

Alonzo Pond and the 1930 Logan Museum Expedition to North Africa- The Beloit College Symposium, edited by L. B. Breitborde, Logan Museum Bulletin (new series), vol. 1, no. 1, 1992. no price. vi + 66 pp.

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After a 32 year hiatus, the *Logan Museum Bulletin* returns with a number on the man who contributed to three of the first five numbers of the old series, Alonzo W. Pond. Pond is one of those archaeologists with a distinctive name most professionals recognize, but whose specific accomplishments do not easily come to mind. For lithic analysts, his work on flintknapper Halvor Skavlem stands foremost (Pond 1930), but for desert enthusiasts his work with Roy Chapman Andrews in the Gobi, the Rainbow Bridge-Monument Valley Expedition in the American Southwest, and Beloit College in the Sahara are most memorable. The last season of the latter expedition is the focus of this slim volume, based upon a symposium given in 1985.

The six chapters in the volume stand alone without an editorial structure and 50 readers are on their own to synthesize the information provided. Unfortunately, the longest contribution, Kit Hinsley's revision of a previously published (Hinsley 1989) visual analysis of late 19th century archaeological images, although of interest in the grand scale of things, sticks out as being unrelated to the concern of the volume. The author or editor should have done something to make this unrelatedness less obvious.

The contribution by Daniel Shea covers Beloit's archaeological activities prior to the 1930 expedition, including the work of Stephen D. Peet, a major antiquarian author, and George Collie, a geologist and mentor to Pond, whose interest in the Aurignacian provided the stimulus for Beloit's six seasons in North Africa. Collie's ideas about the Aurignacian, later found to be wrong, set the agenda for the college's fieldwork of recording and excavating escargotieres, land snail shell middens. Peter Sheppard places Beloit's work in the research context of the time, where the Capsian of Tunisia was viewed by some such as Collie to be the same as the Aurignacian in Europe. The idea was refuted shortly after the last Beloit expedition and because the college was on the "losing side" their work was discredited even though the survey and excavation methods and analyses of floral and faunal remains were advanced for their time. David Lubell discusses the state of subsistence research in Algeria since 1930 and shows how Pond's pioneering work has been followed up at last.

Elden Johnson provides information on A. E. Jenk's University of Minnesota excavations in Algeria in 1930 that were apparently a spin off of the Beloit work and that seem to have had the surprising result of leading to an instate field archaeology program !

Finally, Randall White, Kathleen Ehrhardt and Michael Tarabulski provide the ~ information on the records and collections of the Beloit North Africa expeditions available for future research. They note that none of the expedition leaders kept field notes per se but rather recorded excavation finding in their personal journals. Current field archaeologists keep copious field notes one hopes, but how many of them have time for a personal journal?

This volume does moderately well in placing the Beloit College expeditions in context, but details of the expeditions' operation are scarce. An even greater deficiency is the lack of any-

thing but snippets of information on Alonzo Pond. Pond lived a full life of 92 years, almost a third of it devoted to archaeological pursuits, and the remainder with research and writing activities of equal interest. This volume would have been a perfect place to review his life and accomplishments, but that task must remain for some future occasion.

[For those who are interested, brief summaries of Pond's life can be found in the "Register of the Alonzo W. and Dorothy L. Pond Papers, 1869-1989" at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin where the bulk of his person papers reside and in Something About the Author, vol. 5, pp. 150-51].

References Cited

Hinsley, Curtis

1989 "Revising and Revisioning the History of Archaeology: Reflections on Region and Context", in Tracing Archaeology's Past: The Historiography of Archaeology, edited by A. L. Christenson, 79-96. Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale.

Pond, Alonzo W.

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Caption for site cross-section

SITE 51, May 23, 1930

