

figure, and the original diggers in the country of origin get a mere pittance. One major result is the destruction of sites, and another is that specimens so obtained have been removed from their context and their real meaning in cultural terms is lost.

An Introduction to Prehistoric Archeology has a broad coverage of archeological literature in the New World and in the Old World because of the cooperation of R. F. Heizer, primarily a western American specialist, and F. Hole, who is beginning a career in Near Eastern prehistory. Most of the books and papers listed in the bibliography are in English, since the volume is designed for an American audience.

In treating the varieties of techniques, methods, and disciplines available for interpreting the past, the volume is primarily descriptive. There are critical and cautioning statements about the application of many of these—for example, “Although there is a variety of methods for dating archeological materials by means of geology, none of the methods is simple. In all cases it is better to have several independent methods for dating particular events. Used alone, any method that depends on far-reaching correlations of geologic stratigraphy is likely to be undependable because of weak links in the chain of observations. Archeologists should use, but be aware of the many imprecisions of, geochronologic dating” (p. 166).

The examples of acceptable and of poor methods of prehistoric research could have been multiplied many times from literature in English, and from that in many other languages. The authors have been wise, however, in this introduction to limit their references to relatively brief comments, allowing the reader to pursue by way of the bibliography any of the many research leads that are mentioned. Of the several volumes that discuss archeology as a field of endeavor, this book is probably the best available.

In discussing the “Rate of Accumulation” method of dating, Heizer states that M. R. Harrington, in 1933, obtained the correct age of the Gypsum Cave culture in Nevada at 10,500 years ago, even though his estimate was based on incorrect evidence. He cites the radiocarbon age of sloth dung from the cave (C-221, 8505 ± 340 B.C.) as certifying to the age of Gypsum Cave culture. In other contexts, Heizer, as well as other archeologists,

has taken the position that although the early Chicago black carbon run *may* date the organic material in the sloth dung, a better estimate of the Gypsum Cave culture would be to obtain a radiocarbon run on some of the wooden dart shafts from the Cave.

A large number of the books about archeology that come to the attention of the American public are dramatic fiction about the romance of archeology, or nice little books about the ease with which one can do archeology. This publication is testimony to the many faceted phases of prehistoric archeology which no single person can master, but which should be known to all competent practitioners. Even a brief investigation of the book will allow one to understand that there are no “complete” archeologists.

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Ethnography

The High Valley: An Autobiographical Account of Two Years Spent in the Central Highlands of New Guinea. Kenneth E. Read. Scribner, New York, 1965. xviii + 266 pp. Illus. \$6.95.

There is no commonly accepted way of writing a descriptive account of an exotic or primitive people. About all that contemporary ethnographies have in common is that they are crammed with data related to a special problem and are written in a style that is as objective and impersonal as possible. Many of the personal insights and reactions that an author experiences during his period of living with the people he describes are deliberately obscured by this detached presentation. *High Valley* is a notable exception to this tradition. As its subtitle, *An Autobiographical Account of Two Years Spent in the Central Highlands of New Guinea*, suggests, it is a narrative of a residence among a primitive people in which self-observation figures as importantly as analytic observations of a tribal people. The people are a group that has been transformed within the span of a single generation from a remnant of the stone age world into a suburbia of an Australian frontier town. The author is an Australian-born social anthropologist whose gift for writing sensitively

beautiful prose is equaled, perhaps, only by his professional skill in probing the core of common human emotions that lies beneath the veneers of contrasting cultures which separate these people from himself.

The account is organized around the lives of a few individuals and their intimate responses to the social life around them. In this respect the book is abundantly anthropological. But the author himself was also a significant, if alien, part of this life for the months he describes, and in this context he exposes his own feelings with as much candor as he examines his friends. In this respect the book has no prototype in anthropological writings. Anthropologists who have lived with primitive peoples have felt the initial emptiness of being isolated among total strangers, but have come to enjoy warm and close personal friendships with persons of a completely different cultural heritage, only to sever these friendships abruptly and perhaps forever, cannot read the author's self-revelations without being profoundly, even painfully, stirred. The lasting impact of the book, however, comes from the development of a few mundane events and tense social crises in which the cast of principal characters is enmeshed into a drama of stark realism that is at once tense and poetically exquisite. *The High Valley* eminently achieves what its author intended it to be—an experiment in ethnography that gains a special lucidity by being fine literature.

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Space Science

Space Physics With Artificial Satellites. Ya. L. Al'pert, A. V. Gurevich, and L. P. Pitaevskii. Translated from the Russian (Moscow, 1964) by H. H. Nickle. Consultants Bureau, New York, 1965. x + 240 pp. Illus. \$25.

This book is an interesting collection of results that repeat and extend work presented by the authors in a series of journal articles. Most of the book is devoted to a collision-free approach for determining the distribution of charged and neutral particles in the vicinity and in the wake of a body moving through a rarefied plasma. If