

V. Publications by subscribers

Watters, David R. 2008. W. J. Holland's 1902 Lecture about the Smith's Ferry Petroglyphs (36BV7) and western Pennsylvania archaeology. *Pennsylvania Archaeologist* 78(2):1–10. (Lecture at the International Congress of Americanists, 13th Session in New York City, discussing early efforts by Carnegie Museum to document rock carvings in the region around Pittsburgh).

VI. Book reviews

Miriam C. Davis. 2008. *Dame Kathleen Kenyon. Digging up the Holy Land*. Walnut Creek: Left Coast Press. 280pp. Pbk. ISBN 978-1-59874-326-5.

Reviewed by **Tim Murray**

This is an interesting book about someone who was very much larger than life. While there are already book-length biographies of Wheeler, Petrie, Stein, Woolley, Evans and Childe (and long biographical essays and journal articles about many others) there is plenty of scope for something longer about Kenyon.

The book is written in a clear, open and chatty style. Davis does a splendid job weaving details about family life into more complex narratives about Kenyon's work and the controversies she seemed almost inevitably drawn to. Indeed Davis manages to deploy the very considerable amount of research this book must have taken, in a way that maintains interest and avoids long excursions into the tediously technical.

Although I very much doubt that there would be widespread agreement with the assertions in the final para of page 3, there is no doubt at all that the history of archaeology will be greatly served by the publication of this book. Because it is generally restrained in its presentation of Kenyon's life (as distinct from her work) Davis' book avoids needless controversy and helps keep the focus on both the good (and not so good) aspects of her archaeology. Davis is even-handed in her discussion of some of the more controversial passages of her career in Palestine.

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Dean E. Arnold. 2008. *Social Change and the Evolution of Ceramic Production and Distribution in a Maya Community*. Boulder: University Press of Colorado. pp. 432, ill. 85, tables 37. ISBN 978-0-87081-923-0.

Reviewed by **David Frankel**

Pottery has always had a central place in archaeology, its role evolving and reflecting the development of the discipline through the application of varied techniques, approaches and styles of research. Its more traditional use in constructing primary referential frameworks of time, place and association has been supplemented by studies of symbolism, function, manufacture, distribution and discard at scales of analysis ranging from the individual to large areas seen in long-term perspective. Within this broad spectrum Dean Arnold has led the way in exploring the social and material context of pottery production in living communities, both as a subject in its own right and as a way into understanding facets of past behaviour.

This, his latest book, develops this approach further. In it Arnold takes advantage of his unique knowledge of pots and potters in Yucatán, built up over more than thirty years of primary fieldwork between 1965 and 1997. During this time he developed close relationships with potters in the city of Ticul as he documented their work and lives over periods of considerable social and economic change. Pottery and its production become the means, perhaps the metaphor, for an analysis of adjustment and adaptation.

Arnold differentiates himself from much of the well-known tradition of ethnoarchaeology. Indeed his concern is not directly with setting up models to help explain the past, although he is clear that without an understanding of the ways in which potters work, think and function archaeologists are flying blind. As any good scholar should – but as most cannot or do not – Arnold confronts presuppositions and unconsidered concepts within his own society, both academic and general, which provide, at times, inappropriate frameworks of thought and analysis. Past trends and current developments in ceramic archaeology and broader theories of production are neatly summarised in the introductory chapter, and particular models – especially those of Costin regarding specialisation – become touchstones which provide a starting point for this engagement.

The substance of the book looks at changes that have taken place in a series of aspects, starting with the broader social context of the population and organisation of the potting community, and the demand, consumption and distribution of their wares. This is followed by chapters which examine in turn the production sequence from clay and temper procurement and related changes in the fabrics, before dealing with forming and firing. In each case practicalities and processes are discussed, setting technological changes into the broader social and economic context as more complex systems have developed with a general trend toward greater specialisation. Reasons for the introduction, adoption or rejection of innovations and the interrelationship between all elements within the overall system are carefully considered.

Beyond the close documentation and discussion of these historical developments, Arnold raises the question of how similar types of change, whether in materials, techniques or products, which can be identified in the archaeological record, may be explained. The rich, personal anecdotal and broader quantified basis for models and explanations for change in Ticul are, of course, at an ethnographic scale of time and observation. Such specifics are not, therefore, available to prehistoric archaeologists working with far less precision and constantly challenged by patchy sampling of confused discard. Nevertheless the data, the insights and the underlying critique of broad models and definitions provide in this, as in Arnold's previous studies, a stimulus and challenge to the archaeological community.

This book, exploring the interrelationship between technology and society, is as much a contribution to the development of ceramic archaeology as it is a broad social history of the Ticul community. A future study looking even more closely at individuals involved in this history is promised, and will add a further instalment to Arnold's contribution to the dynamically evolving sub-discipline of ceramic archaeology.

Darlis A. Miller. 2007. *Matilda Coxe Stevenson Pioneering Anthropologist*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. Hbk. 304pp. ISBN 978-0-8061-3832-9.

Reviewed by **Tim Murray**

This is another, very welcome, contribution to an increasing literature on the history of anthropology and archaeology in the south west of the USA. Significantly it is increasing in both senses of the word – there is a growth in numbers, but also in the significance of the publications. Some, such as this book, focus on the genesis and early history of ethnography in the region, others on its archaeology. Very few also tackle the 'social' dimension of anthropology – its institutional structures and the social context of anthropological research. Miller's book does all this and more.