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Encyclopedia of Archaeology: The Great Archaeologists, Volumes I-II, edited by Tim Murray. ABC-CL10, Inc., Santa Barbara, 1999. 950 +xxii pp., index. \$150.00.

by

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There have been two previous volumes published on Great Archaeologists, one for young adults (Daugherty 1962) and one a collection of articles from the *Illustrated London News* (Bacon 1976). What really distinguishes this two volume set from the earlier books is that who was included was decided by archaeologists, rather than by educators or journalists. Archaeologists whose lives are considered great for didactic or journalistic reasons are most likely to be active in spectacular field-work and the Gordon Childes or James B. Griffins are less likely to be included.

Tim Murray, with the assistance of an editorial board, had the daunting task of putting together a list of individuals that met the criteria of great and then, not insignificantly, finding someone to write the biographies. The volumes under review contain articles on 58 archaeologists and represents a unique resource for those of us interested in the history of the discipline (BHA 10[1]:41-44) gives a complete list of the subjects and authors). Because who is considered great is very much the result of one's training, one's first reaction to the volume could be to carp about who isn't included. The editor gives his own list of significant omissions in the introduction (my personal nominee is Sergei Semenov, whose work on stone tool function probably had more influence on the development of archaeology than any of the Russian or Soviet archaeologists included), but the focus should be what is in the volume rather than who isn't.

The Great Archaeologists begins with William Camden born in 1551 and ends with David Clarke born in 1935. Sandwiched between these two in order by date of birth are 56 other mostly European, male archaeologists. Kathleen Kenyon and Dorothy Garrod are the only women included. When a volume of great archaeologists is done a century from now the representation of women will certainly be much greater. Non-Europeans are scarce as well, with only three Chinese and one Indian represented.

The editor admits of giving only loose instructions to the contributor and this decision has resulted in an uneven, though never uninteresting, volume. For some archaeologists we are given detailed accounts of their archaeological activities (e.g., Yoffee on Adams) while for others we are given personal impressions of the subject with little in the way of substantive information (e.g. Binford on Bordes). The term encyclopedia creates expectations, in the reader about what is to be present. It is a real disservice to the reader to be told to consult the author's biography of the subject for a list of the subject's publications (Drower on Petrie). In a few cases we are given virtually everything the subject published (e.g., Jorge Acosta and Graham Clarke) and this extreme is preferred for this type of volume.

For the greatest archaeologists in the book, the Schliemanns, and Petries, and Kidders, and Childes, we already have mountains of biographical/autobiographical material and these volumes give useful life summaries in one handy location, but provide little new information to the history of archaeology aficionado. In the cases of the Kondakovs and Dechelettes there is virtually nothing in English available on their work or life and these volumes are unique resources.

Reading through 58 biographies can be somewhat brain numbing but can serve the useful purpose of thinking about patterns in archaeologists' lives. For example, Sulloway (1996) has developed a model of the critical importance of birth order upon personality and creativity. Although this volume does not provide adequate information for such prosopographic study, it does furnish an important sample of lives for someone to begin the process.

One intriguing discovery that came out of reading the lives of mid-20th century archaeologists is the amount of archaeological field work done in occupied countries during World War II. Su Bingqi was active in the unoccupied part of China and Aleksei Oladnikov was busy in Siberia throughout the war. Most interesting is Albert Egges van Giffen's work in Holland on sites the Germans were going to destroy by building airstrips. Similar excavations were undertaken by C. J. Becker in occupied Denmark (Becker 1989:123). How widespread was salvage archaeology in areas occupied by the Germans and under what conditions was it done?

The editor ends the volume with a consideration of the role of archaeological biography. Most of us read and write about our forebearers because it's interesting and because it makes their archaeological findings more understandable. Importantly, as Murray points out, it provides a sense of connectedness to our archaeological ancestors. Archaeologists' interest in archaeology's past is naturally presentist, but from my perspective there are two aspects to this presentism. In the first, there is the interest in why we believe and practice archaeology the way we do. This interest obviously focusses upon the "winners" rather than the "losers," because, at least in theory, the "losers" passed on little of significance (although, research reveals that some "losers" were actually winners [e.g. Allen's study of Frank Calvert]). The typical history of archaeology overview a la Daniel and Willey and Sabloff will have this type of presentist orientation.

The second presentist focus of the history and biography of archaeology, much more important on a day-to-day basis to the practicing archaeologist, is concerned with how archaeological collections, field notes, and other data on the archaeological record came into being. Here, the issue of winner or loser plays little part since any archaeologist who passed on some primary data is a winner. This is a pragmatic presentism that requires not only the skills of interpreting the archaeological record but the equally demanding skills of interpreting archaeologists' records through an understanding of their lives. Good examples of such studies are Jeter's (1990) work on Edward Palmer and Wilcox's

(1987) work on Frank Midvale, neither of whom will make it into great archaeologists volumes, but both of whom left us important documentation of the archaeological record.

These volumes are an important first resource for scholars interested in the history of world archaeology and the lives of the most prominent practitioners; they will remain so for a long time. Later this year they will be joined by three more volumes of the *Encyclopedia* on "History and Discoveries."

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Max Uhle y El Peru Antiguo, edited by Peter Kaulicke Roermann, Pontifica Universidad Catolica del Peru.

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This volume consists of a set of papers presented at a colloquium at Pontifica Universidad Catolica in Lima, Peru, on September 7-8, 1994, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Friedrich Max Uhle's death. The publication includes all of the papers presented at the meeting, with an additional paper by Cerron-Palomino who was invited to fill a gap dealing with Uhle's linguistic contributions, plus another paper by Hampe, which had been presented at a Berlin symposium in 1994, also held to