

keeping, as one can see in Sanders and Price, Flannery, Willey, and Adams, a particular eye on how the evolution of ideas played out in Americanist views of the evolution of Mesoamerican civilizations.

In the fourth chapter, he covers what he sees as the beginnings of the evolution of an explicitly Americanist Marxist archaeology, which began developing in the late 1970s and bloomed in the 1980s. This chapter covers the works of most of Patterson's good friends and colleagues with Marxist leanings, such as Crumley, Gailey, Gilman, and Kohl, on one hand, and contrasts their views of the origins of state and class with the group of what Patterson assumes are now discredited processualists such as Earle, Marcus, Renfrew, and Wright.

And in the last chapter he focuses on the 1990s, where he ruminates on how he views post-processualism strengthening Marxist structural materialism. He speculates on the reasons for the development of Marxist analyses beginning to influence historical archaeology, and various Marxist re-interpretations of larger interregional historical interactions, such as core/periphery, hierarchy/hetarchy, and ideas such as Wallerstein's 'world systems'.

Certainly anyone interested in the evolution of the archaeological ideas on the origin and functions of states and class structures, and the political economy, will find Patterson's book of utility. And his idea on how Americanist Marxist archaeological thought evolved will be a great utility. But the most useful component of the book is the personal autobiographical chapter which helps clarify the context of Patterson's various writings.

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Marc-Antoine Kaeser 2004 *Les Lacustres. Archéologie et mythe national*. Lausanne: Presses polytechniques et universitaires romandes. 142pp. ISBN 2-88074-587-X (paper).

Reviewed by *Tim Murray*

This little book is an excellent attempt to address popular (mis)understandings of a key archaeological phenomenon – the Swiss Lake Villages. Drawing on the research he undertook for his recently published doctoral dissertation, Kaeser addresses the history of the phenomenon, its public reception (and incorporation into national mythologies), and then provides the basis for a different, more complete, interpretation.

Kaeser deploys his deep understanding of both the history of research into the Lake Villages and the more recent archaeological and geomorphological work undertaken on them in a way that enriches understanding without 'talking down' to his audience. It is an impressive achievement and I applaud the publisher for taking the issue seriously enough to promote widespread discussion. Allied with Museum displays and other public fora, *Les Lacustres* has the clear potential to enhance the value of archaeology at the same time as proving the general public with the resources to achieve a new understanding of what has become a significant part of their cultural landscape.