (hillforts in New Zealand). He compares them with similar models of archaeological sites and looks at what these nineteenth-century models can bring to current archaeological and historical understanding.

To end, in a wide-ranging review, Staelens in Chapter 19 looks again at early to mid twentieth-century contributions to the *Museums Journal*, with a focus on heritage and archaeological curation. After reproducing a century-old, cynical though sobering description of the roles of museum staff, she weaves in anecdotal evidence from past papers (almost all written before Mark was born!), to consider the early development in museums of various services, most notably of archaeological conservation. Her selection is principally quirky or light-hearted, and there are tantalising quotations and a piece on the lost art of acidic correspondence; Staelens shows how surprisingly pertinent pieces from old sources can yet be.

Archaeopress are to be thanked for including this volume in their increasingly prestigious archaeological catalogue, and the editors deserve our warmest thanks for their successful production in amassing what has been a considerable task. The 19 papers brought together here have been presented in fitting tribute to the personal contributions Mark Brisbane has made. They come from his friends and colleagues, his former tutors and students, who have worked with him over

the years and benefited from his foresight, shared experience and encouragement. A number of fields of study are represented in this thought-provoking collection and readers from diverse backgrounds, not just in archaeology, will find much of value in the

variety. The range and expertise of the chapters are an endorsement of the multidisciplinary nature of archaeological and museum studies; there is no better reflection of the polyfocal nature of Mark Brisbane's career.