

#### IV. Books Received for Review

Subscribers are invited to request copies of the following books for review in a future issue of *The Bulletin of the History of Archaeology*:

Blackburn, Fred M. and Ray A. Williamson

1997 *Cowboys & Cave Dwellers: Basketmaker Archaeology in Utah's Grand Gulch*, School of American Research Press, Santa Fe.

*Eyewitness to Discovery*

1997 edited by Brian M. Fagan, Oxford University Press, New York.

Larsen, Moegens Trolle

1996 *The Conquest of Assyria: Excavations In An Antique Land*, Routledge, New York

Majewski, Erazm

1996 *Warszawska Szkoła Prehistoryczna*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Pwn, Warszawa.

*The Oxford Companion to Archaeology*

1997 edited by Brian M. Fagan, Oxford University Press, New York.

*Prof. Stefan Krukowski, 1890-1982, Działalność Archeologiczna I Jej Znaczenie Dla Nauki Polskiej*

1992 edited by Jacek Kech and Jozef Partyka, Ojcow National Park Studies and Reports of the Professor Wladyslaw Szafer Museum, Ojcow.

#### V. Book/Journal Article Reviews

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5334/bha.07103>

*The Southwest in the American Imagination: The Writings of Sylvester Baxter, 1881-1891*, edited by Curtis M. Hinsley and David R. Wilcox, University of Arizona Press, Tucson, 1996 \$40.00 (c) \$16.95 (p), xxxv + 266 pp., illustrations, endnotes, references, bibliography, index.

by

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Those interested only in the history of archeology may be disappointed in this volume, as it is less about the Hemenway Expedition as seen through Baxter's articles on it, than it is about his articles on Cushing at Zuni, as well as in southern Arizona, on Baxter himself (a fascinating person), and on how Baxter and his contemporaries shaped a late 19th century popular image of the Southwest. However, this book may be more important for its portent than its content. It is the initial volume of a proposed multi-volume series, "Frank Hamilton Cushing and the Hemenway Southwestern Archaeological Expedition 1886-1889." The editors (actually, co-authors rather than only editors) have unearthed, to use an appropriate archaeological

term, a substantial amount of previously unexamined material relating to the Hemenway Expedition, completely controverting the negative (and quite wrong) response that Frederick W. Hodge gave to Emil W. Haury's inquiry about records of Cushing's excavations. Hodge began his archeological career as personal secretary to Cushing and he later became Cushing's brother-in-law. After Hodge's death in 1956 the second Mrs. Hodge sold to the Southwest Museum his enormous accumulation of papers, including many letters, notes, and field records by Cushing.

Cushing, a self-trained anthropologist, like others of that era, became a member of the U.S. National Museum staff in 1875 and in 1879 was sent on a summer's collecting party, along with Matilda and James Stevenson. Cushing remained in New Mexico and began a protracted participant-observer study of the Zuni. Later he brought several Zunis to the East for a tour and there they met Mary Hemenway, a wealthy Boston philanthropist. Out of this grew her interest in supporting Cushing in his archeological search for the origins of the Zuni, in the Salt River Valley of southwestern Arizona desert. This became the Hemenway Southwestern Archaeological Expedition, led by Cushing. For some fifteen months in 1887-1888 Cushing directed excavation of Los Muertos, the largest site in the area, with limited work at a few nearby sites. It was not until 1945 that a substantial report on the results of the work appeared—Emil W. Haury's Ph.D. dissertation, based on all that was then available (published by Peabody Museum, Harvard, in their Papers). It remains a foundation of what came to be known as the Hohokam culture.

Hinsley and Wilcox will be able to greatly expand what has been known about Cushing's archaeological work in southern Arizona, drawing on materials they have examined at the Southwest Museum, Harvard's Peabody Museum, the Huntington Free Library, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Smithsonian Institution. The record is far better than what Hodge told Haury.

