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Bicentennial, a rare volume of the speeches delivered in Riverhead in 1883. $5.29 includes postage. Contact: Tercentenary Commission, Box 144, West Sayville, N.Y. 11796

New! Underwater Archaeology course is now offered at Dowling College. Instructor Skip Moeller discusses how to find sites, dating sites, historical ship building and preservation. Contact the above at 516-283-1527 for further information.

The History and Archaeology of the Montauk Indians. GAYNELL S. LEVINE, editor. Readings in Long Island Archaeology and Ethnohistory (Vol. 3). Ginn Custom Publishing. Lexington, Mass. 1979. xiv + 218 pp., illus. $11.00 (paper).

Reviewed by Barbara E. Luedtke. University of Massachusetts, Boston

The Suffolk County Archaeological Association has undertaken an admirable series of publications on the prehistory and early history of Long Island, New York. The goals of the series are to gather the scattered literature on this area into several volumes and to bring previously published but inaccessible articles, as well as selected new works, to the wider attention they deserve. The first three volumes of this series are available now and others are underway.

Useful features in all three volumes are brief biographical sketches of each author and introductions written by scholars active in the region, designed to place the various articles into wider context. The reprinted articles are reproduced directly from the original works (typos intact), and the resulting quality of photographs ranges from good to very murky. However, this format helps keep the price of the volumes reasonable.

Volume I, Early Papers in Long Island Archaeology, is the most unified and tightly focused volume in the series. It includes six articles that represent virtually all the published information on Long Island archaeology prior to 1950. Bert Salwen has contributed a fine introduction that points out the strengths, the limitations, and the significance of each article and integrates them into the context of the archaeology of the time. He also stresses how much of the archaeological record for Long Island has been lost because of intense development—a theme that surfaces frequently throughout all three volumes—and he makes a plea for preservation and careful reporting of the remaining resources.

Volume II, The Coastal Archaeology Reader, is more diffuse, partly because of the great increase in published data since 1950, and partly because the criteria for selection of articles are unstated and unclear. All of the articles are reprinted, 51 from the New York State Archaeological Association Bulletin and 2 from Archaeology of Eastern North America. While the articles cover sites ranging in age from paleo-Indian to early Historic, distributed throughout the New York coastal zone and Hudson Valley, most of the works deal with prehistoric Long Island. The articles chosen seem to be of two types: basically descriptive site reports, and synthesizing or interpretive papers that were important milestones when they appeared, but some of which are now conceptually and theoretically outdated. The articles are arranged in strict chronological order by date of publication and thus illustrate the development of Long Island archaeology.

Volume III, The History and Archaeology of the Montauk Indians, collects data on one group of Native American inhabitants of Long Island during the Historic Period. The longest contribution is a history of the Montauk written by Marian Fisher Ales in 1950, with useful commentary by Lynn Oci. Next are documents relevant to land disputes between the Montauk and the settlers of East Hampton, with commentary and interpretation by Ellice Gonzalez. These are followed by short articles on the Montauk from newspapers and various journals, and by a report by Edward Johannemann on archaeological investigations of a site occupied by Montauks into the nineteenth century. Finally, this volume contains a fascinating series of annotated photographs of Montauk individuals. I recommend looking at these first and letting their expressive faces haunt you as you read the rest of the volume.

Amid all of the valuable primary and secondary sources in this volume, the only discordant note is struck by the archaeological report. This is the first part of a full report on the site reported on only the background of the investigations, the environmental setting, and brief descriptions of the structures and features at the site. There is little description of artifacts and no interpretation of the site. It would have been better either to hold this volume until the entire site report was available or to eliminate the archaeological aspect, as in its present form this report adds little to our understanding of the Montauk.

The Suffolk County Archaeological Association and the series editor are to be commended for their work, and this series deserves strong support here and emulation elsewhere. Our understanding of the past proceeds by "excavation" and reanalysis of earlier writings, as well as by excavation of new sites. It is a truism in archaeology that the more we know about an area, the more interesting our research questions become. These volumes help define what we know about this significant section of the coastal zone and point out the many questions still to be answered. Future volumes in this series will be eagerly awaited.

The result is a valuable source book for scholars, but not the introduction to Long Island archaeology that this volume could easily have been. The usefulness of the volume could have been increased greatly by inclusion of a short article summarizing our current understanding of Long Island prehistory, or even by a chart of the area culture history with sites listed in their appropriate time periods. The introduction by Louis Brennan discusses new directions that Long Island research might take but does not attempt to put the various articles into context or to point out which are still current. Students and laymen are left to synthesize the masses of data on their own and to wade through considerable idiosyncratic and out-of-date terminology.
News from LIAP: Fischetti Site, Old Field Update: Field operations are coming to an end but volunteers are needed for laboratory analyses. Additional projects include; a survey sponsored by the Three Village Historical Society regarding a threatened historic house foundation. Volunteer researchers and field excavators are needed. And a SCOPE course in historical archaeology for teachers at the Blydenburgh Mill Complex. LIAP will also perform two LI surveys and four mainland surveys for the NYS Dept. of Transportation. Additional Info: call the Long Island Archaeological Project 246-8615, and ask for Ed or Laurie.

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News from Nassau*****************************************************************************

Sands Point Museum: New exhibit on the history of armor includes over 200 artifacts. June 19 and 20: Medieval Festival and Fair

Garvies Point Museum: New exhibit on Australian Aboriginal Bark Paintings.

SCAA Publications for Sale:

Vol I - Early Papers in Archaeology $8.00 postpaid
Vol II - The Coastal Archaeology Reader $15.00 postpaid
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Vol V - The Second Coastal Archaeology Reader $20.00 postpaid

Suffolk County Cultural Resources Inventory $2.50 postpaid

Bulk rates are available: $70.00 for all five volumes postpaid. $72.00 includes all volumes and the Suffolk County Resources Inventory

Volumes also available at the Weathervane Shop, S.C. Historical Society, 300 Main St., Riverhead 11901 or at all branches of the Nassau County Museum

Editorial Correction: On page one of the last newsletter (Vol 8 #1) that was not Carlyle Smith but Ralph Solecki at the Aqueduct Site.

SCAA Board Meetings will resume in September of 1982 at the Hoyt Farm, Commack.

Next newsletter publication September 1982. Material for inclusion should be forwarded to Donna Ottusch-Kianka, 9 Tanglewood La., Sea Cliff, N.Y. 11797

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Membership Application*****************************************************************************

This newsletter, a free publication on local archaeology and reduced rates to workshops and all SCAA publications (20%) come with membership. Fees as of April 1982:

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