

discussion of how hunter-gatherers and agriculturalists have been presented as endpoints of a spectrum with little middle ground. This dichotomy has resulted in an inadequate terminology for those cultures that don't fit neatly into one category or the other. Kenneth Ames brings an evolutionary biological view to this volume with his chapter on intensification of food production. He teases apart the different ways food production can be intensified, from exploiting a new food resource or harvesting tools to organizing labor in new ways.

Nancy Turner teams with different coauthors on two chapters. In the first, with Sandra Peacock, they outline the wealth of plants used throughout the Northwest Coast, the management and cultivation techniques, and intensification strategies used. Based on this compilation of data from throughout the Northwest Coast, Turner and Peacock conclude that intervention in the life cycles of many of the plant resources often rose to levels commonly considered horticultural. In the second, with Robin Smith and James Jones, she explores ownership of plant resources. Ownership of valued plant patches or plots is found in varying degrees and forms throughout the Northwest Coast, and is frequently combined with ideologies that value conservation and mindful, respectful use of plant resources. Ownership, use rights, and conservation ideology taken together have resulted in systems that have successfully managed plant resources for generations.

Part II of the volume consists of six case studies ranging from wapato intensification on the Lower Columbia to tobacco gardening in Southeast Alaska. It begins with a chapter by Wayne Suttles, who over his decades of research on the Coast Salish has documented a wide variety of activities that he regards as clear evidence of "gardening." The question has always been whether these behavior patterns predate contact; Suttles concludes the ubiquity of gardening techniques points to a precontact origin, but does not discount continued innovation during the postcontact period.

Melissa Darby shifts the focus to the Lower Columbia River region with her discussion of strategies used in the intensification of wapato harvest. Wapato was abundant in the region, and increased yields from its cultivation and management gave rise to its use as a trade good. Lepofsky et al. present their work on historic and prehistoric prescribed burning in the Fraser Valley. Identifying this type of burning in the archaeological record has proven difficult, so they advocate an interdisciplinary approach to identification. James McDonald explores the biases in the ethnohistoric record that lead to the widely held view that Northwest Coast economies were exclusively focused on marine and riverine resources. Indigenous gardening practices were belittled and underplayed in the early ethnographic literature, leading to many modern day misconceptions about the significance of plants and their cultivation.

Madonna Moss finds that, as many of the other authors in this volume have shown, the significance of plants to the Tlingit of Southeast Alaska has been under appreciated and likely under-recorded. However, unlike most of the other case studies presented here, she finds little evidence of horticultural practices, with the exception of tobacco. Douglas Deur's chapter turns to the cultivation of estuarine plants. He draws from some of the oldest written accounts of the Northwest Coast cultures, leaning heavily on Boas' work with the Kwakwaka'wakw, but also incorporating

sources from other parts of the region.

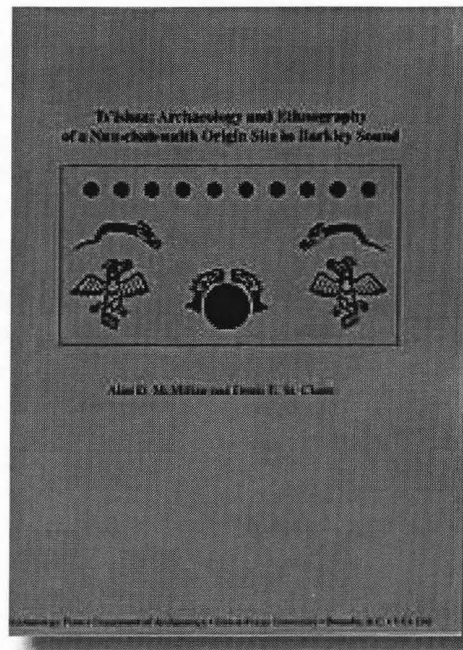
In Part III, Deur and Turner pull together the main themes found throughout the volume, emphasizing inaccuracies in early accounts of aboriginal plant management, the difficulty of finding signs of plant management in precontact archaeological contexts, and the value of an interdisciplinary approach in further research.

*Keeping It Living* is aimed at the academic audience, and so is somewhat technical at times. However, the chapters are largely engaging and well-written, making the volume accessible to the interested amateur and general public.

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## *Ts'ishaa: Archaeology and Ethnography of a Nuu-chah-nulth Origin Site in Barkley Sound*

by Alan D. McMillan and Denis E. St. Claire

Publication No. 31, Archaeology Press, Department of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC. x+223 pp., 87 illus., 51 tables and 5 appendices, ISBN: 0-86491-271-4. \$35. 2005.

*Ts'ishaa: Archaeology and Ethnography of a Nuu-chah-nulth Origin Site in Barkley Sound* is the timely monograph for excavations of a central Northwest Coast village site on a tiny island in Barkley Sound, western Vancouver Island, in Tseshaht territory. With over twenty years of collaborative archaeological and ethnographic work in the area, McMillan and St. Claire recount oral traditions about political upheaval in Barkley Sound due to large-scale population collapse as a result of the spread

of European diseases and firearms during the late 18th century. Through marriage, warfare and amalgamation, the Tseshaht came to control a territory many times larger than their original handful of small islands. They moved their main village up Alberni Inlet, coming back to Ts'ishaa only for the summer sea mammal hunt. Ts'ishaa was appropriated by Canada and sold to a non-Native in 1893, and it became part of the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve in 1975. With park visitors oblivious to Native heritage, but as interested in it as the Tseshaht themselves, the Tseshaht First Nation and Parks Canada launched the Tseshaht Archaeological Project in 1998. The project's focus was excavation at Ts'ishaa, directed by Alan McMillan and Denis St. Claire from 1999 to 2001.

