

Reviews

Edited by Annalies Corbin

Death by Theory: A Tale of Mystery and Archaeological Theory.

ADRIAN PRAETZELLIS

Altamira Press, Walnut Creek, CA 94596,
2000. 174 pp., 15 figs., \$17.95 paper;
\$57.00 cloth.

Death by Theory is something of a sleeper. The text does not require deep thought to solve the “mystery” and many will find the plot rather sophomoric, even though there are some rather curious, unexpected twists, but that is not the point. Given that most anthropology students will shy away from “theory” and head for more practical “fun” courses, Adrian Pratzellis has tried to make theory fun by sneaking it into a novel.

The plot introduces a series of human and situational caricatures found in academic and field archaeology. Anyone with a field school or two behind them will immediately recognize various “archaeotypes” and recall their own examples. Using these shared commonalities, Pratzellis generates a plot in which two main characters give topical examples ranging from Marija Gimbutas’ “old Europe,” to the Mother Goddess and Aztec cannibalism. They comment back and forth against a background underlain with sex/gender roles and interpretive posturing that is both telling and humorous.

The tale begins at Society for American Archaeology meetings with an idle, poverty stricken, post-graduate anthropology major who wants to head west, working on sites. One aside comments on how expensive these meetings have become, especially for students. His aunt, “a cynical old hag-archaeologist,” recently denied tenure over a turf battle is there too. Her connections are supposed to help him get his foot in the door. Over the course of the book, the duo ends up on an island in Washington state, working on a mound covered with scattered Neolithic ceramics and an upright stone circle.

Of course, “this isn’t . . . right.” This fun text covers the scientific method, diffusion, societal organization, and, just for comparison, a New Age group parodying modern Druids. The tale proceeds as American archaeology’s history, and the eras of culture history, New Archaeology and its subfields, post-processual and post-modern archaeology, are discussed. While it is easy reading, the presentations are artfully constructed, giving a chronology of theoretical archaeology, each era’s basic premises, and a primary figure or two. The information comes through clearly in both written and graphic forms and is cleverly interwoven into the plot.

The mystery’s plot runs through nine chapters in which various aspects of archaeology are presented. Chapter 1

deals with both science and the political structure within the field. This chapter includes discussion of probabilities being treated as if they were facts. Chapter 2 covers CRM and ethics with references to pseudoscience. The third chapter discusses how the New Archaeology arose, focusing on Lewis Binford, and setting up the next chapter dealing with ethnoarchaeology. The ensuing discussion is amplified with references to Binford’s work among the Nunamiut, with asides about modeling and asking questions of field data.

The next four chapters are more topical, covering diffusion and how societies are classified (Chapter 5), cannibalism and how Native Americans deal with archaeologists (Chapter 6), followed by gender related topics. Marxist archaeology and power, both in the past and among archaeological crews, are covered in Chapter 8. Finally, there is a brief discussion of postmodern archaeology that really involves tying archaeological theory and the whole mystery tale together.

Archaeologists who have met Pratzellis will recognize his wry humor and puns throughout a teaching text in which the novel serves as background for generalized presentations of theory. The theoretical discussions do not detract from the flow of the plot nor do they insult the reader’s intelligence. They include a solid dose of real information and can lead to many variable discussions.

There are several important “appendices.” These include a chapter-oriented, annotated listing of useful additional reading. Another, called “Talking Points,” suggests discussion topics for each chapter. The questions are generalized but are very much related to both text and wider theoretical considerations, including identification of many important thinkers not called upon in the text. Placed at the end of the text, they avoid breaking up narrative flow with too much theory. A glossary includes theoretical topics defined in general terms, some anthropological “stars,” and archaeological jargon helpful for beginners. Finally, there is an index cross referenced to both text and glossary.

There were two minor defects. In the discussion of scientific methodology, “the Question” was omitted although replicative testing was included. The review copy print was blurry, but an earlier purchased copy was clear and sharp.

This text can help develop student interest in archaeological theory and its history if instructors will give it a chance. While I felt it would be best used for an undergraduate course, a second and third reading indicated that this easily read booklet would be suitable for graduate students, especially those who come to archaeology from other undergraduate majors with little or no background in anthropology.

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Lines That Divide: Historical Archaeologies of Race, Class, and Gender.

JAMES A. DELLE, STEPHEN A. MROZOWSKI, and ROBERT PAYNTER, editors

University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, 2000. xxxi + 328 pp., 34 figs, 11 maps, 17 tables, \$52.00 cloth.

