

the next century," Lee hopefully projects that the preservation establishment, which certainly has become more diverse in the last generation, will actually be diverse when those of us early in our careers are looking back in retirement.

The volume's absences are as much blind spots in the preservation field's vision of itself as elisions of this particular book. Generally absent is critical reflection on what preservation finds most difficult or has failed to do, the limits of the field, in general how it connects to bigger issues in American urbanism and society, and how it measures success (again, Stipe's final chapter is a notable exception). Like much that is published regarding preservation in the United States, the collection is unabashedly partial, celebratory, and uncritical ("America's Preservation Ethos: A Tribute to Enduring Ideals" is the title of the introduction). While useful for congratulation (of which much is due), the collection needs bolstering for teaching purposes. Specifically, where are the critical voices that believe in the power of the material past and ask insightful questions about what the field is not doing well, what the challenges are, and where the field should go next?

Indeed, the premise of the book, and many of the chapters, is troublingly anti-historical in that it presumes the existence of a set of timeless preservation ethics and principles, and it touts the ways in which the practice of preservation has become progressively "more mature." History with this frame of mind becomes a simple chronicle of preservation success stories (viz. Charles Hosmer), and obscures as much as it reveals about the field.

Described as "a textbook for historic preservation," *A Richer Heritage* can be useful for teaching at the university level but should not be employed without a critical eye. It is not so much a contribution of new scholarship as an appraisal of the state of affairs in the American preservation field. This volume will take its rightful place on the preservation bookshelf as a marker of its time—along with *With*

*Heritage So Rich* and *Past Meets Future: Saving America's Historic Environments* and Charles Hosmer's multiple volumes of preservation history.<sup>2</sup> Editor Robert Stipe deserves praise for bringing out such a wide-ranging and timely volume of work in book form, and we in the preservation field must face up to the volume's implicit challenge to grow the capacity of our field to do critical research and create knowledge for evaluating—not just mapping—the preservation field's course.

In the end, Stipe's book will be most remembered, one hopes, for his own words in the last chapter—

*A major step toward fulfilling the goals of the 1966 legislation is to recognize that times have changed and to accept that the preservation movement must change with them. It is perhaps time to question what we are doing, why we are doing it, and whether our current approach is the most effective use of limited resources.*

Randall Mason

University of Pennsylvania

1. *With Heritage So Rich* (U.S. Conference of Mayors. New York, NY: Random House, 1966).

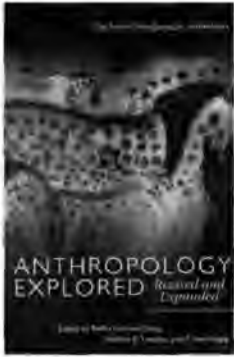
2. Antoinette J. Lee, ed., *Past Meets Future: Saving America's Historic Environments* (Washington, DC: Preservation Press, 1992). See also Charles B. Hosmer, Jr., *Presence of the Past: A History of the Preservation Movement in the United States Before Williamsburg* (New York, NY: Putnam, 1965); and idem, *Preservation Comes of Age: From Williamsburg to the National Trust, 1926-1949*, 2 vols. (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1981).

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*Anthropology Explored: The Best of Smithsonian AnthroNotes*

Second Edition. Edited by Ruth Osterweis Selig, Marilyn R. London, and P. Ann Kaupp. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Books, 2004; 458 pp., illustrations, bibliographies, index; cloth \$40.00; paper \$17.95.

For a quarter century, the Smithsonian Institution's Anthropology Department has published "AnthroNotes," originally a teachers' newsletter to bring anthropology's research perspectives in each subdiscipline to a broad readership. An earlier compilation of "the best of Smithsonian AnthroNotes" appeared some years ago, but scientific advances have required significant revisions or new articles to bring readers up to date. In fact, two-thirds of the 36 articles in this volume have been revised. New topical subheadings provide fresh frameworks for updated chapters about human origins and variations, archeology, and cultural anthropology case studies.



In her concise introduction, Ruth Osterweis Selig clearly sets the tone by stating, "Human diversity, whether physical, cultural, or political, is among the most pressing issues in our shrinking world... Anthropology seeks to explain that diversity..."

She outlines the volume's three sections with elemental questions: Who are we and where did we come from? How did the human species develop over time? How can we best understand human diversity? Because the book involved 45 authors, their articles are grouped in three collections of answers: "Investigating Our Origins and Variation," "Examining Our Archaeological Past," and "Exploring Many Cultures." About one-third of these authors have official connections with the Smithsonian.

The editors clearly believe that these basic questions about the long journey of human cultures and societies could only be answered by many storytellers with many viewpoints. Analogous to a complex musical score, the volume is a triad of themes, each with sub-themes, illustrating human harmony, dissidence, and rhythm.

