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Book Review: The Archaeological Northeast by Mary Ann Levine, Kenneth A. Sassaman, and Michael S. Nassaney

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archaeologists work within local communities and with the public while also balancing academic and economic concerns is found in the musings of Hannah and Sean while working on the site. Yet the setting was a little too fantastic (the "International Geographic Society" doesn't visit every archaeological site) and I wish that more realistic examples regarding the politics of archaeological practice had been presented only because such examples place the practice and theory of archaeology into sharp relief, which is often a useful contrast for students.

Finally, through Sean, who is desperately in search of a job, students can get a sense of the options that are available to them in the field of archaeology: graduate school; academia; and CRM. The pros and cons of each were presented, but I found myself wondering why museum, state, or federal positions weren't also presented as viable options for employment. Despite this small oversight, this is a wonderful way for students to consider their options in continuing with a career in archaeology.

What a refreshing book. I heartily recommend it for use in the classroom and in fact, for a general fun read outside the classroom. It is an amusing, clever, informative, and well-conceived book that defines archaeological theories in ways that are comprehensible to students. Kudos to Adrian Praetzelis for taking on this challenge and delivering such an excellent book that is sure to please.

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Diana DiPaolo Loren received her B.F.A. from Tyler School of Art/Temple University in 1989; her M.A. in Anthropology from SUNY Binghamton in 1995; and her Ph.D. in Anthropology from SUNY Binghamton in 1999. Currently, she is an Associate Curator at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University. Her research interests include French and Spanish colonial period archaeology, processes of creolization, race and identity, social theories and the body. She has published recently in *Historical Archaeology* and *Journal of Social Archaeology*.

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THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NORTHEAST by Mary Ann Levine, Kenneth A. Sassaman, and Michael S. Nassaney, 1999, Bergin & Garvey, Westport, CT, Foreword by Alice B. Kehoe, 336 pages, \$75.00 (cloth), \$29.95 (paper).

Reviewed by Alan Leveillee

The Archaeological Northeast is a contributed volume, published by Bergin & Garvey as one of the initial books in a planned series, *Native Peoples of the America*, the general editor of which is Laurie Weinstein. Mary Ann Levine, Kenneth A. Sassaman, and Michael S. Nassaney serve dual roles as authors and volume editors, with additional contributions by fellow University of Massachusetts (Amherst) graduate students, alumnae, and colleagues Mary Lou Curran, George P. Nicholas, Frederick T. Dunford, John R. Cross, Elizabeth S. Chilton, David M. Lacy, Elena Filios, Robert J. Hasenstab, Eric S. Johnson, Catherine C. Carlson, Elizabeth A. Little, and Mitchell T. Mulholland. The book is dedicated to Dena F. Dincauze for her remarkable career as a pre-eminent archaeologist in the Northeast, and

for her influence on the volume's essayists in their graduate and post-graduate careers. All archaeologists working in the Northeast are indebted to Dena Dincauze, and in the foreword to the book, Alice Kehoe offers an image of Dena in a "characteristic stance of steel encased in silk," which is both poetic and accurate. The contributed essays in *The Archaeological Northeast* combine to add depth to the image by offering insights into the influence she has had as a mentor and role model.

Part I, "Ancient People, Ancient Landscapes," includes contributions by Mary Lou Curran, George P. Nicholas, and Frederick T. Dunford. Mary Lou Curran, noted particularly for research on the PaleoIndian Period in New England, revisits the seminally important Bull Brook Site and data from a perspective enabled by 15 years of new discoveries, expanding comparative collections, and better analytical control. Curran also compiles and organizes information on fluted points and lithic raw material use and source areas, comparing Paleo assemblages from across the region. She concludes that differences in Paleo-Indian assemblages are a reflection of the adaptive flexibility of the area's earliest colonists. She clearly demonstrates the value of subjecting the relevant data to finer levels of discrimination in what we have taken for granted to be relatively homogeneous Paleo-Indian lithic assemblages.

