The limitations of Hiller’s research materials somewhat undermine her aim to provide readers with the broader context of kitchen history. She uses Ellen Plante’s excellent book *The American Kitchen, 1700 to the Present* (1995) for the general history of kitchen development, but depends too heavily on the manufacturers’ own records for evidence of the cabinet’s popularity. Other kinds of evidence that an historian might have looked at seem to be missing here: census information might have supported a more nuanced interpretation of class; evidence for sales might have told us how many households chose a Hoosier cabinet over built-in shelves and pantries. The book has almost no floor plans and so the claim that Hoosier cabinets saved steps is under-supported when we cannot see where the other appliances in the kitchen were located nor where the family ate their meals. The book is likely to appeal to collectors or owners of Hoosier cabinets who want to know more about them, but is too broad-brush to appeal to historians.


**Transitions**

*Archaic and Early Woodland Research in the Ohio Country*

Edited by Martha P. Otto and Brian G. Redmond


Between the middle Ohio River valley and the Great Lakes, prehistoric Native American cultures flourished and transformed over time from small, egalitarian groups of hunter-gatherers to sedentary farming communities controlled by chiefdoms. Martha P. Otto and Brian G. Redmond’s edited volume with thirteen chapters focuses on a primary transition in this cultural evolution from the Archaic period (ca. 8000 B.C. to 500 B.C.) to the Early Woodland period (ca. 500 B.C. to A.D. 1). The major cultural changes in this transition included the development of pottery, horticulture, increased social organization, and earthwork construction of burial mounds and circular or square enclosures. The apex of the Early Woodland period has been defined as the Adena culture and was centered in Ohio and neighboring states, including Indiana. Unfortunately only one chapter highlights Indiana-specific research. Despite this limitation, this is a good volume for readers who are interested in prehis-
tropic lifeways of the midcontinent, providing broad overviews, theoretical analysis, specific case studies, settlement patterns, and material culture research.

Many of the contributing chapters in this publication are by-products of Cultural Resource Management (CRM) projects mandated by federal or state agencies and funded through public tax dollars. It is nice to see these investigations included in this book because they are not typically printed in a public format. Instead, most CRM or “gray literature” reports are produced in small volume and stored in government archives. The reports are often very technically descriptive, lacking a strong historical or scientific narrative that would engage the reader. Regrettably, some of the contributing authors had difficulty in converting their CRM reports into a prose style suitable for both professionals and enthusiasts. Excellent exceptions include the works of Jeff Caruskadden on Early Woodland cultural landscape in Ohio, Sean M. Rafferty on the function of smoking pipes in Early Woodland burial practices, and Beth McCord and Don Cochran on late Adena (Early Woodland) and early Hopewell (Middle Woodland) earthworks in east-central Indiana.

McCord and Cochran summarize their research, ongoing since the 1980s, to define both regional and intra-site temporal sequences of Adena and Hopewell earthwork complexes in Indiana. Their work resulted in the identification of approximately 100 earthworks, but only 12 have been investigated archaeologically, including the Anderson complex, preserved as Mound State Park near Anderson, Indiana. The authors, going against the grain of traditional interpretations, argue that late Adena and early Hopewell earthworks are much more complex than previously thought and that they coevolved (rather than the former evolving into the latter). They also argue that each earthwork complex was a “corporate” center for social, political, and ritual ceremonies that are connected to local cultural identities (p. 357). Interestingly, associated habitation or village sites have been mostly elusive and are still a mystery for future research to solve.

The goal of Otto and Redmond’s volume was to present current research on the cultural transition in the Ohio country from the Archaic period to the Woodland period, but this objective was only partially accomplished. Of the thirteen chapters, ten focus on the Early Woodland/Adena culture and only three highlight the Archaic period. I would recommend *Archaic Transitions in Ohio and Kentucky Prehistory* (2001) as a companion text. Together, the two books provide a complete study of cultural transition between these major periods. A final limitation of this volume is the lack of a subject index, which needs to be added to any future revisions and/or editions.
Dr. Timothy E. Baumann is Curator of Collections at the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology, Indiana University Bloomington. His current research is on prehistoric ceramics from the Angel Mounds State Historic site, a Mississippian period village near Evansville, Indiana.

Democracy in Session
A History of the Ohio General Assembly
By David M. Gold

Accretions in federal power, profundity of policy issues, and occasional soaring rhetoric have made the U.S. Congress a showplace for those who would understand the legislative process. State legislatures, bounded by parochial interests and distended by sheer numbers, are poor relations. Yet, more than one hundred years after James Bryce’s comment that “American publicists…have been too much absorbed in the study of the federal system to bestow much thought on the state governments,” these “halls of the people” continue to touch the lives of ordinary citizens and provide a testing ground for national policy.

David M. Gold’s Democracy in Session: A History of the Ohio General Assembly is a most welcome addition to the study of the state legislature. The book is at once a remarkably thorough analysis of legislative process and a compilation of historical anecdote, written in straightforward prose. Gold, an attorney for Ohio’s Legislative Service Commission, is in a particularly favored position to offer insight into both the professional processes as well as the personal idiosyncrasies of lawmaking.

The book, commissioned largely to coincide with Ohio’s bicentennial, encompasses the vast majority of its material in parts entitled “The First Century” and “The Second Century.” Short, but essential sections on “Background” and “The Third Century” provide a contextual framework. The narrative changes from a purely chronological format in the first chapter to a more thematic one by the second, yet given the comprehensive nature of this book, Gold has followed the only logical path.

In the body of the work, the reader will be acquainted with the policy, procedure, and structure of the General Assembly. Complementary chapters in the two major sections allow for comparisons. Thus, chapter six (“The Rules of Play”) follows the course of bills from introduction to committee work in the early nineteenth century, while chapter sixteen (“Glasnost and Perestroika”) does the same for the twentieth.

Gold performs a decided service in examining the growing and chang-