Holland. A. T. CLASON. Palaeohistoria Vol. XIII A/B. Groningen, Netherlands: J. B. Wolters, 1967. xvi + 437 pp., figures. graphs, maps, plates, tables, bibliography. $22.40 (paper).

Reviewed by CHARLES A. REED
University of Illinois at Chicago Circle

Increasing urbanization and continued land reclamation in southwestern Netherlands since World War II have been associated with the discovery and salvage of numerous archeological sites. The present thoroughly documented and well-illustrated report analyzes the faunal remains from twenty-two of these, ranging in time from ca. 2400 B.C. to the late Medieval period. These sites are presented (Chapter 2) in chronological order of occupation, from older to younger, and each is summarized as to names of excavators, radiocarbon dates available, published literature, ecology, and other circumstances associated with occupation, and the kinds and relative numbers of animals found.

The major part of the report (Chapter 3) is a description and analysis of the faunal remains (mammals, birds, fish, molluscs) recovered from the sites. The material is organized on zoological principles and is documented by a wealth of drawings, tables, and graphs. This richness of data, cross-indexed as to the sites from which the different kinds of faunal remains were recovered, will probably be avoided by most anthropologists, who will want instead to concentrate on the historical Introduction (Chapter 1), on discussions of the spread and consolidation of stock-breeding in Neolithic and post-Neolithic Europe (Chapter 4), and on the chronological and ecological survey of the faunal assemblages (Chapter 5).

Following the post-Pleistocene rise of the sea to approximately its present level, much of North and South Holland became essentially the Rhine delta and as such the area seemingly was not inhabited by man until ca. 2400 B.C., and then only sparsely along natural levees of the multi-branched river, or, further north, along narrow coastal barriers surrounded by tidal flats. By this time the Neolithic complex had been established in the surrounding areas for two thousand years or longer. Early movement into the tidal lowlands was by people who were already farmers and stock-breeders; along the coast of North Holland stock-breeding was maintained with greater efficiency, while the settlements of the delta depended more on hunting, fowling, and fishing. Even so, although probably with considerable difficulty, the domestic animals (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, dogs) typical of western Europe of the period were maintained. Probably from the first occupation, the people helped nature by adding soil locally to raise parts of the levees above flood-levels, but one gets the picture of a life that, for man and his animals, must have been difficult, cold, wet, and often short.

The rather complicated cultural relationships between the marsh and coastal people and the more settled and populous parts of The Netherlands and environs during the Bronze Age and later are outlined by Miss Clason in the Introduction. With the coming of the Romans under Augustus the historical period begins, but I, at least, get the impression that the ordinary people in South and North Holland continued to lead their rather difficult lives with no great change during the two and a half centuries of Roman contact and then for several hundreds of years after, until they were conquered by Charlemagne and the first towns began to appear. Planned diking and drainage began in the eleventh century, and the rest is history.

Miss Clason presents her own studies on the fauna thoroughly and clearly, and these are then cross-indexed as to place, time, and historical importance. Of greater value to the general student is her summarization, in clear English, of several hundred publications, mostly in Dutch, German, French, and Danish and many in obscure and local journals. Any library serving students of the late prehistory of Europe must have this publication.

The Cambridge History of Iran. Volume I: The Land of Iran. W. B. FISHER, ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1968. xix + 783 pp., bibliography, conversion table, figures, map, plates, tables, units of measurement, bibliography, index. $12.50 (cloth).

Reviewed by KARL BUTZER
University of Chicago

This first volume of the *Cambridge His-*

tory of Iran attempts to set the physical stage for the human events to be treated in seven subsequent volumes and to render more comprehensible the varied natural elements that constitute the overall physical environment of Iran. It is more comprehensive, however, than this aim announced in the preface of the volume editor. Only a half of the book (eleven chapters) are devoted to what might be broadly defined as physical and biogeography, while the remaining sections are concerned with cultural and economic themes. In fact, to the geographical profession this is a fairly typical regional geography in all aspects except that it is multiauthored, with twenty contributors, primarily English.

The longest and most comprehensive chapter (108 pp.), by Fisher, sets the stage by outlining in useful detail the salient features of the major regions of Iran. T. M. Oberlander's discussion of the origin of the Zagros defiles and K. Scharlau's sketch of Pleistocene geomorphologic problems in Iran essentially form adjuncts to an extended outline of the geology by J. V. Harrison (75 pp.) A descriptive climatology by M. H. Ganji is followed by very brief chapters on soils (M. L. Dewan and J. Famouri), hydrography (also by Oberlander), and vegetation (H. Bobek). The renditions of X. de Misonne on mammals and S. J. Read on ornithology are set against a massive discussion on as peripheral a theme as the lizard fauna of Iran (67 pp.!) by S. C. Anderson.

Part II, entitled "The People," includes a chapter by E. Sunderland on early man in Iran, and extended discussions of settlement patterns and population by X. de Planhol and J. Benham, respectively. Part III, "Economic Life," includes the standard technical compendia on mineral resources (Harrison) and on industry, transportation, and commerce (A. Melamid). The analytical discussions of agriculture (H. Bowen-Jones) and pastoralism (Sunderland) range far in depth and scope and are followed by a technical outline of irrigation practices in northeastern Iran (D. J. Flower) and a somewhat journalistic account of recent land reforms (K. S. McLachlan). The volume concludes with an essay on the personality of Iran by Fisher.

