Aspects of Upper Great Lakes Anthropology

This volume consists of fifteen useful papers prepared in honor of Lloyd Alden Wilford, professor emeritus, University of Minnesota. In the first chapter Eiden Johnson outlines Wilford's career and provides insights into his personality and contributions. The second chapter by H. E. Wright, Jr., provides one of the most concise accounts of the glacial history of the Great Lakes region I have seen. In it he covers Pleistocene extinctions, post-glacial vegetation and climate, and the role of human activity in shaping the paleoecology.

A chapter by N. S. Ossenberg treats the origin and relationships of Woodland peoples based upon evidence of measurements from human skulls. At a time when the value of studying human remains is being questioned by contemporary Indians, this article demonstrates that remains can be respectfully handled in a manner that yields valuable information about the past. Like certain other chapters in this volume, it is highly technical and presupposes considerable knowledge of human biology. Nevertheless, the results are impressive, as they argue for identifying three archaeologically known populations as being ancestral to the Dakota, Assiniboin and Cheyenne.

In Chapters Four and Five, R. J. Salzer and Christy A. H. Caine provide information about the culture history of areas in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and in Chapter Six Jack Steinbring outlines the early sequence in northern Minnesota. The article by J. B. Stoltman in Chapter Seven is primarily a site report of the McKinstry Mound in the vicinity of the Smith Site in northern Minnesota, while T. F. Kehoe's article in Chapter Nine provides a typological discussion of corner notched points found on the northern Plains and adjacent Woodlands.
Of particular interest to Iowans is the chapter by D. M. Gradwohl on the archaeology of the central Des Moines River Valley. This report provides a summary of investigations in the areas of Red Rock and Saylorville reservoirs, and a progress report of work conducted by Iowa State University since 1964. His outline of the cultural sequence from Paleo-Indian through Historic times is particularly useful as is his discussion of the Moingona phase—a new subdivision of Oneota culture. He also provides an expanded statement of evidence pertaining to Great Oasis culture as it is manifested in the central part of the state.

Iowans interested in prehistory will find three other articles of particular interest. W. M. Hurley discusses evidence of cultural contact between Effigy Mound peoples and the Oneota culture; D. A. Baerreis and R. A. Alex speculate on the method of midden accumulation of the Mill Creek culture of northwestern Iowa based on studies at the Mitchell Site in South Dakota; and C. R. Watrall hypothesizes that the inhabitants of the Cambria Site in south central Minnesota shifted from a dependence on maize horticulture to bison hunting as a response to changing ecological conditions ca. A.D. 1200.

The most exciting paper is G. E. Gibbon’s article explaining a model of Mississippian cultural development based on his studies in the Red Wing, Minnesota area. Gibbon suggests that the great ceremonial center called Cahokia (near East St. Louis, Ill.) was the focus of a complex social development that achieved state level of integration paralleling events that took place on a larger scale at Teotihuacan, in Mexico. The Ramey State, as Gibbon calls it, is suggested to have developed a symbiotic-extractive exchange network, which expanded its influence into such areas far as the Big and Little Sioux drainages of northwest Iowa—the homeland of Iowa’s Mill Creek culture.

The last two articles in the volume treat ethnohistoric subjects. The first, by R. J. Mason presents a summary of data
pertaining to the rocky and forested islands across the mouth of Green Bay, while the second, by Mildred Mott Wedel, provides a detailed and beautifully documented account of Pierre-Charles LeSueur's early contacts with the Dakota Sioux.

The volume is specialized and covers a variety of topics on many different levels, but the serious student of upper Midwest archaeology will find this group of papers to be a valuable source book for years to come. The editor and contributors are to be congratulated for providing a fitting tribute to Lloyd Alden Wilford.

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Without some understanding of American Indian history, and that from the perspective of the American Indian, there is no understanding American history. Indeed, an understanding of relations between the American Indian and the Europeans who became dominant of the continent reveals as much about the real meaning of American history as the American Revolution or the Civil War. The first Americans were subjected to an invasion from without, and eventually when the Europeans came in such numbers that the Indians could no longer withstand the onslaught, they became a colonial people in their own land. By the time the United States extended its