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## Ancient Peoples and Landscapes

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deals well with the topology of two-dimensional space; research on incorporating the third temporal dimension is underway. Clearly, an ability to construct and manipulate a 3-D topology would be most useful to archaeologists.

In addition, they generalize that North American archaeological sites, with their firm spatial and temporal boundaries, can comfortably be represented in GIS data layers and perhaps be related to local environmental indicators. In contrast, contemporaneous phenomenon in the complex archaeological palimpsests of Europe are best represented as sites with fuzzy and unrestricted boundaries. First, I challenge their characterization of North American archaeological landscapes; archaeological landscapes *everywhere* are accretional phenomenon, but vary in density. Second, rather than describe the archaeological landscape in terms of sites with fuzzy boundaries, palimpsest deposits may better be described in terms of a uniform landscape element with a specified archaeological character (a raster solution), or, if sparse, in terms of constituent artifacts and features, which may then be aggregated to meet various analytic needs (a vector solution). Sites, with either definite or fuzzy boundaries, are defective units with which to build a database, as Gaffney elsewhere notes.

The volume closes with a debate between Gaffney and van Leusen on the merits of GIS analyses of archaeological data against readily mapped environmental data—the so-called functional or environmental determinism approach—which is prominently displayed in many North American applications. Van Leusen argues for its utility in exploratory analysis; Gaffney contends that such studies are simplistic and much more contextual information than is presently called upon is needed. While a great deal of angst is exposed here, most of the volume chapters demonstrate the utility of playing the archaeologically manifested cultural landscape against this modeled physical landscape in an effort to learn both about the inadequacies of the determination and also the nature of the cultural landscape.

In sum, this volume offers a technically and epistemologically sophisticated counterpoint to GIS applications by North American authors. This refreshing volume will find use in dusty academic classrooms, government cubicles where management decisions are hatched and implemented, and the ozone-rich lairs of GIS computer-jockeys. I expect it will soon be as dog-eared as its predecessor.

*Ancient Peoples and Landscapes.* EILEEN JOHNSON, editor. Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock,

1995. xii + 368 pp., figures, tables, references. \$34.95 (paper).

*Reviewed by* H. Edwin Jackson, University of Southern Mississippi.

This volume contains 24 papers from an international symposium marking a half century of scientific exploration at the Lubbock Lake Landmark in west Texas. It encompasses the diversity of Quaternary studies, with reports of current research in archaeology, ethnohistory, paleoanthropology, paleoenvironmental and paleoecological research, zooarchaeology, taphonomy, and paleontology, covering five continents. Not an overview of Quaternary studies, the book instead presents an eclectic snapshot of the discipline. Papers range from synthetic works to progress reports.

The introductory essay by Pat Shipman explores the underlying causes of persistent controversy surrounding studies of early humans, including several aspects of taphonomic studies, which at present produce ambiguity and open the door to alternative interpretations, as well as the controversy engendered by paleoanthropology's historical roots, and by what Shipman sees as a counterproductive "hypercritical" stage in the discipline's development.

Two papers tackle more substantive taphonomic issues. Gary Haynes musters a wealth of data on modern death assemblage characteristics from Africa and North America to evaluate the possible cultural source of pre-Clovis bone assemblages. Eileen Johnson offers an important reanalysis of the integrity of bone accumulations at Lubbock Lake, quantitatively demonstrating the probable extent of postdepositional alteration of the assemblage.

Sedimentological data are used to reconstruct paleoenvironmental records and consider archaeological sequences in several areas of the world. These include contributions by Paul Goldberg and Ofer Bar-Yosef on the Levant; V. N. Misra on Rajasthan (India); Marie-Agnes Courty on the Ghaggar Plain (India); and A. E. Dodonov on central Asian Tajikistan.

Two papers focus on the paleoenvironment of western Texas. In a benchmark work, Vance T. Holliday develops an elegant model of Late Quaternary environmental variation on the southern High Plains that incorporates precipitation and ground-water patterns. The model accounts for the diverse and often seemingly contradictory stratigraphic evidence from the region's draws, dunes, and playas. C. Reid Ferring examines Late Quaternary environmental change and Paleoindian occupation from a single site perspective, using data from the Aubrey Clovis site on the Texas Gulf coastal plain.

