What would look different in our pictures of the past if women, or anyone with women more in mind, envisioned the Southeast? There would be menstrual huts in the artist's reconstructions of villages. There would be women chiefs wearing stunning outfits... people dancing, lots more children, perhaps working hard, playing or even fighting. Clan mothers might be pictured running the show... Men might be bending over doing tedious work or holding babies, as well as bringing home the deer or the trophy head... There might be... women and men playing games, people gambling, even people hugging or showing some affection... There might be lovers' glances among the facial expressions... It wouldn't be hard to come up with real human life... shut out or overlooked in the past (p. 335-6).

This book is an important addition to the history of southeastern archaeology, bringing to light the often undervalued or forgotten contributions of the many women who helped to make archaeology what it is today.

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.5334/bha.10104


by

David L. Browman
Washington University - Saint Louis

This volume is the much delayed publication of the results of the Second Marshall Field Archaeological Expedition to Peru in 1926, sponsored by the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, and conducted by Alfred Kroeber (1876-1960). It contains some useful short "history of the discipline" remarks both in the preface by Carmichael and in the draft introduction to the original manuscript by Kroeber and Collier. Donald Collier (1911-1995), was curator at the Field Museum from 1941 to 1976, and was working with Kroeber in the late 1950s to help bring the report out, but work stopped with Kroeber's death in 1960. Carmichael ran across the unfinished manuscript in the Field Museum in 1986 while doing research on the Nasca assemblages as a graduate student, and with Collier's permission and assistance, reassembled the component parts, and edited the manuscript for publication.

In terms of the history of development of ideas, there are thus two useful introductions in this volume. The first is the three page introduction written by Kroeber in 1960, which details his thinking at the time; his view of the state of knowledge of Nasca in 1926, the rationale for his use of A, B, and Y units, and a summary of the joint contributions by Collier and Kroeber. The second is the seven page preface by Carmichael. This preface provides more context for the project. Of particular note, Carmichael argues that Kroeber employed excavation standards in 1926 that were not applied in the region again until the 1950s. Precise measurements were recorded in the metric system, and a complete record and collection for each individual grave was kept. Carmichael thus believes that Kroeber (rather than Max Uhle) should be credited for instituting the first systematic use of stratigraphic excavations in Peru, as Kroeber employed 50-cm levels as excavation units in all of his cuts. Carmichael summarizes Kroeber's contributions to the analyses of burials, sexing, architecture, pukios, and pottery seriation, and also includes a brief note on his own subsequent analyses of Kroeber's collection for his Ph.D. dissertation. The 1960 introduction is time-transgressive, through including not only Kroeber's thinking in 1926 on the Nasca materials, but also the evolution to his final thinking in 1960 as he was writing up the report, his last contribution to Nasca studies.