

1877. ARCHAEOLOGY

Ephraim George Squier (1821-1888) published *Peru: Incidents of Travel and Exploration in the Land of the Incas* (New York and London). He related his discovery of Latin American civilizations that predated the Inca. (p. 114)

The scientist cohorts by decade also focuses upon the hard sciences, although three men are singled out from archaeology F. W. Putnam, N. H. Winchell, and T. M. Prudden - a peculiar sample of American archaeologists indeed!

The research guide provides a brief introduction to reference and other resources on the history of American science. A section on electronic resources carries the proviso that this area is fast changing.

The bibliography is fairly short (30 pp.) but provides a good list of essential resources. The index lists all scientists, journals, institutions, and projects mentioned in the first two sections of the book.

This volume is a good resource for those historians of American archaeology wanting to place their subject into context in broader American science. Although it may be a bit too specialized to recommend for personal bookshelves, it is definitely a book that should be available in your local reference library for consultation.

Historical Archaeology of the Chesapeake, edited by Paul A. Shackel and Barbara J. Little. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, 1994. xiv + 384 pp. \$49.00, cloth.

Reviewed by

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This volume is a good attempt at presenting an overview of the land-based historical archaeology that has been on-going in the Chesapeake region over the last fifteen years. It brings together articles by academic, CRM, and public sector archaeologists, and includes work by both well established and promising young researchers focused on the Chesapeake region. The volume is organized into four thematic and chronological sections, covering time periods from the earliest European settlement of the region to the nineteenth century.

Following a well-organized and informative introduction to the region by the editors, the first section of the volume presents five essays concerned with seventeenth-century life in the Chesapeake. The opening chapter of this section "Whereby We Shall Enjoy Their Cultivated Places" by Stephen Potter and Gregory Waselkov, uses conventional archaeological survey techniques to examine whether assumptions made about early English settlement patterns are in fact valid. The authors conclude that the earliest English divisions of Virginia's Northern Neck correlated quite closely to pre-existing Algonquian chiefdoms, suggesting that these Europeans did indeed coopt existing spatial logics in this context, when establishing their first settlements. Matthew Emerson's piece presents a descriptive interpretation, based on his dissertation work, of locally made clay pipes. Based on his stylistic analysis, Emerson concludes that many of the pipes found in seventeenth-century contexts were made by Africans, not as commodities for trade, but as personal items. Ann Markell's essay, "Solid Statements: Architecture, Manufacturing and Social Change in Seventeenth-Century Virginia", considers architecture as a class of artifact. In examining an earthfast, cellared house and the manufacturing debris associated with this homestead, Markell contends that the owner of this house may

have used architecture in the process of negotiating his status rank, and social relationships, among the aspiring Virginia elite. Henry Miller extends this analysis in his essay, “The Country’s House Site: An Archaeological Study of a Seventeenth-Century Domestic Landscape”. Using archaeological evidence and conceiving the built environment as part of the human landscape, Miller reconstructs the architecture, yard spaces and landscaping surrounding one of St. Mary’s City’s most prominent buildings, suggesting how spatial organization changed as Maryland’s culture changed. Paul Shackel concludes this section with a comparative analysis of the town plans of St. Mary’s City and Annapolis. Shackel argues that the town plans and other quotidian forms of material culture did more than reflect the social structure, but rather were actively used in the creation of the colonial social hierarchy at both of Maryland’s capital cities.

The second section of the volume focuses specifically on plantations and landscape studies. With “Mount Vernon: Transformation of an Eighteenth-Century Plantation System” Dennis Pogue opens this section by examining Mount Vernon as an example of the expansion of the tidewater plantation system in the 18th century. Pogue examines the expansion and contraction of Mt. Vernon as a plantation, using a systems paradigm based in part on the World Systems theories of Wallerstein to contextualize the material changes evident in the architectural, historical and archaeological records. Douglas Sanford follows this consideration of elite spaces with an analysis of plantation slavery in Virginia’s Piedmont. Using Jefferson’s Monticello as a data universe, Sanford adopts a contextual approach for his analysis of the archaeology of slavery; he argues that the great spatial and temporal diversity of plantation slavery must be considered when analyzing the results of excavations and/or historical research. Elizabeth Kryder-Reid concludes this section with a consideration of the archaeology of formal gardens, “‘As is the Gardener, So Is the Garden’: the Archaeology of Landscape as Myth.” She argues convincingly that the construction of gardens by the colonial Maryland elite was an extension of the creation of self; by examining these artifacts archaeologists can consider the mechanisms by which these elites created and maintained social relations and power.