George P. Nicholas also refines the scale of consideration in his essay "Landscape Dynamics; The Human and Environmental Relationship Across Time and Place." By examining human ecology on micro-, meso-, and macroscopic scales, Nicholas views past peoples as hunters (mammoth, mastodon, beaver, fish), harvesters, and agents of change through "anthropogenic influences." He engagingly provides a revision of the portrait of ancient Native Americans as "noble ecologists," with a more appropriate real-world view of past peoples influencing past landscapes.

Frederick J. Dunford combines state of the art paleo-environmental, post glacial hydrological, topographic dynamics, and archaeological site location data to explain Middle Archaic occupation of middle Cape Cod. Dunford's obvious command of the technical

data and his well-presented synthesis of a changing Cape Cod ecosystem through time leaves the reader thinking that his conclusions should have been drawn long before. This is often the hallmark of excellent research, and Dunford's contribution to this volume is substantial.

Part II, "Rethinking Typology and Technology," presents essays by John R. Cross, Kenneth E. Sassaman, and Elizabeth S. Chilton. John Cross brings his talents as a lithic analyst to bear on the Middle Archaic Period, as reflected in the artifact assemblage of the Annasnappet Pond Site. The site, in Carver, Massachusetts, was excavated by Dianna Doucette and a research team under Cross's direction. The Annasnappet Pond Site included a Middle Archaic mortuary feature containing calcined human cranial fragments and associated grave goods in a radiocarbon dated context. Cross considers manufacturing trajectories and rework scenarios for Stanley/Neville points as dart tips on projectiles used with weighted atlatls.

Kenneth E. Sassaman presents a comprehensive study on steatite sources, vessel use, and distribution in Eastern North America. He traces the evolution of soapstone cooking technology and presents an impressive chronology established by radiocarbon dated soot and charcoal samples, employing AMS dating technologies, presenting the data in graphics and through statistical analyses. Sassaman compares and contrasts southeast and northeast cultural contexts, and the archaeological history of soapstone cooking, concluding that while the broadspear tradition may have involved the northward migration into New England, soapstone technology appeared at least two hundred years after these people became established locally. He also notes that vessel function is subject to cultural variations not necessarily related to utilitarian concerns.

Elizabeth S. Chilton addresses Late Woodland Period interior New England ceramic analysis. She provides a history of archaeological approaches to descriptive analysis citing a general paucity of study for interior New England, with no classification system specifically for the middle Massachusetts (Connecticut River Valley) region. Chilton conducted

attribute analysis on the ceramic assemblages of three sites; Klock, Pine Hill, and Guida, not to establish typologies, but to consider "technical choices" to address technological and decorative aspects of this category of cultural material. She interprets the results in terms of contrasting relative mobility and settlement flexibility, and relative fluidity of social borders. The strength of her approach is the abandonment of static descriptive analyses and the introduction of human variables. Rather than passive quantification of variables that mean more to archaeologists than the peoples we are studying, Chilton brings dynamic social processes into the attribute analysis. The model needs more work, but it is a good beginning.

Part III of the book includes sections by David Lacy, Elena Filios, Robert Hasenstab, and Eric Johnson, addressing "Critical Perspectives on Entrenched Assumptions." David Lacy dispels a myth of prehistoric under-occupation of Vermont by presenting results of a Green mountain site "prospecting" survey. Armed with the observation that in Massachusetts site distribution has been correlated with the number and intensity of archaeological surveys, Lacy shows that sites do indeed exist in the large Green Mountain study area, and are detectable by employing traditional site location criteria and sampling with test pit clusters. More than thirty sites were discovered, demonstrating that the perception of a under-occupied prehistoric Vermont is indeed a myth.

Elena Filios emphasizes social variables in relation to hunter-gatherers' use of space from the perspective of the Flynn Site, in western Connecticut. Occupied in the third millennium, and radiocarbon dated to 3160±620 B.P., the site assemblage includes Orient points, Small Stemmed points, aboriginal ceramics, debitage, and numerous fire-cracked rock features. In considering issues of mobility and autonomy, Filios suggests that third millennium sites vary considerably in features and in the scale of procurement of raw material. She posits that through critical theory, we can develop an archaeology of the deep past, retelling part of the prehistory of New England.