This is a complex volume, a sandwich of articles by Baxter, reprinted from the popular press, and essays by Hinsley introducing or commenting on them and using them as a springboard for exploring the social and intellectual climate of America in the late 19th century, which he then relates to the development of Southwestern archeology.

Essentially, the parts of the book are: (1) a detailed chronology of the Hemenway Expedition: (2) a selected bibliography of Baxter's writings about the Southwest, of which seven out of the 23 are reprinted here: (3) a 30-page biography of Baxter by Hinsley, including Baxter's New England background, his Wanderjahre in Berlin, Leipzig, Beyreuth, his newspaper career, his involvement in Edward Everett Hale's uplift and reform movement in Boston, his interest in the railroad boom, his discovery of the Southwest which led to his 1881 meeting with Cushing at Fort Wingate and subsequent visit to Zuni, and his work with Frederick Law Olmsted in developing the Boston Common and other civic works, (4) four of Baxter's reports on Cushing at Zuni, introduced and analyzed by a Hinsley, (5), an introduction and explanation by Hinsley of Baxter's news reports on the Hemenway Expedition, (6) Baxter's accounts of Cushing's work at Los Muertos and other southern Arizona sites which we now call Hohokam, and (7) a final essay by Hinsley, "The Promise of the Southwest: A Humanized Landscape." Baxter's reprinted news reports account for about 90 pages of this volume, Hinsley's explanatory and interpretive essays about 70, and the balance is the usual apparatus of contents, foreword, acknowledgments, extensive endnotes, references, index, etc.

Lest archeological readers despair, by page 109 we get to Baxter reporting on the Hemenway excavations, with interesting details of the field camp and its routine, and of the staff, of which Wilcox and Hinsley say,

Cushing brilliantly anticipated modern strategies of multidisciplinary teamwork, with Bandelier as historian; Matthews, then Kate, and Wortman as physical anthropologists; Margaret Magill as artist; Baxter as publicist; Hodge as secretary/amanuensis; and Cushing himself as linguist, ethnographer, and archaeologist. (p. xv)

Baxter also describes excavation techniques and reports a great many interpretations of what the fieldwork “revealed”, undoubtedly Cushing’s ideas as transmitted through Baxter to an eager public. It is interesting, as a painful misuse of ethnographic analogy, that Cushing was able to “understand” almost everything found in his excavations in the light of the knowledge of Zuni beliefs and practices he had gained from his extended research there. He was also able to conclude that the canals not only irrigated the prehistoric fields but provided a means of navigation with reed rafts. Furthermore, small animal figurines were judged to be llamas, thus demonstrating the presence of another domestic animal for the prehistoric Indians (after all, fossil remains of the llama family were found in North, not South America). Cushing proposed a two-class social structure for the prehistoric occupants of southern Arizona “cities,” based, apparently, on the presence of smaller houses outside the large compounds. Baxter, as Cushing’s friend, as Secretary-Treasurer of the expedition, and as a professional journalist, reports all of this clearly, enthusiastically, and uncritically. He did much to publicize and support Cushing’s work and keep the Hemenway Expedition in the public eye.

Cushing’s confident and imaginative interpretations of what he found should, perhaps, be a warning to us that a century from now some of our “best” interpretations may not look as convincing as they do now. However, Cushing’s field techniques were as good as those of his contemporaries and his interpretations were serious efforts to give meaning to what he found and shed light on the past, rather than merely dig for objects worthy of museum exhibition. Baxter has a comment that reflects well on the archaeological attitude that he acquired, presumably from Cushing:

The circumstances under which objects are found, particularly when observed by one competent to make deductions from these circumstances, are frequently of even more value than the objects themselves in their relation to the main purpose of such explorations—the understanding of the people of whom they are relics. (p. 168)

Baxter reported on the expedition in a vivid, sometimes sentimental, sometimes dramatic, style appropriate for the popular press, and did a good deal to develop an interest in archeological research in America. He also was a booster for the creation of a populous, prosperous agricultural development of what he saw as a desolate desert—it had supported “tens of thousands” ( 14,000 at Los Muertos alone!) in the past and should again. He was glad to see miles of “useless” old mesquite trees cut down and burned in order to clear the land for new farms. He admired the new settlers who were pouring in, sometimes going from near-rags to riches in a few years.

