

ied historical experience—only compounds the impossible task this volume assumes. The Iroquois cannot be captured in a 1,000 pages, much less 286. But to the extent that Snow has successfully communicated the complexity of their culture and history, his book, even in its most breathlessly rapid narrative moments, succeeds. It stands alone as an up-to-date brief introduction to its field.

Sixty Years of Southwestern Archaeology: A History of the Pecos Conference. RICHARD B. WOODBURY. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1993. xxvii + 497 pp., figures, tables, references, index. \$29.95 (cloth).

Reviewed by Christian E. Downum, Northern Arizona University.

In 1927 Alfred Vincent Kidder convened the first Pecos Conference to address a critical task facing southwestern archaeology: formulating rules for classifying stages of prehistoric cultural development in the Southwest. Since then the Pecos Conference has continued, and although the issues, venues, and number of participants have varied considerably, it never has strayed far from its initial concept as a fieldwork-oriented, outdoor conference where informal presentations rule. Through the years the Pecos Conference has been joined by other scholarly gatherings of southwesternists, but none has had comparable longevity or cumulative influence, and none has ever matched its ability to evoke the social, experiential, and environmental essence of southwestern archaeology.

The task of writing a comprehensive history of the Pecos Conference (1927–1988) has been taken up by Richard B. Woodbury, a long-time participant and chronicler of the event. The book is organized chronologically, with nine temporally based chapters (grouped as Part 2) inserted between six more synthetic chapters representing an introduction (Part 1, chapters 1–3) and a retrospective (Part 3, chapters 13–15).

Part 1 begins with a synthetic chapter neatly summarizing the state of southwestern archaeology in the 1920s and setting the stage for the landmark 1927 Pecos Conference. The following chapter provides short biographies of the 46 original participants, illustrated with formal and informal portrait photos mostly taken in the 1920s and 1930s. This chapter is a highlight of the book. Biography has wisely been chosen as the vehicle for exploring the qualifications and personal motivations of each participant who attended in 1927, and the result is a clear exposition of the professional stature and eclecticism of that first group. Tabular summaries, breaking down the conferees by

professional affiliation and age, give a useful institutional and demographic synopsis that makes clear how very much the discipline has changed since 1927. A third chapter reviews the events and accomplishments of the first and second (1929) conferences, both held at Pecos and both focusing on placing prehistoric Pueblo cultures in time and space.

Part 2, comprising the bulk of this volume, details what is known about the conferences held between the 1929 gathering and the 50th anniversary return to Pecos in 1977. Although the Pecos Conference has had no official organizational structure, officers, or historians, the record is remarkably complete with respect to planning, participant lists, and papers and symposia presented. This history has been organized by grouping certain consecutive meetings according either to venue or significant historical trends in the content or flavor of the meetings. For example, meeting location is used to group the intermittent gatherings from 1931 through 1941 (“The Early Years in New Mexico,” chapter 4), while the character (or lack thereof) of extracurricular activities is the organizing theme for a chapter (“The Wild Years,” chapter 8) dealing with the boisterous conferences of 1958–1959. Perhaps the most interesting and insightful of all such groupings is chapter 11 (“The Touch-and-Go Years, 1968–1971”), which assesses the impact of the New Archaeology “Young Turks” on the Pecos Conference and its establishment organizers. This is a fascinating account of the personal, stylistic, and theoretical disputes marking what Paul Martin in 1971 would term “The Revolution in Archaeology.” Revolution or not, Woodbury is at his best here, weaving together correspondence, documentary sources, and reminiscences to highlight the human and sociological dimensions of an important disciplinary transition.

In Part 3 Woodbury reviews the meetings of 1977 through 1988 and reflects on the lasting impacts of the Pecos Conference. He concludes that it has indeed been a major force in southwestern archaeology, at least in an empirical sense, primarily because its relaxed atmosphere has fostered “rapid communication of information and methods and informal testing of hypotheses on skeptical colleagues” (p. 430). The contributions to archaeological method and theory are less apparent, however, leading to the admission that the trivial details of descriptive field reports frequently have overshadowed interpretation (p. 429). Still, Woodbury recognizes the Pecos Conference for what it is, no more and no less an enjoyable camp-out with a scholarly purpose, where interpretations and ideas can be informally proposed and debated with knowledgeable colleagues. In the end he concludes that “we are fortunate that Kidder created the Pecos Conference” (p. 458), an assessment with which most southwesternists would probably agree.

