

nately, he provides little coverage of these items. He barely mentions public education, with the exception of higher education and kindergarten, but it was usually education funding that derailed the legislative sessions and caused governors to call special sessions. He does provide some valuable details on the issue of gambling, including the legislative fights on the lottery, pari-mutuel betting, and riverboat casinos. He presents his version of the overhaul of the tax structure during the special session of 2002, but his story omits much of the reasoning put forward by others that also became part of the package. He also recollects events surrounding the passage of Governor Otis Bowen's tax package of 1973, but his brief mention contains only anecdotes and fails to add anything new for the historical record.

A memoir is self-selected and, for the most part, self-serving, by definition. This book is no exception. Although it adds little substance, it does contain some valuable anecdotal insights into the way the Indiana legislature operates and the reader is

able to extract some lessons that advance our understanding of the legislative process. The book lacks a consistent theme—something a watchful editor could have provided—and an index would have been useful.

As Lawrence Borst is leaving the legislature, the book title seems appropriate. Yet its origin is rather surprising. Borst explains that while in a Las Vegas casino, he saw a well-dressed man “with a gorgeous blonde on his arm” who approached the craps table and promptly lost \$30,000 (p. 237). The gambler stepped back from the table, took two chips from his pocket, flipped them in the air and onto the table and said, “Gentlemen, it has been my pleasure.” Borst writes that he had never been so impressed and that he wanted to have the phrase “engraved on my tombstone. I thought, too, that it would make a good title for a book” (p. 238).

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Envisioning Cahokia *A Landscape Perspective*

By Rinita A. Dalan, George R. Holley, William I. Woods, Harold W. Watters, Jr., and John A. Koepke

(DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2003. Pp. x, 241. Illustrations, maps, figures, appendix, bibliography, index. Clothbound, \$48.00; paperbound, \$29.50.)

Cahokia Mounds is the premier American Indian center in eastern North America. Within its five-square-mile

area were built more than one hundred earthen mounds, including Monks Mound, the largest in the New

World. Today the state of Illinois maintains nearly two thousand acres of this site as the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site. Also designated a National Historic Landmark and a United Nations World Heritage Site, Cahokia is truly an American and world treasure that needs to be protected and preserved for future generations.

Over the past forty years archaeologists have attempted to unravel some of this center's meaning, with over a dozen works on the site published in the last decade alone. The authors of this volume bring to the topic nearly two decades of investigative experience at the site and its surrounding region. The volume consists of three sections—each with multiple chapters, an introduction, and a conclusion—all in the service of documenting the relationship between Cahokia's residents and their physical surroundings.

Envisioning Cahokia's landscape-based perspective aims, in the authors' words, to "provide a less static interpretation of the past" than archaeologists customarily employ (p. 40). In the first chapter, the authors unpack the concept of landscape and its many dimensions, challenging the reader to go beyond a static temporal and spatial framework and consider a fluid and dynamic perspective of the site. Thus, according to the authors, eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Euro-Americans found a site that was actually the end product of over four hundred years of shaping and reshaping the natural and cultural landscape. More significantly, although

Cahokia is considered a Mississippian center (with its period of greatest activity spanning from AD 1000-1400), the authors demonstrate that its foundation lies in the earlier Emergent Mississippian period, when initial work began on Monks Mound and on the adjacent Grand Plaza, at forty acres one of the largest public spaces in the New World. The discovery of this massive earthmoving and leveling activity constitutes one of the most important contributions of this group of scholars.

As a researcher working at Cahokia, it is easy to take issue with the details and with some of the authors' interpretations. In their final section, "Landscape and Meaning," they tend to draw modern parallels, referring to the original shapers of this landscape as architects, surveyors, and engineers, and avoiding the use of American Indian perspectives that might have revealed a different relationship with the natural world.

In the end the authors provide an important addition to the growing stack of works on Cahokia; theirs is a useful contribution and foundation that others will continue to build upon. I recommend this book to any student of eastern North American archaeology and to those interested in the relationship that all peoples have with the land as they shape and reshape the landscape.

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