Through an analysis of 30 years of radiocarbon dates, Wayne M. Wendland considers the timing of Holocene climatic events. He concludes that major shifts are basically synchronous, relatively abrupt, and may be at least partially related to volcanic activity. Invertebrate paleontological data offer additional perspectives on paleoenvironmental change in papers by Scott A. Elias on insect exoskeleton assemblages from the west-central United States and by Raymond Neck on the extirpation of molluscan taxa from the southern High Plains during the Late Pleistocene–Early Holocene interval.

Two papers examine New World Pleistocene paleontology. The role humans may have played in the terminal Pleistocene faunal extinctions in Argentina is considered by Gustavo G. Politis, Jose L. Prado, and Roelf P. Beukens. Joaquin Arroyo-Cabrales and Eileen Johnson reinterpret the fossil assemblage from San Josecito Cave, northeastern Mexico, based on recent excavations and a reassessment of materials collected more than 50 years earlier.

Using a differently calculated mitochondrial DNA lineage survival rate and an analysis of facial geometry of premodern *Homo* specimens, Geoffrey Pope and Michael J. Williams cast doubt on the popular “Eve Hypothesis.” They argue that certain modern features appeared first in Asia and conclude that modern human variation is most likely the product of hybridization of previously isolated, morphologically distinctive populations with roots in the Early Pleistocene.

The remaining nine papers focus specifically on the human cultural record. These include, from the Old World, Ralph Solecki on hearth features in the Middle Paleolithic deposits of Shanidar Cave in northeastern Iraq; Sandra L. Olsen’s critique of the interpretation of the site of Solutre (east-central France) as an Upper Paleolithic horse jump; Huang Wanpo on Lower Paleolithic bone artifacts from Longtan Cave in the Anhui Province of China; Yuan Xiaofeng on Upper Paleolithic sites and Late Pleistocene paleoecology in northeast China; Kim Ackerman on Australian archaeological and ethnohistoric evidence for nonlithic artifacts; and Johan Kamminga on late Holocene occupation of the Snowy Mountains of southeastern Australia, with predictions about the possible nature of an earlier Pleistocene archaeological record.

From the Western hemisphere, Luis Borrero provides an overview of the prehistory of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, and Lee Lyman compares artiodactyl butchering patterns exhibited by assemblages from coastal and inland sites in Washington State, as a point of departure for considering the present methodological and ethnoarchaeological limitations on accounting for the considerable variability in butchering evidence. In

the volume’s final paper, David Meltzer considers the elusive Middle Holocene altithermal archaeological record of the southern High Plains and, using ethnographic evidence of arid climate forager adaptations, offers four alternative models of altithermal adaptive strategies.

The foregoing gives some appreciation of the volume’s coverage. Even with a well-defined theme, topic, or geographic focus, a volume that reports the activities comprising modern Quaternary research risks being quite broad. The eclectic content of *Ancient Peoples and Landscapes* unfortunately lacks even minimal bounds, a problem common to Festschrift volumes, which is essentially what this book is. There will be few scientists interested in Quaternary paleoenvironments or related human responses who will not find informative papers. At the same time, it is likely that few possess scholarly interests and expertise to take advantage of the entire volume. With notable exceptions (e.g., Meltzer, Olsen, Kamminga, Wendland), the papers are written for a specialist audience. Together, they do not comprise, as Johnson suggests in the preface, a “primer on the global status of Quaternary studies” (p. xi), if by primer is meant an introduction.

Treatment is uneven. Certain papers are synthetic (e.g., Goldberg and Bar-Yosef, Wendland, Holliday) or make important general theoretical or methodological contributions (e.g., Haynes, Pope and Williams, Meltzer, Lyman, E. Williams), and these will be of broad interest. Others are too brief or too parochial in scope. The volume also exhibits detracting production problems, including numerous typographic errors, missing text, and some apparent problems in translation.

These criticisms aside, it is fair to say that this book encapsulates the interdisciplinary communication essential for progress in the field. This effort must be commended. Readers interested in Quaternary paleoenvironments, earth scientists in particular, will find much of this volume to be of interest. Others may have to pick and choose.

*Cahokia’s Countryside: Household Archaeology, Settlement Patterns, and Social Power.* MARK W. MEHRER. Northern Illinois University Press, DeKalb, 1995. xvii + 213 pp., figures, tables, references cited, index. \$29.00 (paper).

Reviewed by Timothy R. Pauketat, State University of New York–Buffalo.

The deployment of heavy machinery in “American Bottom” archaeology has meant that entire household-cluster and community plans have been recovered from