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New Books and Films

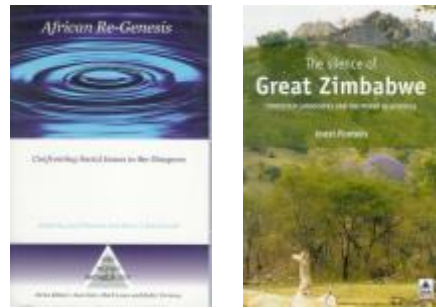
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New Books and Films



Left Coast Press, Inc. is the new publisher of the archaeology list formerly of the University College of London Press in London. This includes books emanating from the well-respected Institute of Archaeology at the University College London (home of Flinders Petrie, a founder of modern archaeology) and the One World Archaeology series, sponsored by the World Archaeology Congress and formerly published by Routledge. Sixteen books already in print will be available from Left Coast in September, 2006. New volumes, as many as 20 over the next 12 months, will be announced as they are prepared for press. More information on the Left Coast website at www.LCoastPress.com.

Of particular interest to African diaspora archaeologists will be two volumes: *African Re-Genesis: Confronting Social Issues in the Diaspora*, Jay B. Haviser and Kevin C. MacDonald (editors), 294 pp., May 2006, Hardback (1-59874-217-5), Paperback (1-59874-283-3); and *The Silence of Great Zimbabwe: Contested Landscapes and the Power of Heritage*, by Joost Fontein, 264 pp., July 2006, Hardback (1-59874-220-5), Paperback (1-59874-221-3).

Left Coast Press also offers the following new films on DVD, which may be of interest to African diaspora archaeologists and historians --

The Potters of Buur Heybe, Somalia, produced by Tara Belkin, in collaboration with Steven Brandt (University of Florida), consultant and contributing writer, the people of Bardale, Somalia, and the Somali Academy of Arts and Sciences; published August 2006, ISBN 1-59874-118-7, 25 minutes in length. Now available on DVD at a considerably reduced price, this award-winning ethnoarchaeological film documents the complete sequence of pottery production and use at Buur Heybe, "The Hill of the Potter's Sand," in southern Somalia. *The Potters of Buur Heybe* portrays the complete life cycle of earthenware pottery manufacture and use, places the pottery in its social and economic context, and considers the roles of gender, symbolism, agency and religion in the process.

Although oral tradition credits women for first discovering the natural qualities of the highly valued local clay, it is only the men who create the wide range of beautifully decorated drinking, cooking and storage vessels.

Women quarry and transport the clay to the village where men make and decorate the vessels using the coil method on a foot-turned wooden plate. The pots are fired in open air pyres, and distributed both locally and regionally where they are used, recycled and discarded by farmers, pastoralists, and townspeople.

Short, technologically fascinating, and ethnographically rich, *Potters of Buur Heybe* is an excellent film for both undergraduate and graduate courses in anthropology and archaeology, including methods, technology, material culture, ethnography, and arts.

Woman the Toolmaker: Hideworking and Stone Tool Use in Konso, Ethiopia, written, produced, and edited by Tara Belkin, in collaboration with Justin Shipley, director of photography and field producer, Steven Brandt, University of Florida, and Kathryn Weedman, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, consultants and contributing writers, and the Konso People of Southern Ethiopia. In association with the Ethiopian Authority for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage, the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Bureau of Culture, and the Konso Cultural, Information and Tourism Office; published in August 2006, ISBN 1-59874-119-5, 27 minutes in length.

Woman the Toolmaker portrays the remarkable lives of a group of Konso hide workers from southern Ethiopia who may be the last people in the world to make and use flaked stone tools on a regular basis. Unlike the "Man the Toolmaker" stereotype, virtually all of the Konso hide workers are women who as young girls learn flintknapping skills from their mothers or other female relatives.

The complete life cycle of making and using flaked stone artifacts is documented in this ethnoarchaeological portrait of Konso women scraping hides to produce soft leather products for bedding, bags, drums, and even ritual clothing. The hide workers use quartz, quartz crystal, chalcedony, and chert collected from dry river beds, eroding hillsides, and abandoned hideworker households to manufacture scrapers from cores by the direct percussion and bipolar techniques. Using a gum-like resin obtained from local trees, the scrapers are secured in the open haft of a wooden handle. The handles are then used to scrape cow, goat, sheep and occasionally wild animal hides until the inner fat is removed and the hides become soft and pliable. Heat-treating, resharpening, recycling, and discarding are also clearly depicted in the film.

Woman the Toolmaker places stone tool making and hide working in their social and economic contexts, and speaks particularly to the importance of women's roles in past and present societies. This unique video is an excellent addition to both undergraduate and graduate courses in anthropology, archaeology, and women's studies, including material culture, technology, methods, and ethnography.