Robert Hasenstab re-visits one of the plaguing questions in New England prehis-

toric archaeology: Where are the Late Woodland villages? He re-traces attempts to address the question, noting Lynn Ceci's hypothesis that Native villages were a post-contact phenomena, and Peter Thorbahn's three possible explanations: (1), there were none; (2), they were destroyed by Euro-American development; and (3), they are very hard to recognize. Hasenstab outlines the difficulties in recognizing potential villages, particularly when relying upon standard shovel test pit methodologies. He reviews the regional evidence that horticultural villages existed and then considers what a village might look like when their creators hunted, fished, collected, and farmed. He concludes by recommending as wide a research regime as possible noting that time is critical given the rate of site destruction through increasing development.

Eric Johnson illuminates the inherent informational limitations and static view provided by territorial maps illustrating Native Americans as tribal names bounded by lines on paper, recognizing that different models of political organization are needed to express the dynamic and heterogeneous polities of Southern New England. He outlines a model of community and confederation. Johnson discusses the closely tied Narragansett settlements as constituting a political confederation of core nucleated communities surrounded by and linked to "tributaries" subordinate to the nucleated communities.

Johnson then considers the Mohegan community, and discusses the pottery of Shantock as a distinct expression as assertion of Mohegan identity. Returning to territorial maps, he concludes with a call to eliminate static lines as territorial markers, replacing them with indicators of communities. Such a map, he offers, challenges us to explore various ways in which communities confederated, divided, contested, and struggled to survive in a hostile new world order. Johnson constructs his arguments well in this engaging essay.

Part IV, entitled "Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Northeastern Prehistory," includes contributions by Catherine C. Carlson, Mary Ann Levine, and Elizabeth A. Little. Catherine Carlson traces the history of zooarchaeological research in New England, focusing on pre-contact studies. She begins with late 19th-cen-

tury investigations of shell heaps and ends with the interdisciplinary work on the Boylston Street fish weir in the 1980s. She presents the variety of ongoing zooarchaeology research including PaleoIndian subsistence and paleontology, faunal extinctions and range changes, sampling, seasonality, coastal vs. interior settlement patterns, and wild vs. domesticated foodstuffs.

Mary Ann Levine contributes to the volume by synthesizing her research on Native copper. She discusses geographical source areas including the Lake Superior Region, Eastern Canadian sources, New England, and Mid-Atlantic source areas. She outlines Native American and more recent historic mining of these ores. Levine's well-presented article dispels the long-held assumption that the Lake Superior copper sources were the likely points of origin of the metal found on sites through eastern North America. She offers us a diverse range of alternative geographic possibilities, necessitating re-evaluation of the copper-related data base.

When Southern New England archaeologists have a question about radiocarbon dating, we call Betty Little. In her article, Elizabeth Little explains various corrections and calibrations for charcoal and shell samples from the region. She notes that today, we are dating a variety of materials which require recalibrating values. This article is a must for practitioners and for educators whose curriculum includes dating techniques. Little synthesizes the technical information well in this informative and useful contribution to the volume.

The book concludes with contributed articles by Michael S. Nassaney and Mitchell Mulholland, who both offer a view from the Cultural Resource Management branch of the archaeological tree. Michael S. Nassaney uses the Turner's Falls area of Western Massachusetts to demonstrate that while specific agendas often drive Cultural Resource Management investigations, the resulting information, when viewed beyond the narrow cultural historical focus, can begin to celebrate the potential contribution of the data base to questions of broad anthropological significance. He urges New England archaeologists to

abandon parochial interests and promote the anthropological relevance of their work as a means to "salvage Northeastern archaeology from marginality."

Mitchell T. Mulholland skillfully presents the methodology, results, and interpretations of multi-disciplinary research on the John Alden houses in Duxbury, Massachusetts. Combining archaeology, architectural study, and deed research, he builds interlocking lines of evidence to refine the history of two 17th-century houses, one constructed in the 1620s-1630s, and one believed to have been built in 1653. The earlier structure appears to have been modified through time. Artifact analysis of the 1627 house support occupation earlier than 1650, while all lines of inquiry suggest a late 17th-century to early 18th-century occupation for the 1653 House, where no conclusively 17th-century European artifacts were recovered.