This volume is not designed for ease of reading. In the list of Baxter’s Southwestern articles there is no indication of which are reprinted here. The endnotes are numerous and long but as they include much that is as interesting and important as what is in the text the serious reader must read two parts of the book simultaneously. There are many well-selected but poorly reproduced illustrations, most of them from *Century Magazine* and *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine*.

All in all, this is a promising beginning for an ambitious long-term project. The Hemenway Expedition was without precedent in American archeology and knowledge of it is important to the history of the discipline. The public attention it received through Baxter’s popular journalism was a significant stimulus to a growing appreciation of America’s pre-Columbian past. The Antiquities Act of 1906 and the creation of archaeological National Monuments owe a good deal to this developing public interest and understanding of archeology. However, as the title of this volume indicates it is more about the American imagination than about archeology *per se*. In appraising the significance of the Hemenway Expedition, Wilcox and Hinsley write:

Most important, perhaps, Cushing’s struggle to find a language—a scientific poetics—suitable to his experiential and observational methods reflects a wider struggle between intuitive understanding and

disciplined knowledge that continued throughout the twentieth century. (p. xv)

In his closing comments Hinsley observes that although the change from the archaeology of Cushing to that of Kidder brought

southwestern archeology ...new scientific rigor, the Southwest of fictive imagination adopted the romance of archaeological discovery as a central trope in exploring larger issues of national youth and aging, of America's history and purpose. In that process, what did archaeology teach? What kind of human society had grown and might rise again in this landscape? Here the lessons of Mary Hemenway's expedition promised to reach well beyond archaeology. They pointed toward a future social order, one that would resemble and to a degree resurrect the prehistoric communities then being discovered. It would be a human world premised on cooperation rather than destructive competition, mutual tolerance and independence rather than divisive greed, peaceful commonwealth rather than warlike imperium. (p. 206)

We will look forward to future volumes in this series for more about the results of the remarkable Hemenway Southwestern Archaeological Expedition.

*Mousterian Lithic Technology: An Ecological Perspective*, by Steven L. Kuhn, Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J., 1995. xiv + 209 pages, 56 figures, 48 tables, references cited, index. \$ 49.50 (cloth).

by

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Data originating in old excavations are often regarded by archaeologists as being of poor quality or even unusable. Such assemblages lack the stratigraphic and temporal resolution of material acquired by modern excavations and are the product of research projects designed for the investigation of issues profoundly different from those concerning modern researchers. Steven Kuhn's *Mousterian Lithic Technology* demonstrates that this kind of data (in this case coming from 40-plus-year-old excavations) can be successfully incorporated into current research agendas, as long as one uses them for addressing research questions appropriate to the resolution of the data, in this case human behavioural changes on an evolutionary scale. Kuhn bypasses the debate over the biological and/or cultural continuity vs. discontinuity between Neanderthals and modern humans. He argues convincingly that archaeological research will benefit from a disentanglement with the anthropological and the genetic discussions. He maintains that Mousterian material culture and behaviour deserve to be studied in their own right as successful adaptations that persisted over at least 200,000 years, rather than as those replaced by modern human behaviour.

In the past decade, Middle Palaeolithic research, though overwhelmed by the debate over the origins of anatomically modern humans and the evolutionary fate of the Neanderthals, has seen profound theoretical and methodological developments. While faunal and site-structure studies have been gaining credibility as alternative lines of evidence on past behaviour, lithic analyses have been enriched by the introduction of reduction sequence (*chaîne opératoire*) analyses, studies of raw material acquisition strategies and a growing consideration of the implications of the 'use histories' of artefacts for the composition of lithic assem-