

mony of the potential of disciplinary historiography to influence our understanding of the meanings of archaeological knowledge in a positive way.

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The American Discovery of Ancient Egypt, by Nancy Thomas with essays by Gerry D. Scott III and Bruce G. Trigger, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), Distributed by Harry N. Abrams, New York, 1995. \$49.50. 276 pp., index.

and

The American Discovery of Ancient Egypt - Essays, edited by Nancy Thomas. LACMA and ARCE, Distributed by Harry N. Abrams, New York, 1996. \$60.00. 188 pp., index.

by

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Although Egyptian mummies appeared in America in the late 18th century, an active American presence in Egyptian archaeology did not begin until the very last of the 19th century. These volumes derive from an exhibition featuring artifacts and monuments coming from American expeditions to Egypt and Nubia. The larger volume consists of the catalog of the exhibit with general historical essays, while the smaller volume contains ten historical summaries of American work in Egypt and Nubia organized by archaeological time period.

American travelers to Egypt in the Nineteenth century returned with extensive collections, some of them of archaeological value, but it was not until George Reisner's excavations beginning in 1899, that Americans began started substantive contributions to Egyptian archaeology. While most educated Americans recognize the names Chompollion and Carter, few would have the foggiest notion of who Reisner was. North American archaeologists might have heard of him through his influence upon A. V. Kidder (Givens 1992:25, 51; Woodbury 1973:20-21). Reisner, associated first with the University of California at Berkeley, later moved to the Boston Museum and Harvard University.

Reisner conducted important archaeological survey and salvage excavation work in Nubia behind the first Aswan dam. He introduced photographic documentation as a standard method in Egyptian archaeology and also established artifact and stratigraphy recording methods. His best known work is in the tombs around the pyramids of Giza where he "cleared countless" (p. 207) shafts and tombs. Reisner was the first American to direct excavations in Egypt and Palestine (Atkinson 1996) and influenced, through his fairly brief period of teaching a Harvard, archaeology in the Americas. These volumes bring his work in Egypt to the fore and indicate that he is deserving of considerably more historical examination.

Better known than Reisner because of his popular publications and the biography by his son (Breasted 1943), is James H. Breasted who focused primarily upon the salvage of inscriptions already exposed by excavation. Based upon meticulous photographic and drawing techniques, his "salvage epigraphy" program continues at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, which he founded.

The third major American Egyptologist in the first half of this century is Herbert Winlock. His extensive excavations are still keeping museum scholars busy because he had the trait shared with many of his contemporaries of doing more fieldwork than he could ever publish. Winlock comes across somewhat confusingly in these volumes. He either treated monuments and objects independent of their context, used pains-

taking excavation techniques, emphasized the political aspects of Egyptian history, or was concerned with everyday life. He may have done all of these things, but one is left with an unclear picture of his archaeological approach. He is another Egyptologist in need of historical examination.

It is not often that we get serious history of archaeology in coffee-table book format. The Essays volume brings American Egyptology up to the present and is unusual and notable in that it contains not only the standard photographs of Egyptologists working in the 20s and 30s, but also has views of modern archaeologists in the field. Both volumes have a complete list of all North American sponsored expeditions to Egypt and Nubia. The combination of a major traveling exhibit with beautifully designed and scholarly companion volumes is an event that the history of archaeology could use more of.

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The Moundville Expeditions of Clarence Bloomfield Moore, edited and with an Introduction by Vernon James Knight, Jr. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa., 1996, vii-viii+224 pages.

by

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The University of Alabama Press has done a valuable service to the Americanist archaeological community by reprinting certain parts of Clarence B. Moore's Moundville work. As part of their series "Classics in Southeastern Archaeology", this volume provides the historian of Americanist archaeology yet another glimpse into the Moore's classic work at Moundville. The preface and introduction to the volume by Vernon James Knight sets the stage for what the reader will encounter in the pages that follow. Knight's preface titled "The Expeditions of Clarence B. Moore to Moundville in 1906 and 1906," not only provides the reader with a biographical sketch of Moore but an excellent synthesis of Moore's work at Moundville. Knight provides a discussion of the intellectual climate in which Moore and others interested in the area did their work. It is gratifying to see that there are still some university presses still interested and willing to publish again the "classics" in Americanist archaeology. There are two items which make this volume an important contribution to the history of Americanist archaeology: Knight's careful synthesis of Moore's career and his selection of Moore's work to be reprinted - "Certain Aboriginal Remains of the Black Warrior