The Ts'ishaa monograph is the result of this collaborative project and forms a remarkably thorough report on only recently completed excavations. A brief introduction is followed by a comprehensive chapter reviewing Tseshaht oral history and recent resource use and a short chapter on the postcontact European presence on Benson Island. The next three chapters review the excavations at three distinct areas: (a) the Ts'ishaa main village area, (b) an elevated landform behind the main village known as the back terrace, and (c) the adjacent hamlet of Himayis (also on Benson Island). These chapters detail excavation methodology, stratigraphy and dating, and provide meticulous artifact descriptions, including discussion of distributions of artifact types in the area and adjacent regions. The results are summarized in a final chapter, which also provides a discussion of collaboration between First Nations and National Parks personnel and visitors. Five appendices by several specialists provide technical analyses of local geology and lithic raw materials (Michael C. Wilson), the chipped stone assemblage (Martin Magne), shellfish remains (Ian D. Sumpter), vertebrate fauna (Gay Frederick and Susan Crockford), and small fish remains from column samples (Iain McKechnie).

As a site report, the Ts'ishaa volume is necessarily heavy on description and low on interpretation. However, one possible way to interpret the data would be through the proposed Wakashan Migration hypothesis, which McMillan discussed in his previous book, *Since the Time of the Transformers* (UBC Press, 1999), and elsewhere. According to this hypothesis, the Barkley Sound area was originally inhabited by Salish speakers who were replaced about 2000 years ago by the Wakashan-speaking ancestors of today's Tseshaht and other Nuu-chah-nulth. On the other hand, the Tseshaht themselves say they were created at Ts'ishaa, their origin site, and this is emphasized in the Ts'ishaa volume.

The early component from the back terrace at Ts'ishaa, predating 2000 BP, contains a large amount of chipped stone, uncharacteristic of later artifact assemblages from Barkley Sound or contemporary sites from further north on western Vancouver Island. Moreover, it contains several artifact types (and burial practices) characteristic of contemporary sites from the adjacent Gulf of Georgia region, which is inhabited today by Coast Salish communities. On the other hand, there are no indicators of significant change in the faunal assemblage between the early and late components, with abundant whale remains already present in the earliest deposits. The presence of some chipped stone in the late component, furthermore, indicates some continued difference from West Coast sites further north, as does the absence

of ground stone celts.

The archaeological evidence is ambiguous about migrations, and we can look forward to find out how McMillan, St. Claire, and the Tseshaht interpret the data in a future synthesis. McMillan, among others, has already argued that we need to allow for other processes besides population replacement when discussing "migrations" of language families. The constantly changing alliances and the emphasis on the ties of social groups to place (Tseshaht literally are "the people of Ts'ishaa") are characteristic of identity construction among the Nuu-chah-nulth and throughout the Northwest Coast; thus, the possibility of "linguistic capture," as McMillan calls the replacement of language but not population, deserves serious consideration. The final interpretation of the changes and continuities in the archaeological record around 2000 BP will, no doubt, be a significant contribution to archaeological theory even beyond the Northwest Coast.

Other cool discoveries at Ts'ishaa include several partial dog and one river otter skeletons in the early component. The authors suggest these could have been intentional burials of pets. The discovery of a mussel-shell cutting blade embedded in a whale skull provides harpoon-proof evidence of deliberate whaling at least 500 years ago. As already mentioned, however, the main quality of this site report is the thorough presentation of the data—both in the main chapters and in the appendices. The book will therefore be very valuable for any professional archaeologist working in Nuu-chah-nulth and adjacent territories, or students planning to work in these areas. An added bonus for zooarchaeologists is Frederick and Crockford's database of seasonal availability and habitat description for all the vertebrate faunal taxa identified in the faunal assemblage from the site. Although its binding is less than perfect, the Ts'ishaa monograph is worth the money!

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*If you or someone you know would be interested in reviewing one of the following books, please contact the Reviews Editor, Rastko Cvekic, at rastko@shaw.ca.*

Bell, Catherine and Robert K. Paterson (eds), *Protection of First Nations Cultural Heritage: Law, Policy, and Reform*, UBC Press, 2008.

Bell, Catherine and Val Napoleon (eds), *First Nations Cultural Heritage and Law: Case Studies, Voices, and Perspectives*, UBC Press, 2008.

Bryson, Reid, Katherine McEnaney DeWall and Alison Stenger, *Archaeoclimatology Atlas of Oregon: The Modeled Distribution in Space and Time of Past Climates*, U of Utah Press, 2009.

Kirk, Ruth and Richard Daugherty, *Archaeology in Washington*, U of Washington Press, 2007.

Kuzmin, Yaroslav, Susan Keates and Chen Shen (eds), *Origin and Spread of Microblade Technology in Northern Asia and North America*, Archaeology Press, 2007.

Thompson, Terry and Steven Egesdal (eds), *Salish Myths and Legends: One People's Stories*, U of Nebraska Press, 2008.

McNeil, Cameron, *Chocolate in Mesoamerica: A Cultural History of Cacao*, U Press of Florida, 2007.

Mochanov, Yuri and Svetlana Fedoseeva, *Archaeology, the Paleolithic of Northeast Asia, a Non-Tropical Origin for Humanity, and the Earliest Stages of the Settlement of America*, Archaeology Press, 2008.

#### NOVELS

Bowering, George, *Shoot!* New Star Books, 2008.

Cannon, Deborah, *Ravenstone: A Novel*, Trafford Publishing, 2008.

Schreiber, John, *Stranger Wycott's Place*, New Star Books, 2008.