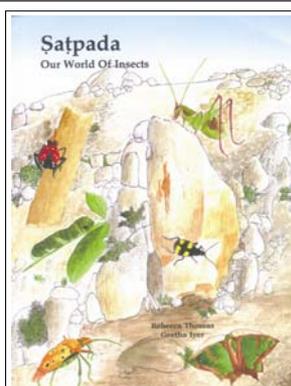


BOOK REVIEWS

with the 'Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies' (CHAGS) held in Edinburgh, Scotland during September 2002. A separate discussion during the 2003 European Association of Archeologists (St Petersburg) revealed a hitherto unknown (to the Western world) abundance of pottery material from the erstwhile USSR. This appeared also to bridge the chronological gap between the earliest pottery obtained from east Asia with those from northern Europe. This discovery firmed up the incipient plan to bring out a synthetic overview of northern Eurasian pottery. The drafts of the chapter were then presented in the 'Theoretical Archaeology Group' (TAG) meeting held in Sheffield in December 2005. This meeting helped identify the gaps and smoothen the corners of the historical continuum, which eventually lead to the emergence of this publication.

This volume contains 21 chapters. The first (Part I) is a long (p. 58) introduction by the editors, Peter Jordan and Marek Zvelebil both of whom are university teachers of archaeology. The last two concluding chapters (Part 4) give a global perspective on ceramic dispersals and the ^{14}C chronology of all the findings of the region (William Barnett and Peter Hommel).

The main chapters are divided into two parts. The first part (Part 2 of the volume) deals with 'Early ceramic innovations and dispersals' (14 chapters), and the second (Part 3), with 'Early pottery in forager-farmer interaction zones' (4 chapters). Part 2 contains chapters covering pottery and ceramic findings from Japanese Archipelago (Simon Kaner), the Russian Far East (Irina Zhushchikhovskaya), Korea (Daeyoun Cho and Ilhong Ko), eastern Siberia (Hugh McKenzie), the Urals and western Siberia (Natalia Chairkina and Lubov Kosinskaya), eastern Europe (two chapters, by Ekaterina Kashina and by Pavel Dolukhanov, Andrei Mazurkevich and Anwar Shukurov), Karelia (the region east of Finland, by Konstantin German), Finland (Petro Pesonen and Sirpa Leskinen), Sweden (four chapters, by Mats Larsson, Ludwig Pappmehl-Dufay, Fredrik Hallgren, and Ole Stilborg and Lena Holm), and lastly, Norway (Marianne Skandfer). A major omission is China. It is here that the earliest dated pottery known so far to science has been discovered. A planned commissioned chapter on China could not materialize, according to the editors.



Satpada: Our World of Insects. Rebecca Thomas and Geetha Iyer. Rishi Valley Education Centre, Rishi Valley, Chittor 517 352, India. 2009. 171 pp. Price not mentioned.

The authors have to be complimented for this refreshing effort at writing a readable and informative book, obviously meant for school children; but it is really more than that. This is the sort of book that has been missing from our bookshelves and which should be written by many more such teachers in all areas of science. It is original in content and approach.

I was always dismayed by the absence of good science books published in India, written by Indian authors. This is in contrast to say a Batliboi for accountancy or bookkeeping. Engineering texts and medical books tend to be reprints or Indian editions of classics. When it comes to producing original teaching material, in spite of committees and institutions devoted to it, we are bereft of both imagination and action.

It was a pleasant surprise hence to see a book like this. In fact many more books like *Satpada* should be written. There is room for several hundreds of such books and particularly if they are written by careful teachers like these two authors, it would make a great difference to teaching science in this country.



Owl moth (*Erebus* sp.).

The really nice thing about the book is that the authors have managed to make it interesting without destroying scientific accuracy. The details of select insects are accurate and adequate. The choice of species ordinarily found around their campus will significantly aid the children in learning by experience and daring to experiment. The illustrations are crisp and valuable. The part on 'entomology as a pastime' is innovative and educational. The photographs, while not all of them are extraordinary, are quite useful in the field. I did not notice a price tag; I do however hope that a large number of students will be able to get hold of this book through bookstores.

K. S. KRISHNAN

*National Centre for Biological Sciences,
GKVK Campus,
Bangalore 560 065, India
e-mail: ksk@ncbs.res.in*

Therefore, they have made it up partially in their introductory chapter by dealing with it in some detail.

The oldest examples of pottery discovered so far are from some cave sites in south China that show stroke- and cord-marked, round-based quartz tempered

pottery jars (ca. 17,200–14,700 BP). In north China, they were manifested by a cluster of microlith cultures identified in open sites across north China plains. In southern China, a cave-dweller culture emerged along the northern and southern foothills of Nangling mountains. The