

Archaeology and the Methodology of Science does not intended to be a history of archaeology. The history it is concerned with is the history of the philosophy of science, and that only insofar as its presentation clarifies meanings and issues in contemporary understanding of the nature of science. For a reader unfamiliar with the history of science, the book will be helpful, although Guy Gibbon's 1989 *Explanation in Archaeology* is a more focused critique, and a more sophisticated (and demanding) level. What makes *Archaeology and the Methodology of Science* directly relevant to the history of archaeology is Kelley's device of illuminating Hanen's expositions of philosophy by presenting capsule cases of real archaeological work or controversies. Two chapters, "The Social Context of Archaeology," and "Some Critical Archaeological Cases," are built on these candid discussions drawn from Kelley's level-headed observation of her colleagues, and from her own work. The "interests" approach from sociology of science, that personal background and career interests make the pursuit of science a less than rational business, is clearly supported by Kelley's case studies.

No one will read *Archaeology and the Methodology of Science* for pleasure, but as one finishes it, a quiet pleasure ensues: how pleasant to read so solid, careful a presentation of how to think as a scientist should. The book contrasts with the programmatic scientism, relying on a couple of philosophers either obsolete or limited to the physical sciences, that purports to be philosophy of science in the New Archaeology. We sincerely hope that Kelley and Hanen are earning a place in the history of archaeology as the eminently qualified writers who pulled archaeology back to contemporary philosophy of science.

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***A Marxist Archaeology*, by Randall H. McGuire, Academic Press, San Diego, 1992, xviii + 326 pp., index, bibliography, 1 table, 4 figures. No Price Listed**

by

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McGuire, an archaeologist working primarily in the desert Southwest, presents a critical overview of major theoretical approaches in contemporary archaeology, comparing them to a Marxist perspective he derives principally from Bertell Ollman. (In a footnote, McGuire describes his parent's divorce catapulting him from middle-to-working-class status as a significant factor in his own search for a view of history compatible with his personal experiences.)

Intended to clarify and argue for his particular Marxist approach, McGuire's discussions on various archaeological views of history and society are more or less cursory as history of archaeology. The book does give a synopsis, and is valuable for its inclusion of the usually neglected Latin American theorists. McGuire is more radical a Marxist than Trigger, so his critiques tend to be sharper and are worth the consideration of serious students of theory in archaeology.

The last third of McGuire's book includes a case study in Hohokam archaeology, the site of La Ciudad in present-day Phoenix, Arizona. McGuire looks for evidence of social principles, ideology, and conflict, and finds an earlier, Yuman-like egalitarian ideology eventually yielding to an openly class-structured community. He is not abashed to use ethnographic analogy in reading his data.

Overall, McGuire has covered the Marxist archaeology literature reasonably well, and offers an informed rather than trendy Marxist approach, emphasizing the dialectic of social history even as it now encompasses American Indians together with archaeologists. For methodology of science, McGuire intelligently relies principally on Kelley and Hanen (1988). One lacuna is any reference to Guy Gibbon's brilliant 1989 *Explanation in Archaeology*. We should also mention careless copy-editing confusing some sentences and misspelled several names. Overall, the book is a useful, often sharp, critique.

VII. Activities of Various Academic Gatherings Related to the History of Archaeology

Carolyn Kirdahy presented her paper "Functions of Museums and the Museum of Science, Boston at a recent meeting of the New England Archivists. The paper, under the same title, has been published in the most recent issue of the *Museum Archivist* (pp. 11-14).

Alain Blain read his paper "Documenting Museums as Institutions and as Purveyors of Culture: Records, Papers, and Special Collections" during the 1992 annual meeting of the Society for American Archivists. Historians of archaeological science may find his paper interesting and useful. Included in his paper are the text and the results of museum archives surveys completed in 1983-1984 in 1991- and in the 1989 Association of Museum survey. The paper has been published in the most recent issue of the *Museum Archivist* (pp. 14-17).

The Gender and Archaeology Conference was held at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, 16-17 October 1992. Papers were given by Susan J. Bender (Skidmore) and Nancy Parezo (Arizona State Museum) "Paths Through the Profession: Women in Archaeology 1900-1960"; Mary Ann Levine (University of Massachusetts-Amherst) "Creating Their Own