Considered as a whole, this book is both impressive and disappointing. It does manage to collate a great deal of useful information, and some of the chapters, as those on settlement, agriculture, and pastoralism, bring new and significant contributions or syntheses to their fields. Despite its thematic irrelevance, the treatise on lizard zoogeography is remarkably stimulating and presents some excellent ecological data and insights. The majority of the chapters, nonetheless, range from succinct or overly concise summations to pedestrian, traditional, and often rambling outlines. The chapter on early man reads like a student's term paper; its author is neither aware of what is relevant and irrelevant nor informed as to the recent literature. Hopefully this bad gap will be closed in the chapters on Early Iran in Volume II. The chapters on geology and geomorphology fail the purpose of the book: there is no characterization of landforms as, for example, relevant to land use; there is no general description of Pleistocene evolution and the highly relevant matters of paleoclimates; there is, in fact, no systematic geomorphology other than that of a structural nature. The reviewer fails to see what benefit an archeologist or historian could derive from these chapters. The chapter on vegetation does not provide the information that most will seek there: what is the *history* of the vegetation of Iran in later prehistoric and historical times? Pollen analyses are available but are not cited; sources for the inferences on what is "natural" vegetation are not discussed; and, above all, one misses a careful and detached review of the evidence for and history of deforestation and its after-effects.

The uneven nature of academic level and literary ability is compounded by uneven thematic coverage and obvious difficulties of systematization that lie beyond the responsibility of the individual authors. It is the editor's ultimate responsibility to assure that central themes such as environmental stability and change be covered, that the agricultural resource base be properly evaluated, and that specific cultural anthropological information on the rural and urban Persian population and on the various ethnic minorities be included.

Compendia must be organized with purpose and direction, and the editorial work must be systematic, meticulous, and, if nec-

essary, ruthless. The editor has failed at this task, admittedly a difficult one, but not entirely through his own fault. As a contributor to the *Cambridge Ancient History,* this reviewer is painfully aware of the lack of comprehension and directive that derives from a multivolume effort controlled by a board of linguists and antiquarians. Fisher was not encumbered by the incompetent meddling with matters of literary style and technical detail that beset the *Cambridge Ancient History,* but he either did not have or otherwise did not exert the authority to run a tight ship. Furthermore, the Cambridge series seem ill suited for publication of a modern geography. The single, folding map of topography (at 1:8 million) lacks most place names and serves no physical purpose. The small size and ridiculous overgeneralization of the geomorphological, soil, and vegetation maps, or the absence of either a general geological or lithological map can hardly be excused. There are twenty-six photographs (with no credits listed) of excellent quality but barely adequate for an ambitious volume on a geographical theme. If cost was the problem, it would have been preferable to sacrifice excess verbiage for better illustration.

This geography of Iran will remain a valuable and unique source for at least a decade. But it has failed to make full use of the potential of twenty authors to respond to a challenge—to provide a new category of regional geographies that reflects versatility and specialized competence.

Yengema Cave Report. CARLETON S. COON, in collaboration with Harvey M. Bricker, Frederick Johnson, and C. C. Lamberg-Karlovsky. Museum Monographs. Philadelphia: The University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, 1968. 77 pp., charts, figures, map, plates, tables, bibliography. $3.50 (paper).

Reviewed by PATRICK J. MUNSON
University of Pittsburgh

Yengema Cave, located in the tropical forest region of eastern Sierra Leone, is a sheltered area—of about 250 square meters—beneath a huge granite slab containing cultural materials to a depth of almost two meters. Since the deposit showed no natural stratigraphic breaks, it was excavated in arbitrary 20 cm levels. Based on the depth of occurrence and the degree of laterization of some of the raw materials (which correlates well with their depth within the deposit), Coon has segregated three horizons from the cave, referred to as Lower Yengeman, Middle Yengeman, and Upper Yengeman. In part crosscutting these horizons are three artifactual "elements."

Lower Yengeman consists entirely of Element A, which includes small quartz choppers, chopping tools, and *pièces esquillés.* Some parallels are pointed out between this assemblage and the quartz industry of the site of Ishango on the eastern border of the Congo. In the Middle Yengeman levels the "Ishangan" element persists, but Element B is added, consisting primarily of bifacially flaked dolerite "picks" and "hoes"; it can be classified as Lupembo-Tshitolian (or "Tumbian"), a widespread industry of the tropical forest regions of Africa. The Ishangan element persists into the Upper Yengeman levels, whereas the Lupembo-Tshitolian element dies out and Element C appears. Coon considers Element C to be an early phase of the so-called Guinea Neolithic; it is characterized by polished celts of dolerite and schist, rather small scrapers of quartz, and punctuated, stamped, and incised pottery—but no microliths. A sherd from near the bottom of this level has yielded a thermoluminescent date of 2200 B.C. ± 470 years, and another sherd from near the top of the level has been dated 1500 B.C. ± 350 years. In addition to this "Early Neolithic" assemblage, a previous investigator of this site discovered an intrusive hearth that contained a few "Late Neolithic" sherds and an as of yet unidentified seed or fruit pit (Plate 29a).

The 984 stone implements recovered in the excavations are described within the categories of raw materials: quartz, dolerite, schistose, hematite, and "other materials" (granite, quartzite, gritstone, and chalcedony). A chapter is devoted to celts, celt blanks, and other polished stone tools and another draws together similar artifact types that were fabricated from more than one material. There are numerous tables presenting such relevant measurements as length, breadth, thickness, and weight of various