

LAKE DWELLINGS AFTER ROBERT MUNRO

PROCEEDINGS FROM THE MUNRO INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR: THE LAKE DWELLINGS
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List of Contributions

MUNRO AND THE EMERGENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Magdalena S. Midgley and Jeff Sanders

Abstract

Robert Munro's contribution to the study of lake-dwellings, as well as other fields of archaeology, followed the time of dramatic changes in a host of disciplines which were developing from the mid-nineteenth century onwards. Public and scholarly imagination was fired by fascinating archaeological discoveries, new methodological approaches to excavation, interpretation of finds and a close relationship between archaeology and other fields of enquiry such as geology, biology and anthropology.

These developments, together with contributions from key archaeological and other scientific figures of the period, provide the intellectual framework for the appreciation of Robert Munro's contribution to archaeology, within Scotland as well as within the wider European context.

Key words: Antiquity of man, Three Age System, evolution, lake-dwellings, shell middens, Munro, Lubbock, Wilson

A MAN CHANGED BY DARWIN

David Clarke

Abstract

In a short autobiographical sketch, Robert Munro divided his life into three phases: in his youth there was a struggle for education, his prime was devoted to public duty as a medical practitioner in the west of Scotland and, finally, early retirement led to an extraordinary new career spurred on by a passion for archaeology. While still practising medicine in the west of Scotland, Munro's involvement in the activities of the Ayr and Wigtown Archaeological Association paved the way to excavations of local crannog sites. His scholarly reputation was established in 1882 through the publication of *Ancient Scottish Lake Dwellings*. It was this reputation, as well as recently inherited family wealth, that encouraged him to retire early from the medical practice and devote the rest of his life to the pursuit of archaeology. While his Scottish archaeological interests never waned and he was closely associated with and active in the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, he spent much time travelling in Europe gathering materials on the then buoyant researches into lacustrine settlements. *The Lake-Dwellings of Europe*, initially delivered as Rhind Lectures in 1888 and published two years later, sealed his reputation as a serious scholar. Subsequently Munro played an important role in British archaeology, either through his

involvement with national organisations, for example the British Association for the Advancement of Science, or association with important archaeological projects, such as excavations at Glastonbury. In 1910 Robert Munro endowed a series of lectures at the University of Edinburgh, a tradition which continues to this day.

Key words: Munro, crannogs, lake dwellings

RESEARCH ON NEOLITHIC AND EARLY BRONZE AGE WETLAND SITES ON THE NORTH EUROPEAN PLAIN

Johannes Müller

Abstract

Despite intensive research for nearly one hundred years in wetland areas of the north European plain, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age domestic sites are infrequent. This is due to the ecological setting of lakes and shores in north-central Europe which is quite different from that of the circum-Alpine area. Nevertheless, in the case of sites with settlement features in water-logged conditions, the recovered data is of high quality, adding in many aspects to the evidence from dry soil areas. Recently investigated sites from Holstein, Germany, and from Greater Poland provide examples discussed in this paper.

Key words: wetland settlements, wetland environments, fortifications, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Bad Oldesloe-Wolkenwehe, Bruszczewo, Oldenburg Dannau, Oldenburger Graben.

ALL IN GOOD TRADITION? SOME THOUGHTS ON CULTURAL MARKERS IN A LATE NEOLITHIC LAKESIDE DWELLING FROM SWITZERLAND

Thomas Doppler, Sandra Pichler, Brigitte Röder, Jörg Schibler

Abstract

With its Neolithic and Bronze Age wetland sites, Switzerland offers an incomparable source of information on prehistoric dwellings. The exceptional preservation of wooden construction elements, along with the advances in dendrochronology allow not only identification and dating of individual houses to the year, but also understanding of a settlement's evolution and comparison of material assemblages between individual houses. Such an approach was taken on the late Neolithic lakeside dwelling Arbon Bleiche 3, where coexistence of a local and an immigrant population group is attested. The hypothesis put forward is that animal food remains are more stable and lasting indicators of cultural traditions than ceramics.

Keywords: Neolithic, Switzerland, wetland archaeology, social archaeology, archaeozoology, ceramics

COPPER ARTEFACTS OF THE MONDSEE GROUP AND THEIR POSSIBLE SOURCES

Carolin Frank and Ernst Pernicka

Abstract

The Copper Age Mondsee group is known from a number of lake settlements in Upper Austria and this material has been studied since the later nineteenth century. The present paper concentrates on the chemical analyses of copper artefacts, including impurities such as silver, nickel, arsenic and antimony, as well as lead isotopes. Possible sources of copper ores, from Alpine as well as the SE European sources, which may have been used in the manufacture of the Mondsee artefacts are also discussed.

Key words: Mondsee group, copper artefacts, copper impurities, lead isotope, Ai Bunar, Majdanpek

FORGING A CHRONOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR SCOTTISH CRANNOGS; THE RADIOCARBON AND DENDROCHRONOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Anne Crone

Abstract

The chronological evidence for Scottish crannogs is presented and evaluated. This consists of a substantial dataset of 159 radiocarbon dates, dendrochronological dates from three sites, and a wiggle-match date from another. Taken together, these sources of evidence indicate a periodicity in the use of crannogs. Over a scale of millennia there were particular centuries when crannog-building was popular. During the 1st millennium BC, when the majority of dated crannogs were built, there appear to be specific spikes in crannog-building activity in the 5th and 2nd centuries BC respectively. At the scale of decades dendrochronological data portrays more short-lived episodic settlement, where the episodes of occupation are of varying duration, and are separated by intervals, themselves of varying duration.

Key words: Scotland, crannogs, Iron Age, Early Historic, dendrochronology, radiocarbon-dating, settlement dates, settlement durations, periodicity of use

CRANNOGS AS BUILDINGS: THE EVOLUTION OF INTERPRETATION 1882 - 2011

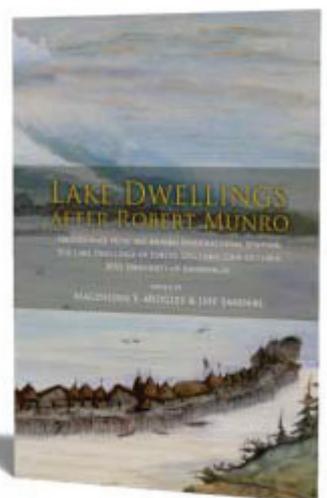
Graeme Cavers

Abstract

Crannogs are highly visible man-made statements in the Scottish later prehistoric landscape. The paper discusses the current understanding of crannogs, from their stereotypical model, through varied morphology of construction, to the island round house structures and farmsteads. It also considers the more promising avenues of research which are arising from recent work on Scottish lake dwellings, for example consideration of the domestic sphere of life and its relationship to the veneration of water, or modelling of social obligations through labour pooling, which can bring us closer to understanding the societies that built and used these sites.

Key words: Munro, crannogs, construction, occupation deposits, roundhouses

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