

*Archaeology of Eastern North America: Papers in Honor of Stephen Williams*, edited by James B. Stoltzman. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Archaeological Report No. 25, Jackson, MS, 1993. 382 pp., \$20.00 (paper).

by

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This well-produced volume honors Stephen Williams, recently retired Peabody Professor of American Archaeology at Harvard University.

Section one, on Williams' life, career, and publications, is of most interest to readers of BHA. Chapter 1, by James B. Griffin details Williams' career in teaching, in museum management, and southeastern archaeology and ethnohistory. Williams served as chairman of at least 25 doctoral committees and is credited with chairing more women's committees (7) than any other Harvard archaeologist (Claassen 1994:7). Except for mention of his recent book, *Fantastic Archaeology*, neither this chapter or any other provides information on Williams' interest in and contributions to the history of archaeology.

Chapter 2 provides his twin brother, Philip's, perception of their early life together and divergence once they reached college. Philip seems to have had the initial interest in archaeology and both brothers went to Lloyd Wilford's 1947 summer field school in Minnesota, but Philip ended up in business while Stephen went on in archaeology.

Chapter 3 by J. Cynthia Weber details Williams' long association with the Peabody Museum, including ten years as director, a period that included the design and construction of the Tozzer Library.

Chapter 4, also by Griffin, lists Williams' publications up to 1991. Items of relevance to the history of archaeology that are not listed here are his introductions to two important archaeological reprints (Williams 1973a, 1973b) and a set of three meeting papers on pioneers of Tennessee archaeology, the Ocmulgee investigations, and early archaeology in Cincinnati (Williams 1987).

The remainder of the volume includes 18 papers on archaeology, primarily by Williams' students, grouped into three sections representing his research interests - Paleoindian and Archaic archaeology, southeastern prehistory, and historic archaeology. The only paper in this section of direct relevance to the history of archaeology is Ian W. Brown's brief discussion of William Bartram's pioneering use of the direct historic approach in the Southeast.

Festschriften (and obituaries [see editorial]) tend to be the historians initial sources of information about the career of a scholar and in some cases may be the only published source of such information. This mode of historical presentation functions to honor a scholar and is written by people close to the subject and so is not expected to have the distance and critical perspective of more standard historical discourse. Publishers claim to avoid festschriften because they tend to be unfocused and contain a high proportion of papers recycled from elsewhere. My examination of the directory of the Association of American University Presses shows that a number of presses, including those of Harvard and Yale, specifically state that festschriften are not considered for publication surprisingly, a recent price list of the University Press of America specifically mentions festschriften as a category they will consider).

The true focus of a festschrift is, of course, the scholar being honored and that in itself, although it may cut down on the number of potential buyers, is why such volumes are of great value to those interested in scholarly influence. A good festschrift from a publisher's point of view, however, should showcase current thinking that will be of interest to people other than those who know the honoree personally. This volume meets the latter criterion well and has several papers as close to the methodological and theoretical cutting edge of archaeology as one can get. For this reason, the volume deserves to be on the shelf of anyone interested in the archaeology of the eastern U.S. The volume will also provide a good starting point for current and future historians of archaeology interested in the work and influence of Stephen Williams. If all festschriften were of this quality, there would be no need for publishers to have a ban on such volumes.

### References Cited

Claassen, Cheryl

1994 "Introduction." In *Women in Archaeology*, edited by Cheryl Claassen, pp. 1-8. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.

Williams, Stephen

1973 "Introduction." In *The Antiquities of Tennessee and the Adjacent States*, by Gates P. Thruston, pp. vii-ix. AMS Press, New York.

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1973b "Introduction." In *Antiquities of the Southern Indians*, by C. C. Jones, pp. 7-12. AMS Press, New York.

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1987 "Some Recent Papers on the History of North American Archaeology." Peabody Museum, Harvard University, photocopied.

### VI. Activities of Various Academic Gatherings Related to the History of Archaeology

Pamela Smith sends word of the History of Archaeology Session held 4 May 1995 during the Canadian Archaeological Association's annual meeting in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada. Below are the detailed particulars of the session:

Robert Park

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*Mentors and Role Models: The Shaping of Canadian Archaeologists.* This paper summarized and discussed the responses to a survey mailed to over 200 Canadian archaeologists, asking who influenced them in their careers. Robert explored to what extent the way Canadian archaeologists do archaeology as influenced by particular individuals. He discussed the kinds of relationships which influenced Canadian archaeologists and how such individuals have shaped the direction of archaeology in Canada.