the north, where fur trade wars forced groups with guns to move southward, combined with slave trade in the South, resulted in the refugees forming political alliances for protection. One of the best known of these was the Creek Confederacy of the 18th century.

In specifically linking, through arguments of relevance, ideas of status, disease, trade networks, and the like, to the archeological record, this book makes a contribution, not only to a better understanding of the process of disintegration of chiefdoms, but to archeological method necessary when dealing with the contact period. It argues for the introduction of European diseases as a major cause of the collapse of chiefdoms in the interior. This thesis, however, will be received with some consternation by others who see the collapse as resulting from processes under way within the interior long before the first European contact (Christopher Peebles in Richardson and Webb, eds., The Burden of Being Civilized, University of Georgia Press, 1986).

This volume should be read by all those interested in aboriginal culture change at the contact period as reflected in the archeological record. Smith is a major figure among those "exploring our forgotten century," as Joseph Judge has called the 16th century. Charles Hudson similarly refers to the 16th century as the last century in Visions and Revisions (Sabo and Schneider, eds., University of Georgia Press, 1987). Smith's book helps to cast, as Charles Hudson says on the dust jacket, a "ray of light into the great black hole of southern history."


Richard H. Meadow
Peabody Museum, Harvard University

No domain of study can be said to have come of age unless it has an introductory text that provides a clear account of its aims, methods, and accomplishments to date as well as indicating the scope of possible future research. With this volume, zooarcheology has such a text. Commissioned by the British publisher Batsford as one of a series on aspects of archeology for the beginning student and serious lay reader, this superbly produced book can be recommended also to any professional archeologist or paleontologist who wants to know why it is important to analyze animal remains recovered from archeological sites. Using examples drawn from around the world, Davis illustrates through discussions, photographs, and wonderfully conceived and executed line artwork some of what zooarcheology has to offer for our understanding of biogeography, evolutionary processes, morphological variation through space and time, and most importantly, the nature and consequences of past interactions between human and nonhuman animals.

Following a brief historical introduction, chapter 1 is a straightforward discussion of how the archeofaunal record is formed, modified, recovered, and analyzed, stopping short at problems of interpretation. Some of those are considered in chapters 3 and 4, which cover methods used to obtain information about past environments and to determine season of use of particular resources. The intervening chapter 2 on the nature of bones and teeth will be useful to the reader who wants to understand the possibilities and limitations of analyses of mammalian faunas.

Chapter 5 touches mostly upon faunal evidence for scavenging and hunting in the African Plio-Pleistocene, later Pleistocene mega-faunal extinctions, and North American bison kill sites, concluding with a nice discussion of the "bizarre" island faunas of the Mediterranean. Chapter 6 provides an excellent description of animal domestication principally in the area between the Mediterranean and the Indus, including discussion of the kinds of evidence used to recognize that process. Chapter 7 deals with secondary domesticates such as horse and camel and faunal evidence for the "secondary products revolution," while the last chapter provides an outline of zooarcheological contributions to the archeology of Britain. The book begins with a useful 74-entry glossary and ends with a less useful set of four maps showing site locations.

Minor faults include the text being a bit rough in places (with frequent use of parenthetical passages which interrupt the flow) and the photos generally being too dark. Of more major concern to some may be that there are voids and glosses in the coverage. This is inevitable in an (explicitly) introductory text, and those who find that their favorite ox has been gored or ignored can assign supplementary readings. The bibliography includes more than 400 references from which to begin.


Emlen Myers
Smithsonian Institution
In this book, Deagan catalogs current knowledge of the typology and archeological distributions of three major classes of artifacts found at Spanish colonial sites in Florida and the Caribbean. The artifacts are: (1) ceramics—majolica tableware, bricks and tiles, coarse earthenware, rhenish stoneware, and oriental porcelain; (2) glass—decorative wares and utilitarian wares; and (3) beads—both lapidary and fabricated. A valuable survey of the archeological background is provided in a chapter that covers terrestrial and shipwreck sites from South Carolina to Venezuela. Separate chapters on each of the artifact classes discuss the implications of the archeological distributions of the artifacts, but also draw on typological and interpretive sources far beyond the primary geographical boundaries of the study.

A fascinating aspect of Spanish colonial archeology is the way the process of overseas colonization and its archeological traces reflect the growth in scale of world economic interactions during Europe’s Age of Expansion. One need only look at the distant sources of Spanish colonial artifacts to confirm this growth. Different crafts responded to the geographic expansion of Spanish culture in different ways, and the organization of this volume according to artifact material allows us to see these different patterns of adjustment. Fired construction bricks, the bulkiest of the artifacts, were among the first artifacts produced locally in the New World, but were used only when alternative building materials were unavailable. Majolica tableware was always present at colonial sites, being imported first from Spain and later from the early production centers of Mexico. An exception to the pattern of developing New World production is beads, which were important both as religious objects as a means of exchange and inducement. We see in Deagan’s volume how beads were exported from European sources until the end of Spain’s New World Empire. Apparently, the symbolic value of these artifacts dictated the continuation of traditional sources of supply.

The work is organized as a reference work should be, with much attention paid to logical organization of section headings and summary tables. Type and site names are all listed in a useful index, and the comprehensive bibliography includes unpublished dissertations and theses. The principal focus of the work is ceramics, which takes up two-thirds of the volume. Numerous black-and-white photographs and eight color plates are useful for the field identification of artifacts. The book was in fact developed by the author as a compact reference for the use of the field crews and students on her excavation projects of the last ten years. The volume covers an important and growing field of historical archeology, and it is an archeological rarity: a well-illustrated artifact guide at a reasonable price.


T. DOUGLAS PRICE
University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Oronsay project raises intriguing questions about the shift from generalized hunting to specialized foraging adaptations in the early Holocene and about the nature of coastal hunter-gatherer societies in general. Oronsay is a small island in the Hebrides off the west coast of Scotland. Small is perhaps too grand a term to describe this low, barren, windswept shelf of rock, gravel, and sand at the southern tip of the larger island of Colonsay. At the time of the Mesolithic occupation, when the seas stood even higher than today, Oronsay was hardly more than the size of an average college campus, with a total land area of less than four square kilometers.

A dramatic Mesolithic presence on this island, however, is evidenced by five shell middens along the former coastline. This is the largest concentration of such middens in the British Isles and one of the biggest in Europe. Radiocarbon dates place the occupation of these middens in the third and fourth millennia B.C., between 6200 and 5400 B.P.—toward the end of the Mesolithic period.

The investigations, begun in 1970 and continued through 1979, are reported in this four-part volume edited by the principal investigator. Part 1 concerns the environment and ecology: the geographical setting and environment, the Mesolithic coast, past and present vegetation, sediments and land snails in the shell middens, and a reconstruction of storm frequencies. Part 2 concerns the history of research, the goals and methods of the current project, and the radiocarbon dates from the middens. Part 3 contains the description of the actual excavations with emphasis on the stratigraphy, chronology, and features. Part 4 is an analysis of mammalian and human remains from shell middens. The fauna represented in the middens comes primarily from red deer, pigs, seals, porpoise, otter, and pine