

Later Codere concludes, "The record shows Boas to have made twelve field trips to the Northwest Coast. During five of these trips, he was exclusively preoccupied with the Kwakiutl; and he worked in part with them on three further trips, bringing the Kwakiutl total to eight." As I have already mentioned, Boas made 13 trips to the coast. During only three of these trips, at most, can he be considered to have been (almost) "exclusively preoccupied with the Kwakiutl"; he worked in part with them on five other trips.

I comment on these inaccuracies not to disparage Codere's unquestionably valuable work but to correct the published record; until recently (9) almost nothing has been known about Boas's actual field work—how often he went to the field, what he did when he was there, how he felt about field work, the way in which he financed his field trips, and so forth.

Despite Codere's patient efforts, however, to develop an integrated, comprehensive ethnography from Boas's incomplete manuscript, anthropology is ultimately left with only a partial and inadequate insight into the rich cultural system of the traditional Kwakiutl. This must be the final verdict, even though the ethnography contains some valuable new information as well as amplifications on previously described issues. Disappointing though this is, scholars who are familiar with the general nature of Boas's Northwest Coast ethnographic output cannot be surprised.

RONALD P. ROHNER

*Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Connecticut, Storrs*

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## Chemistry to About 1700

**The Origins of Chemistry.** ROBERT P. MÜLTHAUF. Oldbourne, London, 1966, 70s; Watts, New York, 1967, \$7.95. 412 pp., illus.

The writing of one-volume histories of chemistry remains a steady industry, but this latest product has more to commend it than most. Taking his title seriously, Multhauf devotes roughly equal portions of the book to the workers of antiquity, the medieval alchemists, and the new developments of the 16th and 17th centuries. He is content to end his tale "about 1700," when "within four generations . . . the basis of the science as we know it" would be constructed.

As an example of *haute vulgarisation* this book is outstandingly successful. Making few concessions to the general reader for whom he is avowedly writing, the author yet succeeds in providing a text which is lucid as well as detailed and scholarly. His writing is careful and his interpretations closely argued. With disarming ease he conjures up a wealth of names and dates to support his argument whenever he feels it necessary. The result is a work that is always readable and never dull. It will make an excellent replacement for J. M. Stillman's still-in-print but aging *Story of Early Chemistry*, to which it bears similarities that Multhauf himself notes.

Indeed one's major feeling of unease is that perhaps these two books are *too* similar. Surely we have obtained new historiographic insights into the periods in question, as well as new facts about them, since 1924. Multhauf is content to say that "perhaps I differ most with Stillman and other earlier historians in the attention here given to the history of medicine." His stress on the relation of medical and chemical thought is wholly admirable. But it is a pity that he does not draw on other recent scholarly developments, as seen in the writings of Pagel, Yates, Debus, and Rattansi. Then we would have had a high-level general work that truly reflected the findings of present-day scholarship.

Even so this is an impressive piece of work. Clear printing and adequate name and subject indices enhance its usefulness. If the argument is at times compressed almost to the point of meaninglessness (as in much of the discussion of the Pre-Socratics), this may

be a penalty willingly paid by a writer determined to cram in so much. Indeed, at moments one is uncertain whether the author is informing the intelligent layman or lecturing his wayward colleagues. The wealth of footnotes and references adds to this uncertainty. Nonetheless this book can be confidently recommended to any intelligent chemist with a lively curiosity about how it all began. And no doubt many of the author's colleagues will purchase a copy, not least for its excellent 35-page bibliography.

ARNOLD THACKRAY

*Department of the History of Science, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts*

## Archeological Report

**Early Cultures and Human Ecology in South Coastal Guatemala.** MICHAEL D. COE and KENT V. FLANNERY. Smithsonian Press, Washington, D.C., 1967. 179 pp., illus., plates. Available from the Government Printing Office, \$3.50. Smithsonian Contributions to Anthropology, vol. 3.

Most archeological site reports are dreary affairs, rarely read except by a few specialists and rarely a pleasant experience even for them. Coe and Flannery have broken many of the rules. In fact the present synthesis of early material in the Ocos area of Guatemala is like a breath of fresh air in dusty library stacks.

The report succinctly presents the results of brief but effective test-pitting at Salinas la Blanca on the far northern Pacific coast of Guatemala (the title is geographically somewhat misleading). The artifacts discovered are clearly described and illustrated and are then related to Coe's previously published material from nearby La Victoria. This is followed by a detailed alignment of the local sequences with those of neighboring regions. Probably wisely, the question of very early maritime contacts with the north coast of South America, which Coe suggested in earlier publications, is not introduced.

Ecology is a term frequently used in titles these days, but a subject rarely set forth in any detail in the text. It is doubly important in early cultures, such as these (dated by radiocarbon about 1000 B.C.), when man's control of his surroundings was merely be-