

The research conducted during the “Age of Acronyms” produced an increased number of publications, many of which reflected the divisions between historical archaeology and industrial archaeology mentioned above. However, researchers began to appreciate the detrimental effects of adhering closely to these traditional lines of research.

Several perceptive chapters are devoted to what we have learned to date from archaeological studies conducted at different scales: the mining settlements and their supply chains, the miners and their evolving social networks, and the mines themselves and the artifacts on the surface of and underneath the mining landscape. At each level of scale, White skillfully summarizes the findings of a number of examples of significant research. His extensive bibliography greatly facilitates the reader’s learning more about the individual projects.

The author observes that the public encounters our mining heritage in many forms, from monuments and restored historic towns to movies and theme parks. The latter group—he skipped over mining-themed casinos—often presents caricatures of mining which tend to blur historical reality. The growing awareness of mining’s environmental impacts has shaped the public’s opinion about the industry’s value. This is especially apparent when new projects are proposed. Cleanups in some historic mining districts have also brought conflicts between local historic preservationists and zealous environmentalists wanting to remove all traces of mining.

From White’s careful analysis of the last ninety years of archaeological research, he points out several promising directions for future work. He finds that more can be done to “broaden public awareness about the enormous depth and breadth of American mining” by looking outside the western states, by expanding the list of commodities beyond precious metals and coal, and by looking beyond the periods of settlement of the western states and the industrial age. The author also ad-

vocates for greater synthesis of the information gained through more narrowly focused historical archaeology and industrial archaeology studies, and the value of exploring the tie-ins with labor history, environmental history, and the social, political, and economic factors underlying technological change.

White reminds us that the legacy of American mining is still being written. As the industry continues to operate and evolve to meet the increasing demand for its products, it will continue to be a fertile area for archaeological research. Opportunities for future study include greater recording of the human scale of mining; the impacts of the increasing operational scale of surface mining, including those on the environment; and the effects of globalization of the industry, which connect mines and miners worldwide.

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Brian James Leech. *The City that Ate Itself: Butte, Montana and Its Expanding Berkeley Pit*. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2018; 424 pp., 22 b&w illus., 4 maps, notes, bib., ind., cloth, \$39.95. ISBN: 9781943859429

Brian James Leech’s *The City That Ate Itself* offers a compelling account of the profound impact of the Anaconda Copper Corporation’s Berkeley Pit in Butte, Montana. The third volume of the emergent Mining and Society Series of the University of Nevada Press, Leech’s meticulously researched book, with its fast-paced narrative, takes the reader on a journey into the post-World War II transition from underground to open-pit mining. He convincingly argues that this shift in approaches to extracting copper ore altered the work, residential, social, and environmental spaces of Butte and environs. His principal focal point, and perhaps to a certain degree his villain, is the Berkeley Pit itself.

Leech sets the scene in Part I by narrating the

well-known story about the underground years at Butte. He establishes the later-romanticized era of the hard-rock miners, who forged cross generational comradery in a dark, little-monitored underworld where they plied their celebrated skills in a merit system rewarded by manly, individualized work. These same men and their families formed ethnic neighborhoods above ground that, along with bonding on the job, facilitated the development of close-knit social landscapes. These two places—the autonomous workscape and the close neighborhoods—further galvanized the workers who unified collectively through the Butte Miners' Union, Mine Mill, and other unions to counter Anaconda's corporate hegemony. He shows how, although often at the mercy of corporate decision making, the miners had bargaining leverage on working conditions and pay scales.

This familiar world came under assault in the 1950s when Anaconda implemented open-pit mining and the development of the Berkeley Pit. In Parts II and III, Leech delves into the miners' discomfort, and even protest, of the workscape changes of the open-pit system through the 1970s. Miners lost their independence in open spaces easily monitored by management, and mechanization infringed on expertise that was no longer needed. Furthermore, miners realized the new, unskilled positions often paid less and machinery did the jobs of blasting and collecting rock once done by miners and their muckers. And as the pit grew, their residential spaces shrank.

