

*The Written and the Wrought:
Complementary Sources in
Historical Anthropology*

Essays in Honor of James Deetz

*Edited by
Mary Ellin D'Agostino
Elizabeth Prine
Eleanor Casella
Margot Winer*

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Margot Winer*

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Preface

In 1967, the first annual meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology conference was convened. The Society was established with the goal of bringing together those of us who work “after prehistory,” providing a forum for the exchange of ideas relating to the methodological and theoretical problems specific to work in the historical period. The past twenty-eight years have been productive; today, anthropologists and archaeologists of all periods, regions, and theoretical perspectives are paying more attention to the era since contact between expanding European spheres and local peoples across the world. We are turning to explorations of identity emergence, considering how colonial and post-colonial contexts have engendered new nationalisms. The issue of cultural accommodation/assimilation is being considered with increasing sophistication, as is the dialectic between material culture and culture itself. Questions about the articulation of cultural categories such as gender, class, and ethnicity are being addressed throughout the discipline. These new directions are leading us toward truly interdisciplinary explorations of past cultures and societies by drawing on multiple lines of evidence. The papers in this volume explore a variety of uses of the written and the wrought while examining the types of anthropological problems they can address. Theoretical approaches and case studies are combined to illustrate and explain how a variety of rich sources can add to our knowledge of past cultures.

The seventeen papers in this edition of KAS were originally presented at an all-day session at the 1994 Society for Historical and Underwater Archaeology annual conference in Vancouver, B.C. The session organizers were Eleanor Casella, Mary Ellin D’Agostino, Elizabeth Prine and Margot Winer, all graduate students in the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley at the time. Mary Beaudry and Larry Zimmerman served as discussants for the morning and afternoon sessions respectively, while Allison Wylie provided a commentary on the session as a whole. Denis Gojak’s paper “Talking Dirty” and Allison Wylie’s commentary have not been included in this publication.

Obviously, the influence of Jim Deetz has been tremendous in Historical Archaeology. We conceived of this project during Jim’s last semester in residency at UC Berkeley. As a recognition of his enthusiastic and sound advice we offer this volume as (yet another!) festschrift in his name. We would also like to recognize UC Berkeley’s Townsend Center for the Humanities for its generous support of the Contact Studies Reading Group, the weekly seminar that sparked our collaboration. Finally we would like to thank Madeline Anderson and the staff at the Instructional and Collections Computing Facility for enabling us to produce this volume.

*Mary Ellin D’Agostino
Elizabeth Prine
Eleanor Casella
Margot Winer*

Berkeley, March 1995