

# University of Iowa

## Office of the State Archaeologist Publications

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## BOOKS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

**BISON HUNTERS OF THE WESTERN PRAIRIES: EXCAVATIONS AT THE DIXON SITE (13WD8), WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA**, edited by Richard L. Fishel  
OSA Report 21, 1999; xiv + 216 pp.; ISBN 0-87414-118-4

This book breaks new ground in Oneota studies and Plains-Midwest archaeology in general. It presents a comprehensive report on a 14<sup>th</sup>-century village site in northwest Iowa. Highlights include documentation of several domestic dwellings plus detailed floral and faunal analyses, ceramic attribute studies, and lithic analyses. Investigations indicate the site's inhabitants engaged in bison hunting west of the Missouri River on the central Great Plains and maintained close ties with groups living there.

"Provides a great deal of information for anyone interested in the Oneota tradition and Iowa archaeology. The editing is excellent as are the illustrations; information is presented in well-designed tables, graphs, and appendices." Donita Carlson, *Missouri Archaeological Society Quarterly*

"The chapter discussions and summaries will appeal to both the professional and lay person alike.... A welcome addition to the archaeological literature." Trisha Nelson, *Nebraska History*

**ONEOTA ARCHAEOLOGY: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**, edited by William Green  
OSA Report 20, 1995; ix + 227 pp.; ISBN 0-87414-102-8

Peoples of the Oneota tradition occupied much of the Midwest and Great Plains between ca. AD 1000 and 1700. Currently, Oneota archaeology employs a wide array of methods and theoretical frameworks and is gaining added importance as it considers subjects such as agricultural intensification, exchange and interaction, and historic connections. This book contains eight chapters on Oneota research, plus a radiocarbon-date appendix. Authors include David W. Benn, Robert F. Boszhardt, Guy Gibbon, William Green, James B. Griffin, Robert L. Hall, Dale R. Henning, R. Eric Hollinger, Wendy Holtz, Jeremy Nienow, David F. Overstreet, and John P. Staeck.

"A significant contribution to Oneota archaeology and mid-western archaeology in general." Jodie O'Gorman, *American Antiquity*

**AGRICULTURAL ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MIDCONTINENT**, edited by William Green  
OSA Report 19, 1994; vi + 188 pp.; ISBN 0-87414-090-0

This book contains eight chapters on ancient agriculture in the Midwest and Midsouth. Chapters address the archaeological recovery of seeds and other physical remains of crops, history of native agricultural systems, and utility of this knowledge for agroecological research. Contributors: Constance P. Arzigian, David L. Asch, Jane E. Buikstra, Gayle J. Fritz, James P. Gallagher, William Green, Kristen J. Gremillion, Neal H. Lopinot, George R. Milner, Jerome C. Rose, and Richard A. Yarnell.

"Includes chapters by many of the scholars who have been at the forefront of paleoethnobotanical research.... All are well written and form a cohesive group.... This book provides a good overview of the evidence from the main areas, written by some of the key contributors." C. Wesley Cowan, *American Anthropologist*

"An excellent collection of papers that are well written, easy to read, and informative.... The papers in this volume... represent fine research by some of the best and most creative researchers currently working in the midcontinent." Frances B. King, *Southeastern Archaeology*

**DISCOVERING ARCHAEOLOGY: AN ACTIVITY GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS**, by Shirley J. Schermer  
Special Publication, 1992; vii + 54 pp.; ISBN 0-87414-087-0

"A concisely written, clearly organized, highly informative and useful publication, *Discovering Archaeology* should prove helpful to teachers in a wide variety of classroom situations. Designed as an activity guide for middle school students (grades 5-8), this book is an excellent introduction to archaeology for teachers of elementary, junior high, and high school students. Developed in collaboration with archaeologists and educators, the activities have all been field tested and then revised through teachers workshops.... The publication has been carefully designed for teachers in any state of the country.... *Discovering Archaeology* is more than an activity guide, serving also as a short introduction to archaeology for pre-college students.... An excellent addition to the growing list of high quality archaeology materials for the pre-college classroom." Ruth Selig, *Plains Anthropologist*

"I recommend this guide for anyone wishing to introduce children to the work of archaeologists. The lessons can be easily integrated into school curricula. Although the material is designed for students in grades 5 through 8, I feel many of the exercises could also be adapted for younger children.... Lessons and orientation material are not site specific and can be used by any educator in any state." Julie Barr, *Illinois Antiquity*

**WOODLAND CULTURES ON THE WESTERN PRAIRIES: THE RAINBOW SITE INVESTIGATIONS**, edited by David W. Benn  
OSA Report 18, 1990; xviii + 256 pp.; ISBN 0-87414-074-9

"This volume presents a wealth of new data and will be useful to everyone working with Plains Woodland materials for years to come.... A fine achievement. Dave Benn, his collaborators, and the Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist deserve hearty congratulations for production of this volume. The OSA "Report" series is consistently of high quality and Rainbow certainly measures up. The volume will endure as the standard against which future Woodland archaeology in the region is measured." John R. Bozell, *Plains Anthropologist*

"This book is an essential reference for all serious students of Northeastern Plains and Prairie Peninsula prehistory.... There is a comprehensive explanatory model for regional culture change from late in the Archaic through Woodland and into the Plains Village period.... The biggest success of this book relates to the project objectives of reconstructing the nature of Prairie Woodland social formation and accounting for processes of culture change from the beginning to the end of Woodland times in the Prairie Peninsula." Michael Gregg, *Journal of the Iowa Archaeological Society*

"Benn's determination to be critical, self-conscious and theoretically informed is a tonic to naive interpretations and simple description. Whether or not the reader is convinced by Benn's arguments, he deserves credit for the attempt to develop theory in the inference of prehistoric Plains cultures. Iowa's Office of the State Archaeologist has produced informative monographs for over 20 years. The Rainbow report is a valuable addition to the series." Michael Shott, *The Michigan Archaeologist*

"A fine example of the relevance of geoarchaeological research to Late Holocene archaeology.... An inspiration to anyone interested in probing more deeply into the issue of paleoclimatic reconstruction from archaeological data.... An invaluable, up-to-date review that specialists and nonspecialists alike will find of value." James Stoltman, *Geoarchaeology*

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