Lines That Divide tackles three issues that have been the focus of a growing body of research by archaeologists over the last 20 years, namely, race, class, and gender. While the volume is structured around the exploration of those three issues the editors are quite clear in their introduction that there are two broader themes that underlie understandings of race, class, and gender. First, the three issues are profoundly interconnected and, second, that the emergence and spread of capitalism is integrally connected to the understanding of race, class, and gender in the modern world. Overall, this is an intriguing work that presents many challenges for the reader, yet in terms of adequately demonstrating the meta-narratives of capitalism and linking race, class, and gender I would say that the results are somewhat mixed. The volume is organized in three sections, plus an introduction by the editors and an epilogue by Tom Patterson. One of the particular strengths of the volume is its strong international perspective. The volume includes chapters on several regions such as Ecuador, southern Africa, Spain, and Jamaica that are not commonly part of the general discourse in historical archaeology. It is interesting that the international works tend to be more effective in illustrating both the effects of capitalism and the connections between race, class, and gender.

The first section uses race as the organizing issue. The five papers in the segment, range from the rise of the Zulu state in southern Africa (Warren Perry) to labor relations in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia (Shackel and Larsen). This segment is the largest of the three sections, having five essays in it (the other two sections are each comprised of three essays). For scholars interested in issues relating to the range of African and African American experiences this section is quite good. Four of the five papers in the section write on some area relating to Africans or African Americans (a fifth paper, by Jim Delle in the segment on gender also has enslaved Africans as the focus). The sole exception in this section is the paper by Fawcett and Lewelling who examine the race-based differential preservation of white and Indian archaeological sites in northern Utah. As a group the papers in this section are intellectually rich, particularly Epperson's work which explores panopticism and the landscapes of Gunston Hall and Monticello. The papers in this segment also generally acknowledge influences of capitalism, yet women in this segment are all but invisible, the only mention of women being the work by Singleton and Bograd on representations of colonowares. It is left to the second segment of the volume to connect gender to race and class.

It is the segment on gender that most effectively illustrates editor's points on the shaping influences of capitalism as

well as the inter-connectedness of, race, class, and gender. The section opens with Diana diZeregaWall using a detailed ceramic and table glass analysis to illustrate the subtle shadings of what it meant to be "middle-class" in New York in the 19th century. It is followed by Ross Jamieson's piece that used the life of a woman in mid-17th century Ecuador to explore Spanish colonialism. It is Jamieson's piece that was found to be the most effective in the volume at illustrating how race, class, gender, and capitalism all become intertwined. Finally, the section ends with Jim Delle exploring the effects on women of the gender constructs created on plantations in Jamaica.

The third section has two papers that focus on industry in New England in the 19th century and one on Montblanc, Spain. The paper by Patricia Hart Mangan argues that shifts in household architecture reflect the transition from feudalism to capitalism. It is followed by Nassaney and Abel who use both the built environment and material remains from a cutlery factory to illustrate how the wealthy manipulated their material world to reinforce their position of power and control over their workers. Finally, Stephen Mrozowski uses the material world of the overseers at a manufacturing company to illustrate a considerable degree of fluidity in class identity throughout the 19th century. As Mrozowski notes this fluidity of class identity is an important point that archaeologists have largely overlooked in their commentaries on class.

Looking at this work from a broader perspective there are two issues that should be noted. The first is that in some regards the volume could be considered to be profoundly anthropological rather than archaeological. For many this will be very good news, since historical archaeology still tends to come up a bit short in incorporating anthropological understandings of race, class, and gender. Some, however, will undoubtedly be put off by the paucity of things like MVCs in the volume. By my count five papers have excavated objects as central to their arguments, in another three papers the use of archaeology-generated information is limited and two papers essentially do not use archaeology at all. (One additional paper examines how archaeological sites are subject to contemporary political whims).

The second issue is the inter-connectedness of the three central themes to the volume. In their introduction the editors argue ". . . that race, class and gender are intertwined and inseparable" (p. xii). I agree with this position but I am not sure that it is unequivocally demonstrated in this work. While connections between two of the three themes are regularly presented throughout the volume it is often left to the reader to fully intertwine all three. Indeed, to some degree the structure of the volume itself, with distinct segments headed by race, class, and gender contradicts their position of inseparability.

Certainly the issues just raised will dissuade some from taking a look at this work. To avoid this work, however, simply because it is not chock full of artifact photos MVC's and drawings of soil profiles misses the point. What is refreshing about this work is that the arguments that I would tend to take issue with or think may need clarifying are issues that arise from the contributors being intellectually

aggressive in their explorations. This is an extremely ambitious volume which does have its flaws, yet it is a provocative text which should also provide many challenges for the reader.

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*Grit-Tempered: Early Women Archaeologists
in the Southeastern United States.*

NANCY MARIE WHITE, LYNNE P. SULLIVAN,
and ROCHELLE A. MARRINAN, editors
University Press of Florida, Gainesville,
1999. xviii + 392 pp., 80 figs. \$49.95.

