Calumet and Fleur-De-Lys: Archaeology of Indian and French Contact in the Midcontinent

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Book Reviews


REVIEWED BY ELAINE B. HEROLD, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO

John Walthall and Thomas Emerson have assembled a group of ten papers dealing with the historic and archeological data relating to the interaction between American Indians and the French in the Mississippi valley from 1634, when Jean Nicolet landed at Green Bay, to the surrender of Fort de Chartres in 1765. Three of the papers treat the southern part of the area, known as Louisiane, three the Illinois Country, and four the western Great Lakes.

Two chapters present general views of particular areas. Ian W. Brown discusses the early French contact and later settlement of lower Louisiane, along with French efforts to maintain control of the Mississippi valley by trade with its native inhabitants. Emerson and James A. Brown review the late prehistory and early history of the Illinois Country, and the evidence for linking prehistoric archeological traditions with particular ethnic groups. Iowa readers will find it interesting that the “one well-documented ethnic connection which has stood the test of time” is Mildred Mott Wedel’s work from 1959 linking the loway, Oto, and Missouri with the upper Iowa River Oneota (105).

Four chapters are concerned with culture change in particular regions. Gregory A. Waselkov discusses the goods exchanged in the upper Creek country around Fort Toulouse in Alabama from 1701 to 1763. He also includes a useful glossary of French and Indian trade items. Walthall discusses the imported ceramic assemblages from the Guebert site occupied by the Kaskaskia, and the Kolmer site occupied by the Michigamea in the first quarter of the eighteenth century, concluding that by that time pottery was no longer an important part of the Illini economy. Douglas A. Birk and Elden Johnson summarize research at four sites in the Mille Lacs region of
southeastern Minnesota where French contact began about 1660. Neal Trubowitz compares the trade goods found at three eighteenth-century Indian village sites and a French post near Lafayette, Indiana, concluding that the differences reflect differences in acculturation.

Four chapters deal with the identification of particular sites. Dan F. Morse identifies the Grigsby site in northeastern Arkansas with a Michigamea village located on the Marquette map of 1673–74. Walthall, F. Terry Norris, and Barbara D. Stafford suggest that the Naples site in Randolph County, Illinois, may be the village recorded in the journal of St. Cosme in the winter of 1698, where the chief was a woman named Rouensa. Susan M. Branstner notes that the Hurons at the Marquette Mission in St. Ignace, Michigan, incorporated aspects of European culture but continued to lead a traditional lifestyle, using some tools and implements of their own manufacture as well as others they obtained through trade. Lenville J. Stelle summarizes his efforts to locate the site of the siege in 1730 involving 950 Mesquakie and 1,400 French and Indian allies. He located trade and Indian artifacts and parts of seven structures that conform to historic descriptions of the semisubterranean houses, making him confident that he has located the battle site.

The papers in this volume are well written and well documented, each with valuable bibliographies. They are interesting both substantively and methodologically. They provide information about the early French colonial period in territories neighboring present-day Iowa, and should encourage more research and reporting of similar sites in the state.


REVIEWED BY JEFFREY P. BROWN, NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

Historians have increasingly studied the development of the built environment as a means of understanding the past. Donald A. Hutslar's Log Construction in the Ohio Country, an abridged edition of his 1986 volume The Architecture of Migration, thoroughly assesses all aspects of log use in buildings in antebellum Ohio.

Hutslar, curator of history at the Ohio Historical Society since 1959, explores the origins of log construction on the Ohio frontier. He states that the Scotch-Irish pioneers who occupied much of
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