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Review of *Archaeology on the Edge: New Perspectives from the Northern Plains* Edited by Brian Kooyman and Jane Kelley

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Archaeology on the Edge: New Perspectives from the Northern Plains. Edited by Brian Kooyman and Jane Kelley. Calgary, AB: University of Calgary Press, 2004. vi + 270 pp. Photographs, maps figures, tables, references, index. \$39.95 paper.

This book is a tribute to the late Dr. Richard Forbis, the figure many Plains archaeologists regard as the founder and nurturer of Plains archaeology in Canada. The book begins with a fond reminiscence by Scott Raymond, a longtime colleague, who relates some of Dick's foibles, his distinctive chuckle, the near permanent fixture of his pipe, but also his sterling qualities as a scholar and teacher.

The eleven papers that follow deal with subjects such as cultural history (J. Dormaar, D. Walde), zooarchaeology (J. Brink, B. Kooyman), geoarchaeology (M. Wilson, McNeil, et al.), and land use (J. Vickers and T. Peck, G. Oetelaar, E. Robertson, A. Landels). There is also a potentially controversial essay by R. McGhee who argues that archaeologists can continue to make "significant contributions to knowledge of history and society only if . . . [they] . . . insist on the value of their research, its interpretation, and the free dissemination of results." He advocates strongly that we should resist caving in to "identity politics of Native political practitioners" who, for example, challenge our interpretations of the Asian origins of the aboriginal population of the Americas.

The cultural history papers include a reevaluation of the Manyberries cairn in southern Alberta. Using historical documents, Dormaar argues that the main "structure" is probably natural. Walde's paper, based on his 1995 dissertation, uses ceramic data from the Northern Plains to assess the relationship between the Mortlach and One-Gun phases of the late pre-contact period, arguing that they represent distinct social groupings.

Wilson uses a "landscape taphonomy" approach to discuss changes in the Plains cultural landscape after European colonization. Based on historical sources he comments on how early 20th-century dam construction in southern Alberta altered the cultural landscape through removal of stones from aboriginal features for use as rip-rap. The other geological paper, which also includes some faunal analysis, deals with the fascinating Wally's Beach Site. Discovered during a low-water period of the St. Mary Reservoir in southwestern Alberta, the site has produced remains of late Pleistocene fauna (e.g., horses, bison) and well-preserved tracks of others (e.g., mammoths and camel). Clovis points and other lithic artifacts have also been found.

Brink analyzes a published 1924 oral history account of an 1870 bison hunting/processing episode in terms of butchering and processing behavior, relating it to bison anatomy and modern zooarchaeological data. Fat content was a major concern of Hidatsa bison hunters in carcass use, and faunal elements in archaeological sites should reflect these preferences. Kooyman deals with bone breaking for marrow extraction and the recognition of this in the archaeological record. The paper is based on his 1981 MA thesis from the University of Calgary and seems quite dated in terms of the literature that has appeared over the past 20 years.

As for land use and settlement pattern approaches, Vickers and Peck evaluate the factors affecting winter

distribution of Plains hunters and argue convincingly that wood for fires and bison pound construction was more important than the actual winter distribution of the bison herds. Oetelaar provides a strong case for detailed study of tipi rings and clusters of these features (villages), arguing that they can reveal details of demography and social organization. Robertson, considering changes from the Palaeoindian to the Early Archaic period on the Plains, maintains there were social organizational shifts that accompanied a transition from a largely communal hunting strategy in the former to broad-spectrum individualistic strategies in the latter. Landels considers Plains pre-contact to contact period changes in landscape use as a result of the adoption of the horse.

Although several of the papers are a bit old and hardly qualify as new perspectives, others are solid contributions. Unfortunately, there are quite a few typos and stylistic lapses. I would have liked to have seen a dedication page to Richard Forbis, or even an acknowledgment in its title that the book honors him. Nonetheless, this is a worthwhile contribution to Great Plains studies and should be of interest to students and professionals alike.

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