The third section of the volume is dedicated to eighteenth-century life. Joanne Bowen opens the section with “A Comparative Analysis of the New England and Chesapeake Herding Systems.” Bowen uses sophisticated faunal analysis to determine that two distinct herding patterns were established; while the New Englanders raised cattle on well-developed field systems, the Chesapeake farmers, relying less on dairy products than meat, let their cattle forage for themselves. Ann Smart Martin follows this essay with a thorough consideration of what she calls “the Creamware Revolution.” By examining the documentary records of merchants, she suggests that following its introduction in the 1760s, creamware quickly became the most popular refined ceramic in the Chesapeake region. Her analysis demonstrates that people of diverse social situations purchased, displayed, and used creamware; thus to use the presence or absence of this type of ware as an indicator of status on archaeological sites is naive. Barbara Little explores the possibilities of a feminist historical archaeology in her piece, “‘She Was...an Example to Her Sex’”. By exploring the social and material life of Anne Catherine Green, Little suggests how historical archaeologists can interpret the negotiation of gender roles and relations in historical contexts. Susan Winter, in her “Antietam Furnace: A Frontier Ironworks in the Great Valley of Maryland”, considers how some colonial Marylanders sought to diversify the regional economy by establishing iron smelting enterprises along Maryland’s northwestern frontier. This chapter examines the technological and historical development of ironworking in the Chesapeake. Mark Leone follows with a brief review article, “The Archaeology of Ideology: Archaeological Work in Annapolis since 1981”. In this chapter Leone articulates the intellectual and political paradigms which have shaped his work and that of his students as they have attempted to use archeology to connect the present to the past. Marey Brown and Patricia Samford conclude the third section of the volume with their “Current Archaeological Perspectives on the Growth and Development of Williamsburg”. This article examines not only the historical developments of landscapes in Williamsburg, but discusses the development of archaeological techniques used to interpret the layout and use of landscapes over time.

The fourth and final section of the volume contains three essays concerned with the Chesapeake in the 19th century. "How Sweet it Was: Alexandria's Sugar Trade and Refining Business" by Keith Barr, Pamela Cressey and Barbara Magid considers the effects the sugar industry had on the historical development of Alexandria, Virginia. This essay is largely descriptive, providing narratives of the historical economy of Alexandria, the 19th century sugar refining process, and descriptions of artifacts recovered during excavations of several sugar refineries in Alexandria. Charles Cheek and Donna Seifert follow with "Neighborhoods and Household Types in Nineteenth-Century Washington, D.C." In this essay, they compare the artifact assemblages from the home of a working-class wife with that of the madame of a brothel. The use the concepts of "neighborhood" and "household" to further compare the material lives of these women with those of residents of other Washington neighborhoods. The final essay in the volume is Julia King's "Rural Landscape in the Mid-Nineteenth-Century Chesapeake". King challenges readers and planners both to "preserve rural landscapes without reinforcing social structures based on the inferiority of certain members" (p. 284). Although she provides an interesting and well-documented interpretation of the rural landscape in Southern Maryland, however, she does not overtly suggest how such a program might be accomplished.

Taken as a sum of its parts, *Historical Archaeology of the Chesapeake* provides a comprehensive introduction to the type of work that has been going on in this region over the last two decades. As the Chesapeake remains one of the power centers in the modern political economy of the discipline of historical archaeology, anyone with an interest in the history of the discipline would do well by reading this volume.

V. Activities of Various Academic Gatherings Related to the History of Archaeology

None to report.

VI. Announcements/Sources Relating to the History of Archaeology

The editor's office (BHA) has a number of copies of the "Annotated Bibliography of the Works of Dr. Emil W. Haury" by Peter L. Steere. Those of the readership that would like to a copy of the same should contact the Editor. A copy will be sent straight-away.

Richard B. Woodbury sends along a very interesting quote from Lieutenant-General Augustus Henry Lane Pitt Rivers's volume the *1892 Excavations in Cranborne Chase*:

"Tedious as it may appear to dwell on the discovery of odds and ends, that have no doubt, been thrown away by their owners as rubbish..., yet it is by the study of such trivial details that Archaeology is mainly dependent for determining the dates of earthworks.... The value of relics, viewed as evidence, may on this account be said to be in inverse ratio to their intrinsic value...."

Our knowledge of prehistory and early people [has been]...derived chiefly from their funeral deposits, and for all we know of their mode of life...they might as well have been born dead. Yet the every-day life of the people is, beyond all comparison, of much more interest than their mortuary customs."