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food taboos and restrictions; the role of food in rites of passage; the association of food with power and with cultural identity; and much more. Changes over time include effects of introduced species, new technology, and restricted access. Linguistic aspects include the adaptation of old names for new foods. In addition, traditional foods are significantly represented in contemporary California Indian art. With such a flavorful mix, this book is a great value at \$17.50 a pound.

Among people of all cultures, food isn't just something to eat: it sustains much more than the body. Humans everywhere have always occupied themselves with thinking about food, weaving stories around it, investing it with symbolism, and incorporating it into ritual, ceremony, and social life. Anthropologists know that, but until now they haven't paid much attention to all that's involved in the everyday routine of preparing, serving, and eating a meal. We can heartily thank Ira Jacknis and the Hearst Museum for making the initial foray in that direction. With native-inspired dishes making their way onto restaurant menus at the National Museum of the American Indian and beyond, *Food in California Indian Culture* provides the basic ingredients for a true "California cuisine"—California *Indian* cuisine—to achieve the wide recognition it deserves.



Doing Archaeology: A Cultural Resource Management Perspective

Thomas F. King.
Walnut Creek: Left Coast Press, 2005,
166 pp., \$21.95 (paper).

Reviewed by Adrian Praetzelis

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It's news to no one that far more archaeology is done for the purposes of cultural resources management (CRM) these days than for academic research. Yet Tom King's newest offering is the first book designed for beginners that focuses on this aspect of archaeological practice. But perhaps 'beginners' is the wrong word. This very readable introduction—part textbook, part memoir—would be invaluable to students, professionals in environmental compliance, tribes, and anyone who wants to understand the process of 'doing archaeology' in the rough and tumble world of CRM.

If this were just another introduction to archaeology it would hardly be worth noting. But it's not. King is the best-known CRM practitioner in the USA, and for my money, the most highly respected. A Petaluma native, his name adorns the Society for California Archaeology's award in CRM. He is also his own man, who draws from many years of experience to offer an insightful and occasionally idiosyncratic view of his subject. It is not surprising to see this book published by Mitch Allen's newly established Left Coast Press. Along with Malcolm Margolin of Heyday Books, Allen is one of the very few quite admirable publishers who seem more concerned with public service and innovative scholarship than with their own bottom line.

Known in some circles as the bad boy of CRM for his rejection of business as usual, King is always honest, imaginative, and controversial. Readers of his previous books will recognize the straightforward style and conversational tone that make King's work such a pleasure to read. He doesn't pussyfoot around awkward issues, such as "the race thing" (p.116). And for those of us who earn our bread by wading through oceans of flaccid

and lifeless prose, it's fun to encounter words like 'stuff' and 'thing' used to such good effect.

CRM archaeology tends to be both project-driven and legally mandated. It is a business, an industry even, whose private-sector practitioners bear the burden of simultaneously representing the interest of their paying clients and the values represented in the site. King offers advice that is tempered by the hard reality that "if you advise your client too often or too vigorously that he/she is wrong...you're likely not to get another contract" (p. 96). The best decision, he implies, is not necessarily the one that will get a consultant the job (pp. 130–132).

Hair-splitters will find plenty to pick at in King's pithy shorthand definitions; 'data,' for example, is said to equal 'information.' And I must point out that the 'New Archaeologists'—among them Lewis (not "Louis") Binford—took great pride in dumping that second letter 'a.' In typical King style, the author does not insist on the rightness of his own opinion: "I think it is useful...to think of archaeology not as a science or discipline in its own right, but as a box of tools" (p. 50). The question of whether archaeology is more than just a "box of tools" or (as others have suggested) the 'handmaiden to history,' is certainly a matter of debate (e.g., Moreland 2001). But these are inconsequential and pedantic critiques, and I only offer them because a review that's entirely complimentary may come off sounding sycophantic.

Doing Archaeology has twenty illustrations and may have benefited from more. However, some of King's most thought-provoking points are made in the annotations. Figure 7, for example, shows an unprepossessing semi-subterranean building made of rustic wooden planks. It's not much to look at, and at first glance, I thought "cold storage." In fact, it is a traditional Karuk lodge where world renewal ceremonies are held, "a very, very spiritually powerful, sacred place..." (p. 39).

King's book consists of eight chapters, a list of laws and standards, archaeological web sites, endnotes, a glossary, suggested readings, and an index. Chapter 1 sets the stage. Here, King gives a thumbnail sketch of CRM and his (significant) role in its development; explodes some myths about archaeology (that it has anything to do with dinosaurs); and introduces the various species of archaeologist from the classical to the underwater breed.