As Nancy Marie White notes (p. 313) toward the end of this valuable volume, women are no longer marginal in Americanist archaeology, since they now “comprise more than half of recent archaeology Ph.D.s, a major component of all the primary sectors of archaeological employment, and the majority of the younger cohort of academicians and museum archaeologists.” It seems, then, that *Grit Tempered* comes, self-consciously and most graciously, at an historical moment of recognition and recuperation of those women whose lives and careers served as pioneering models in the first half of the 20th century. Following and modeling itself after a similar effort of the 1980s for the American Southwest by Barbara A. Babcock and Nancy J. Parezo (the “Daughters of the Desert” project) as well as building upon more general reviews of the history of women in archaeology (e.g., the fine work of Joan Gero), White and her co-editors have collected an important and instructive set of narratives—most biographical treatments, some autobiographical reflections—that impressively complement the more traditional, male-centered, and “high point” oriented narratives of archaeological progress.

The book is comprised of essays on Margaret E. Ashley, Isabel Garrard Patterson, Madeline D. Kneberg Lewis, Bettye J. Broyles, Adelaide K. Bullen, Yulle W. Lazarus, Hester A. Davis, Martha Ann Rolingson, and Elizabeth S. Wing, together with autobiographical pieces by Carol I. Mason and Patty Jo Watson; each essay is accompanied by a selected bibliography of the subject’s works in the Southeast. In addition, *Grit Tempered* includes a remarkable essay by Cheryl Claassen on African-American and white women workers at Irene Mound during the 1930s that should be required historical reading for every student of archaeology. Claassen brings into focus the harsh two-sided reality of the Depression years for southern women, both black and white: was their fieldwork a form of exploitation (racist, sexist, or both) or badly needed opportunity?

Profoundly difficult, probably unsolvable historical questions lie, in fact, at the heart of this book, and in both White’s introductory essay and the editors’ summary chapter, they raise and attempt to deal with them in a fair-minded manner. It is too easy, they realize, to attribute the undeniable relative invisibility of these women’s professional lives and achievements to male efforts at “erasure” in any obvious sense; and complicating our understanding today is the fact

that, in retrospect (itself a serious problematic), most of the subjects in these narratives insisted that they did not feel discriminated against by men or hold bitterness about their careers in archaeology—which had been an initially surprising finding of the “Daughters of the Desert” project in the Southwest as well. Indeed, Nancy White quotes Nancy Parezo, knowingly, that “getting [the women interviewed] even to admit that they had experienced any form of discrimination was like pulling teeth” (p. 21). Which is not to suggest that discrimination did not exist—there is plentiful evidence here of deeply hurtful statements, decisions, and behavior that made real differences in individual lives (the revered James B. Griffin takes a special beating, but he has plenty of company). White is close to the complex truth, I suspect, when she observes (p. 22) the possibility that “we recognize more things today as discriminatory that would not have been considered as such earlier”; accordingly, while we may and must make our own judgments about these lives, we should not expect the subjects to agree with us. The unfortunate case of Margaret Ashley (as told here by Frank T. Schnell, Jr.), who late in life destroyed her notes on her Georgia work of the 1920s under the overwhelming conviction that it had been professionally “primitive” and therefore permanently worthless, saddens us in part for the loss of hard work, but more for a sense of self-reproach that should never have arisen, given the remarkable accomplishments, both published and unpublished, professional and personal, of the women in this volume.

There are some shortcomings, to my mind: an occasional note of defensiveness in the editors’ language—“we do not intend this volume to be a rabid radical feminist polemic” (p. 5)—and an apparent discomfort or uncertainty with the distinctions between such terms as “feminist” and “feminine.” More importantly, the editors’ promise to examine not only women in southeastern archaeology but also changing views of gender in prehistory is simply not kept. The final chapter, “Reflections and Speculations on Putting Women into Southeastern Archaeology,” a partial transcription of a 1995 roundtable discussion between Watson, Davis, Rolingson, and Ann Early, was a mistake. It is indefinitely presented and insufficient to the task; and it serves as an unfortunate coda to the editors’ fine and stimulating summary chapter. These cavils aside, though, the combination of moving case studies and intelligent editorial efforts make this a volume for the library of every Americanist who cares about the history of her or his discipline.

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The Maritime Heritage of the Cayman Islands.

ROGER C. SMITH

University Press of Florida, Gainesville,
2000. xxii + 230 pp., 82 figs., 2 tables.
\$49.95.

This attractively presented book is the first volume in a new series called *New Perspectives on Maritime History and Nautical Archaeology*. Although published by a “University” press, *The Maritime Heritage of the Cayman Islands* is likely

to appeal to a wide audience that includes general readers as well as those with a more specialized or academic interest in the maritime heritage of the Caribbean.

Roger Smith has drawn on source materials from geography, history, archaeology, and ethnography to provide his interpretations of the maritime past of the Cayman Islands, three small islands in the western Caribbean. He has consulted a very wide variety of primary and secondary sources and the extensive bibliography reflects this high quality scholarship. Smith is now the state underwater archaeologist for the Florida Division of Historical Resources and has conducted archaeological research in the Cayman Islands. Consequently the results from underwater archaeological investigations, both his own and those of others such as Peggy Leshikar-Denton's work on the "Wreck of Ten Sail," are woven cleverly into the text.

