

Advances in Titicaca Basin Archaeology 1. *Charles Stanish, Amanda B. Cohen, and Mark S. Aldenderfer*, eds. Los Angeles: Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, University of California, 2005, 355 pp. \$45.00, cloth; \$26.00, paper.

This edited volume explores the ancient history of the Andean Altiplano region. The editors, especially Stanish and Aldenderfer, have been working in the south-central Andean region for more than a decade and have established themselves as leading scholars of the archaeology of the Altiplano. The volume consists of eighteen chapters, arranged in chronological order, which were written by several scholars who present the results of various field studies carried out in the Titicaca Basin over the years.

In Chapter 1, Stanish and Cohen provide a brief history of the archaeological studies in the Altiplano region, paying special attention to chronology. This clearly written paper is followed by three essays that discuss the Archaic period. In Chapter 2, Klink discusses the result of her survey in the Rio Huenque Valley and argues that the early Archaic represents the first unmistakable human occupation of the Titicaca Basin. In Chapter 3 Klink and Aldenderfer present a projectile point typology for the region; samples considered in this classification come from excavated and radiocarbon-dated contexts. This typology, which certainly will be redefined as research progresses, will be an important tool for future studies in the region. The third paper (Chapter 4) that deals with the Archaic period is by Cipolla. Here the author presents the result of her study carried out in the northern section of the lake. Cipolla argues that this section of the Titicaca Basin was densely occupied and that changes in settlement patterns that took place in this region are similar to those that occurred elsewhere in the basin. Finally, Cipolla shows that the number of sites increases through time and that most of them are found on river terraces, likely the most fertile zones in the valley.

The next group of papers deals with the Formative period. First, in a very interesting essay, Hastorf (Chapter 5) discusses the cultural developments that occurred around the Titicaca Basin prior to the Tiwanaku expansion. After assessing site distribution and economy, Hastorf argues that the Upper Formative was a time of development of multiple community ceremonial centers around the lake. She highlights the importance of Pukara, to the north, and Chiripa, to the south, which eventually came to an end following the Tiwanaku expansion. The other paper (Chapter 6), by Myers and Paredes, discusses the results of the study they carried out in the Isla Soto sites. The authors note that ceremonial centers in Isla Soto were first established during the Early Intermediate period (Pukara).

The following four chapters focus on Tiwanaku, the main ancient polity of the Titicaca Basin. First, Stanish and colleagues (Chapter 7) address several questions in an important essay regarding the nature of Tiwanaku expansion (p. 103); based on settlement data from the western basin, they argue that Tiwanaku was "an expansive polity" (p. 114). Next, de la Vega (Chapter 8) describes the findings of the archaeological excavation carried out at Sillumocco-Huaquina, on the southwestern lake edge, and asserts that the site was occupied from the Formative to Inca times. In Chapter 9, Seddon discusses the Tiwanaku occupation on the

Island of the Sun. Although Tiwanaku III artifacts are also present, Seddon argues that substantial Tiwanaku occupation took place at this location during Tiwanaku IV and V. Finally, in Chapter 10 Janusek presents an interesting discussion regarding Tiwanaku urbanism, domestic life, and craft specialization. Janusek states convincingly that there was an extensive residential occupation at Tiwanaku, and it was during Tiwanaku IV that major urban expansion took place. In agreement with the previous chapters, Janusek points out that Tiwanaku expansion did not occur until about AD 700.

Chapters 11 and 12 discuss the post-Tiwanaku and pre-Inca occupations in the Titicaca Basin. In Chapter 11 Frye and de la Vega explain the dramatic changes in settlement patterns and material culture that followed the Tiwanaku collapse. They also note that sites are not only fortified, but also located on hilltops. This was also when mortuary structures called *chullpas* were built for the first time in the region. Finally, they argue that raised-field agriculture declined, apparently owing to climatic changes. In Chapter 12 de la Vega and colleagues discuss the interesting finding of a unique type of burial in the cave of Molino-Chilacachi.

