

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

River” and “Moundville Revised”. This volume will especially be welcomed in the libraries of those interested in the origins and development of Southeastern archaeology in the United States. University and college libraries will also find that the volume will be an indispensable acquisition to their collections relating to the history of Americanist archaeology.

*Gender in Archaeology: Analyzing Power and Prestige*, by Sarah Milledge Nelson, AltiMira Press, Walnut Creek CA, paper, 240 pages, \$19.95.

by

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Nelson uses a historical framework to review a number of archaeological studies purporting to identify men’s and women’s roles and statuses. Her subtitle refers both to assumptions of links between power and prestige, artifacts, and gender, and to our own archaeological profession’s statuses so often linked to gender. The text is quite accessible to the ordinary undergraduate but its critiques are worth perusal by experienced researchers; instructors will value its analyses of the many standard textbook examples that depend upon poorly supported premises.

“Gender” is, after all, a linguistics term defined as an obligatory grammatical category. Nelson amplifies the usual focus on men versus women to encompass the unspoken assumption that hierarchies of power and prestige are natural to human societies, an assumption she considers to stem from archaeologists’ socialization in Western culture. The argument of the book is that archaeologists’ constructions of ancient societies often are pale reflections of our own, following from an uncritical acceptance of conventional cultural evolutionism—“the origin myth of Western capitalism,” Joan Vincent termed it (Vincent 1990:36). This standpoint aligns with Tom Patterson’s (1995) history of American archaeology, and complements it nicely by presenting details of archaeological work alluded to by Patterson. Alison Wylie’s analyses are frequently cited by Nelson, contributing intellectual depth to the historical framework. Modest and unthreatening as Nelson’s book appears, it is a meaty addition to a shelf of history/philosophy of science volumes concerned with archaeology.

## References

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