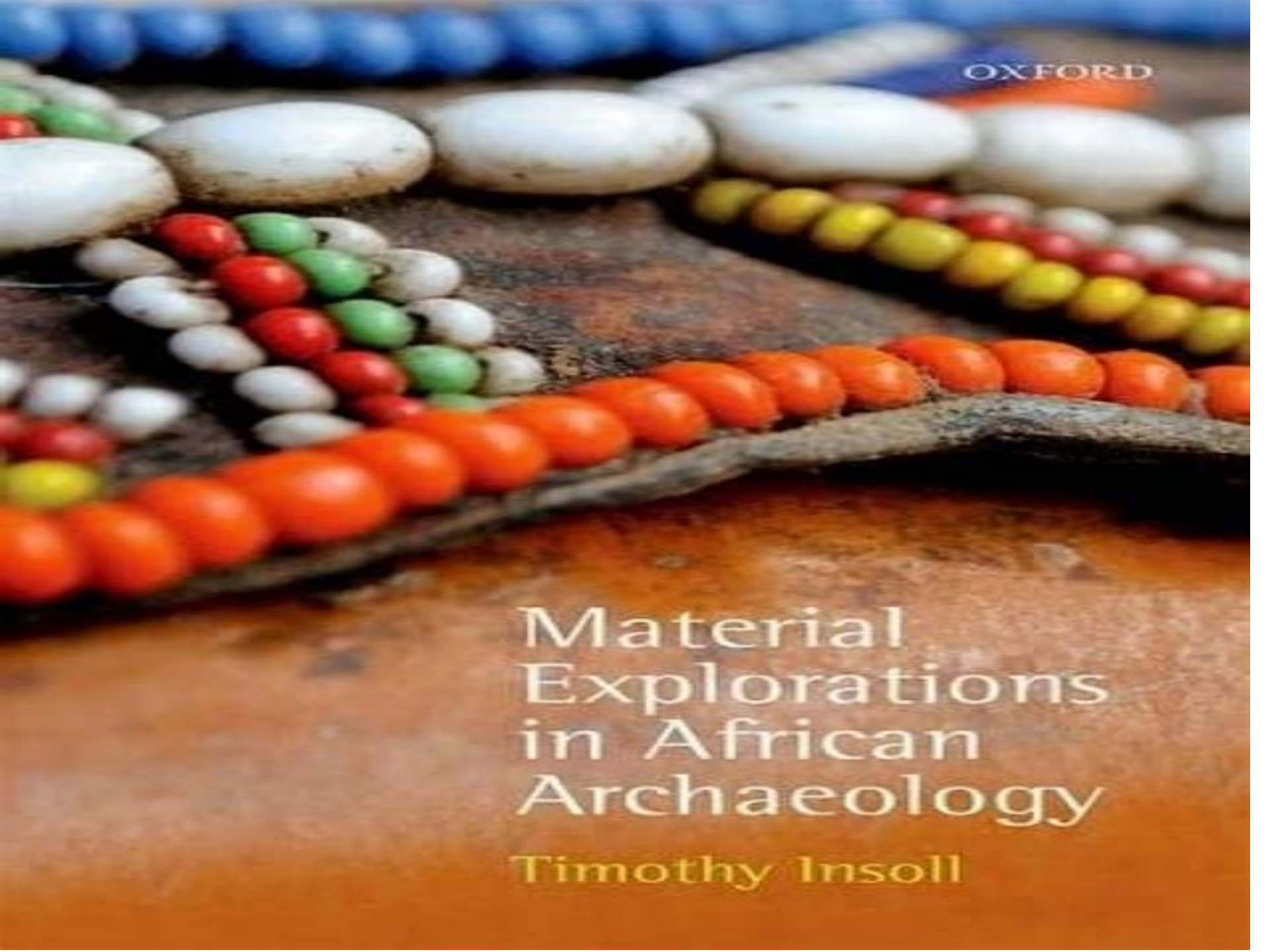




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Material Explorations in African Archaeology

Timothy Insoll

Material Explorations In African Archaeology

Tertia Barnett



Material Explorations In African Archaeology:

