REVIEWS

Antiquities Section
Selected Papers 1-16

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Antiquities Section Selected Papers 1-16. David B. Madsen, ed. Salt Lake City: Utah Historical Society Division of State History, 7 vols., 1975-1980, $5.50 per volume individually or the seven for $35.00 if ordered together.

1975 - Vol. 1

1976 - Vol. 2

1976 - Vol. 3
(10) Pint-Size Shelter. La Mar W. Lindsay and Christian K. Lund, with appendices by La Mar W. Lindsay and Donald R. Currey. Pp. 25-74.

1977 - Vol. 4

1978 - Vol. 5
(13) An Archeological Survey of the Upper White Canyon Area, Southeastern Utah. Philip M. Hobler and Audrey E. Hobler,
Until about ten years ago, it was an almost sure thing that virtually all archaeological research done within the boundaries of the state of Utah would be published in the University of Utah Anthropological Papers. For over 25 years that excellent series provided up-to-date monograph-length descriptive site reports and collections of shorter papers. From time to time, there appeared topical and regional syntheses ranging from Glen Canyon to the entire state. In recent years, though, there has been a reduction in the numbers of UUAPs, and the few that have appeared seem to be based on data collected some time ago.

At about the same time that the UUAPs began to decline as a source of timely data on Utah prehistory, a new series appeared. Published by the Utah Division of State History, the awkwardly named Antiquities Section Selected Papers has a close family resemblance to the old UUAPs in physical appearance, format, and philosophy. The 16 numbers that have appeared to date cover almost the entire range of Utah prehistory. The Southwest is represented by good descriptive site-survey reports of Arches National Monument (No. 3), portions of San Juan County (Nos. 9 and 13), and the Maze District of Canyonlands National Park (No. 11). Most of the papers deal with the one or another aspect of the Fremont "culture" of the western Colorado Plateau and the eastern Great Basin, and it is in this area that the series has made its most notable contributions.

Excavation and site survey reports comprise the bulk of the papers that have appeared to date. Five of them (Nos. 1, 2, 4, 7, 10) provide descriptive material on Fremont occupations in eastern Utah, where controlled excavation data and radiocarbon age determinations have been in short supply for many years. Especially interesting is the paper on Pint-Size Shelter (No. 10), a dual-component Archaic-Fremont site in Castle Valley. The Archaic occupation of this rockshelter is bracketed by radiocarbon determinations of 4520±210 and 3390±170 B.P., and is separated from the upper (Fremont) component by an occupational hiatus of about 1500 years. This raises the possibility that the local ("San Rafael") Fremont did not derive from an Archaic base, as has commonly been supposed. A radiocarbon date of 1790±100 B.P. for a Fremont stratum containing Emery Gray pottery is suspiciously early, and should probably be rejected. A date from Snake Rock Village (incorrectly given as 1550±95 B.P. instead of 1505±95 B.P.) is adduced by the authors (Lindsay and Lund) as supporting an early Fremont occupation. But that date was rejected by Aikens (1967:2) as inconsistent with a ceramic complex that contained relatively late Fremont types and intrusive Anasazi wares indicating a post-A.D. 1000 date for the Snake Rock site, and thus cannot possibly be used for corroboration.

Perhaps the most important monograph in the series is "Backhoe Village" (No. 12), which provides a wealth of subsistence data for a site west of Richfield, Utah, dated to a minimum range of A.D. 770-900. Pollen and other data suggest a heavy concentration on wild plant resources, especially cattails and
other marsh species, with relatively minor reliance on horticulture and limited hunting compared to other sites in the eastern Basin. The extensive evidence for collecting and apparent lack of substantial dependence on horticulture are seen as suggesting that sedentaryism at Backhoe Village was based on gathering and limited hunting, a pattern which the authors claim to be broadly characteristic of villages in the eastern Basin, but not their counterparts on the Colorado Plateau. To point up the distinct differences in subsistence economy and settlement pattern between the Basin and the Plateau, it is proposed that the term “Fremont” be limited to horticulturally dependent groups on the Colorado Plateau, and the designation “Sevier” be applied to Basin groups with a primary dependence on wild flora and fauna. Traditionally, both of these groups have been incorporated into a more inclusive Fremont culture, but the authors (Madsen and Lindsay) take the position that a cultural entity that encompasses them both cannot be defined, though the possibility of a common origin for the “Fremont” and “Sevier” units is recognized.

The merits of the Fremont-Sevier dichotomy and related issues have been extensively debated, and this model seems to be replacing the concept of a unitary Fremont culture with regional variants. One of the best discussions of the nature of the problem can be found in the latest number in the present series (No. 16), entitled “Fremont Perspectives.” This volume, which contains papers and extended comments by several Fremont specialists, is a direct result of the ferment produced by publication of the Backhoe Village monograph. It includes several descriptive papers on material culture, and discussions of subsistence, architecture, settlement patterns, and chronology, together with more theoretical treatment of classification systems applied to Fremont and the problem of origins. All of the papers were presented in the Fremont Symposium at the 1978 Great Basin Anthropological Conference in Reno, Nevada, and then revised for publication. Although the volume reflects the diversity of opinion that has always been characteristic of specialists in the area, it can be seen as indicating the healthy state of archaeological research there, and points the way for productive research in the future.

Miscellaneous papers in the series include “Man, Mammoth, and Lake Fluctuations in Utah” (No. 5), an interdisciplinary study of late Pleistocene mammoth remains and marsh environments that correlate with surface finds of fluted points. These data suggest a fairly extensive occupation of the Great Basin and western Colorado Plateau by big-game hunters. There are also brief but useful papers on trace element analysis of obsidian sources in western Utah (No. 15), and on enigmatic stone artifacts (No. 8).

The series is generally well edited and produced. Photographs, maps, and line drawings are clear and are printed at a scale large enough to convey information, and not just break up the text. Bibliographies are complete and there are few typographical errors.

In sum, the Antiquities Section Selected Papers series is an excellent model for what a regional archaeological publication should be. There is a diversity of topics and points of view, both monograph-length and short contributions are present, and standards of production are high. Although no Papers have been released since 1980, I understand that publication can be expected to resume. Meanwhile, all of the back issues are available and they are reasonably priced. Most of them deserve careful attention on the part of archaeologists and others with an interest in the eastern Great Basin and western Colorado Plateau.
REFERENCE

Aikens, C. Melvin

New Titles

Compiled by MICHAEL J. MORATTO

Banks, P. M., R. I. Orlins, and H. McCarthy

Bright, W.

Dondero, S. B., J. J. Johnson, J. D. Tordoff, R. Begel, A. H. Johnson, C. M. Blount, and D. J. Theodoratus

Hudson, T., and T. C. Blackburn

Hughes, R. E., editor

Jackson, T. L., and J. Holson

Johnson, J. J., D. J. Theodoratus, C. M. Blount, and S. Dondero

Peak & Associates, Inc.

Onandasan, W.

Rawls, J. J.

Riddell, F. A. (Chairman)

Sawyer, J. O., and A. Schlichter

Towne, A. H.

Webb, E. B.


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This is the second in a series of five reports on the massive Monitor Valley project, conducted under the general direction of David Hurst Thomas. The principal purpose