

Williams Stephen

1991 *Fantastic Archaeology* (The Wild Side of North American Archaeology), University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia. D.R. Givens.

Winstone, H.V.F.

1990 *Woolley of Ur; The Life of Sir Leonard Woolley*, Seeker and Warburg. A. L. Christenson

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1991 *Howard Carter and the Discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun*, Constable. (This is the first biography of Howard Carter.). A. L. Christenson.

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1990 "John Otis Brew, 1906-1988", *American Antiquity*, 55:452-459. D.R. Givens.

## V. Book/Journal Article Reviews

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*The Davenport Conspiracy Revisited* , by Marshall McKusick, Iowa State University Press, Ames.

All the components of a nineteenth century mystery novel are contained in the *Davenport Conspiracy Revisited* -- an elusive race of mysterious "Mound Builders", clergymen with flawed characters, pranksters who overestimated their ability to take a joke, a stubborn lawyer, a near deathbed confession -- the only difference is that this is no novel, it actually happened. In this book, McKusick chronicles the circumstances surrounding the discovery by nineteenth century antiquarians of alleged "Mound Builder" artifacts in burial mounds in the Quad Cities area of Iowa and Illinois. The discovery caused considerable debate in the scientific community at the time, and has even recently resurfaced in popular literature concerning early European "invasions" of Americas.

The late nineteenth century setting for the *Davenport Conspiracy* was the formative period of American anthropology and archaeology. Much archaeological exploration was conducted by amateurs based in local scientific "academies" that functioned more as social clubs

than scientific organizations. A major research question was the origin of the American Indians and what, if any, relationship they had to the many earthworks found throughout the eastern United States. A popular theory was that a "lost race" of Mound Builders, perhaps lost Israelites or European invaders, had built the mounds prior to settlement by the Indian tribes who inhabited the area at the time of European discovery. The various academies were in competition to find indisputable evidence of this lost race and its Old World origins, and to legitimize themselves as scholarly organizations. The setting was thus ripe for forgeries, hoaxes, and contested claims.

To summarize the plot further would spoil the story of readers. It can be said, however, that McKusick has done an admirable job of solving the mystery of the conspiracy and presenting the story in a readable, but scholarly fashion. Chapter 17, "The Extent of the Conspiracy" is especially helpful in pulling together all of the lines of evidence for the conspiracy, and summarizing the roles played by the various "characters". The book has numerous photographs and line drawings that serve both to illustrate the story and to provide evidence. The type-face is rather small and may prove difficult for persons with vision problems. Despite this minor problem, the book should be enjoyed by anyone interested in the history of archaeology, the local history of the Quad Cities, or just as an intriguing mystery. The book also makes an important contribution toward understanding the development of scientific claims that are not backed by competent scientific methodology.

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*Keneti: South Seas Adventures of Kenneth Emory*, by Bob Krause  
University of Hawaii Press, 1988, 419+ix, ill., index, \$35.00

Most American archaeologists have not heard of Kenneth Emory, even though he is one of the senior American archaeologists. The problem is that he lives and did much of his work in the only state not in North America, an area not normally included in overviews or histories of "American" archaeology.