

a maritime port with connections to Ecuador remains elusive. Morris's paper promises a time when archaeology can not only tentatively confirm, but also actively critique, the written text. As Schaedel intimates in his thoughtful discussion of this disparate collection, there is much material here that underscores the extreme variability in the extent and nature of Inca imperial control—enough material, in fact, to question the "pax incaica" legend promulgated by the Inca themselves and by some later apologists.

*Aztec Warfare: Imperial Expansion and Political Control.* ROSS HASSIG. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1988. xx + 404 pp., figures, maps, references, index. \$29.95 (cloth).

Reviewed by David Webster, The Pennsylvania State University.

Aztec warfare, unlike many other elements of Aztec society that survived throughout much of the sixteenth century, is mainly known from the accounts of the original Spanish conquerors, or from native written or oral accounts which refer to Preconquest times. Ross Hassig's compilation and analysis of this material represents the most comprehensive treatment available of Aztec warfare and its sociopolitical correlates. The first part of the book is packed with information on the technology, organization, and conduct of wars, as well as the relation between warfare, as an institution, and the larger social, political, economic, and religious fabric of Aztec society. Hassig maintains that Aztec warfare was the basis for a hegemonic empire. By this he means an expansive system geared to produce high returns of land, tribute, and other resources at the lowest possible cost. Technological, logistical, and social constraints precluded a permanent, effective, bureaucratic/military Aztec presence throughout most of their empire. Instead, the Aztecs relied upon threats, persuasion, and alliances to extend their system, resorting to warfare when these failed. Successful warfare created and maintained a facade of power that facilitated political expansion. Precisely because the Aztecs did not spread their human resources thinly in garrisons and administrative posts, they could situationally muster overwhelming force when necessary to defeat new enemies or reassert domination over those already subjugated.

The second part of the book presents an extremely detailed reign-by-reign history of Aztec warfare and expansion, ending with the Spanish Conquest. Hassig uses this history to show how military goals, strategies, and tactics evolved as the Aztec empire expanded and constraints became more pronounced.

Apart from its demonstration of Hassig's obvious competence as an ethnohistorian, several things impressed me about this book. First, Hassig effectively uses comparisons with other military systems to make convincing analyses of Aztec logistical constraints. These simple, straightforward models provide an effective check on some of the ambiguities or exaggerations in the original accounts, and allow more realistic assessments of Aztec military capabilities. He also

carefully distinguishes between many levels of Aztec warfare in terms of the policies and motivations involved. For example, the famous *xochiyaoyotl*, or flowery wars, are convincingly seen as phases of much more complex processes of warfare. They functioned in part to generate information concerning relative strengths and resolve of enemies and thus facilitate military policy (see Vayda, *War in Ecological Perspective*, 1976, for a general model along these lines). The motivations of individual warriors are distinguished carefully from those of the policy makers of the Aztec state. Finally, Hassig recognizes the interplay between religious ideology and political expansion, while at the same time maintaining (correctly in my estimation) that religion was a justification for war and conquest rather than a cause. The causes of the scale, direction, and policies of Aztec warfare are solidly political and economic ones.

One thing that puzzled me was Hassig's estimates concerning the size of large Aztec armies, which he feels in some cases reached 400,000 men or more. Such figures strike me as much too high, especially given Hassig's own evaluations of the constraints on moving, feeding, and deploying large forces. They are also larger than any well-documented contemporaneous (sixteenth-century) European or Asian armies of which I am aware, even though the latter had animal transport. Although he does not try to develop the hegemonic empire theme in a comparative sense, I suggest that many preindustrial empires—even including those with effective animal and maritime transport such as Rome—exhibit surprisingly hegemonic (as opposed to bureaucratic) structures (Garnsey and Saller, *The Roman Empire: Economy, Society and Culture*, 1987).

All in all this is a superb book, one that will be of use both to Mesoamerica scholars and to those interested in comparative military and political structure.

*A Dream of Maya: Augustus and Alice Le Plongeon in Nineteenth-Century Yucatan.* LAWRENCE GUSTAVE DESMOND and PHYLLIS MAUCH MESSENGER. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1988. xxi + 147 pp., biblio., index. \$19.95 (paper).

*Travels and Archaeology in South Chile.* JUNIUS B. BIRD. JOHN HYSLOP, editor. University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, 1988. xxxi + 246 pp., biblio. \$25.00 (cloth).

Reviewed by Anthony P. Andrews, New College of the University of South Florida.

These two delightful books represent important contributions to the history of American archaeology. They are far removed from one another in time and space and deal with radically different personalities, but share common ground in salvaging valuable unpublished data while presenting highly readable narrative accounts of early explorations in two different regions of the continent.

