

## Book Reviews

*Iowa's Archaeological Past*, by Lynn M. Alex. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2000. xvi, 333 pp. Illustrations, maps, tables, glossary, bibliography, index. \$49.95 cloth, \$29.95 paper.

Reviewer Joseph A. Tiffany is associate professor of anthropology at Iowa State University. He is the author of many reports and articles on Iowa's archaeological past.

*Iowa's Archaeological Past* is the much-anticipated update of Lynn Alex's long out-of-print *Exploring Iowa's Past: A Guide to Prehistoric Archaeology* (1980). Far more than merely revising that work, Alex has tackled the extensive and expanded literature on Iowa and Midwest archaeology, examining published and unpublished reports prepared by professional and lay archaeologists to present a thoroughly new volume of lasting scholarly importance. An easy and enjoyable read written for the public as well as the professional community, *Iowa's Archaeological Past* is a comprehensive and authoritative summary of 13,000 years of Iowa prehistory.

The first three chapters on the science of archaeology, the history of Iowa archaeology, and Iowa landscapes provide the foundation for understanding how archaeologists do archaeology, the important contributions by a cadre of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century professional and amateur archaeologists to the study of Iowa's archaeological record, and the environmental context necessary to interpret Iowa prehistory. Alex believes the past is knowable and can be reconstructed from the fragmentary record with which archaeologists deal.

The heart of the book is eight chapters summarizing and evaluating the Iowa archaeological record from Paleoindian times to the archaeology of historic Euro-American and African American communities. The expanded research on historic archaeology is a welcome feature and a decided plus. Alex presents a cogent examination and review of new archaeological data as well as the often varying and hotly debated professional interpretations of aspects of the Iowa archaeological record. A reader can discern where Alex stands on various matters of professional opinion, but she manages to present all sides fairly and dispassionately. The balanced presentation, the copious text citations, and the expansive bibliography allow readers to follow up easily on topics of interest to them.

No synthesis of this scope will be without detractors. Certainly, some members of the professional community may take umbrage at some of Alex's analyses and interpretations. In my opinion, however, there are no dramatic gaffes or analytic miscues. Numerous illustrations, including a center section of color photographs, complement the text, lending the book a richness it would not otherwise have. Many useful and informative illustrations of key projectile points, for example, as well as a two-page Iowa archaeological timeline, enhance the book's usefulness. The chapters also have short appendixes exploring a variety of topics such as radiocarbon dating. A glossary of key terms perhaps could have been expanded given the book's intended lay audience.

Some production errors detract from Alex's efforts. These include typos, such as figure 9.3, which is boldly marked "RESCAN," and several photos that were printed too dark to see the image displayed (for example, the Ramey vessel, figure 8.14, and the photo of Mildred Wedel, figure 11.4). Particularly perplexing is the publisher's failure to identify Lance Foster, an Ioway Indian and anthropologist, as the creator of the original artwork that beautifully illustrates the paperback version of the book. Sadly, the more expensive hardcover edition does not have a book jacket.

*Iowa's Archaeological Past* is the only widely available synthesis on Iowa archaeology and is among the best in the region. The book is strongly recommended for professionals and nonprofessionals alike. *Iowa's Archaeological Past* will be the standard for years to come.

*Duels and the Roots of Violence in Missouri*, by Dick Steward. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2000. ix, 286 pp. Illustrations, map, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95 cloth.

Reviewer Jeffrey S. Adler is associate professor of history at the University of Florida. He is the author of *Yankee Merchants and the Making of the Urban West: The Rise and Fall of Antebellum St. Louis* (1991) and several articles about crime and violence in St. Louis and Chicago.

Dueling, according to Dick Steward, shaped the development of Missouri. In *Duels and the Roots of Violence in Missouri*, Steward traces the rise and fall of dueling in nineteenth-century Missouri. The impact of this ritualized and venerated form of violence, however, survived long after dueling had disappeared. Thus, by examining the history of the practice, Steward explores the "roots of violence" in modern America.

Early nineteenth-century conditions made Missouri a hotbed for dueling. Southern culture, particularly the ethos of honor, infused the region, and southern migrants introduced the code duello. But "fron-

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