The text is clearly written and well structured. Smith writes about topics as diverse as the exploits of privateers and pirates and the exploitation of sea turtles to the development of island catboats and schooners and the ships that were wrecked on the poorly charted reefs. The tales of well-known pirates like Edward Teach, alias Blackbeard, who refitted his vessels, *Queen Anne's Revenge* and the sloop *Revenge*, at Grand Cayman in 1717 and the famous illustration of Blackbeard used on the cover of the book will clearly add to its commercial appeal. On the other hand the extent of the exploitation of sea turtles and the dependence of the Cayman Islanders on the slaughter of these animals until the 1970s is probably far less well-known. For those interested in the construction of boats and small craft, Chapter 5 on Caymanian catboats and schooners is a highlight. It is extensively illustrated with photographs of vessels being built and operated as well as a reconstructed lines plan of the catboat *Ajax*. This chapter also includes site plans of intentionally abandoned vessels such as the "Duck Pond Wreck" which was unusual 20 years ago as the documentation of the sites of deliberately abandoned vessels was often overlooked by underwater archaeologists until relatively recently.

This is a well-crafted book printed on excellent quality acid-free paper using a nice clear font. There were very few spelling mistakes or typographical errors found in the work though one is left to wonder who "KC and its Smith" (Fig. 47 on p. 97) might be. The book is extensively illustrated with generally clear, sharp illustrations including more than 80 photographs, line drawings, and maps. One or two of the "historical" photographs are a little dark, light, or unclear probably primarily due to the poor original quality of the sources from which they have been reproduced.

One problem with the work is that the majority of the underwater archaeological fieldwork (Chapter 1—The Cayman Islands Project) was conducted way back in 1979 and 1980. Unfortunately the 20-year time lag between fieldwork and the publication of a "popular" work such as this highlights that it is not solely the archaeological excavation and its associated technical report that are important. Of equal importance are the publicly accessible interpretations and publications that are drawn from this archaeological work.

Despite its relatively high cost (U.S. \$49.95) *The Maritime Heritage of the Cayman Islands* is a useful contribution to an area that only occasionally gets the attention it deserves from maritime and nautical archaeologists—that of publicly accessible interpretations of their archaeological investigations. Overall this is a valuable contribution to maritime history and underwater archaeology, all the more so because it is an entertaining read.

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The Kachina and the Cross: Indians and Spaniards in the Early Southwest.

CARROLL L. RILEY

University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City,
1999. xvi + 336 pp., 21 figs., 10 maps,
\$34.95 cloth.

Carroll Riley re-examines the history of Spanish New Mexico from the earliest European entrance until the late 1690s. The cast of historical characters who populated New Mexico during this time frame included Native Americans, Spaniards, and people of mixed ancestry. The complexity of relationships between and among these people is chronicled, as interesting today as it must have been to the participants of the time. Riley expands the rich documentary record with oral histories and archaeological data to flesh out our understanding of what the Spanish intrusion meant to local Native Americans.

The volumes 14 chapters examine a series of themes including the lives of Puebloan Indians, the relationship of church and state, missionization, and the interpersonal relationships of the Spaniards who hoped to make their fortune in this frontier area. The chapter on Spanish Society in New Mexico provides a concise review of daily life whereas several chapters look at the underpinnings of the 1680 Pueblo Revolt.

Source information is not referenced in the text, appearing instead in a 55-page-long Sources and Commentary section. Readers will have to refer to the section to locate sources, and will find many references annotated with additional facts. A glossary of Spanish terms, mostly relating to titles, will help inexperienced readers and a comprehensive index will direct people to particular areas of interest within the volume. New Mexico is fortunate to have both extensive archival sources and people willing to translate and interpret these records.

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Archaeology and Created Memory: Public History in a National Park.

PAUL A. SHACKEL

Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, New York, NY, 2000. xxii + 191 pp., 43 figs., 18 tables. \$57.50.

Creating a memory of a place, activity, or event is a complex issue that changes with each generation. I can appreciate this fact even more when I realize my memory is not what it used to be. For instance, I had forgotten that I had agreed to review Paul Shackel's new book *Archaeology and Created Memory: Public History in a National Park*, which seemed a rather inauspicious beginning for the task.

The book's premise is to present a version of Harpers Ferry that has been virtually overlooked. Shackel contradicts the National Park Service's interpretation of history and place and uses archaeology to reveal an unrecognized past. The archaeological evidence provides a wealth of undocumented truths about the lives, struggles, and personal habits of the inhabitants of the town of Harpers Ferry, after the Civil War, but is it really important enough to interpret to the public? This is the question the National Park Service and Paul Shackel are struggling with.

