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*Online Journal in Public Archaeology*

## REVIEWS

### Archaeology & Cultural Resource Management

*Visions for the Future*



School for Advanced Research Advanced Seminar Series

*Edited by Lynne Sebastian and William D. Lipe*

**Contributors** Pat Barker, Sarah T. Bridges, Susan M. Chandler,  
David Colin Crass, Hester A. Davis, T.J. Ferguson, Julia A. King,  
William D. Lipe, Douglas P. Mackey, Jr., Lynne Sebastian

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### Archaeology & CRM Visions for the Future

[Ed. Lynne Sebastian  
& William D. Lipe]

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This book addresses issues old and new in public archaeology, heritage management, legislation, compliance and dissemination in the United States, where up to 90 percent of archaeology is carried out by private companies and government agencies within the field of Cultural Resource Management (CRM). In the United States, CRM in advance of federally-funded development has had a far-reaching impact on the archaeological record, and affected the education and development of the profession as well as the level of involvement of indigenous people and the public in heritage issues. The editors of this volume have chosen contributions that serve both to review past success within CRM and encourage debate on present and legacy issues, and to offer suggestions for change that address present difficulties. The contributing authors represent a broad sample of archaeological careers within private contract, academic and federal government archaeology organisations. This wealth of experience and expertise provides a solid ground for the volume's concentration on how and

why CRM archaeology is undertaken. The authors emphasise the need to put issues of economic pressure, providing value and public benefit at the heart of American CRM archaeology, and this stance on public archaeology is a thread throughout the book. As Charles R. McGimsey III notes in the foreword, "there is no such thing as private archaeology [...] Archaeologists must at all times endeavour to derive maximum public benefit from their research" (XV).

The volume consists of 12 chapters by 10 contributors, each addressing issues specific to archaeology, and develops the authors' "vision for the future" of the profession (p. 12). In chapter 1, the volume's co-editor Lynne Sebastian summarises the underpinning CRM legislation in the United States and her goals of bringing CRM "back under the intellectual guidance of the archaeological profession" (p.14). In chapter 2, Hester A. Davis focuses on the federal legal framework and public policy developments that gave birth to the practice of CRM from 1906 to the present, with a useful summary of lessons learned during the 100 years of the development of the archaeological profession. In chapter 3, written by co-editor William Lipe, the author calls for a "productive rethinking of US archaeological resource management ends, means and practices" (p.63) and discusses the concept of value – preservation value, cultural heritage value, educational value and economic value, within a context of social construction of archaeological resource values.

Chapter 4, written by Pat Barker, explores the implementation of cultural resource planning models and regional approaches to preservation planning in advance of development. Chapter 5, the second authored by Lynne Sebastian, explores the process of categorisation and management of archaeological resources deemed of value, and calls for creative, efficient, forward-looking strategies to focus the use of public monies on CRM for the greatest return in public benefits. Chapter 6, by Susan Chandler, analyses, through a series of case studies, the pros and cons of alternative and innovative approaches to mitigating damage to natural and historical resources, and calls for an increase in publication and dissemination of this type of innovative projects, also within professional archaeological societies. Chapter 7, by Julia A. King, discusses the challenges of data collection, collation and the dissemination of grey literature. Chapter 8, by T.J. Ferguson, explores the ethical and cultural shifts in CRM, touching on the issues of multi-vocality, cultural sensitivity, and collaboration, and addressing the changes needed to work in partnership with Native Americans

and descendant communities. Ferguson emphasises the need to work towards more inclusive practices, the inclusion of these communities in archaeological education, research and the planning and management of site interpretation.

Chapter 9, written by Doug Mackey, examines the public and intra-disciplinary perceptions of CRM and identifies areas that could be improved to ensure CRM remains relevant, professional, ethical and valued as a growing discipline. In Chapter 10, author Sarah Bridges reviews the dominant ethical standards and principles from state, national and regional professional archaeology organisations and suggests areas of education, common values and standards that could benefit ethical standards within CRM practice. Chapter 11, written by David Colin Crass, explores the issues of public understanding of archaeology as a distinct discipline and the impact of misunderstanding and confusion on public support for CRM. Crass states that it is critical to engage with the public within CRM, and provides a media relations 'primer' for communication with the public. His emphasis on teaching archaeological communications during undergraduate and graduate education is innovative and utterly essential. The final chapter is an exploration and roundup of the future vision for CRM archaeology, as expressed by the volume contributors.

For a European audience, this volume provides an interesting insight into the issues involved in CRM in the United States and highlights a number of similar problems that exist on both sides of the Atlantic. The perceived lack of preparation for contract archaeology work during undergraduate education, much debated in the UK and beyond, is reflected in Davis' critique of academic education in Chapter 2. The exploration of issues such as data preservation, access and dissemination in Chapter 7 will resonate with archaeological audiences, most recently highlighted during the recent 2012 'Open Archaeology'-themed volume of *World Archaeology*. The disciplinary commitment to ethical standards and principles are globally applicable and Chapter 10 is a useful introduction to these issues.

Many of the authors write positively about the need for greater involvement of non-professionals with archaeological resources, better provision of heritage education and the fostering of a wider sense of stewardship of the past by the general public, not least to encourage public economic support for the continued funding of archaeological research by archaeology professionals. The book is certainly a useful introduction to the legislative background and current discussion of

CRM for a North American audience, but is also a comprehensive introduction to specific and common issues in public archaeology for those outside the CRM experience.

The volume summarises and imagines a future for CRM that would improve and innovate, encourage public involvement, support more collaborative work with indigenous and descendant communities and re-envision the CRM discipline as a trans-disciplinary resource and practical application of social accountability. However, the presentation of the possibilities, associated with changing legislation, as outlined by Davis, Sebastian and Chandler, are perhaps over-optimistic, and some realistic assessment of the difficulties would be a valuable addition to the text. As McGimsey writes in the foreword, "what is most needed now is for the discipline of archaeology to become a unified force of acknowledged professionals... so essential if the profession is to successfully confront other entities and get them to modify their ways appropriately". (p.xvi) An apt stance for those of us working in the archaeological discipline, within pressurized economies across Europe, where heritage organisations, museums and archaeological services are the 'low-hanging fruit' for austerity-programme cuts.

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