The Inca occupation in the Titicaca Basin is discussed in Chapters 13 and 14. First, Frye (Chapter 13) evaluates the significance of the Colla, Lupaqa, and Pacajes ethnic groups, noting that the Inca influence in the region was complex and intensive. In Chapter 14 Arkush discusses Inca ceremonial sites in the southwest region of the lake, which in contrast to Spanish religious centers were not always at especially visible locations. These two chapters are complemented by the archaeological reconnaissance of the Ollachea Valley, north of the Titicaca Basin, by Coben and Stanish (Chapter 15). This fieldwork has resulted in the finding of a significant number of Late Intermediate and Late Horizon sites. In Chapter 17 Stanish and colleagues present a catalogue of a number of important sites of the northern and western Titicaca Basin. Meanwhile, Bandy and Janusek (Chapter 16), using the tools of settlement archaeology, evaluate settlement shifts that took place during early Colonial times. They argue for massive population movement out of the lower Tiwanaku Valley. This, according to the authors, was to avoid colonial taxation. The immediate result of this population movement was the increase in small and less-populated settlements in areas like the Katari Basin.

Finally, in Chapter 18 Cohen addresses the future direction of archaeological research in the Titicaca Basin. She highlights the significance and benefits of a regional approach and summarizes the several chapters of the volume. Although Cohen points out that this volume is a "modest contribution," the editors and the authors of each chapter should be commended for their excellent work. Although some may disagree with the conclusions of some chapters, the data presented in many of the chapters are valuable for those working in the region, and the assessments provided in chapters 5, 7, 10, and 16 will be found useful by most archaeologists working in the Andean area. In short, this is a welcome volume for Andean archaeologists and for those interested in cultural change, regional approaches, and high-altitude human adaptation. I look forward to Volume 2 of

Advances, and kudos to the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology and the University of California, Los Angeles, for producing such a readable and well-illustrated edition.

Lidio M. Valdez
University of Victoria

Gulf Coast Archaeology: The Southeastern United States and Mexico. *Nancy Marie White*, ed. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2005, 368 pp., 149 black-and-white illustrations. \$65.00, cloth.

This is an interesting book that both enthuses and frustrates this reviewer. Its premise is that ancient native peoples around the Gulf of Mexico shared enough attributes to warrant serious study of interactions among them. Many of its chapters address this age-old problem with the renewed vigor enabled by the waning stranglehold of ahistorical paradigms. Others add substantial knowledge of sub-regions hitherto unknown to archaeology. The ingredients of a definitive volume are here but, ironically, the book's editor is ambivalent about circum-Gulf connections, and this adversely affects its structure and message. Whereas objectivity is the justifiable stance of scientific inquiry, the lack of any theoretical framework for investigating connections, coupled with anachronistic evidentiary criteria (i.e., the prima facie evidence of exotic goods or common traits), lessens the chance that this book will have the impact it should.

The 14 chapters of this collection can be divided into two groups: those dealing explicitly with circum-Gulf connections (and thus large scales of inquiry), and those trained on specific case material from locations around the Gulf. As Nancy White stresses in her introductory chapter, the latter group helps to characterize the terra incognita that is northeast Mexico and the south Texas coast. We learn in a chapter by Karl Kibler that the sand sheet of southeast Texas was a formidable barrier to interaction between communities more than 100 km apart. As in mid- to low-latitude regions elsewhere, near-shore occupation of the Gulf was enhanced by the flow of freshwater rivers into back-barrier embayments, as discussed by Robert Ricklis and Richard Weinstein. Both they and Randolph Widmer advance the argument that the intensity of Gulf coastal occupations (and attendant cultural complexity) corresponded to rhythms of sea-level change. This is a point well taken but not entirely relevant to circum-Gulf interactions unless we are to assume that such interactions took place only among people ensconced in stable estuarine habitats. It may be worth considering that the highest levels of human movement would occur during periods of instability, irrespective of sociocultural complexity.

I had expected more direct discussion of waterborne travel across the Gulf. White introduces the topic in the opening chapter, and S. Jeffrey Wilkerson takes