Prepared as a contribution to the series, *Global Historical Archaeology*, the volume presents a series of thoughtful, well-documented vignette-style chapters that summarize and condense years of research. The results of this research are aimed at showing how archaeology contributes important information on a variety of topics. As Shackel points out, "Archaeology has recently made significant inroads toward producing a more class conscious and accurate history by contributing to the town's postbellum history" (p. 11).

The book contains seven chapters, the first three set the stage for the current interpretation of Harpers Ferry and the last four present an alternative view with information about the Victorian-era occupants of Harpers Ferry. Graphics in the book are generally very good with excellent historic photographs. The book does suffer from a lack of a maps depicting a summary of all of the excavation units. A few typos mar the otherwise very professional publishing format. The research and analyses are exemplary especially the macrofloral and faunal studies, ceramic analysis, and contextual setting based on Victorian-era household management literature, etiquette books, and journals.

Chapter 1 presents the entire historical saga of Harpers Ferry in a 15 page synopsis. Chapter 2 continues with the early recognition of Harpers Ferry as a national monument and the focus of archaeologists and historians to gather information important to telling the story of John Brown's raid and the battles to control Harpers Ferry. By the end of Chapter 2, Shackel sharply criticizes the National Park Service's interpretation of Harpers Ferry, stating that "The Civil War generated a landscape of ruins that allowed industrialists to commemorate a prosperous past. Commemorating this history by preserving ruins is one method of creating and reinforcing this national ideology. Commemorating the industrial past is embedded in the National Park Service's interpretation of Harpers Ferry" (p. 50-51).

Chapter 3 focuses on the town of Harpers Ferry and how the townspeople survived during and after the war. Industries slowly returned and the town enjoyed a revival spurred by tourism and a renewed interest in the Civil War. The opposing views of John Brown's emancipation movement and Stonewall Jackson's capture of the town suggest the fundamental differences in any potential interpretation of Harpers Ferry. The National Monument at Harpers Ferry was not established until 1944. The conflicting views of who's history to present has followed the park's development since its initiation.

The true value of the volume is contained in Chapters 4, 5, and 6 which are condensed research reports that must have taken years to produce. Chapter 4 relates the life of a wealthy landowner and industrialist. Excavations were concentrated in his kitchen yard and privy. Shackel's team unravels Victorian attitudes toward health and sanitation and elite behavior. The archaeological information focuses on linking tablewares with dining ritual, medicinal bottles with health, and faunal and macrofloral evidence with views on sanitation. The data offer a conflicting picture of the conventional Victorian ideals and provides a more complex view of this family.

Chapter 5 is a fascinating study of the brewery workers and bottlers active in the late-19th and early 20th centuries in Harpers Ferry. Shackel explores the concepts of pre-industrial workers and the stresses caused by mechanization. Tangible evidence of dissident behavior is suggested by the beer bottles stashed behind walls in the bottling room, the more than 1000 bottles found in the basement, and the burning of the brewery three times in less than ten years. This interesting story is omitted from the National Park Service's interpretation. Yet, as Shackel points out "making workers part of our national landscape, . . . is important because it can make us aware of the historical conditions of labor and the contemporary practices in which it now exists" (p. 113).

Chapter 6 provides a glimpse in to the world of boardinghouses as a necessary counterpart of the industrialization of labor. Shackel describes boardinghouse life in the Victorian era, based on period publications, in a witty style that when matched with the archaeological data from the McGraw boardinghouse privy is remarkable. As Shackel notes, "Archaeology is one way we can provide a history of people who have been traditionally overlooked by the recorders of history" (p. 147). The National Park Service is now interpreting the lives of the boardinghouse occupants based on the archaeological evidence recovered.

The concluding chapter summarizes the findings and solidifies Shackel's goal of performing more inclusive archaeology. For Shackel, challenging the dominant corporate memory presented at Harpers Ferry and demanding a history that recognizes a more fallible and colorful reality is an important step towards producing a new memory. "Archaeology can be a powerful tool that can help change the public memory of a place" (p. 147).

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Trade Beads from Archeological Excavations at Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site.

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National Park Service, Midwest
Archeological Center, Lincoln, NE, and Fort
Union Associations, Williston, ND, 2000.
610 pp., 27 figs., 22 pls., 15 tables, 4 apps.
\$20.00 CD-ROM

Fort Union, located on the upper Missouri River on the North Dakota-Montana border, was the principal trading post of the American Fur Company in the northern Plains from 1828 to 1865. The post was briefly used by the North West Fur Company from 1865 to 1867 and the U.S. Army shared the post from 1864 to 1867. Excavations of post structures by the National Park Service prior to the reconstruction of the buildings recovered a large and diverse sample of trade artifacts. This report describes the 154,108 beads recovered during the 1986–1988 excavations and evaluates the previously described 36,912 beads recovered from the 1968–1972 excavations. A context for interpreting the trade bead assemblage was developed by reviewing published descriptions of beads assemblages from northern Plains trading posts and Native American archaeological sites, records of beads in Fort Union and the American Fur Company ledgers, Euroamerican accounts of 19th century Native American trade bead use in the Fort Union area, descriptions of beads on ethnographic objects contemporary with the post, and paintings and drawings of Native Americans that depict how beads were used.