Material Explorations in African Archaeology Timothy Insoll, 2015-10-22 How people engaged with materials such as clay or stone why people dug features such as pits why they decorated their bodies or treated their dead in certain ways were all meaningful in the African past However these are subjects that have been generally neglected by archaeologists working in Africa until recently *Material Explorations in African Archaeology* examines materiality in African archaeology by exploring concepts of material agency and material engagement and entanglement in relation to their manifest presence in persons animals objects substances and contexts It investigates the magnificent and complex world of past African materiality by considering a range of case studies These include for example why standing stones were erected the potential meanings of bodily alteration practices such as scarification and dental modification and why recurrently Africans in the past gave ritual importance to objects materials and locations thought of as exotic or different Adopting a multidisciplinary focus the volume draws not only on archaeology but also among other areas ethnography and history discussing themes such as bodies landscape healing and medicine and divination as well as concepts such as memory and biography transformation and metaphor and metonym

Material Explorations in African Archaeology Timothy Insoll, 2015 *Material Explorations in African Archaeology* examines materiality in African archaeology by exploring concepts of material agency and material engagement and entanglement in relation to their manifest presence in persons animals objects substances and contexts of the African past

Echoes of Africa's Past. Archaeological explorations in the Anthropocene Savino di Lernia, 2025-05-30 Marking the 70th anniversary of the Libyan Italian archaeological Mission in the Tadrart Acacus and Messak this volume offers a multidisciplinary reflection on Africa's deep past and its enduring legacies in the Anthropocene By tracing the echoes of human environment interactions across time it highlights how archaeological research continues to reshape our understanding of adaptation resilience and transformation in African societies Drawing on interdisciplinary approaches including palaeoecology bioarchaeology rock art analysis the archaeology of food production and their various connections and networks this book challenges outdated Eurocentric narratives by foregrounding African agency and complexity Key themes include among others the Holocene environmental changes that influenced settlement patterns the significance of rock art in interpreting past belief systems and the impact of colonial trade and imperial expansion on indigenous communities *Echoes of Africa's Past* serves as a resource for archaeologists historians anthropologists and heritage scholars offering fresh perspectives on Africa's dynamic past and its relevance to debates on sustainability and cultural heritage in the Anthropocene Archaeological knowledge is incremental and hard won It is assembled through time intensive study of fragmentary evidence and its corpus represents intergenerational effort Though sometimes based on the study of stones our interpretations are not written in them Our working hypotheses typically run ahead of the evidence needed to assess them Expanded investigations new methods and changing premises compel revision and sometimes outright

rejection of earlier ideas Typological aids deemed useful by earlier generations may outlive their usefulness at the same time as the evidence they organize remains pertinent and available for rethinking The cumulative character of archaeological knowledge enables scalar perspectives across space and through time casting what we know of one location in relief through comparison to others These revisions rethinkings and scalar reflections encourage us to appreciate the complexity and diversity of past contexts as amply illustrated in contributions to this volume In short resuscitating echoes of Anthropocene Africa is painstaking work In this way and others archaeology is and should be slow science Ann B Stahl University of Victoria BC Canada

Islamization and Archaeology José C. Carvajal López, 2023-05-04 This fresh approach to the study of Islamization proposes an innovative conceptual framework that treats the subject as a particular case of cultural change The aim of the volume is to make Islamization amenable to archaeological and historical analyses of changes in material conditions of life without forsaking the specific history of Islam Islam and Islamization must be understood in their particular social context but also in relation to the conditions that hold them together over large geographical and chronological expanses Archaeologists and historians have considered Islamization from a range of different perspectives from conversion to cultural change though these studies have tended to be underpinned by a normativist conception of Islam In contrast Jos C Carvajal L pez takes a hermeneutical stance wherein Islam is the result of exploration and adopts a New Materialist theoretical analysis to explore Islamization and its impact on identities communities and their material culture The consequences for the study of Islamization are examined through examples that include some of the author s own experiences This innovative take on Islamization is not exclusively interested in the spread of the religion or of the polity and therefore it overcomes the theoretical limits imposed by the concepts of religious conversion and ideological imposition This book will appeal to scholars interested in associating cultural and religious change and in particular those working on Islam whether within or outside the discipline of archaeology

