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Southwestern Archaeology Book Review

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BOOK REVIEW

Southwestern Archaeology, by John C. McGregor; John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, 1941. \$5.00.

According to his preface, McGregor's intentions were to fulfill a need for a general summary of the vast literature on southwestern archaeology. Cultural centers were emphasized; outlying cultures were mentioned; and more peripheral aspects were omitted. More detailed data were indicated by specific and general bibliographies. The book was intended to serve as an introductory paper for the beginner and as a summary for the more advanced student.

The book does not achieve its goal. One is readily aware of great stress upon Arizona at the expense of the remainder of the archaeological southwest which includes portions of California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Chihuahua, and Sonora. For instance, the plates are apportioned as follows: Arizona, 51; New Mexico, 6; and others 15; figures and maps: Arizona, 66; New Mexico, 8; and others, 85. Such narrow emphasis is not in accordance with the ambitious title and is misleading to beginning student and layman alike. Furthermore, in Appendix II, "Dated Pottery Types," nearly all ceramic types are essentially those of Arizona origin, and the only source noted is Bulletin 13 of the Museum of Northern Arizona, which is concerned with only a small portion of the Southwest. McGregor ignores the innumerable ceramic types of New Mexico, Colorado, and elsewhere which have been dated with exactly the same techniques. He also omits well-known pottery guides by Gladwin, Hawley, Haury, and Mera. McGregor's statements leave the beginner impressed by the fact that only northern Arizona archaeologists have had material, ability, and success in correlating dendrochronological and ceramic endeavors.

Appendix I, "List of Most of the Dated Ruins in the Southwest, Spring of 1939," while potentially valuable, is poorly executed. More than two hundred sites with culture horizons and dates are given. Sadly lacking is information on area, drainage, or other delimiting aspects. While McGregor does refer to "Tree-ring Bulletin" and "Pueblo Bonito Series, Bulletin I," this separation of data detracts from the value of the compiled dates. Many archaeologists of the area, to say nothing of beginners, cannot locate sites identified only as "Colorado B:9-1," "Hemenway House," "Jug House," "Kokopki," "Leyit Kin," "Painted Kiva," "Tunque," etc.

The bibliographies recommended for additional reading are poorly organized. First, it would be not only helpful, but courteous, to list the essential periodicals alphabetically. Order of importance is too subjective and arbitrary. As for specific bibliographic items, several glaring omissions are apparent: Spier's chronology of Zuñi ruins, Roberts' reports on Lindenmeier and Whitewater District, "Symposium on Prehistoric Agriculture" edited by Brand, Reiter's reports on Jemez ex-

cavations, Nelson's publications on Galisteo Basin, Hooton's physical anthropological studies at Pecos pueblo, and the summaries of Southwestern Archaeology and North American Paleo-Indian, by Judd and Roberts, respectively, in the Swanton Volume. Steward's article on the Great Basin area, also in the Swanton Volume, might be mentioned. Parsons' "Relations Between Ethnology and Archaeology in the Southwest" is also worthy of perusal by southwestern archaeologists. Other omissions could be cited; these few came to mind first. If McGregor can defend the exclusion of these papers on the basis of economy of space, he cannot defend the inclusion of comparatively minute citations for Arizona material. Either the bibliography is seriously overbalanced with Arizona titles, or it is incomplete.

In the map in Figure 4, showing important southwestern drainages, the Chaco is not shown nor are the Jemez and the Chama-Gallina, all of considerable importance archaeologically. Figure 5, a map of southwestern "geographic areas" shows overlapping subdivisions. Since Kidder's "Introduction to Southwestern Archaeology," (1924), upon which this map apparently was largely based, investigations have shown that while cultures are often confined to specific drainages, an absolute correlation cannot be made. The Mimbres extends some distance east of the Rio Grande, and the Eastern Periphery is now divided into a northern and southern region. McGregor shows none of these points. For what purpose the "geographic areas" were selected is difficult to ascertain.

Figure 26, a map of areas of serious archaeological work, omits the Pecos and Tularosa areas of New Mexico. In a map of his Culmiant Period, 1300-1600 A. D., Figure 135, McGregor does not indicate the concentration of pueblos along the Rio Grande. While there is a separate chapter on this area subsequently, this omission in the general map is misleading.

Seemingly, one of the good points of the book is the large number of plates, figures, and maps. However, it appears that quality has been replaced by quantity. Betatakin, Kiet Siel, and other ruins of northern Arizona are illustrated repeatedly; remains elsewhere are unjustifiably eclipsed. More careful selection would have resulted in both a better balanced and a more pertinent series. The picture of Pecos, page 357, is so unrepresentative of either the ruins or the landscape that one doubts if the picture is essentially of Pecos. Indeed, the view selected and the evasive captions give the impression that several of the half-tone illustrations were selected from unidentified photographs.

