Animals and people


Shaw Badenhorst et al.’s tribute to Ina Plug is a rather unsatisfying volume, though full of data, very well produced and a great technical improvement on the BAR series of the past. Compiling *festschriften* is always a difficult task; not only does one need a basis for choosing contributors but also one must organise the papers so as to create order among essentially disparate subjects. Although this collection may reflect Ina Plug’s wide-ranging interests, as the editors claim, the volume lacks coherence and fails to provide a clear picture of how her interests dovetail, as surely they must. It gives the impression of having received insufficient thought as to both its target readership and its geographical and scientific coverage.

It is noticeable, for instance, that neither the preface nor Shaw Badenhorst’s tribute includes a definition of the term archaeozoology or zooarchaeology. This is an omission—whether the book is aimed at a broad audience or at archaeozoologists—because archaeozoology, as Terry O’Connor discusses later in the volume, means different things to different people. A definition would also have helped provide a framework for organis-