

International Heritage and Historic Building Conservation: Saving the World's Past

ZEYNEP AYGEN

Routledge, New York, NY, 2013. 321 pp., 78 figs., app., bibliog., index. \$54.95 paper.

International Heritage and Historic Building Conservation is a *Routledge Studies in Heritage* series that shares company with equally interesting titles such as *Corporate Responsibility for Cultural Heritage*. The series presents discrete topics and alternative perspectives in heritage conservation theory and practice.

Zeynep Aygen's volume is a global perspective of "heritage conservation," a term she chooses while exploring subtle differences in language and meaning that characterize individual cultures' efforts in telling a collective story. Aygen combines well-researched conservation policy, practice, and theory of varied places, times, and cultures to expand the typically Western-dominated discussion.

Case studies in "peripheral" places—including Africa, Asia, and especially Turkey, a spot well-known to the author—remind us that conservation is a universal concept and the definition of significance is culturally distinct. They may also remind us that our notion of authenticity can expand and benefit from cross-cultural collaboration. Aygen continues to follow the "other" in discussions of faceless global gentrification and ultimately presents successful case studies of inclusive, bottom-up strategies that empower local populations through positive heritage conservation results.

Aygen's multidisciplinary approach incorporates historical, political, and financial motives, strategies, and outcomes for heritage conservation of archaeological, architectural, and cultural landscapes and intangible heritage. If that list seems like a handful, it is, though well worth the broad view in moments of a head-nodding point well made. I found the discussions of postcolonial African conservation policy poignant in the exclusive recognition of precolonial resources as a way to reclaim identity. Alternately, the colonial bias for African stone architecture as "civilized" remains true in practice and policy, to the detriment of other building types. A discussion of globalization effectively wags a finger at international conservation committees for including nonwestern "periphery" participants, but failing to translate collaborative documents so that the documents are ultimately useless.

The breadth of topics from heritage trade guilds to natural conservation leaves some areas short-changed. I would like to see Aygen's considerable analytical skills applied to a deeper exploration of women in heritage conservation and sustainability and historic architectural resources, two topics she acknowledges briefly. Her treatment of heritage tourism and its stakeholders, financial implications, and methods—especially the creation of simulacra—was a high point.

International Heritage and Historic Building Conservation builds thematically and is layered with case studies that provide the reader with an expanded toolbox to consider identity, place, and policy in an increasingly global context.

SOPHIE ROARK
FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
REGION VII
9221 WARD PARKWAY
KANSAS CITY, MO 64114

The Archaeology of American Cemeteries and Gravemarkers
 SHERENE BAUGHER AND RICHARD F. VEIT
 University Press of Florida, Gainesville,
 2014. 276 pp., 40 figs., bibliog.,
 index. \$69.96 cloth, \$24.95 paper.

Finally, a most welcome sourcebook for all historical archaeologists (and historians) who deal with the material evidence of American life and death in their research, both below- and aboveground. This is the first volume to combine the two approaches to understanding this diverse and immense body of material. As the authors note, it was not until the late 20th-century Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) enactment and African Burial Ground excavation that archaeologists began to address the concerns of the descendant communities in their research. Sherene Baugher and Richard F. Veit discuss the history of the field from cultural geographers and their concern with American settlement patterns to the pioneering work of James Deetz and Edwin Dethlefsen in the 1960s analyzing Puritan New England gravestone designs fostered by religious belief, which led to the different regional patterning—as well as ethnicity, race, class, trade networks, consumer choice, and more—reflected in gravestones and cemeteries found in the Mid-Atlantic, the South, and the West discovered by succeeding archaeologists. This volume provides an excellent and extensive overview of the diversity of American cemetery studies.

The “Belowground Archaeology: Ethics and Science” chapter is illustrated with many largely

unknown examples of grave looting from the Pilgrims to the Minisink Burial Ground, where the archaeologists were arrested, convicted, and fined by a Sussex County, New Jersey, court, but later reversed by the New Jersey Supreme Court. The lack of protection for Native American, almshouse, and slave cemeteries and abandoned cemeteries of the poor, and the New York City African Burial Ground controversy, which led to the adoption of NAGPRA, are extensively discussed, including data on the number of burial grounds destroyed by urban development—a very sobering look at what has taken place with little notice by the public. As the authors note, “there is no such thing as a safe place for an historic burial ground” (p. 61). “The Science in Belowground Archaeology” chapter reveals the meaningful information that can be extracted from grave shafts, coffins, and coffin hardware, as well as skeletal material. Neutron activation, pollen analysis, air sampling, and gammagrams are among the more high-technology techniques that have been employed to elicit burial information, as well as the soil stains that reveal grave post markers, wooden markers, and their positioning. Native American burial ground excavations show the wide range of materials found and the variety of interpretations stemming from them, a rich and hitherto unknown synthetic body of analysis provided by this volume. Churchyard cemeteries in cities relocated because of construction provide much new information on the 19th-century life of immigrants, the Chinese, and others. African American burial sites are reviewed, as well as the African Burial Ground in New York City, which provided a wealth of new knowledge about African slaves and free people of color.

The excavation of the many types of European American cemeteries, from Jamestown to Albany to Illinois, sometimes revealed much dietary, health, and class information through the use of stable isotope analysis. Since most of this information has resulted from cultural resources management excavations, which are generally not published, it is obvious that more of it should be shared to enrich the public knowledge of our mortuary history.

