Dogs and People in Social, Working, Economic or Symbolic Interaction

By L. Snyder

This, the final title to be published from the sessions of the 2002 ICAZ conference, focuses on the role of man's best friend. As worker or companion, the dog has enjoyed a unique relationship with its human master, and the depth and variety of the papers in this fascinating collection is a testament to the interest that this symbiotic arrangement holds for many scholars working in archaeology today.

The book covers an eclectic range of subjects, such as considering dogs as animals of sacrifice and animal components of ancient and modern religious ritual and practice; dogs as human companions subject to loving care, visual/symbolic representation, deliberate or accidental breed manipulation; as working dogs; and finally as co-inhabitants of human dwelling places and co-consumers of human food resources.

While many of the papers in this volume have a predominant focus, they also demonstrate that the relationships between humans and dogs are rarely, if ever singular or simple. Instead these relationships are complex, often combining the practical, the ideological and the symbolic.
The Life Cycle of Structures in Experimental Archaeology
An Object Biography Approach
Edited by Linda Hurcombe and Penny Cunningham

Key Features:
- This volume on experimental archaeology focuses on the life cycles of structures such as houses, boats, forges, etc. Key themes are the birth, life, and death of structures.

The focus of Archaeological Open-Air Museums (AOAMs) is to present both the tangible and intangible past to the public. The tangible parts of AOAMs are the archaeological remains and the reconstructions. The intangible and, in some respects, the most interesting part of an AOAM, is the story of the people the museum represents. This volume explores the research and visitor agendas of structures and their life cycles as they are experienced by experimental archaeology projects and AOAMs. The papers presented include research undertaken by both academics and craft specialists and demonstrate the value of experiential and experimental research to enhance both the visitor experience and research agendas. The papers were brought together as part of the OpenArch Project’s Dialogue with Science Work Package. OpenArch is a five-year project with eleven international partners funded with support from the European Commission.

Structures include houses, boats, forges, and other diverse constructions. The structures are not static entities but change through time going through a life cycle. Key themes are the birth, life, and death of structures. To explore these key themes papers in this volume consider the planning phase, the assembling of materials, the construction period and then the maintenance and repair needs and the change of use of structures as they age. For some structures this also includes issues surrounding decay, dilapidation, dismantling and destruction of these experimental structures. Understanding of these biographies not only contribute to our understanding of the archaeological record they also enable a consideration of the intangible aspects of structures whilst enhancing the visitor experience.

About the Author:
Penny Cunningham is currently an Honorary Research Fellow within the Department of Archaeology at the University of Exeter, where she also obtained her PhD. She has worked on a number of community archaeology projects: her work on the EU funded OpenArch project offered a different approach to community archaeology where the public’s participation is linked to Archaeological Open-Air Museums, craft specialists and experimental archaeologists to bring the past back to life.

Linda Hurcombe is a leading figure in experimental archaeology and set up the distinctive MA in Experimental Archaeology programme at the University of Exeter where she has served as Head of the Department of Archaeology. She has broad interests in artefacts and material culture studies where she has published widely. Her research is characterised by the extensive use of experimental archaeology.
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