Divine Consumption Stephen A. Dueppen, 2022-12-31 Kirikongo is an archaeological site composed of thirteen remarkably well preserved discrete mounds occupied continually from the early first to the mid second millennium AD It spans a dynamic era that saw the growth of large settlement communities and regional socio political formations development of economic specializations intensification in interregional commercial networks and the effects of the Black Death pandemic The extraordinary preservation of architectural units activity areas and industrial zones provides a unique opportunity to discern the cultural practices that created stratified mounds tells in this part of West Africa Building from a new detailed zooarchaeological analysis and refinements in stratigraphic precision this book argues that repeated ritual activity was a significant factor in the accumulation of stratified archaeological deposits The book details consistencies in form and content of discrete loci containing animal bones food remains and broken and unbroken objects and suggests that these are the remnants of sequential ancestor shrines created when domestic spaces were converted to tombs or dedicated mortuary monuments were constructed Continuities and transformations in ancestral

rituals at Kirikongo inform on earlier West African ritual practices from the second millennium BC as well as political and social transformations at the site More broadly this case study provides new insights on anthropogenic mound tell formation processes social zooarchaeology material culture theory historical ontology and the analysis of ritual and religion in the archaeological record Winner of the 2023 SAfA Book Prize for a book that has been successful in taking African archaeology to a world audience

The Oxford Handbook of Prehistoric Figurines Timothy Insoll, 2017-04-13 Figurines dating from prehistory have been found across the world but have never before been considered globally The Oxford Handbook of Prehistoric Figurines is the first book to offer a comparative survey of this kind bringing together approaches from across the landscape of contemporary research into a definitive resource in the field The volume is comprehensive authoritative and accessible with dedicated and fully illustrated chapters covering figurines from the Americas Europe Africa Asia and Australasia and the Pacific laid out by geographical location and written by the foremost scholars in figurine studies wherever prehistoric figurines are found they have been expertly described and examined in relation to their subject matter form function context chronology meaning and interpretation Specific themes that are discussed by contributors include for example theories of figurine interpretation meaning in processes and contexts of figurine production use destruction and disposal and the cognitive and social implications of representation Chronologically the coverage ranges from the Middle Palaeolithic through to areas and periods where an absence of historical sources renders figurines prehistoric even though they might have been produced in the mid 2nd millennium AD as in parts of sub Saharan Africa The result is a synthesis of invaluable insights into past thinking on the human body gender identity and how the figurines might have been used either practically ritually or even playfully

Death Rituals and Social Order in the Ancient World Colin Renfrew, Michael J. Boyd, Iain Morley, 2016 This volume with essays by leading archaeologists and prehistorians considers how prehistoric humans attempted to recognise understand and conceptualise death

Islamisation A. C. S. Peacock, 2017-03-08 The spread of Islam and the process of Islamisation meaning both conversion to Islam and the adoption of Muslim culture is explored in the twenty four chapters of this volume Taking a comparative perspective both the historical trajectory of Islamisation and the methodological problems in its study are addressed with coverage moving from Africa to China and from the seventh century to the start of the colonial period in 1800 Key questions are addressed What is meant by Islamisation How far was the spread of Islam as a religion bound up with the spread of Muslim culture To what extent are Islamisation and conversion parallel processes How is Islamisation connected to Arabisation What role do vernacular Muslim languages play in the promotion of Muslim culture The broad comparative perspective allows readers to develop a thorough understanding of the process of Islamisation over eleven centuries of its history

Current Perspectives in the Archaeology of Ghana Anquandah, James, Kankpeyeng, Benjamin, 2015-04-26 This collection of essays on archaeology and heritage studies is authored by local and expatriate scholars who are either past or current practitioners in archaeological

work in Ghana They are from Ghana UK US and Canada The subject matter covered includes the history and evolution of the discipline in Ghana the method and theory or how to do it in archaeology field research reports and syntheses on findings from past and recent investigations The eclectic or multidisciplinary strategy has been the research vogue in Ghanaian archaeology recently and this is reflected in the various chapters The essays engage with current theoretical trends in global archaeology and also focus on the role and status of archaeology as a discipline in Ghanaian society today Archaeology is a relatively novel subject to many in Ghana This Reader will therefore be a huge asset to local students and experts alike Foreign scholars will also find it very useful

