

# Foreword to the revised edition

During the early months of 1976 David Clarke began planning a second, revised edition of this book. By academic standards the first edition had been a great publishing success and all copies printed in Britain had been sold. But the demand for the book had continued, with second-hand copies fetching high prices. His intention was to reduce the volume by over 200 pages, remove outdated aspects and repetitive passages, summarize overlengthy sections, improve the prose style where it was obscure and write two new chapters. He agreed with the publishers that the revised edition would be submitted to them in the autumn and asked me to assist him with much of the preliminary work. We discussed the general areas of revision which were thought necessary and I started to work on the book after Easter.

After his death at the end of June 1976 I consulted both the publishers and Mrs Stella Clarke about the revision. Both agreed that they wished it to go ahead, although it could not be in exactly the same form as had been planned. David's own personal papers were of little help, since like with many other subjects he carried most of the ideas in his head and what was jotted down in note form was heavily condensed or illegible! The book clearly breaks down into two parts, theory and methods, and although both have been developed in the last ten years it has been the methods that have undergone the most drastic changes. There are important recent works on the use of computer and mathematical models (Doran and Hodson 1975) and on the application of quantitative techniques of spatial analysis derived from contemporary geography (Hodder and Orton 1975). Many of the suggestions and examples contained in chapters 11–13 of the first edition have been pursued by other archaeologists in different areas of the world and in order to do justice to this work at least two, if not

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three, new chapters would have had to be written. As far as I was concerned, this would have meant too great a personal intrusion into the publication of someone for whom I had the greatest admiration and respect.

The alternative plan, which I have adopted in this revision, is to retain the first part of the book with its basic structure intact. To this I have added the concluding chapter (chapter 14 in the first edition). Now of course theory is a constant source of debate within archaeology, and the thoughts expressed in *Analytical Archaeology* have been both welcomed and condemned, accepted and criticized. The concepts and language of systems theory are nowhere expressed in such detail in relation to archaeological entities and the argument for a more rigorous concern with theory has seldom been put more forcefully. Although some archaeologists may find the message rather baffling (because of its unfamiliar expression) or brash or think it irrelevant to their own detailed interests, the book remains popular and influential. As regards David Clarke's development of Gordon Childe's methodology (a hierarchical classification of archaeological entities, among which the culture is the central organizing unit), there are those who now argue that the interpretation of these entities in terms of social groups is unrealistic and helps to mask important variability in human behaviour in the past (see chapter 9, note 1). In the light of these gradual shifts in theoretical orientation, it would seem useful to have the classic statement of 'hierarchical' or 'culture' theory in archaeology available to both students and professionals alike.

Other justifications for the revised edition can be put forward. The discussion of systems theory remains both useful and stimulating. The condemnation of ambiguity, undisciplined procedure and lack of concern with theory are matters which the student of archaeology would benefit from reading. Finally, there is the more general value of a book which is openly outward-looking – exploring other areas of the disciplinary universe for methods and concepts which may be of use in our own subject. Students should be made aware of the 'frontiers' of their subject and there is no finer example of this attitude than *Analytical Archaeology*.

In line with the author's wishes I have tried to make the book more comprehensible without sacrificing the basic ideas in it. I have simplified some of the arguments and removed some of the more repetitive or confusing passages. New references and figures have been

added. Wherever possible I have confined my intrusions into the text to notes at the end of each chapter. These are designed to comment on more recent developments in both methods and theory and will I hope lead the reader on to other sources. In one or two cases I have included material from the original Part II in this edition, and on two particular occasions I have rewritten more substantial parts of the text: on economic subsystems in chapter 3 and on diffusion models in chapter 10.

During the course of revising this book I have received welcome encouragement and professional assistance from Richard Bradley, David Coombs and Mike Fulford. I have also benefited from the patience of the publishers and the encouragement of Mrs Stella Clarke. My wife Jan has been of immeasurable help in the preparation of the typescript and her tolerance of a reviser working to an increasingly closer deadline. My greatest acknowledgement is to David Clarke himself. During the eight years in which I studied under him as both undergraduate and research student he was an unfailing source of stimulus and encouragement in my work and his personal kindnesses were too numerous to mention. Like others of my generation in Cambridge, I count myself fortunate to have known him and to have gained from his help and friendship. This revised edition has been produced in memory of a most exceptional man whose contribution to contemporary archaeology was outstanding.

*Reading  
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Bob Chapman