The chapter on early American gravemarkers—“Beyond Death’s Heads and Cherubs”—covers in more detail, illustrated with many gravestone images, the burgeoning interest in gravemarkers by art historians, folklorists, artists, cultural geographers, archaeologists, and scholars of religion. This groundswell of interest resulted in the founding of the Association for Gravestone Studies in 1977, its newsletter, and journal, *Markers*, by this reviewer and a cadre of New England historians, most interested in documenting the carvers. Archaeological studies were sparsely covered in *Markers* or Peter Benes’s reviews of New England folk life, *Puritan Gravestone Art* (1976) and *Puritan Gravestone Art II* (1978), which makes this volume so valuable—bringing the archaeological portion of the story to public knowledge.

The germinal contribution by Deetz and Dethlefsen (Death’s Head, Cherub, Urn and Willow, *Natural History* 76(3):196–206) to statistical analysis of gravestones and relating the findings to a tripartite design related to religious belief and change through time, unleashed a huge body of work. The work covered mortuary expression throughout the United States and found that regional and ethnic variation challenged the findings of Deetz and Dethlefsen.

Chapter 5 on the transformation in the design of 19th- and 20th-century cemeteries documents the arrival of bucolic planned cemeteries such as Greenwood in Brooklyn,

Laurel Hill in Philadelphia, and Mount Auburn in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which served as models throughout the country. The rise of elaborate statuary, marking of family plots by cast iron fences, the use of portraits, and the advent of many more shapes than in colonial times are documented. The transition to lawn-park cemeteries, to memorial parks, and to military cemeteries is elicited, as well as new materials used—ceramic daguerreotypes, cast iron, wrought iron, cast zinc, terra cotta tile, concrete, granite—and how these changes relate to changes in American life.

“Ethnicity, Race, and Class within Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Cemeteries” shows the early years of the rural cemetery movement when three-quarters of a million people immigrated into the nation’s urban centers and discusses their ethnicity, as well as that found in Native American cemeteries of various tribes/nations, African American burial grounds, Chinese, Hawaiian, Jewish, Spanish Catholic, Mexican American, Romany/Gypsy, and Italian American cemeteries. This part is a bit repetitious because portions have been covered in preceding chapters, especially the role of class and of diversity within religious groups.

Baughner and Veit remind readers that much has yet to be studied in gravestones and cemeteries, such as memorial parks, the differences in various northern European groups, people from the Middle East, India, Pakistan, Southeast Asia, and Korea. New additions to cemeteries are polychrome inscriptions, and in “green” cemeteries, web addresses engraved on markers providing more information about the deceased, and Global Positioning System coordinates linked to Web content about the deceased. In the colonial period, only upper and middle classes had gravestones; today many more can, with even some cremains sent into low Earth orbit. The Association for Gravestone

Studies holds annual conferences on all aspects of cemeteries and gravestones, reflecting the continuing interest in them. As the authors state, "American cemeteries reflect the cultural mosaic and historical trajectory of the nation. The

cemeteries and their permanent residents provide an unparalleled historical record of American culture. They are worth studying." This volume will make that endeavor much easier and more rewarding.

GAYNELL STONE
2332 N. WADING RIVER ROAD
WADING RIVER, NY 11792

*L'îlot des Palais: Chantier-école de
l'Université Laval, saison 2007*

ISABELLE BÊTY AND NICOLAS
FORTIER

CELAT, Quebec, QC, 2013. 191 pp.,
90 figs. C\$40.00 paper.

*L'îlot des Palais: Chantier-école de
l'Université Laval, saison 2008*

TOMMY SIMON PELLETIER,
CAROLINE PARENT, AND MATHIEU
BEAUDRY

CELAT, Quebec, QC, 2013. 261 pp.,
144 figs. C\$40.00 paper.

These two volumes arise from the 2007 and 2008 field seasons of the long-running Laval University (Quebec) archaeology field school, the most established francophone field school in North America, which celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2012. As the introductions to both volumes describe, Laval students learn field methods at the undergraduate degree level, and are then offered the opportunity to direct fieldwork (under the overall supervision of Laval staff) at the Master's degree level (or *2e cycle*). The Master's students apply for the relevant permit, undertake the logistical planning, direct the fieldwork, supervise the assemblage analysis, and then write a report. This is deliberately designed as a professional apprenticeship drawing on method, theory and practice, and—as the introduction to the 2008 volume notes—is the foundation of the “complete experience” that is the foundation of the Laval field school's excellent reputation.

Crucially—as evidenced by these volumes—the students are given the opportunity to (are

indeed expected to) publish a formal final report. Here the volumes have been published as part of the *Cahiers d'archéologie du CELAT* series via CELAT (an arts and letters research center drawing on the expertise of three Francophone Quebec universities) and with the support of both the City of Quebec and the provincial Ministry of Culture and Communications. On one level, these are Master's student reports on graduate student-directed fieldwork, but on another level these are formal publications produced via a university program that gives students a holistic experience of the archaeological process through publication of their fieldwork in a professional university and government-sponsored monograph series. The pros and cons of these reports should be understood on the basis of these factors.

Both volumes describe work undertaken at the Îlot des Palais site in Quebec City, located just outside the city walls at their northwest corner. Following the initial French settlement of Quebec, the site supported a brewery (1668–1675), the first (1685–1713) and second (1716–1775) palaces of the intendant of Quebec, and a mid-19th- to mid-20th-century brewery (1852–1968). Detailed English-language descriptions of the site, its history, and its archaeology can be found in various contributions in *Post-Medieval Archaeology* 43(1). Each of the present volumes contains reports on two separate areas of the Îlot site. In the 2007 volume, Isabelle Bêty's fieldwork sought to locate and study the gardens of the first intendant's palace, potentially identify the animal yard of the second palace, and document the subsequent smelting works and brewery at the site. Nicolas Fortier's contribution had similar goals. In the 2008 volume, Tommy Simon Pelletier was examining