

"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



"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]

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 infor-

mation 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.

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Vignettes: Authors and Publishers

A wary person reads the wisest authors, with a reflection, that they may deceive him by being themselves deceived; and undergoes a double labour, the one in investigating the meaning, and the other in examining the truth of what they deliver.

—Robert Boyle, as quoted by John T. Harwood in *Robert Boyle Reconsidered* (Michael Hunter, Ed.; Cambridge University Press)

Piracy is lesser sin than the continued blithering of University presses, the whole foetid lot of 'em, men with NO human curiosity, gorillas, primitive congeries of protoplasmic cells without conning towers, without nervous organisms more developed than that of amoebas.

—Ezra Pound, in *Guide to Kulchur* (1938), as quoted by August Frugé in *A Skeptic Among Scholars* (University of California Press)

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