

Book Reviews

Cahokia and the Hinterlands: Middle Mississippian Cultures of the Midwest, edited by Thomas E. Emerson and R. Barry Lewis. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1991. xii, 357 pp. Maps, tables, graphs, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$49.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY WILLIAM R. SWAGERTY, UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

Cahokia, the largest pre-Columbian urban site north of Mexico, may have been home to between thirty and forty thousand people around A.D. 1100. In this anthology of articles, archeologists Thomas E. Emerson of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and R. Barry Lewis of the University of Illinois team up to synthesize views on the significance of Mississippian development throughout the Midwest. The editors are primarily concerned with sharing data on Cahokia's influence gathered at sites throughout the region in the past twenty years. They also suggest new periodization for North American pre-history with special concern for the phase now commonly associated with the term Emergent Mississippian (A.D. 800-1000).

The book is divided into four sections. In part one, leading scholars analyze Cahokia's geographic, economic, and religious significance. Robert L. Hall provides an excellent overview of the history, controversies, and unresolved issues involving the Cahokia Mounds. Here and in following chapters, the merits and limitations of several theories of Cahokia's geopolitical influence are discussed. John E. Kelly assigns preference to a "Gateway Model," wherein a city grows and prospers by its location at the entrance to or on the boundary of its tributary or production region rather than in the center of that trade or economic zone. Thus, Cahokia's influence as far north as Minnesota and as far south as the lower Mississippi valley is seen in the context of fan-shaped interaction spheres along major river systems radiating north, east, and west rather than perfect circles or other geometric models radiating from the heartland of the American Bottom near St. Louis.

In parts two and three, leading experts on specific midwestern states discuss Cahokia's northern and southern "hinterlands." Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana are given several chapters. Although there are no major Mississippian sites in present-day Iowa,

Joseph A. Tiffany, former associate director of the Office of the State Archaeologist in Iowa, offers evidence of varying degrees of Cahokia's influence in prehistoric culture sequences throughout the state. Readers of this journal will find Tiffany's chapter especially informative in that it is the first comprehensive statement on Iowa and the Mississippian connection since Dale Henning's seminal article, "Mississippian Influences on the Eastern Plains Border: An Evaluation," which appeared in *Plains Anthropologist* in 1967.

Part four is devoted to "Observations" by Illinois archeologists Jon Muller and Jeanette Stephens, who review the literature, definitions, and concepts associated with Mississippian prehistory. This chapter could well have been placed at the beginning of the anthology rather than at the end. A more appropriate conclusion might have been a summary argument by the editors reiterating their suggested new periodization, with "Middle Mississippian" dating and overlapping "Emergent Mississippian" in the critical two-hundred-year window, A.D. 800-1000. Also lacking is a final discussion of what impact Cahokia's decline and ultimate collapse between A.D. 1100 and 1500 as America's greatest metropolis had on the "hinterlands" once the mother city could no longer serve as a gateway center. A final assessment building on the issues raised in the preface, where Emerson and Lewis briefly outline the new scholarly camp (including themselves) preferring Cahokian influences by "intrusion" in contrast to the conventional view of "diffusion" and "local development," would have reinforced the collective view represented by their contributors.

These problems aside, this is a very useful book and one that every scholar of midwestern prehistory will want to acquire. The University of Illinois Press has released an attractive, well-bound, and very nicely printed volume with many maps and schematics enabling all serious readers to envision and understand the cultural geography of greater Cahokia.

The Roots of Rural Capitalism: Western Massachusetts, 1780-1860, by Christopher Clark. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1990. xii, 339 pp. Tables, notes, appendix, index. \$32.50 cloth.

REVIEWED BY SUSAN E. GRAY, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

It is difficult in a brief review to do justice to the complexity of *The Roots of Rural Capitalism*. More than a decade ago, Clark fired an opening salvo in what became a major debate over the capitalist transformation of nineteenth-century rural America. The present work is intended, and succeeds, as a synthesis. Its major contribution

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