
Book review by P. Storm

‘Neandertaler + Co.’ is a very nice colourful book about the prehistory of Nordrhein-Westfalens, with a strong emphasis on sites and museums. It is a clear, practical, systematic book, with beautiful photographs and figures, and useful information written by several experts. The book contains three main parts: introduction, sites and museums. At the end of the chapters one finds a reading list. As the title reveals, this work is not only about Neanderthals in their time, but encompasses also older and younger prehistoric periods.

The book starts with a clear map of the region of Nordrhein-Westfalens with the sites and museums. The introduction (p. 3-115) is devoted to general topics like geology, palaeoclimatology, palaeontology, palaeobotany and archaeology. In the chapter about erratic boulders, clear blocks (indicated with ‘I’) with an itinerary or information (like for instance age, rock, origin, volume and weight) are included. In the two main parts, the one about sites (p. 119-238) and the one about museums (p. 241-318) one finds useful practical information. In the former, blocks with an itinerary and in the latter, blocks with addresses, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail addresses, websites and opening times. At the end of the book there is a glossary (p. 321-324) and list of authors (p. 325-327).

I can recommend this book for everyone interested in prehistory, certainly if one realises that this book costs only about 15 euro’s (in January 2007). Those interested in Neanderthals + Co and who are able to go to the region of Nordrhein-Westfalens to visit sites and museums, like the classic famous site of Neandertal near Düsseldorf, will greatly enjoy this book.


1 Second version, updated 1 October 2007.