The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Archaeology Bethany Walker, Timothy Insoll, Corisande Fenwick, 2020-10-27 Born from the fields of Islamic art and architectural history the archaeological study of the Islamic societies is a relatively young discipline With its roots in the colonial periods of the late 19th and early 20th centuries its rapid development since the 1980s warrants a reevaluation of where the field stands today This Handbook represents for the first time a survey of Islamic archaeology on a global scale describing its disciplinary development and offering candid critiques of the state of the field today in the Central Islamic Lands the Islamic West Sub Saharan Africa and Asia The international contributors to the volume address such themes as the timing and process of Islamization the problems of periodization and regionalism in material culture cities and countryside cultural hybridity cultural and religious diversity natural resource management international trade in the later historical periods and migration Critical assessments of the ways in which archaeologists today engage with Islamic cultural heritage and local communities closes the volume highlighting the ethical issues related to studying living cultures and religions Richly illustrated with extensive citations it is the reference work on the debates that drive the field today

Children of the Soil Tasha Rijke-Epstein, 2023-09-08 In Children of the Soil Tasha Rijke Epstein offers an urban history of the port city of Mahajanga Madagascar before during and after colonization Drawing on archival and ethnographic evidence she weaves together the lives and afterlives of built spaces to show how city residents negotiated imperial encroachment colonial rule and global racial capitalism over two centuries From Mahajanga's hilltop palace to the alluvial depths of its cesspools the city's spaces were domains for ideological debates between rulers and subjects French colonizers and indigenous Malagasy peoples and Comorian migrants and Indian traders In these spaces Mahajanga's residents expressed competing moral theories about power over people and the land The built world was also where varying populations reckoned with human ancestral and ecological pasts and laid present and future claims to urban belonging Migrants from nearby Comoros harnessed built forms as anticipatory devices through which they sought to build their presence into the landscape and transform themselves from outsiders into children of the soil zanatany In tracing the centrality of Mahajanga's architecture to everyday life Rijke Epstein offers new ways to understand the relationships between the material world the more than human realm and the making of urban life

In My Time of Dying John Parker, 2021-03-16 Why do people die and where do they go when they are dead How should the dead be buried and

mourned in order to ensure that they continue to work for the benefit of the living How have perceptions and experiences of death and the ends of life changed over the centuries In *My Time of Dying* considers these questions from the perspective of African history In what is the first history of death in Africa John Parker examines mortuary culture and the ongoing relationship between the living and the dead over a four hundred year period Focusing anecdotally on West Africa but with a comparative awareness of comparable practices throughout the continent Parker highlights how Africans developed the world's most vibrant and recognizable cultures of death *Out of Bounds* Pamela A. Patton, Maria Alessia Rossi, 2023-10-03

Where are the limits of medieval art as a field of study What happens when conventionally trained art historians disregard the chronological geographical or cultural parameters that both direct and protect their scholarship Beginning with Thelma K Thomas and Alicia Walker's acute assessment of the need for a medieval art history for now the essays in *Out of Bounds* ask what happens when the study of medieval art disregards boundaries that it once obeyed The volume focuses on questions surrounding the production of knowledge and on how scholarly investigation beyond the conventional thematic boundaries of medieval art history is changing demonstrating how the field can address the ethics of scholarship today by positing a global turn in response to growing demands for socially responsible medieval studies Collectively the contributors demonstrate how going out of bounds can transform modern understanding of the people traditions and relationships that gave rise to medieval works As such this book argues for the necessity of reshaping scholarly discourse about the nature and significance of medieval art and generates fresh scholarly interpretations and important new critical tools for teaching and researching the Middle Ages The contributors to this volume are Suzanne Conklin Akbari Michele Bacci Jill Caskey Eva Frojmovic Sarah M Gu rin Christina Maranci Alice Isabella Sullivan Thelma K Thomas Michele Tomasi and Alicia Walker **Cultural Heritage in the Arabian Peninsula** Karen Exell, Trinidad Rico, 2016-04-22 Heritage projects in the Arabian Peninsula are developing rapidly Museums and heritage sites are symbols of shifting national identities and a way of placing the Arabian Peninsula states on the international map Global i.e. Western heritage standards and practices have been utilised for the rapid injection of heritage expertise in museum development and site management and for international recognition The use of Western heritage models in the Arabian Peninsula inspires two key areas for research which this book examines the obscuring of indigenous concepts and practices of heritage and expressions of cultural identity and the tensions between local community concepts of heritage and identity and the new national identities being constructed through museums and heritage sites at a state level *An Engraved Landscape: Rock carvings in the Wadi al-Ajal, Libya* Tertia Barnett, 2023-02-23

