

## ARCHAEOLOGY

933

not only to deepen our understanding of the history of particular cultures, such as Benin, but also to establish with as much probability as possible the broader spectrum of the course of past events in the history of West Africa and the relationship among some of its striking features, such as Nok, Ife, Benin, and Igbo Ukwu in Nigeria.

Connah has made an important contribution to the archaeology of Nigeria with this book. It is to be hoped his lead will be followed with further work.

**Beads and Beadwork of the American Indians: A Study Based on Specimens in the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation.** William C. Orchard. Contributions, 11. New York: Museum of the American Indian, 1975. 168 pp. \$7.75 (paper). [Second ed. first ed. 1929.]

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Here is a work which fulfills the modest goal of its author—thorough description of one aspect of a museum collection—and yet remains, 50 years later, the definitive study of bead technology of the Western hemisphere. This is a very particular type of museum study: explicitly descriptive, foregoing attempts at detailed contextual analysis.

William C. Orchard was an artist and museum preparator. In addition to this monograph, he published a number of shorter articles dealing with particular aspects of North and/or South American Indian technology: basketry, stonework, quillwork, pottery, weaving, metallurgy, etc. Each of these is marked by the thorough technical understanding characteristic of a careful observer and craftsman. This same trait has enabled the volume under review to stand as a classic research tool.

*Beads and Beadwork of the American Indian* gives extensive consideration to aboriginal bead materials such as shell, bone, stone, and metal; under "Odd Forms and Materials" we find seeds and earthenware as well as dried otter's liver. Examples from Museum of the American Indian collections are described and modes of manufacture are reconstructed. The author moves rather freely through time and space, not terribly interested in examining historic or cultural context or trait distributions. A brief section on trade beads follows. The final portion of the book discusses many weaving, netting, and sewing techniques used to assemble beads. Excellent drawings show the sub-

tletries of each method of construction. Again, there is no attempt to delineate distributions or relationships.

Several approaches were used to analyze the beadwork: disassembling and reconstructing museum pieces, X-rays of shell drilling patterns, replication of weaving techniques, consultation of historic accounts. There is an extensive discussion of wampum, a topic of long-standing and continuing importance in material culture studies.

New photographs have been prepared for the second edition; the results are not uniformly improved over the earlier illustrations. It is, however, good to see how well the objects have held up in the intervening 50 years. Color plates have been added; like beadwork itself they are not necessary to the structure to which they have been applied, but provide beautiful visual enhancement.

One aspect of beadwork neglected in this volume is that to which most attention is usually directed: design motifs. Perhaps Orchard deliberately left this in the hands of contemporaries such as Wissler and Kroeber, but it is to be regretted that he did not apply his visual and technical skills to studies of design structure.

**Collected Papers in Honor of Florence Hawley Ellis.** Theodore R. Frisbie, ed. Papers of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico, 2. Norman: Hooper, 1975. xiii + 489 pp. n.p. (paper).

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This volume contains 24 papers contributed by 29 authors, all except one of whom are former students of Florence Hawley Ellis, who began teaching in the Department of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico in 1934. Between that year and her retirement in 1971 she influenced thousands of students, many of whom became professional anthropologists. More than one hundred of these students, as well as other friends, made financial contributions to the publication of this volume. Frisbie, the editor, compiler, and a contributor, presents a bibliography and biography outlining Ellis' professional life. The diversity of her interests and the enthusiasm with which she pursued them are reflected in the contents of the individual papers.

The foci of the contributions include archaeology, ethnology, and ethnohistory, limited to the Southwestern culture area. It is characteristic of Florence's broad approach to the field that these papers are not easily separated into topical categories.