

These are minor quibbles in an otherwise fine book (32 pages) that children and adults will enjoy. If you have a young child interested in archaeology, buy this book. Who knows? It might spark the development of a next generation archaeologist.

References

Jackson, Donna M. 1996 *The Bone Detectives: How Forensic Anthropologists Solve Crimes and Uncover Mysteries of the Dead*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company.

Trimble, Stephen 1990 *The Village of Blue Stone*. New York: Macmillan.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5334/bha.14207>

Susan Heuck Allen (editor) 2002 *Excavating Our Past. Perspectives on the History of the Archaeological Institute of America*. Boston, Mass.: Archaeological Institute of America. xxv+237pp. ISBN 0-9609042-8-X (paper). \$35 US.

Reviewed by *Tim Murray*

This useful book is the product of a colloquium held at the 1997 Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), to which have been added several essays written by others who have been working in the AIA archives. What has resulted is an extensive and (at times) intensive coverage of many of the core activities of a significant archaeological institution.

One quick way of gauging its significance is Phoebe A. Sheftel's compilation of the Institute's timeline from 1879 to 2001. From the start the AIA was interested in promoting archaeological research in the USA (beginning with its support of Bandelier's Pecos expedition in 1880), but it was also strongly focused on work elsewhere (beginning in 1881 at Assos and in 1882 with the foundation of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens). Over the next 120 or so years the AIA founded journals, notably *The American Journal of Archaeology* and the popular journal *Archaeology*, created prizes and lecture series, published monographs, acted as advocate for the preservation of cultural heritage and of course supported major fieldwork in the USA and elsewhere. Clearly the archives of the Institute provide a significant opportunity for research into the history of archaeology in the USA, as well as the practice of archaeology in the Near East and the Classical World.

By and large the 12 contributors ably realise this potential. Although one might wish for more reflection about the business of writing such a history (Allen's Introduction to the volume provides a very brief and cursory rehearsal of internalist versus externalist modes of history-writing), there are some fine microscale and macroscale investigations published here. Nancy de Grummond's discussion of the intellectual background to the foundation of the Institute links well with the specifics of Elizabeth Will's discussion of the work of the Institute's founder Charles Eliot Norton. Here personal prestige and the notion of cultivated erudition combined to create an institution that would soon reach far from Boston. Our understanding of the interplay of the various agendas (most obviously between those who sought to foster an American engagement with the Classical World and those who wished to advance the cause of archaeology in America) is further enhanced by Allen's discussion of the early campaign at Assos, and Winterer's careful analysis of the context of the founding of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

But there was (and is) a darker side to such expansive activities, and this is well exemplified

by Phoebe Sheftel's detailed discussion of conflict over which country (France or the USA) would get the concession to excavate the iconic site of Delphi, and by Silberman's retelling of the politics of American archaeology in the Near East. Of course we are now well accustomed to the existence of objectives other than the disinterested pursuit of knowledge in archaeological practice, but these discussions of the social and cultural context of archaeological knowledge are still important to have. One reason is that they allow us to peer behind the veil of rhetoric that governs the activities of all significant archaeological institutions (an example being James Snead's discussion of the Institute's on-again-off-again relationship with archaeology in North America). Another reason is that they afford us the chance to explore in depth serious issues that arise with the practice of archaeology in other countries (which are sometimes over-generalised as 'colonialist' contexts). Clemency Coggins' consideration of professional responsibility is a very useful contribution to this exploration. The book is rounded out with more specific studies of the Institute in Canada (Russell), its activities between the Wars (Dyson), and the use of computers (Eiteljorg). Four appendices complete the coverage (lists of Presidents and Editors-in-Chief, award and fellowship winners, lists of local societies and lists of Lecturers).

While it cannot be said that this book constitutes the history of such an important institution (indeed the editor makes no such claims), the papers published here certainly make a significant contribution toward the writing of that history.

James H. Simpson (edited and annotated by Frank McNitt, Foreword by Durwood Ball) 2003 *Navaho Expedition. Journal of a Military Reconnaissance from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to the Navaho Country, Made in 1849*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. Paperback ISBN 0-8061-3570-0.

Reviewed by Jonathan E. Reyman

First published as a Senate report during the first session of the 31st Congress (1849–1850), then commercially published (Simpson 1852; note that, in the two-year interval, Simpson changed the spelling from Navaho to Navajo), Simpson's *Navaho Expedition* did not receive widespread distribution until edited and annotated by Frank McNitt and published by the University of Oklahoma Press as part of 'The American Exploration and Travel Series' (McNitt 1964). The volume reviewed here is a reprint of the 1964 volume with a new, valuable Foreword by Durwood Ball; Richard Kern's drawing of Jemez Pueblo has been moved back from the 1964 edition to a less appropriate placement (facing p. 166) in this new printing. This 2003 edition is welcome because Simpson's account of the expedition is an important document in the history of southwestern archaeology and ethnography, and with McNitt's editing and annotations, '... McNitt's *Navaho Expedition* [is] a priceless snapshot of the Navajos, survey of Chaco [Canyon], and record of New Mexico' (Ball, in McNitt 2003:lxxx).

Ball is correct, but his comment doesn't do justice to the expedition's success and the importance of Simpson's journal. The lieutenant was one of 15 officers in the 500-man Navaho Expedition under the command of (Brevet) Lieutenant Colonel John M. Washington. In addition to the work at Chaco Canyon, the expedition parties also explored part of Canyon de Chelly, surveyed Inscription Rock (now El Morro National Monument) where they left a record of their passing and where artist Richard Kern, a member of Simpson's party, made several excellent panel sketches, visited most of the New Mexican Pueblo villages, made a comparative word list of English, Pueblo, Navajo, and other Native American terms, and completed other tasks during the 587.11 miles marched between August 15, 1849, when they