A sampling of the editing reveals numerous errors. On page 7 McGregor speaks of the "Rio Grande River valley;" on page 56 Dixon's name is given as Ronald instead of Roland; on page 130 Kidder's book should read "The Pottery of Pecos" not "The Pueblo of Pecos;" and on page 255, Bandelier is misspelled.

The discussion of culture classification omits the nomenclature of

Roberts which seems to enjoy a wider use in current literature than does any other modification of the Pecos chronology. In the bibliography following the discussion of classifications one of Roberts' summaries (1935 or 1937) or one of his introductions in several Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletins (Nos. 92, 96, 111, or 121) merits inclusion.

In the material on early man the significance of the Sandia Cave finds are obscured by McGregor's lumping under the term "Folsom Culture" the Folsom, Lindenmeier, Clovis, Burnet Cave, Sandia Cave, and Conklin Cave finds. In reality, the Sandia Cave revealed a stratum (Sandia level) clearly underlying, and separated from, the Folsom layer, thereby entitling this find to a peculiar importance. While the Sandia report appeared after this book, the field work had been completed and several preliminary statements were in print previously. This material might have been indicated. Sayles' and Antevs' paper on the Cochise culture (1941) is cited in this way. Why not be consistent?

On page 151, McGregor states that no definite ballcourts are known from Mexico and that Spanish accounts describe the Mayan ballgame "Pok-ta-pok." The Spanish accounts are of the Aztec game "Tlachtli." While the finest example of a ballcourt is from the Mayan area, numerous ballcourts have been found in central and southern Mexico.

The definitely stated sequence of Cochise-Mogollon-Hohokam cultures as described by McGregor seems unjustifiably dogmatic in view of his lack of presentation of evidence. The center of the Mogollon is given as southeastern Arizona, rather than adjacent New Mexico where the excavations have been made. The validity of designating the center of this culture and defining its characteristics and ramifications still appears tenuous.

In discussing skull types and deformation, McGregor at no time suggests the increasing importance of differentiating between lambdoid and occipital flattening. A few statements on the status of this subject, admittedly not fully understood, would be helpful.

Throughout the book, use of footnotes for more precise acknowledgments than can be given by terminal bibliographies would add weight to many statements.

Lack of space prevents further comments. The reviewer feels that if these errors appeared during limited examination and in spite of limited familiarity with the field of southwestern archaeology, there must be many others apparent to those who enjoy greater familiarity with the field, or with particular aspects of it.

"Southwestern Archaeology" cannot be excused on grounds that the subject is difficult to organize concisely in an introductory volume, or that the book should be accepted for the present since it purports to be the only up-to-date summary now available. The completely misleading emphasis, the omission of important data, and the misstatement of numerous details (discounting allowances for simplifying

generalizations) cannot be justified or overlooked. Granting the difficulties of summarizing a vast literature, the fact remains that such a selected summary, no matter how limited in scope, should retain proportionate representation and evaluation of all pertinent material. If this is not done, the presentation becomes detrimental in relation to the beginner or layman who rarely has the perspective necessary to weigh and evaluate. In the opinion of this reviewer, the successor to A. V. Kidder's "Introduction to Southwestern Archaeology" is *not* (as claimed by the publishers) J. C. McGregor's "Southwestern Archaeology."

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Charles H. Lange, Jr.

NECROLOGY—1941

By F. G. ANDERSON, JR.

Agostini, Giovanni De. Italian geographer and cartographer, founder of the geographical institute bearing his name. Made maps of Italy, the Balkans, and Africa. Died Nov. 22, 1941, at the age of 40.

Albertini, Augene. Professor in the College de France, and member of the Institut de France. Student of ancient civilizations. Died Feb. 26, 1941.

Borelli, Jules. French explorer, the first European to explore the Lake Rudolph region (Ethiopia). Winner of the Paris Geographical Society gold medal. Died Feb. 11, 1941, at the age of 89.

Bushnell, David I., Jr. Member of the staff of the Smithsonian Institution, formerly assistant in archaeology at the Peabody Museum of Harvard University. Archaeologist and ethnologist. Annotated pictures of Indians by early artists. Died June 4, 1941, at the age of 66.

Chapman, Charles Edward. Professor of Hispanic-American and California History at the University of California. Historian of Spanish America and the Southwest. Died Nov. 17, 1941, at the age of 61.

Clark, Emanuel M. Vice-president of Ferris Institute (Big Rapids, Mich.) and president of the Michigan Historical Association. Historian and geographer. Died Feb. 13, 1941, at the age of 62.

Evans, Sir Arthur. Professor of Archaeology at Oxford, and former keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Explored in Finland and Lapland, and excavated in Crete (Cnossos) from 1893. Wrote extensively upon his excavations. Died July 11, 1941, at the age of 90.

Fewkes, Vladimer J. Research associate of the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, formerly New Jersey state archaeologist.