"Why Do Archaeology?" (Chapter 2) is a typical Tom King piece in which the author tackles the big

'so what' issue: why study a site. While others gloss over this topic as self-explanatory, King explains all the permutations of the question from research to "because it's the law" (p. 36). Chapter 3 deals with basic concepts like data, stratigraphy, and context, as well as the usually ignored topic of who pays. Because he has worked in CRM, King is keen to tackle the kind of commonsense subjects—like what makes a site important—that the big thick textbooks either ignore entirely or treat at wearisome length. His views are often controversial; e.g., the suggestion that archaeologists cooperate with collectors and pothunters (p. 41). Yet he is not a relativist, and he is careful to explain why archaeologists don't like pothunters, an argument whose effectiveness lies in the absence of the soapbox style assumed by the self-righteous authors of undergrad texts.

Chapter 4 describes the process of doing archaeology, from administration, through fieldwork, to curation. This chapter, like much of the book, is quite autobiographical. King has had a long and variable career ranging from pothunter to federal archaeologist. He has much to share and examples from his own experience never read like war stories.

How archaeology fits into CRM is the subject of Chapter 5. More than just archaeology, CRM is "a fancy term for trying to take care of what's important to people for cultural reasons..." (p. 87). More often than not, this is accomplished by the application of laws and regulations, and King gives a good overview of the process with only the bare minimum of CRM jargon and acronyms. Chapter 6 describes who does what in CRM. This reviewer, who happens to work at a university, was interested to learn that "a university professor... especially a professor who's been in the system long enough to get tenure, is likely to teach only a few classes, and those will be mostly graduate seminars" (p. 98). Nice work if you can get it; however, I don't recognize myself in this description. In addition to the tweed-wearing denizens of Academe, King also describes such roles as the archaeological businessperson, shovelbum, and vocational archaeologist.

Chapter 7, "Key Issues in CRM Archaeology," presents several well thought out scenarios that will be familiar to many CRM veterans. Here's the situation, he says. Now what should you *do* about it given the legal, ethical, research, and financial implications of

your decision? This chapter will surely encourage much classroom discussion—and make a lot of professionals reconsider their standard responses. The final chapter summarizes King’s philosophy on CRM: it’s all about finding out what people value and seeing if it can be protected.

For me, Tom King’s way of thinking about the field to which he has devoted his life is summed up in his choice of dedication and frontispiece. The first reads “To the memory of Adan E. Treganza, an archaeologist’s archaeologist.” The illustration that follows is a rough but skillful pencil drawing captioned “Point Reyes, California, from the 1965 archaeological field camp on Drake’s Bay. A.E. Treganza, pencil on cardboard.” Archaeology, he seems to say, is both craft and science, a rigorous discipline that’s a whole lot of fun.

REFERENCE

- Moreland, John
2001 *Archaeology and Text*. London: Duckworth.



Ancient Starch Research

Robin Torrence and Huw Barton (eds).
Walnut Creek: Left Coast Press, 2006.
256 pp., 157 illustrations, \$69.95 (hardcover).

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This book is a collaborative effort brought together over several years by a group of scholars, primarily archaeologists and particularly based in Australia. They wished to emphasize the importance and potential contributions of ancient starch research, and to produce a basic textbook on how this research is currently being undertaken and the challenges the field faces. They were not seeking to produce a definitive “how to” guide, but rather sought to treat methods comprehensively while at the same time presenting numerous case studies, experiments, and new ideas (p. 31). They have succeeded admirably.

The first chapter (by Torrence) provides a basic historical and regional perspective on ancient starch research which highlights the recentness of significant work in this archaeological field. Chapter 2 (by Gott, Barton, Samuel, and Torrence) is a very useful overview of the biology and chemistry of starch, drawing attention to why starch granules have characteristic features such as shape, and the significance of the extinction cross that allow them to be identified and classified taxonomically. Here and elsewhere in the book the writing is very easy to follow, whatever the background of the reader, yet still conveys the more technical information needed to understand and appreciate the meaning of starch granule form. Text flows very well from chapter to chapter, despite the multiplicity of authors, and I always found it enjoyable and easy to return to as I read on. This speaks to the writing skills of the authors and particularly to the skills and hard work of the editors, Robin Torrence and Huw Barton. Chapter 3 (by Barton and Fullagar) briefly summarizes the microscopy and staining techniques that have been used to examine ancient starch; it is a valuable addition that succinctly outlines how different imaging systems operate and what additional information can be obtained through their use. This chapter is particularly useful in assisting researchers in deciding what equipment they need and what might best suit their research purposes.