over an Antarctic winter. This expedition was the most productive scientifically in this period, producing the first appreciation of the geology of the Antarctic Peninsula and the discovery of the first Antarctic insect. Nevertheless, probably because the Peninsula did not provide a highway to the Pole, it, together with other expeditions to this area, has never been accorded star billing. The whalers did not find the right sort of whales and, with the exception of C. A. Larsen, who made important finds of fossils, were largely indifferent to geographical discovery and hostile to science.

It was a whaling expedition, however, on which Carsten Borchgrevink, a Norwegian-English settler in Australia, sailed to the Ross Sea as a seaman, having failed to be taken on as a scientist. According to his own account he was the first to set foot on the Antarctic continent. He returned determined to lead his own expedition and, seeking support for this in Britain, found himself at odds with Sir Clements Markham, the powerful protagonist for a British expedition to the Antarctic and the second principal character in this book. Borchgrevink managed to obtain funds that Markham thought should rightly have come to him and sailed again for the Ross Sea in 1898—three years before the British expedition under Scott that Markham organized. It took a long time for the establishment to forgive him. To some extent Borchgrevink had himself to blame for this; he had enthusiasm, determination, and experience but was brash, inept in handling his staff, and careless in scientific matters. His great and undeniable achievement was to show that it was possible to overwinter on the continent. He had approached this practically, following the ideas of Frederick A. Cook of the *Belgica* expedition, in taking with him two Lapps hardened in the Arctic and successfully using dog-sledges, skis, and kayaks for transport. No notice of this was taken by the British, who under Markham's influence continued to follow the traditions of British naval expeditions in the Arctic and put their faith in manhauling. Kayaks were not used again in the Antarctic until 1984, when a successful circumnavigation of Brabant Island was achieved by their means by a British expedition. Baughman sums up by saying that Borchgrevink's venture "presaged the Antarctic forays of the twentieth century—small, efficient, and led by a single man fired by a vision to explore the unknown"—which one can agree was largely their character until the time of the International Geophysical Year.

A few mistakes occur—Halley's vessel was H.M.S. *Paramore*, not *Pink*, "pink" being a generic term for ships of her kind, and surely sledges have runners but not rudders. But these are minor blemishes in a well-researched book that gives a fresh picture of the personalities and influences behind exploration in the late 19th century and leaves one wondering how different things might have been if Borchgrevink had not turned down an invitation to dinner with Sir Clements.

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American Bogpersons

Archaeology of Precolumbian Florida. JERALD T. MILANICH. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, 1994. xxii, 476 pp., illus. $49.95; paper, $24.95.

A wide array of scientific questions can be addressed by examining preserved soft tissue of ancient humans. The mutation rate of human mitochondrial DNA, for example, is central to the debate about when and where *Homo sapiens* evolved. Currently this rate is estimated from the assumed divergence dates of contemporary populations rather than being measured by comparing mtDNA samples from tissues of different ages. Preserved tissue would also be valuable in studies of the evolution of nuclear DNA, the evolution of human diseases, and the health and nutritional status of specific past populations. These issues have all been cited as reasons for the excitement over the remarkably preserved body of the

"The original of this wooden tablet with a woodpecker painted on it was excavated from Key Marco by Frank Hamilton Cushing. This painting was done by Wells Sawyer, a member of the expedition. Cushing found it 'perhaps the most significant object of a sacred or ceremonial nature . . . a thin board of a yellowish wood, a little more than sixteen inches in length.' " [From *Archaeology of Precolumbian Florida*; Cushing, 1897; courtesy Smithsonian Institution]

"A federal relief program archaeological field crew in 1937 or early 1938 at Thomas Mound on the Little Manatee River in Hillsborough County." [From *Archaeology of Precolumbian Florida*; photograph by Clarence Simpson, courtesy Florida Museum of Natural History]

"Ice Man," a male who died in the Tyrolean Alps 5300 years ago. As a result of the extensive coverage given to this individual, many readers may have the impression that this is the earliest known example of preserved human soft tissue. I suspect that few are aware that preserved brain tissue has been found in the crania of 91 humans buried in a pond in Florida between 7000 and 8000 years ago.

The remains of these ancient Native Americans were found at the Windover site near Cape Canaveral. On a number of occasions over a thousand-year period, at least 168 deceased persons were carefully wrapped in cloth and staked to the bottom of a peaty pond. The anoxic, humate-laden environment of the pond bottom preserved the wooden stakes, fragments of clothing, a few wooden and bone tools, the skeletons, and in some instances portions of the brains of the deceased. Though a funeral of this sort may strike us today as unusual, evidence suggests that the people of that time believed it was the proper and dignified way to bury their friends and relatives. This evidence includes the facts that the buried individuals were of all ages and both sexes, which makes it unlikely that they were any sort of sacrificial victims, and that Windover, though the earliest known, is not the only Floridian site with burials in ponds or bogs. Burials in bogs or other wetlands are known from three other sites dated between 7000 and 5700 years ago (one of which also yielded preserved brain tissue).

Descriptions of these cemeteries and the cultures that used them are only some of the details offered in *Archaeology of Precolumbian Florida*. The book aims to provide lay readers with an overview of the peoples who inhabited Florida from 12,000 years ago to about A.D. 1500 (several recent books, by Milanich and others, deal with the archeology of Florida after the arrival of Europeans). Though Milanich generally avoids the technical terminology of archeologists, lengthy descriptions of artifacts, animal bones, and botanical remains may make portions of the book tough going for lay readers. In most chapters, these descriptive passages are followed by intelligible discussions of the lifeways, social organization, ideology, and religion of past cultures. For professional readers or interested students, the book is fully referenced and has a bibliography with more than 500 entries. The book is thus a valuable resource for a wide range of audiences.

An inevitable question about this book is, Is it different from the 1980 book, *Florida Archaeology*, written by Milanich and Charles Fairbanks? The answer is more "yes" than "no." The new book is 150 pages longer, despite omitting the post–European-arrival period covered by the previous book. Most of the new material in *Archaeology of Precolumbian Florida* deals with eastern and southern Florida. In the past 15 years we have learned a great deal about the prehistory of southern Florida in particular. Some important questions remain unanswered, as can be seen in the continuing controversy about why there is maize pollen in deposits dating to 500 B.C. at the Fort Center site. This is several hundred years earlier than maize anywhere else in the eastern United States and comes from a part of the state where societies of the early colonial era did not grow maize. Outside of eastern and southern Florida, there is important new information about sites from 12,000 to 7000 years ago (including details about the Harney Flats, Windover, Bay West, Republic Grove, Tick Island, and Gauthier sites). In chapters dealing with the last 5000 years of northern and western Florida many paragraphs are "recycled" from the earlier book, but the new book has a different, much improved, organization. It is both more readable and more detailed than the previous one.

"One of the pioneers of underwater archaeology as well as the first archaeologist on the faculty of the University of Florida, John Goggin, dives at Oven Hill, a site on the Suwannee River in Dixie County. He is holding a Seminole vessel recovered from the river. Investigation of the site took place intermittently from 1958 to 1962." [From *Archaeology of Precolumbian Florida*; courtesy Florida Museum of Natural History]

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