

Cahokia: the Great Native American Metropolis

Terry A. Barnhart

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carbon dates (481), when the stratigraphic record indicates otherwise. Several probable Grasshopper Falls phase rims have also been reported from the Sharp's site, a Sterns Creek component. In their overview, the editors place the Hartley phase at 800-900 C.E. (19). Based on the presence of Stirling phase Mississippian trade pottery at the type site, the Hartley phase should be dated later.

Minor interpretive quibbles do not detract from the overall quality of work in this volume. *Late Woodland Societies* is a long-needed and most welcome comprehensive compilation and is highly recommended reading.

Cahokia: The Great Native American Metropolis, by Biloine Whiting Young and Melvin L. Fowler. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2000. xi, 366 pp. Illustrations, notes, glossary, bibliography, index. \$55.00 cloth, \$24.95 paper.

Reviewer Terry A. Barnhart is associate professor of history at Eastern Illinois University. He has written several articles about the nineteenth-century investigations of the Mound Builders.

Archeology is an inductive science that has greatly refined its methodology and expanded its knowledge base over more than two centuries of inquiry. The investigations conducted at Cahokia, the largest and most complex archeological site north of Mexico, pay ample testimony to the development of archeological method and theory. Both avocational archeologists and anthropologically trained professionals have contributed to the history of research at the site, which the authors of this volume have brought together in *Cahokia: The Great Native American Metropolis*. Their work summarizes what has been learned of the cultural history of the Cahokia site and surrounding mound groups, and provides insight into the personalities, conflicts, and interests of the archeologists who have worked there. The history of archeological investigations at Cahokia is documented along with the traditions of several American Indian peoples, which provides additional perspective on what the site probably represented to its ancient inhabitants.

The book's 21 chapters chronicle the making of a Cahokia archeologist (Melvin L. Fowler), early investigations at the site, the work of the Illinois Archaeological Survey, the destruction of the Powell and Murdock Mounds, highway salvage projects, what has been learned about local ceramic traditions from recent excavations, and the movement to build a new archeological museum at the site. The authors present Cahokia as both a physical and a spiritual landscape. Various theories surrounding the "Woodhenges" at the site are revisited, as are

those relating to Cahokia's ancient engineers and builders. The relationship of Cahokia to the outside world is discussed in regard to its outposts and place in aboriginal America, along with the probable reasons for its abandonment.

The weakest chapter of the book is the first, "The Making of a Cahokia Archaeologist." It provides more information than is needed or wanted about the coauthor's genesis as a Cahokia archeologist. It would have been far better to weave Fowler's distinguished career at Cahokia into the narrative chronologically, summarizing his early life at the point where he enters the narrative and excising the excess biographical information. For example, do we really need to know that Fowler had a "substantial paycheck" during his brief stint as an engineer at the Civil Aeronautics Administration? The essay's purpose is understandable and even laudable: to humanize archeology by making flesh and bone of archeologists. But that goal is accomplished quite well in other sections of the book, making the stand-alone chapter on one of the coauthors seem misplaced and overly dutiful by contrast. I level this criticism somewhat reluctantly, for the role of biography in the history of American archeology is a vital one. My objection here concerns placement and balance.

That quibble aside, I cannot think of a better introduction to the archeology of the American Bottom. Interactions between Cahokia and contemporary communities far distant stand in bold relief. The Cahokia experience adds further testimony to the social and cultural dynamics that shaped the lives of indigenous peoples in the late prehistoric era, and resulted in the development of complex chiefdoms and the emergence of urban centers. The glossary will help lay readers decipher the archeologist's specialized lexicon, and the bibliography and index provide user-friendly insight into such fundamental processes as site formation analysis, ceramic sequences, and the interdisciplinary methodology of such arcane specializations as geoarcheology, zooarcheology, and archeoastronomy. Various site reports, often torturous in their jargon-filled language, are here artfully blended into a smoothly flowing narrative that shares archeology's humanistic insights with a larger audience. Those interested in the archeology of the American Bottom or public archeology as presented at the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site will greatly benefit from this work.

The Worlds Between Two Rivers: Perspectives on American Indians in Iowa, An Expanded Edition, edited by Gretchen M. Bataille, David Mayer Gradwohl, and Charles L. P. Silet. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press,

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