Lawrence Desmond and Phyllis Messenger have written the most extensive biography to date of Au-

gustus and Alice Le Plongeon, the husband-wife team whose late nineteenth-century archaeological explorations in Yucatan attracted international public attention and widespread controversy in academic circles. The Le Plongeon's are best known for their excavations at Chichén Itzá and Uxmal, and the uncovering of the first Yucatecan *chacmool* statue at the former site. They also visited other sites in northern Yucatan and along the east coast of Quintana Roo. Their fieldwork spanned a decade from 1873 to 1884. While the Le Plongeon's work yielded several interesting discoveries and a fair amount of valuable data, little of this material ever reached print in usable form. Early on, Augustus Le Plongeon began to construct a series of theories linking the Maya to Egypt and Atlantis; his excavations had exposed the remains of several individuals whose story became a diffusionist saga that spanned distant continents and civilizations. His two main books, *Sacred Mysteries among the Mayas and Quichés, 11,500 Years Ago* (1886), and *Queen Mōo and the Egyptian Sphinx* (1896), contain some of the most fanciful and bizarre reading in the annals of archaeology. More down-to-earth accounts of their activities were published by the more level-headed Alice, who wrote several informative articles and a book entitled *Here and There in Yucatan* (1886).

The Le Plongeon's have not fared well in earlier, briefer biographies, in which they have been treated with a mixture of amusement and ridicule. In an attempt to redress this imbalance, Desmond and Messenger present a more even-handed account. They include a large number of previously unpublished photographs, sketches, and field notes, and cite extensively from unpublished correspondence and obscure articles of the period. They dispel several unflattering myths about their subjects, and pointedly note that the Le Plongeon's field techniques and record-keeping were on a par with those of their contemporary colleagues. Augustus was a first-rate pioneer photographer, and at least two colleagues, Ephraim George Squier and Frederick Ober, were not above presenting his photographs as their own. Some readers might feel that the authors have treated the Le Plongeon's with too much equanimity, in that they fail to present an in-depth critique of Augustus's wild theories. However, this task has been tackled before and need not be repeated. The authors conclude the book with a summary of later scholars' critiques of the Le Plongeon's, and a fair assessment of their contribution to American archaeology.

The Bird volume is both field report and travel account. Every undergraduate in the field is familiar with the  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates that establish a human presence at the southern tip of South America by the end of the Pleistocene. These were some of the earliest dates run by Willard Libby's lab, and stand as a benchmark in the development of radiocarbon dating and early human studies on the continent. Junius Bird's long-overdue report, skillfully edited by John Hyslop, tells the story behind the research, and presents the data from the excavations. Bird conducted his explorations and excavations in Chilean Patagonia between 1932 and 1937; the report presents the excavation data and artifact analysis from Cañadon Leona, Pali Aike, Fell's Cave, and Cerro Sota Cave. In 1969–1970, Bird conducted

another brief excavation at Fell's Cave. Bird published the critical information from these excavations in several widely cited articles, but died in 1982 before completing the final report.

Hyslop has done a fine job of assembling the present volume. It starts off with a biographical essay by Gordon Willey and continues with Bird's basic field reports, drawings and photographs of the excavations and artifacts, and discussions of the artifacts and ecofacts; these are supplemented with passages from Margaret Bird's journal. The Fell's Cave chapter includes notes on the 1950s excavations by John Fell and the members of a French expedition, as well as sections on the carnivore remains (by Juliet Clutton-Brock) and pollen samples (by Vera Markgraf). Bird also wrote a chapter summarizing and assessing the information on Mylodon Cave, a Pleistocene faunal site without any concrete evidence of early human activity. Hyslop has supplemented the text throughout with relevant passages from Bird's early articles and field notes, as well as notes from unpublished correspondence. The only drawback of the report is the lack of an index, which would have been useful for reference purposes.

These two volumes should be in every major library, as they will appeal to the lay public as well as scholars interested in the history of American archaeology. The Le Plongeon biography is an important contribution to Mesoamericanist literature, and South Americanists and those interested in early humans will find the Bird volume a valuable reference source.

*Early Marksville Phases in the Lower Mississippi Valley: A Study of Culture Contact Dynamics.* EDWIN ALAN TOTH. Archaeological Report No. 21. Mississippi Department of Archives and History in cooperation with the Lower Mississippi Survey, Harvard University, Jackson, 1988. xvi + 239 pp., tables, figures, plates. \$15.00 (paper).

*Reviewed by* Gerald F. Schroedl, University of Tennessee.

Toth's monograph, as Samuel Brookes indicates in the foreword, is his 1977 doctoral dissertation from Harvard University. Since 1977, Marksville culture interpretations have been expanded, modified, or revised with the discovery of new sites or the analyses of old collections, and in the decade since the preparation of this study (actually beginning a decade earlier), archaeologists have reconsidered the dynamics used to explain the archaeological record. Brookes makes no apologies for Toth and offers the suggestion that the author has produced a classic study of Lower Mississippi Valley archaeology. Why should archaeologists of this region attach such importance to Toth's work, and will it have an enduring impact on Hopewell archaeological research elsewhere?

Toth has surprisingly little to say about the nature of culture-contact dynamics. He offers no contemporary social, economic, environmental, or ideological models of the kind to which archaeologists of the 1970s and 1980s have become accustomed to in accounting for the Marksville archaeological record. Toth, like