In the "Origins and Variation" section, sub-themes cover verbal communication between humans and chimpanzees, new evidence of earliest human fossils, disease in ancient populations, ritual sacrifice among the Moche of Peru, race and ethnicity, and "stories bones tell," including forensic physical anthropology of "America's MIAs" from past wars. The second collection of articles spans more time and space, addressing ancient origins of agriculture, researching "first Americans," Vikings and African hunter-gatherers, Mayan cultural achievements, how Arctic peoples are impacted by global warming, and archeological understandings of African American lifeways. The final set of 13 essays is a kaleidoscope of cultural sub-themes: body art, repatriation by museums, Asia's storied Silk Road, cultural relativism, cultural change among Plains Indian tribes and Peruvian village women, the dilemma of refugees, and applied linguistics. Each piece is a concise narrative statement, sometimes in first person but often in a public speaker's tone, with asides to the reader.

The numerous and wonderful drawings by the late Robert L. Humphrey, a Washington University anthropologist, continue to add humor and graphic insights to the text. Throughout, the editors and authors have provided a consistent reader-friendly style, keeping to the original purpose of "AnthroNotes." Most articles include at the end an "update" and "further readings" as references. The volume can have classroom use in general anthropology or cultural anthropology courses, but would need an experienced instructor to provide understandable contexts for the diversity of subjects. Almost all participating authors are practicing professional anthropologists, representing the discipline's diverse subfields and specialties, which can be a formidable spectrum of interests.

Many—but certainly not all—cultural resource professionals have an academic anthropological background. For them, *Anthropology Explored* would be a valuable volume, particularly if concise, current summaries on particular subjects were

sought for instructional or training purposes. But for many other cultural resource colleagues, this volume would not directly apply to their work; they might find selected articles interesting, however. It is a well-produced, small “travelogue” volume that is truly “Anthropology Explored.”

Roger E. Kelly  
*National Park Service (ret.)*

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### *Archaeobiology*

By Kristin D. Sobolik. *Archaeologist's Toolkit Vol. 5*, Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2003; 139 pp., photographs, tables, notes, index; cloth \$69.00; paper \$24.95.



Sobolik's goal in writing this book is to describe specialties of archeobiology in terms of their history, goals, and recovery and analytic techniques.

Among these specialties are zooarcheology (the study of archeological faunal remains, including shell and bone) and archeobotany (the study of plant remains, including wood, seeds, pollen, and phytoliths). Along the way, Sobolik presents archeological site types, preservation factors, and case studies involving archeobiology.

From the outset, Sobolik emphasizes that there is no single, “right” way of undertaking archeobiological studies. She offers, instead, what she believes to be the “best and easiest ways” to interpret archeobiological remains, providing literature sources and diverse case studies largely, though not exclusively, drawn from projects she has worked on. This gives her readers an intimate portrait of the goals, processes, and results of projects. On this level, the book functions as a primer, which is its greatest strength.

On another level, however, the book pushes an agenda intended to persuade its readers that the future of archeobiology lies in its practitioners' abilities to insinuate themselves into the nascency of archeological cultural resource management (CRM) projects. Whether the reader agrees with Sobolik's argument, its inclusion does result in a book that tries to reach at least two distinct, and not necessarily compatible, audiences—archeologists and cultural resource managers. In the forward, the series editors suggest that “the book can stand alone as a reference work for archeologists in public agencies, private firms, and museums, and as a textbook and guidebook for classrooms and field settings.” This implies that the book is for archeologists who seek general information on archeobiology. But elsewhere, Sobolik seems to be addressing those who want to hire archeobiologists to help manage cultural resources. At times, the book develops into a polemic chastising both archeologists and archeobiologists—the former for not giving due respect to archeobiologists, the latter for not striving for positions that would warrant that respect. She writes—

*if the archaeobiologist wants to be treated as purely a technician rather than a scientist, he or she can keep accepting boxes of bone and bags of soil, along with a paycheck... If, however, the archaeobiologist would like to contribute to the understanding of peoples and environments...he or she should get involved in all stages of the recovery process.*

The call of archeobiologists to arms is most strongly declaimed under a heading entitled “The Role of CRM in the Development and Future of Archaeobiology.” Here Sobolik describes what archeobiologists should do and be, rather than what they do and are. Sobolik leaves the realm of instructor and enters that of advocate. She stresses CRM over non-CRM research as the future avenue for archeobiologists to pursue. Her reasoning is simple enough—there are more funded CRM projects. But she also suggests that analysis of plant and animal remains is “essential for any CRM project

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