An Engraved Landscape is a contextual analysis of a substantial new corpus of engravings from the Wadi al Ajal situated in the Central Saharan region of south west Libya The wadi is renowned as the heartland of the Garamantian civilization which emerged from local mobile Pastoral communities in the 1st millennium BC and dominated trans Saharan trade and politics for over a thousand years Extensive archaeological and palaeoenvironmental investigations in recent years have provided

detailed insight into the later prehistory and protohistory of the wadi and surrounding areas. However, prior to the fieldwork detailed in this work, only a handful of carvings had been recorded in the wadi. This work is based on systematic survey conducted between 2004 and 2009 which recorded around 2 500 previously unknown or unpublished engraved and inscribed rock surfaces. All forms of engraving, whether figurative or surface markings, were viewed as significant residues of human interaction with the rock surface and were recorded. The resulting database provides an opportunity to analyze the engravings in relation to their changing physical and cultural contexts, and the discussion offers a fresh interpretation of Saharan rock art based on this substantial new evidence. *An Engraved Landscape* also captures in detail a unique heritage resource that is currently inaccessible and threatened. This record of the fragile engravings provides an important source of information for researchers and students.

A Geography of Offerings Richard Bradley, 2016-11-30. More than a quarter of a century ago, Richard Bradley published *The Passage of Arms: It was conceived as An Archaeological Analysis of Prehistoric Hoards and Votive Deposits*, but as the author concedes, these terms were too narrowly focused for the complex subject of deliberate deposition, and the period covered too short. *A Geography of Offerings* has been written to provoke a reaction from archaeologists and has two main aims. The first is to move this kind of archaeology away from the minute study of ancient objects to a more ambitious analysis of ancient places and landscapes. The second is to recognise that problems of interpretation are not restricted to the pre-Roman period. Mesolithic finds have a place in this discussion, and so do those of the 1st millennium AD. Archaeologists studying individual periods confront with similar problems, and the same debates are repeated within separate groups of scholars, but they arrive at different conclusions. Here, the author presents a review that brings these discussions together and extends across the entire sequence. Rather than offer a comprehensive survey, this is an extended essay about the strengths and weaknesses of current thinking regarding specialised deposits which encompass both sacrificial deposits characterised by large quantities of animal and human bones and other collections which are dominated by finds of stone or metal artefacts. It considers current approaches and theory, the histories of individual artefacts, and the landscape and physical context of the places where they were deposited, the character of materials, the importance of animism, and the character of ancient cosmologies.

Spatial Approaches in African Archaeology Cameron Gokee, Carla Klehm, 2023-01-01. This book explores the interplay between African archaeology and geospatial methods from three broad perspectives. First, several contributors examine the technical possibilities and limits of using satellite imagery to detect archaeological sites and model their physical environs. A second perspective is the integration of new geospatial data and methods into site and landscape scale analyses to better address questions about social organization and subjective experience in African pasts. A final perspective considers the interplay between geospatial technologies and community archaeology in Africa. Recognizing that GIS and RS supersede traditional divisions in African archaeology such as different periods, geographic regions, and theoretical orientations, the chapters aim to be widely applicable. Arranged by methodological

