## **Northeast Historical Archaeology**

Volume 35 Article 32

2006

Book Review of "Industrial Archaeology: Future Directions", edited by Eleanor Conlin Casella and James Symonds, 2005, Springer, New York, Forward by Sir Neil Cossons, 321 pages, \$89.95 (cloth), \$39.95 (paper).

Kelly J. Dixon

Follow this and additional works at: http://orb.binghamton.edu/neha



Part of the <u>Archaeological Anthropology Commons</u>

## Recommended Citation

Dixon, Kelly J. (2006) "Book Review of "Industrial Archaeology: Future Directions", edited by Eleanor Conlin Casella and James Symonds, 2005, Springer, New York, Forward by Sir Neil Cossons, 321 pages, \$89.95 (cloth), \$39.95 (paper).," Northeast Historical Archaeology: Vol. 35 35, Article 32.

https://doi.org/10.22191/neha/vol35/iss1/32 Available at: http://orb.binghamton.edu/neha/vol35/iss1/32

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). It has been accepted for inclusion in Northeast Historical Archaeology by an authorized editor of The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). For more information, please contact ORB@binghamton.edu.

in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, the development of the rural class-gender-race lines in Deerfield, Massachusetts, and sponsoring students working at various venues around the globe on related issues.

Robert Paynter Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts Amherst Amherst, MA 01003

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY: FUTURE DIRECTIONS, edited by Eleanor Conlin Casella and James Symonds, 2005, Springer, New York, Foreward by Sir Neil Cossons, 321 pages, \$89.95 (cloth), \$39.95 (paper).

Reviewed by Kelly J. Dixon

"Industrialization is the most fundamental change in human society since the inception of agriculture, and underlies the confusing clash of ideologies and faiths in our restless world" (p. 133). The words of one of this volume's contributors underscore how industry and technology are intertwined with the modern world's recent cultural heritage. Such topics, along with other essays in this book are certain to influence discussions about the world's industrial past and how that past continues to shape the future. Industrial Archaeology: Future *Directions* is a compilation of papers originally presented in a session dedicated to exploring the future of industrial archaeology at the 24th Annual Theoretical Archaeology Group (TAG) in 2002 at the University of Manchester. With subject matter from Australia, England, Ireland, South Africa, and the United States, this volume maintains an international scope, an attribute that implicitly and explicitly demonstrates networks and commonalities among archaeological sites from the recent past. Themes such as globalization, class and ethnic identities, gender roles, the spread of capitalism, and the relevance and value of archaeology in industrial settings are among the areas of inquiry shared by several of the book's contributors. In addition, certain authors note the importance of understanding a building and its landscape prior to heritage management decisions, an issue that has influenced interpretation and the protection of entire historic environments, or landscapes, as opposed to discreet heritage sites (pp. 96, 178, 244).

The book is organized into four sections, with papers broadly devoted to theory and practice relative to investigations of industrialized societies and related landscapes. The first section, "Rethinking Industrial Archaeology," includes a series of papers that provide a general overview of industrial archaeology. Essays in the next section, "The Conservation of Industrial Monuments and Landscapes," are devoted to analyses that explore both conservation philosophies and scholarly research. The third section, "Archaeologies of the Factory and Mine," includes a handful of papers that examine working class archaeology using examples from the textile industry and a coalfield war. Finally, "Consumption Studies" includes essays that consider the consumption of industry's products equally as important as more traditional industrial archaeological studies of production.

Collectively, the volume's essays represent a compilation of case studies that emphasize the importance of outlining methods and results and that seek to go beyond descriptive, site-specific research on industrial sites to think about the people who lived amid those settings (p. 37). Allusions to culture history (p. 73) suggest that much of the traditional, descriptive research in industrial archaeology is akin to the founding paradigm of Americanist archaeology, and that now, in the 2nd millennium, it is time to relate the material evidence of industry to broader issues such as the social relations of production. While this book signals the maturation of industrial archaeology, the authors' emphasis on social archaeology should not be interpreted as a call to disregard descriptive investigations on production and technology. Since the latter are essential for studies in industrial archaeology, descriptive and social archaeologies should be conducted in concert to strengthen both academic and applied archaeological research related to industrialization and industrial societies. Several of the volume's authors address this issue, emphasizing conservation; communication with descendant communities; and working within the context of renewal, development, and environmental thinking (pp. 95–96, 158–159, 235). This practical and theoretical volume of case studies can and should be used by individuals working in heritage management. Additionally, this book has value for archaeology students, and would make a useful course adoption for Industrial Archaeology, Historical Archaeology, Archaeology, and/or Heritage Management classes.

Frequent but minor typos, a limited index, and no list of figures are some trivial editorial critiques. While these do not detract from the book's overall goals, they are noticeable and noteworthy given that the cost of this volume is US\$89.95. The book is, however, well written, and the authors and editors deserve acknowledgement for putting together such a readable series of essays dedicated to the enduring and diverse evolution of industrial archaeology.

Kelly J. Dixon (Ph.D., University of Nevada, M.S. Michigan Technological University) is an Assistant Professor at The University of Montana. Recent publications include Boomtown Saloons: Archaeology and History in Virginia City (University of Nevada Press, 2005), and Saloons in the "Wild" West and Taverns in Ancient Mesopotamia: Explorations Along the Timeline of Public Drinking in Between Dirt and Discussion: Methods and Methodology in Historical Archaeology (2006). Her recent archaeological field and lab research has focused on the encampments of the illfated Donner Party in the eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains, and isolated historic mining sites in western Montana, including Coloma Ghost Town and a Chinese terrace garden. Dixon serves as the Society for Historical Archaeology's Website Editor and as Director of Montana's Archaeological Records.

Kelly J. Dixon
Department of Anthropology
The University of Montana
Missoula, Montana, U.S.A.