The report provides an historical background of Fort Union, reviews the archaeological excavations at the post and the internal chronology of the post structures, discusses the bead classification system, defines glass bead attributes, and provides an extensive description of the glass bead assemblage organized by manufacture method.

This is the largest and most diverse mid-19th century bead assemblage described from North America. The beads are classified based on manufacture method, decoration, layering, shape, color, diaphaneity, and other attributes into 140 drawn, 171 wound, 27 mold pressed, 1 folded glass, 1 free-wound ceramic, 4 Prosser-molded ceramic, and 1 plastic bead varieties. Each variety is illustrated in color, linked to comparative classification systems, counted, weighted, measured, and described by color, shape, finish, perforation, decoration, and condition. The minimum diameter and length of beads were plotted revealing size groupings within varieties. Several of the seed-sized drawn bead varieties are shown to have several size clusters. A minor criticism relates to the organization of the bead variety numbers. Bead variety number are not ordered by manufacture method or by their presentation in the text. Reordering by manufacture method would have facilitated comparison of similar bead varieties.

New divisions for the manufacture methods for wound and drawn beads are employed. Wound beads are divided into furnace-wound and lamp-wound. Furnace-wound beads often are shaped or impressed and do not display evidence of the winding of the glass. Lamp-wound are less frequently shaped and display evidence of the winding of the glass. Further study of the distinction between furnace- and lamp-wound is needed to establish the reliability of the identification and the significance of these distinctions. An important clarification is the identification of beads that have been previously identified as blown beads as lampworked drawn and blown-lampworked drawn beads. These beads are made by reheating a drawn bead in a mold. The bead walls expand by internal pressure or by the introduction of forced air and thus have previously been incorrectly classified solely as blown beads.

Some of the structures within Fort Union are tightly dated within the occupation of the post and a list of the bead varieties that occur are presented by structure and time. Few distinct patterns are obvious due to the small sample size of beads that can be precisely dated. Interesting results of the temporal study are that molded beads with ground facets were present as early as the late 1820s to 1830s and that the Prosser ceramic bead varieties date to after the 1867 occupation of the post. Comparison with archaeological assemblages from other sites suggests that “cornaline d’Aleppo” polychrome drawn beads with red exteriors and white centers appear on the Plains at about 1830.

The appendices are packed with background research on trade beads. One appendix compiles the archaeological and ethnohistoric evidence for glass trade beads in the northern Plains. Evidence from archaeological sites, historic accounts, period paintings, and photographs of 19th-century objects are assembled to document the trade bead use and preferences for the tribes that were likely to have visited Fort Union: the Arikara, Assiniboine, Blackfoot, Cheyenne, Plains Cree, Crow, Gros Ventre, Hidatsa, Lakota Sioux, and Mandan.

Another appendix contains historic terms for trade beads with a particular focus on those that appear in the Fort Union records. A number of terms have recently made their way into the trade bead vocabulary and these terms are distinguished from those in the historic records. The historic terms are defined based on their context in the documents.

Fort Union is a foundation study for 19th-century beads. It sets a high standard for bead description, contains a large number of bead varieties, and a wealth of information about beads in ethnohistoric records. Future studies that fail to make comparisons with the Fort Union assemblage will be inadequate.

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The Cumberland/Gloucester Streets Site, The Rocks: Archaeological Investigation Report.

GODDEN MACKAY HERITAGE
CONSULTANTS

Godden Mackay, Sydney, Australia, 1999.

4 vols., 1,437 pp., ca. 600 figs, tables,
appends. \$550 (AUD) paper.

The Rocks area of Sydney is located at the foot of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Today as an historical area it attracts tourists to its shops, while tours highlight the stories and characters of The Rocks. It has not always been this way, The Rocks was seen as a darker area with something of the tone of a slum filled with narrow crowded streets and transient residents. This image is challenged through these volumes that combine historical research with archaeological analysis to create a far more complex and richer image of The Rocks and its people than the commonly held views would suggest—views which were promulgated by the Sydney middle classes and the newspapers of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

One of the challenges presented to Australian historical archaeology has been to go beyond the technical and specialized language characteristic of site reports and to make archaeology accessible, whether to the specialist in another field or the general public. For site reports are of little use if they are not consulted or fail to provide accessible information. Godden Mackay have taken up this challenge not just in the production of these volumes but from the beginning of The Rocks project. The project was seen as a social/ cultural enquiry characterized by a dialogue between history and archaeology (p. 25).

