REVIEW

Glen Canyon: An Archaeological Summary. Jesse D. Jennings. Foreword by Don D. Fowler. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1998 (reissue), foreword (ix-xix), preface (xxi-xxiv), +131 pp., 1 fig., 10 maps, 40 photographs, bibliography, $14.95 (paper).

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In the course of his career as a prominent American archaeologist, Jesse D. Jennings had many consequential achievements. Directing the Glen Canyon Archaeological Project ranks high among them. His summary of that project was originally published in 1966 (Jennings 1966), with a subsequent review provided by Meighan (1968). Worthwhile reasons for re-reviewing this unrevised reissue of a 33-year-old book are twofold: first, to acquaint or refamiliarize *Journal* readers with the content of the book; and second, to consider if the content merits republication today.

This slim book contains four chapters. The first places the eight-season-long Glen Canyon Archaeological Project in historical context, emphasizing the regulatory framework that compelled this emergency program, and ending with a discourse on the superiority of emergency programs over "problem research." Jennings's proclamations are not subtle: "I suggest that in virtually any detail, and certainly in overall results, emergency salvage archaeology is superior to most other work done in America" (p. 11).

The second chapter describes "the Glen's" natural context: geology, topography, climate, and ecology. Jennings is clear that the project was unconstrained by fixed research objectives or a developed research design: "The design . . . left . . . annual identification of pressing scientific problems (in fact, all planning) very flexible" (p. 7). Nonetheless, in this chapter, culture ecology emerges as the main interpretive theme. The purpose of this chapter is stated near its end: "to suggest that the canyons and the uplands were aboriginally a single ecosystem and that the aboriginal occupants of the area exploited the resources on this basis" (p. 48). Perhaps this was heady stuff in the 1960s, but it is de rigueur now.

In the third chapter, Jennings provides chronological context, with an orderly review of Willey and Phillips's (1958) three-stage scheme, then the eight-stage Pecos classification (as amended), and ending with Daifuku's (1952) four-stage Elementary through Fusion scheme. Practicing Southwestern archaeologists have little need for this review, and I suspect that aspiring ones are required to read the primary citations. We do learn in this section, though, that the archaeology in Glen Canyon, typical for much of the Anasazi area, is mostly Pueblo II in age and form, mostly Kayenta branch in style and content (with brief pulses of Mesa Verde and Fremont influences), and most concentrated along three of the many Colorado River tributaries draining the project area. Thus, in character the archaeology of "the Glen" emerges as being not particularly complex and somewhat mundane for the Southwest, lacking great kivas, Pueblo Bonito/Cliff House-equivalents, and such.

In the final chapter, *Contributions of the Glen Canyon Research*, the focus clears and the writing style lightens, making this easily the most engaging chapter. Jennings synopsizes the major conclusions of the "161 published monographs and technical papers" (Fowler in preface, p. xvi) generated in connection with the Glen Canyon project, seems to give fair credit to the various researchers' efforts, and presents competing perspectives where meaningful debate then remained. The following provides a simple example:

> Most architectural forms in Glen Canyon and the tributaries are for food storage; few dwellings were

> found. For this lack of human housing there are two clear reasons. First in time there is the fact . . . that many—perhaps most—of the dwellings are deeply buried and were not even visible to our surveyors . . . The little villages must have occurred wherever there was enough fertile fill to permit crops. A contrary explanation has been offered that the canyon dwellers were a succession of farmers who did not dwell in permanent houses or who were even merely summer visitors. The point is not likely to be clarified now because of the second factor which is simply that most of the tributary canyons have been flushed out . . . [pp. 98-99].

The final words on projects of this scale are frequently written with a "view from" stance, with the project set firmly in the center of a picture in which the surrounding world is merely backdrop. Jennings extraordinary career experiences serve us well here, for he uses an alternative strategy. He casts his net over an area that approximates the Colorado Plateau, drawing from the then available studies of Virgin, Mesa Verde, and Kayenta Anasazi branches; some of the earliest musings on Fremont; and the evidence suggesting Mogollan underpinnings for the ensuing Puebloan developments; to present a summary that is inclusive and rewarding, and that keeps Glen Canyon archaeology in proper perspective.

Jennings's own assessment of this project's most significant contribution remains true:

> Most valuable is a changed perspective on the genius of Pueblo culture. The intricate trail system, the exploitation of scores of plants, animals and minerals, the skill with which scarce water was utilized and the several centuries of use the data show all serve to remind that, in a sense, *all* Pueblo are exploiters of marginal land, marginal, that is, so far as agriculture is concerned [p. 49, emphasis in original].

Jennings irrefutably casts a big shadow on Southwestern and Great Basin archaeology, and Fowler's foreword establishes that many career archaeologists have been influenced by Jennings himself, to say nothing of his works. But does that fact alone merit a reprint? Southwestern archaeology has marched forward at an impressive rate since the mid-1960s, to the effect that some of Jennings's perspectives can no longer be sustained, others are reduced to marginal interest, while still others have become conventions.

I assume that this book is being reprinted because there is a perceived demand or market, but doubt the future will bear this out. Professional or aspiring archaeologists interested in Jennings's perspectives would be better served reading less abbreviated versions than this one; those interested in the body of data generated by the Glen Canyon Archaeological Project are advised to turn to the technical reports themselves.

The book's attractive price of just under $15 may help broaden its appeal to the general public, but for the Jane Does holding a general interest in Southwestern archaeology, several alternative overviews provide very stiff competition (e.g., Martin and Plog 1973; Cordell 1984, 1997; Plog 1998), since they too are affordable, and also have the advantages of being more current, encompassing, and reader-friendly. And those interested in nonarchaeological dimensions to Glen Canyon, such as its famous beauty, natural environment, or emergence as a symbol of modern man's indecent liberties with nature or some statement of its political importance, will find this an extraordinarily thin read.

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