This book is an outstanding contribution to the histo-

ry of American archaeology. It is exceptionally well researched, documented, and edited, and liberally stocked with maps and photographs. The photographs, along with quotes from correspondence, meeting programs, and transcripts from tape-recorded sessions, effectively impart the conference's personality and substance. Like the conference itself, however, some might view the book's detailed content as a weakness. Some too might question whether the author's role as an archaeologist, with an intimate and long-term association with the conference, can permit a critical appraisal of the various gatherings' purposes and achievements. Perhaps for personal reasons, but more probably because he never intended to do so, Woodbury has avoided a sustained theoretical critique of the Pecos Conference. He has chosen instead to chronicle its events precisely and in almost journalistic style, in order to "bring alive the Conferences, their many individual participants, the changing flow of research interests, and the issues and problems of the day" (pp. xxii-xxiii). Again, one's theoretical orientation and views regarding the proper scope of disciplinary histories (and who should write them) will determine whether this approach is seen as strength or weakness. It impressed me as a strength. With a detailed and personally informed mode of reporting, Woodbury has carefully and fairly laid the foundation for theoretical appraisals of the Pecos Conference in a way that no "outsider" could match.

In sum, this work is essential and engaging reading for anyone interested in the history of American archaeology. If American archaeology can be conceived as a series of regional traditions, loosely bound by common methodological conventions and theoretical goals, then the Pecos Conference must be counted as perhaps the clearest single reflection of the tradition known as southwestern archaeology. Woodbury's chronicle therefore gives us an intriguing glimpse at some of the broad themes of American archaeology, filtered through the window of the Pecos Conference. He has indeed brought this gathering to life, and by doing so has set a high standard for regional archaeological histories.

The First Discovery of America: Archaeological Evidence of the Early Inhabitants of the Ohio Area. WILLIAM S. DANCEY, editor. Ohio Archaeological Council, Columbus, 1994. ix + 212 pp., figures, tables, references. \$24.95 (paper).

Reviewed by Michael J. Shott, University of Northern Iowa.

This edited volume is the product of a 1992 conference and contains an introduction by Dancey followed by 12 chapters. Its publisher expresses a praiseworthy com-

mitment to regular future publication on this archaeologically exceptional region.

Shane reviews climatic data starting well before human occupation, dividing the archaeological period into two phases. McDonald summarizes fossil occurrences of extinct and extant fauna drawn largely from published sites that predate human occupation, providing detailed faunal lists for two major sites, Carter and Sheriden Pit. He argues that Ohio's location astride two faunal provinces makes its late Pleistocene mammalian fauna more like Alaska's than that of neighboring states.

Consistent with his past work, Fisher and colleagues report on Newark's Burning Tree mastodon. By circumstance, much excavation was inadequately documented. A partial distribution map (unscaled, alas) suggests three clusters, each representing a butchered carcass unit. Even in controlled excavation, cluster definitions are uncertain, raising doubts about their integrity. The animal may have been butchered elsewhere and dragged in units to the now-eutrophied pond (nonlocal sand adheres to some units) for winter storage under ice. Dates ca. 11,500 B.P., including two from, remarkably, apparently live gut contents, somewhat predate probable earliest occupation. Fisher et al. reject a $10,860 \pm 70$ B.P. date, presumably because it is from bone collagen. Disturbingly, samples occur in a stratum dated elsewhere at Burning Tree to ca. 12,000 B.P. Somewhat uncertain dating and absence of stone tools render the argument plausible but inconclusive.

Paleo Crossing is a plow zone site possessing truncated features distributed in four apparent clusters. Brose briefly discusses its Gainey tool assemblage but concentrates on chronology. He reports two results from a single feature, a basal lens dating to $13,100 \pm 100$ B.P., and scattered fill charcoal dating to $9,230 \pm 80$ B.P. A nearby feature identified as a postmold dates to $12,250 \pm 100$ B.P. Brose considers these results "extraordinary" (p. 63), but no pair of dates overlaps at two sigmas, suggesting that a small pit filled over 4,000 years. Figure 4.7 does not, as claimed, show the sample locations. Five AMS dates from the postmold resolve, using an obsolete averaging method, into distinct populations ca. 12,150 and 10,980 B.P. Brose reasonably favors the latter to date the Paleoindian occupation. But two extensively dated features span several radiocarbon millennia, and the favored date is obtained by rejecting half the results from a feature. Paleo Crossing is a major Gainey Site that deserves the more extensive investigation sought.

Seeman et al. study behavioral variation during the Paleoindian millennium by comparing assemblage composition at Nobles Pond, Welling, and Sandy Springs. Incidence of heated points is taken to indicate cold-season occupation, but chert can be heated in any season to improve flaking and performance. Distance