The Cumberland/Gloucester Streets Site, The Rocks Archaeological Investigation Report is composed of five volumes. Four of these are books, while the fifth volume is a CD. The CD was not supplied for review but contains the artifact inventory of some 750,000 items. The first volume contains the Executive Summary, while the second volume encompasses the Main Report—New Perspectives from the Rocks. The third volume details the trench reports, and the fourth contains specialist artifact reports. The site itself contained 46 separate buildings over two blocks bounded by Gloucester and Cumberland Streets, with an occupation history extending from before first contact to the 20th century. Originally the area was given over to a combination of residential houses and small businesses such as shops and public houses, but in the 20th century the block had become the site of large commercial businesses and was ultimately cleared and sealed over to form a bus depot. Recognized as a site with strong research potential and likely to contain a range of archaeological features the site was excavated over several months in 1994. The research design which is provided in both summary and detailed forms encompassed a number of questions. These questions were directed at the artifacts recovered and at the history of the site as revealed through excavation, artifact analysis, and historical documentation; for example the areas investigated included the impact of the industrial revolution, and the rise of governance. Specific questions asked included: “what can the site tell us about women’s

occupation and lives?”; “Can the site make a contribution to the debate on standards of living in urban areas where working people lived?”; and “was The Rocks a separate space, in a social/cultural sense, in the larger city?”

The Executive Summary provides a short form of the answers to these questions. In particular these findings highlight the fact that assumptions based on class judgments and outside perceptions do not necessarily reflect the reality of lives within an area, and that material culture can have an significant role in challenging these assumptions. For example during the convict period the residents were not poorly dressed, owning only plain and cheap goods intended for their consumption, rather they purchased good quality ceramics in a wide range of patterns, both English and Chinese; had good quality clothing and jewellery, and decorated their houses. As the authors note the residents were interested in the most up-to-date goods throughout the history of the site (p. 27).

If the artifacts challenged assumptions about the working-class lives of The Rocks inhabitants, the physical evidence of houses, drains, and sewers paints a different picture echoing the image of the area as a “slum.” Houses were small and placed tightly together with development in the area seeing houses being built in the rear yards of houses facing the main streets. Manufacturing shops such as the candle and soap works and the butchers, the cess pits placed directly against house walls, and the rubbish disposal practice of sweeping rubbish under the floorboards created smells and less than hygienic conditions. It is perhaps one of the most important aspects of this study that judgments, based purely on the houses and public accounts of The Rocks, about the poverty of the area and lives within it can be highly misleading. For the artifacts reveal the creation of comfortable domestic worlds, influenced by ideas of cleanliness, domesticity, and community (p. 32).

In the Main Report Grace Karskens, the site historian who had written her doctoral thesis on The Rocks and has published two books on The Rocks area (previously reviewed in *Historical Archaeology*, 34[4]127-128), seeks to combine the documentary evidence and the information derived from the trench reports and artifact analyses into a holistic picture of life in The Rocks that is grounded in the actual people who lived in these houses; where possible the buildings, structures, and artifacts are linked to the historical occupants. Karskens uses the research design questions as the guiding focus for her report. Repeatedly returning to the artifacts and buildings as a source of primary information, Karskens succeeds in creating a vivid world that subtly changes over time in response to social and economic conditions that is highly readable. It is in this volume that the challenge of making archaeology accessible to the general public is tackled.

The Main Report expands upon the research design questions in a way that is understandable to those who may be put off by lengthy specialist reports. For the specialist the Main Report is referenced directly to the specialized reports in other volumes allowing quick cross referencing. The first volume is well illustrated with maps, diagrams, and site and historic photographs that allow a quick understanding of the site and a sense of the place. Effectively this volume could stand alone if necessary.

Volume 3 contains the nine trench reports. The reports are written by the individual in charge of the trench. Each report contains a synopsis and an introduction outlining the area, objectives, methodology, and constraints in relation to that particular trench; the historical context of the trench; details of the archaeological evidence found; and finally a results section responding to the research design. The volume begins with illustrations of the site and a brief description of the trenches. This is followed by an outline of the research design, a more detailed list of possible questions that might be answered beyond the research design under the headings of Aboriginal Artefacts and Sites, Home and Work, The Body, and Personal and Social Relationships. Some of these questions are taken up in the specialist artifact reports.

The site history was divided into a series of site occupation phases and these are used as a framework for the sequence of development discussions in the trench reports. The presentation of the archaeological findings overall is good, and provided in a range of formats for all trenches. Each chapter contains a range of data composed of primary excavated features, black and white feature photographs, context lists, Harris Matrices, and the placement of the excavated features into the phases defined. With the chapters being written by different people there is a slight variation in how the primary data and the phasing are reported but this does not present any real problem. The black and white photographs significantly enhance the understanding of the features, and it is relatively easy to understand both the evidence and the reasoning behind the analyses. One drawback to these reports is the lack of any real indication of the artifacts found in each context. Comments on the artifacts tend to be a few paragraphs. It is not clear whether the timeframe for the report writing or the sheer volume of artifacts has led to this situation. As context sheets generally allow for some recording of artifacts the artifact comments could have been more detailed and comments made in relation to the nature of the context. The results sections are similarly brief in nature, with a fair amount of variance in the extent of the discussions.

