

EDITOR'S CORNER

With the variety of specialized journals available, I find myself wondering just what the “flagship journal,” *American Antiquity*, can offer to the archaeological community. If the journal is to be one that all SAA members want and use, it seems to me that contents with a broad appeal are essential. This might be accomplished in two ways. First, each issue could offer a diverse array of articles and reports, so that at least something will be of interest to virtually every reader. This approach, however, might mean that a large portion of each issue has little to offer the individual reader. A second approach, and one that I prefer, is to publish articles, each of which has broad appeal. How could this be accomplished?

One way is to publish articles that present a detailed study of a particular problem or process in the past, but in such a way as to serve as an illustration of a successful and useful approach, one that can be applied in some way to other areas and times. In this issue, for example, Deagan demonstrates how we can successfully challenge documentary sources about the nature of culture contact and illuminate the role of gender in such processes. Wells, Rice, and Ravesloot grapple with and coax meaning from a situation familiar to most archaeologists: the vast amount of material distributed on the landscape away from major sites. Also using a Southwestern example, Hill, Clark, Doelle, and Lyons approach an old question—site abandonments—with new conceptual tools that guide their analysis. Similarly, Eerkens brings new ideas about the organization of subsistence and technology to his examination of significant changes in Great Basin prehistory.

Another way of appealing to a broad audience is to present articles focused on some aspect of archaeological methods, presenting new approaches, refining existing ones, or at least raising new questions about current practice. The two reports on radiocarbon dating by Deo, Stone, and Stein and by Steelman, Rowe, Turpin, Guilderson, and Nightengale demonstrate this well.

The reanalysis or revision of old interpretations and the provision of important new data represent another sort of contribution that may be significant beyond regional borders. Examples in this issue include the reporting of an important new burial find by Hoard, Banks, Mandel, Finnegan, and Epperson; the demonstration by Stoltman and Hughes of long-distance obsidian movement earlier than traditionally thought; and the revision of settlement models in the coastal Southeast by Keene.

Theoretical discussions that suggest new ways of thinking, new models to approach particular questions, or comparisons and reevaluations of existing theory would be a fourth example of the types of articles that might generate wide interest. My personal preference is that such discussions include concrete applications to archaeological data, allowing the reader to see how the ideas can be put into operation, and I hope to include such articles in future issues.

—MICHAEL JOCHIM

"A rich, cogent, and up-to-date treatment of where exploration of the topic currently stands." —C. Melvin Aikens

The Settlement of the American Continents

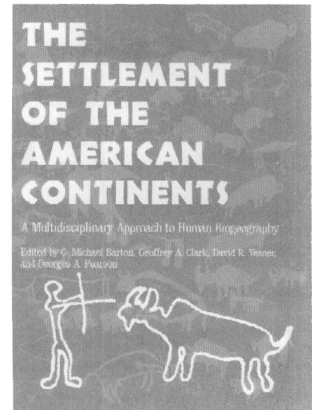
A Multidisciplinary Approach to Human Biogeography

Edited by C. Michael Barton, Geoffrey A. Clark, David R. Yesner, and Georges A. Pearson

The human settlement of the Americas was not a simple process, and today there is no consistent argument favoring a particular scenario. This book approaches the question from a biogeographical perspective in order to provide a better understanding of the mechanisms and consequences of this unique event. It considers many of the questions that continue to surround the peopling of the western hemisphere, focusing not on sites, dates, and artifacts but rather on theories and models that attempt to explain how the colonization occurred. Comprehensive in both geographic and topical coverage, the contributions include an explanation of how the first inhabitants could have spread across North America within several centuries, the most comprehensive review of new mitochondrial DNA and Y-chromosome data relating to the colonization, and a critique of recent linguistic theories.

Contributors: Larry D. Agenbroad / C. Michael Barton / C. Loring Brace / Elizabeth S. Chilton / Geoffrey A. Clark / Stuart J. Fiedel / India S. Hesse / Jane H. Hill / Steven R. James / Douglas H. MacDonald / Carole A. S. Mandryk / David J. Meltzer / A. Russell Nelson / Georges A. Pearson / Pan Qifeng / Steven Schmich / Kamille R. Schmitz / Theodore G. Schurr / Kenneth B. Tankersley / Elin Whitney-Smith / David R. Yesner

\$75.00. More info at www.uapress.arizona.edu/books/bid1581.htm



Lost Laborers in Colonial California

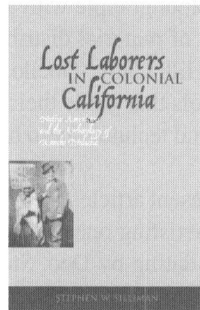
Native Americans and the Archaeology of Rancho Petaluma

Stephen W. Silliman

Native Americans who labored on the ranchos of Mexican California are people frequently lost to history. This study focuses on a large operation north of San Francisco Bay, owned by Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, to understand what their lives were like. Through the archaeological record—tools and implements, containers, beads, bone and shell artifacts, food remains—Silliman reconstructs the daily practices of Native peoples and the labor relations that structured indigenous participation in rancho life.

"This is one of the most thoughtful and thought-provoking books on the Native American experience on the California rancho frontier. Silliman has brought together the foundation for a new research agenda on the Spanish/Mexican borderlands. *Lost Laborers in Colonial California* will be cited by future researchers as the trail blazer in this area." —Russell Kent Skowronek, Santa Clara University

\$39.95 cloth. More info at www.uapress.arizona.edu/books/bid1568.htm



Anthropological Papers, No. 70—

The Safford Valley Grids

Prehistoric Cultivation in the Southern Arizona Desert

Edited by William E. Doolittle and James A. Neely

Crisscrossing Pleistocene terrace tops and overlooking the Gila River in southeastern Arizona are acres and acres of rock alignments that have perplexed archaeologists for a century. This volume draws on scholars from various disciplines to explain when and why the grids were built.

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Distributed for the Center for Desert Archaeology—

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Edited by Henry D. Wallace

\$34.95 paper. More info at www.uapress.arizona.edu/books/bid1583.htm

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Hohokam Palettes

Alan Devin White

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Helen C. Fairley

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