

**'Shanks shows us the perils of uncritically accepting past methods.'**

*Greece & Rome*

**'... there is constructive stimulation in plenty on offer here as well as needling provocation.'**

Paul Cartledge, *The Anglo-Hellenic Review*

**'Anyone with even a passing interest in the subject should read this.'**

James Whitley, *Antiquity*

**'For anyone curious, or uneasy, about the place of classical archaeology in the late twentieth century, this is a must-read book ... [it] enlivens our whole approach to the classical past.'**

John F. Cherry, University of Michigan

Archaeologists do not discover the past but take the fragmentary remains which they recover and make something of them. Archaeology is a process of detection and supposition; this is what makes it so intriguing. However, the interpretations of archaeologists differ and change over time. They depend upon the amount of evidence available, the ideas and preconceptions of the archaeologist and their interests and aims.

Michael Shanks provides a stimulating introduction to the discipline of classical archaeology and its objects. *Classical Archaeology of Greece* in essence assesses archaeology as a means of reconstructing ancient Greek society using the latest approaches of social archaeology. It also outlines the history of the discipline and discusses why Classical Greece continues to captivate us, why it has had such an impact on European civilisation and identity, and its relationship with romanticism and neo-classicism.

**Michael Shanks** is Reader and Head of Archaeology at the University of Wales, Lampeter; he also holds an Associate Chair at the University of Gothenburg. He is the author of *Experiencing the Past* (1992) and *Reconstructing Archaeology* (1992) with Chris Tilley, and co-editor of *Interpreting Archaeology* (1994).

## EXPERIENCES OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Cover illustration: *View of Sounion*, by Edward Dodwell esq., FSA, after his travels in Greece in 1801, 1805 and 1806, published by Adolphus Richter, London, 1834.

Cover design: Leigh Hurlock

**Classical archaeology/Archaeological theory**



ISBN 0-415-17205-5



9 780415 172059