Volume 4 contains the Specialist Artefact Reports which are written by a number of individuals and cover the following topics: Glass and Bottle Stoppers; Building Materials; Ceramics and Tobacco Pipes; Metal Artefacts; Miscellaneous (including buttons, sewing materials, jewellery, toys, clerical goods, and artifacts relating to personal hygiene); Leather; Animal Bone and Shell; and Coins, Medals, and Tokens. There are also Parasite and Macrobioatrical, Soil Sample, and Palynological specialist reports. Each report has the same basic structure which details the methodology used to deal with the particular grouping of artifacts, the creation of a type series for all but the bone, shell, and flora groups; a section called "Artefacts as Part of Site Evidence;" future research opportunities or questions; a research essay; and a bibliography. Most reports contain a type series and a brief description of each artifact within the type. Type series were created by identifying each different artifact with repeats grouped within the type. This is extremely useful for the reader who wishes to use the Report as a means of identifying comparative material for their own research purposes. The only limitations to the reports is that it

becomes increasingly clear on reading the reports that there was so much material to be sorted and catalogued that time ran out for any extensive analysis. Consequently there is no statistical analysis of the glass and ceramics, and the research essays reflect contexts that were prioritized for their possibility to answer the questions formed in the research design. For example 28% of the ceramic artifacts were not analyzed but classed as bulk material (p. 310). The value of the analysis consequently are somewhat reduced. These volumes provide, however, a good starting point for further research as the detailed information behind the cataloguing and creation of the type series allows a researcher to either continue the process of cataloguing or to access how this large amount of material has been organized. If anything the Report highlights the problems of dealing with such a vast amount of artifacts within the context of contract archaeology and how this might be dealt with.

The nature of the research essays does vary with each author reflecting different approaches to the analysis of the material. For example the Glass Report looks at the history of the artifact class in the colony, while the Metal Artefacts Report research essay looks at where on the site the artifacts were found. The Miscellaneous Report addresses both the location of artifacts within the site and descriptions of the artifacts. As in the trench reports, only in some reports are artifacts linked to contexts or particular houses or features such as wells and cess pits. The variation between the artifact reports makes direct comparisons between them difficult, but the reports seem to reflect the individual knowledge and interests of the author. Hence the Leather Report provides a useful glossary of terminology used in leather working and in footwear construction. The Coins, Medals and Tokens Report contains a history of currency in the colony, and the Glass and Bottle Stoppers Report contains a manufacturing summary that is equally useful. These latter two features will be of interest to the overseas and to local readers both. Overall the Reports provide a good reference base which puts the artifacts in their Australian context which does differ from America's despite their similar histories as English colonies.

Some artifacts are illustrated but the reasoning behind the choice is not always clear. They appear to be representative of the nature of the artifacts forming the type series, with some being book and catalog images used to identify the artifacts themselves. Kevin Barnes in his section on Building Materials provides drawn illustrations of the brick types found on the site with various frogs and drawn tile designs that creates a useful comparative reference.

The research essays provide some interesting areas of discussion including: the relationships of landlords and tenants and detecting them in the building materials and structures of the site (p. 165, 169); the development of a distinctive "colonial" material culture in relation to the ceramic assemblage early in the colony's history and its subsequent disappearance (p. 309, 311); the question of identity—the Irishness of the residents—in relation to tobacco pipes (p. 319); and the sense of personal identity that comes from jewellery and religious items and the possibilities of such artifacts reflecting patterns in tenancy, and changing economic circumstances (p. 71). Other areas of particular interest are: the use of houses as shops; the links between

women's work and the domestic world; the evidence of contraceptive practices; of the continuation of a European diet in the early decades of the colony; the changes brought about by industrialization in the ceramic assemblages; and the evidence of personal collections, for example of shells. These are discussed in both the Main Report and in the specialist artifact reports.

On a more general level the Report provides a range of maps and diagrams that allow a clear understanding of the site and the relationship of the various buildings and features. Though some of the most interesting photographs and maps are included in the last specialist report in the Palynological Specialist Report. The typeface is easy to read, and spelling and formatting errors are limited to final reports in the two parts of Volume 4 with a hanging sentence without a conclusion in the Palynological Specialist Report and the most irritating—fuzzy photograph in the Metal Artefacts Report. The reference to other Sydney sites in the specialist reports does assume a knowledge of Sydney

archaeology, a problem worsened by the unpublished nature of much of Australia's historic excavations.

These volumes provide a useful addition to the published works on Australian historical sites. They provide a quick reference point for researchers looking for comparative material as the sections are clearly set out and the type series fully tabulated. Moreover it indicates the research potential of the excavated material and the gaps in our knowledge of Australian manufacturing and trade patterns, to take but two examples. Most importantly, however, it provides an understanding of the site which is accessible to both the general reader and the archaeological specialist.

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