

REVIEWS

Peter Pope and Shannon Lewis-Simpson, eds. *Exploring Atlantic Transitions: Archaeologies of Transience and Permanence in New Found Lands*. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2013. 353 pages.

Archeology is an academic discipline which is very rarely presented on the pages of the *Polish Journal for American Studies*, but *Exploring Atlantic Transitions: Archaeologies of Transience and Permanence in New Found Lands*, carefully edited by Peter Pope and Shannon Lewis-Simpson, a volume of thirty one papers and the product of the 2010 conference of the Society for Post-Medieval Archeology at St John's, Newfoundland, should be a fascinating material for perusal by both historians of Early America and any Americanists, even those only remotely interested in the beginnings of European presence in the "new-found lands" in the West.

The papers in the volume challenge some major themes of early American history, which even today is dominated by the discourses of European expansionism and the underlying belief in the unstoppable progress of European colonization, and paint a much more complicated picture of the early stages of the planting of European colonies in America. A majority of the articles, written by archeologists from the USA, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Portugal, and Austria, explore the population mobility and stability in the early European communities in the New World, paying attention to the factors which allowed some of the colonies to survive, while many others failed to become permanent settlements.

The papers are short, lucid and superbly informative. The volume has been painstakingly prepared for publication and has an impressive layout. It is replete with illustrations, text figures, maps and tables, which visualize both the sites discussed in the essays and the artifacts under investigation, deepen the analyses and assist the reader in following the arguments of the authors. The scholars, in general, avoid the use of the disciplinary jargon, presenting the results of the fascinating fieldwork carried out in different locations in the North Atlantic area, ranging from the Turks and Caicos islands to Newfoundland, with a paper by Mark Brisbane exploring also the medieval English ventures in Northwestern Russia and another by James Lyttleton devoted to the colonization of Ireland. These two papers belong to the first part of the book, "Old World Context." The book has seven more thematic sections: "Atlantic Expansion," "Colonial Memory,"

"Pots and Provenance: People and Places," "The Birth of Virginia," "Permanence and Transience in Newfoundland," "Ferryland, Maryland and Ireland: The Calverts and Other Colonial Patrons," and "Inuit and Europeans in Labrador."

As the format of this review makes it is impossible to discuss all the articles in this volume, attention should perhaps be paid to those which are devoted to the topics of greater relevance for the interdisciplinary community of Americanists. For example, two papers devoted to the beginnings of Virginia deal with the ill-fated Walter Raleigh's colony at Roanoke. Eric Klingelhofer and Nicholas Lucchetti report on the current state of archeological research on Roanoke Island, while Beverley A. Straube discusses the significance of the artifacts recently discovered both on Roanoke Island and in James Fort, the first English settlements in America. The section is completed by a study by Carter C. Hudgins, who offers a reassessment of the motifs of the early inhabitants in Jamestown: his analysis of the copper artifacts found in that location suggests that they were more interested in mining and trade in minerals than permanent settlement.

The remarkable section on colonial memory contains an article by Audrey Horning, which presents the results of the excavations on a site in Northern Ireland and discusses the issue of the erasure of some painful aspects of the English colonization of the area from Irish public memory. The two other papers in this section deal with nineteenth-century settlements in North America. Jeff Oliver studies the significance of forest clearance and landscape change for the early settlements in British Columbia, while Giovanna Vitelli ponders about the relationship between early tourism and the ideological constructions of seafaring communities in Maine.

The section which will probably attract most attention, entitled "Atlantic Expansion," contains five little gems of historical research. Peter E. Pope offers compelling arguments that one of the causes for the success and permanence of some European colonies in America in the beginning of the seventeenth century could be the beginning of the consumer revolution and the spread of domestic goods, which not only improved the quality of life, but also, being linked with status, "facilitated construction of a micro social world" (45). Paula Marcoux discusses the significance of bread consumption for early colonists, looking at archeological and documentary evidence for the construction of field ovens in the early settlements. Steven R. Pendery and Hannah E. C. Koon suggest new methods of osteological and biochemical analysis of skeletal remains from the sites of early colonies to assess the impact that scurvy had on their demographics. The development of maritime culture in St Lawrence Valley is the topic brilliantly discussed by Brad Loewen.

The book does not provide a uniform, general survey of the archeological study of the early modern expansion of Europe, but offers a wide selection of

recent work on the Anglo-Saxon colonialism, based on the fieldwork carried out both in the well-known settlements, such as Jamestown and St Mary's City, and on the sites where the presence of settlers was only transient or temporary, as in the fishing stations of Newfoundland (the paper by William Gilbert), the islands in the North Atlantic (Natascha Mehler and Mark Gardiner discuss the English and Hasbeatic Trade in this area), and in the Caribbean (Neil Kennedy on salt raking). The research on which the articles are based concerns mostly European migrations, but there are also papers which deal with contacts with Native Americans, more specifically Inuits (the papers in section 7, by Peter Ramsden, Lisa Rankin, Greg Mitchell, Eliza Brandy, and Amelia Fay).

Exploring Atlantic Transitions, by concentrating on the details of the colonial existence often neglected in general historical studies of colonization, reconstructs individual and personal experience of migration and settlement by ordinary people, painting a complex picture of the processes underlying the colonial ventures and pointing to factors often neglected in historical studies, which archeology helps to bring to light. The characteristic feature of many of the articles is that they ask new questions and suggest new lines of investigation, proving that the interdisciplinary alliance of archeology, history, and cultural studies can lead to path-breaking results.

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Susan Hardman Moore. *Abandoning America: Life-Stories from Early New England*. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2013. 412 pages.

In this book, Susan Hardman Moore remains faithful to her interest in early New England return migration demonstrated in *Pilgrims: New World Settlers and the Call of Home* (2007), her first major study on the topic. Essentially, *Abandoning America* is an extended documentary supplement to the first book. The author makes her goal clear from the beginning: she intends to present the "lives of around six hundred individuals" who emigrated to New England in the first half of the seventeenth century and subsequently "returned to England before the Restoration of Charles II in 1660" (1). Although her New England covers mostly the larger colonies of Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Haven, some individuals from the smaller settlements of Plymouth, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Maine are also included. She acknowledges the burgeoning transatlantic historiography dealing with the movement of settlers out of early New England and the important contributions of David Cressy, Andrew Delbanco, Philip Gura,