

# UCLA

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Houses Beneath the Rock The Anasazi of Canyon de Chelly and Navajo National Monument. Edited by David G. Noble.

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tive and negative, of the fur trade, the whaling industry, the gold rush, and the presence of the military in the North.

Part 2 focuses on resource development and details how the natural resources of the North have been exploited, primarily by nonnative interests. Chapter 7 provides a comprehensive assessment of the environmental impact of resource development in the North. All environments are fragile, but the northern environment is particularly delicate. The author provides specific details on the negative effects of airborne particulates, PCB contamination, acid rain, and toxins discharged into northern waters.

The third part of the book discusses the aboriginal population and native land claims. Bone argues that prudent investment of monies received through land claims negotiations may allow native groups to bridge the gap between the wage economy and the traditional economy. He contends that native self-government provides the means whereby aboriginal people can control their own political and economic destiny. As a result, as the next century approaches, aboriginal self-government may be the only vehicle through which native people preserve what remains of their language, culture, and traditional pursuits.

Bob Bone's book is well written and researched. The figures, tables, and maps are very useful to the reader's understanding of the issues and challenges facing the people of the North. The vignettes presented in each chapter add a special flavor to the book. Like all of Bone's work, this book is first rate and is recommended reading to anyone interested in the Canadian North.

*Don Cozzetto*

University of North Dakota

**Houses Beneath the Rock: The Anasazi of Canyon de Chelly and Navajo National Monument.** Edited by David G. Noble. Santa Fe, New Mexico: Ancient City Press, 1992. 56 pages. \$8.75 paper.

*Houses Beneath the Rock* is a short, supplemental guidebook for visitors to northeastern Arizona consisting of six essays describing the Canyon de Chelly and Tsegi region of the American Southwest. The essays, edited by David Noble for the School of American Research series, are concerned with the archeology, history, and art of the Anasazi—the ancient ones—

and the Navajo, who currently occupy the region. Each of the six authors brings a special knowledge to his or her topic.

It is difficult to find fault with this book. It is a direct, factual work, readable and informative, with only a minimum of theoretical or controversial material. While it is limited in scope, the narrative is supported by excellent schematic maps and numerous photographs that enable visitors to this area to orient themselves well both topographically and historically. The articles are sufficiently thorough and insightful to satisfy the curiosity of most visiting tourists. Consequently, this book should have appeal to those who are fascinated by the majesty of these great sandstone canyons and their intriguing cliff dwellings.

The first article, written by Jeffrey Dean, provides an excellent overview of the focus of the book—the prehistoric ruins found in the two canyon systems. Dean reviews quickly and comprehensively the sequence of cultural development so that the reader has a solid chronological framework for understanding the relationship of the various archeological sites to each other. His suggestions of a number of possible scenarios anticipate the reader's curiosity about why the original inhabitants chose to construct their homes in the overhangs and cave shelters high in the canyon walls.

The second section, by Jonathan Haas, concentrates on the Kayenta area of Tsegi canyon in Navajo National Monument and reviews in greater detail the periods from Pueblo 1, beginning around 700 A.D., through Pueblo 111, ending about 1300 A.D.

The third section focuses on the rock art of the two canyons. Polly Schaafsma uses many excellent pictures to illustrate her chronological analysis of the evolution of rock art over the entire region.

Pat Fall's chapter concentrates on Canyon de Chelly National Monument and takes the reader through the chronology of cultural sequences discovered in the canyon. The author supplements her discussion with numerous fine photographs. An excellent oblique map of the entire canyon system, showing the locations of all the larger ruins, provides the reader with a graphic overview.

In chapter 5, David Brugge shifts attention to the recent inhabitants, the Navajo. He outlines the wars and struggles that occurred in the Canyon de Chelly region from the time of first contact with the Spanish through conflicts with the United States and the subsequent removal of large numbers of the tribe to Fort Sumner in New Mexico in 1864.

The final chapter—one of the most interesting and enjoyable—is an interview with Sue Thompson, an elderly Navajo woman, written by Irene Silentman, another tribal member. Thompson reveals much about an individual Navajo's knowledge and understanding of both her life and related events in Navajo history. It was rewarding to read her comments and regrettable that the interview was not several times longer. It left a strong feeling that only the tip of the iceberg was being addressed and that Sue Thompson had much more to say of importance.

Overall, *Houses Beneath the Rock* provides excellent background material for gaining insight into this magnificent region and for making a visit to the Southwest a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Charles C. Case

**Indian Rock Art of the Columbia Plateau.** By James D. Keyser. Seattle: University of Washington Press; Vancouver: Douglas and McIntyre, 1992. 139 pages. \$17.50 paper.

In *Indian Rock Art of the Columbia Plateau*, James D. Keyser has provided an understandable text that describes the characteristics of the various rock art styles on the Columbia Plateau. However, his book stays well within the narrow limits that assure acceptability by the professional community.

Keyser's pejorative comments about epigraphers and diffusionists discredit the quality of his research. His charges are nothing more than a recital of tired criticisms. He begins his tirade on page 13, continues intermittently throughout the book, and ends in a section titled "Of Irish Monks and Ancient Astronomers." Originally, I debunked each of Keyser's disparagements in a brief commentary, giving references; my review totaled thirteen pages. Suffice it to say that bad examples exist in every field, and Keyser uses them in an attempt to ennoble his own work, but his assault only shows that he did not examine all the evidence or the methods and techniques these scholars used. Interestingly, Keyser states on page 21 that some of his own deductions are not statistically significant but were based on "the best available scientific information and thousands of hours of analysis, study, and thought." He does not, however, allow others this same liberty.