The Archaeological Northeast is a well-presented volume of articles from some of the region's most talented practitioners. Dedicated to Dena Dincauze, it demonstrates she has influenced, and has been influenced by, a generation of gifted students. As a contributed volume, this book is as much about archaeologists as is about New England archaeology. It reflects a vigorous and healthy collective broadening of perspective, sophistication in the appropriate application of related sciences, and most importantly, recognition of and reliance upon a firm anthropological foundation. *The Archaeological Northeast* is not a comprehensive archaeology of New England, but it is an important addition to the subject. A number of the articles, in particular those of George Nicholas, Fred Dunford, Ken Sassaman, and Eric Johnson, could be expanded and published as books, each of which would make a significant contribution to the regional bibliography. We can all look forward to other volumes in the *Native Peoples of the Americas* series.

On a closing note, this reviewer, being firmly entrenched in Cultural Resource Management, sees more CRM reflected throughout the book than is suggested by its segregated section titles. This is not a criticism, just an observation.

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DANGEROUS PLACES: HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ARCHAEOLOGY, edited by David A. Poirier and Kenneth L. Feder 2001, Bergin and Garvey, Westport, CT, 264 pages, 15 figures, 13 plates, \$65.00 (hardback).

Reviewed by Kathleen L. Wheeler

Field archaeologists often have an intuitive sense of when they are working with "clean" or "dirty" dirt. Long years of practice have often been sufficient to warn fieldworkers of impending dangers related to petroleum, insects, or sunstroke. The authors of the present volume offer compelling evidence that not all safety issues can be addressed with adequate clothing, sun block, or a developed sense of smell.

The book is divided into two sections, with Part I addressing Biological Hazards, and Part II addressing America's Colonial and Industrial Legacy. In the first section, eight articles range from insect- and animal-borne diseases, such as Lyme Disease and rabies, to airborne molds, fungi, and spores. The seven essays in the second part of the book deal with the outcome of 19th- and 20th-century practices that leave hazardous residues, such as arsenic, lead, and unexploded ordnance.

In Chapter One, Nicholas Bellantoni reviews the hazards of Lyme Disease in terms of exposure while out in the field. He discusses how ticks transfer the *Borrelia burgdorferi* microorganism into human hosts, how to

remove ticks as soon as possible, how to recognize the symptoms of the disease, and what kind of treatment options are available. The best course of action is prevention, including tucking pants inside of socks, wearing light-colored clothing against which the tick will be visible, applying an insect repellent, and frequent inspections of clothes and body. A vaccine is currently available but requires three doses administered over the course of a year to be effective.

Tom Morganti and Nan Tartt prepare a short discourse on rabies in Chapter Two. They identify rabies as a fatal disease once the neurotropic virus reaches the brain. The virus is transmitted through the bite of an infected animal or through contact between the saliva of a dead infected animal and an open wound. All feral animals behaving in an uncharacteristically friendly fashion should be considered potential carriers of the rabies virus and should be avoided. Chief vectors of rabies to humans in Northeastern America tend to include raccoons, foxes, skunks, and bats, but a small percentage (7%) of non-wild (i.e., domesticated) animals accounted for the transfer of the rabies virus in 1997. If there is any chance of infection, thoroughly wash the wound with soap and water, secure the body or carcass of the transmitting animal (if possible), and seek medical attention immediately. The rabies anti-serum has a high rate of efficacy if treatment is begun in the first hours (or days) after exposure.

In Chapter Three, T. Michael Fink and Ken K. Komatsu discuss the dangers of coccidioidomycosis, or "Valley Fever." Coccidioidomycosis is a pulmonary infection caused by the inhalation of the soil-dwelling fungus, *Coccidioides immitis*, which is endemic in the desert regions of Arizona, California, New Mexico, western Texas, and northern Mexico. The *C. immitis* fungus can become airborne in situations archaeologists know all too well, such as the raising of dust from shoveling, troweling, and screening, or simply wind-blown dust. Because of the prevalence of the naturally occurring fungus in desert soils, prevention is not altogether easily achieved. Dust masks reduce the risk of contracting coccidioidomycosis but are not completely effective in preventing the inhalation of the fungus.