emphasis the case studies move from technical discussions of specific geospatial tools to general applications for addressing specific sociohistorical topics Each chapter clearly explains the links between their archaeological questions and analytical methods as well as how their results advance our understanding of African pasts and heritage resources Many of the chapters can serve as learning models for archaeologists who are new to GIS or curious about its applications to their work Others represent recent advances in geospatial applications of greater interest to more seasoned GIS practitioners demonstrating the potential for African scholarship to contribute to methodological innovations This book is of interest to students and researchers of African and historical archaeology and anthropology Previously published in *African Archaeological Review* Volume 37 issue 1 March 2020

The Viking Age Caroline Ahlström Arcini, 2018-05-16 The majority of literature about the Viking period based on artifacts or written sources covers battles kings chiefs and mercenaries long distance travel and colonization trade and settlement Less is said about the life of those that stayed at home or those that immigrated into Scandinavia whether voluntarily or by force This book uses results from the examination of a substantial corpus of Swedish osteological material to discuss aspects of demography and health in the Viking period those which would have been visible and recognizable in the faces or physical appearances of the individuals concerned It explores the effects of migration from the spread of new diseases such as leprosy to patterns of movement and integration of immigrants into society The skeletal material also allows the study of levels of violence attitudes towards disablement and the care provided by Viking communities An overview of the worldwide phenomenon of modified teeth also gives insight into the practice of deliberate physical embellishment and body modification The interdisciplinary approach to questions regarding ordinary life presented here will broaden the knowledge about society during the Viking Age The synthesis of the Swedish unburnt human skeletal remains dated to the Viking age will be a valuable resource for future research and provides an in depth view on Viking age society

Pilgrimage and England's Cathedrals Dee Dyas, John Jenkins, 2020-08-07 A brilliant breakthrough in pilgrimage studies An exemplary study that shows how to bring together different academic and institutional interests in a common cause understanding the relationship between pilgrimage and English cathedrals over time A publication that will hopefully inspire similar collaborative studies around the globe John Eade Professor of Sociology and Anthropology University of Roehampton UK People who oversee minister lead worship guide welcome manage market promote and maintain cathedrals will find this book an indispensable treasure It is aware of the awesome complexity inherent in cathedral life but it doesn't duck the issues its clear eyed focus is on the way people experience cathedrals and how these extraordinary holy places can speak and connect with all the diversity represented by the people who come to them In a spiritually hungry age this book shows us how to recognise and meet that hunger This book will be required reading for all us insiders trying to invite and signpost access to holy ground The Very Reverend Adrian Dorber Dean of Lichfield Chair of the Association of English Cathedrals This book looks at England's cathedrals and their relationship with

pilgrimage throughout history and in the present day The volume brings together historians social scientists and cathedral practitioners to provide groundbreaking work comprising a historical overview of the topic thematic studies and individual views from prominent clergy discussing how they see pilgrimage as part of the contemporary cathedral experience **Case Studies in Paleoethnobotany** Deborah Pearsall, 2018-07-06 Case Studies in Paleoethnobotany focuses on interpretation in paleoethnobotany In it the reader is guided through the process of analyzing archaeobotanical data and of using that data to address research questions Part I introduces archaeobotanical remains and how they are deposited preserved sampled recovered and analyzed Five issue oriented case studies make up Part II and illustrate paleoethnobotanical inference and applications A recurrent theme is the strength of using multiple lines of evidence to address issues of significance This book is unique in its explicit focus on interpretation for consumers of paleoethnobotanical knowledge Paleoethnobotanical inference is increasingly sophisticated and contributes to our understanding of the past in ways that may not be apparent outside the field or to all practitioners The case study format allows in depth exploration of the process of interpretation in the context of significant issues that will engage readers No other work introduces paleoethnobotany and illustrates its application in this way This book will appeal to students interested in ancient plant people interrelationships as well as archaeologists paleoethnobotanists and paleoecologists The short methods chapters and topical case studies are ideal for instructors of classes in archaeological methods environmental archaeology and ethnobiology

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Material Explorations In African Archaeology Introduction

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