Leech examines the nuances of these changes for the miners and their unions, as well as for specific neighborhoods like Meaderville, which was dramatically impacted by the growth of the pit, and Walkerville, which was farther away and little changed. Leech carefully delineates the miners' objections to the new restrictive work and living spaces. They perceived mass mining, although a much safer endeavor, to be more hazardous. They literally daily witnessed their air and water being polluted, and experienced unsettling earthquake-like tremors from blasting that shook the founda-

tions of their homes. The removal of homes with pit expansion left many long-time residents heartbroken. The pit's infringement on the coveted Columbian Gardens amusement park, Leech persuasively argues, also engendered consequences as serious as long-term depression.

In Part IV, Leech's narrative gains an exciting momentum. The fight to save downtown Butte and other neighborhoods in the 1980s and later through historic and environmental preservation pitted embattled constituents, from longtime mining families to newcomer enviro-suburbanites to non-profit organizations and state and federal agencies—and, of course, Anaconda and subsequent owners of the mineral properties. They contentiously fought over whether to move Butte to a new town on The Flats. Vilified as the most toxic city in America, with its poisonous, superfund-designated Berkeley Pit, Butte hung in the balance. Leech reveals how, despite a concerted private-public partnership to remove it, historic Butte survived. Other neighborhoods, as well as the unions, were not so fortunate, however, becoming casualties of the new world order wrought in large part, Leech claims, by open-pit mining.

Although Anaconda's initial capitalization, long-term motivations, and mining decisions might have been examined with more scrutiny, this criticism should not greatly detract from Leech's innovative approach to socio-environmental history with this exceptional study. Untypical of environmental histories that unapologetically vilify mining, this volume reveals a much more nuanced methodology that considers people and their worksapes, living spaces, and landscapes as elements of an integrated whole. Furthermore, none of the players are unrepentant villains nor are they innocent victims. Each of the constituents—Anaconda, the miners and their families, newcomers, and public officials—played significant roles in formulating a post-mining environment that incorporated Butte's industrial heritage, a tradition of environmental cleanup, and even a certain level of acceptance of its toxic manmade lake, the

Berkeley Pit, which has become a popular tourist destination that elicits a range of thoughts and emotions.

In the end, Leech's examination leads him to conclude: "Unless something dramatically changes, the modern world will continue to dig big holes. We should try to do so in a way that causes the least harm, while recognizing the communities that host them as more than poisoned places" (363). His assessment is spot on; mining will not disappear and doing it "right" can be done with fewer economic, social, residential, and environmental negatives. Butte, scars and all, is a testament to this western American, even global, phenomenon. MHA members who want to know more about the enthralling story that led to Leech's thoughtful conclusions are encouraged to add this pioneering study to their library.

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Tony Bamonte and Suzanne Schaeffer Bamonte. *The Coeur d'Alenes Gold Rush and Its Lasting Legacy*. Spokane, WA: Tornado Creek Publications, 2017; 512 pp., 400+ b&w illus., 30+ maps, bib., ind., cloth, \$44.95. ISBN: 9780982152959

Coeur d'Alenes Gold Rush is a sumptuous volume that encourages judging a book by its cover. Opening that attractive wrapping of an old mining camp scene reveals hundreds of reproductions of historic documents, photographs, and maps supplementing the text. The authors, Tony and Suzanne Schaeffer Bamonte, also serve as the editors and publishers and thus deserve credit for each element from content to design. Through their Spokane-based Tornado Creek Publications, founded in 1995, the couple has made available more than a score of books, most histories they also wrote, such as of Spokane's Davenport Hotel or of the nearby town of Newport, Washington.

Although they originally planned to review

the history of the entire Coeur d'Alene mining region in Idaho's panhandle, the Bamontes narrowed their scope to the northern reaches in what some refer to as the Murray Gold Belt. Most learn about this mining region through the tales of the Hercules silver bonanza or the exploits of the Hecla and Bunker Hill companies. But preceding the discovery of the silver-lead-zinc ores along the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, gold beckoned five thousand prospectors to the North Fork in the early 1880s.

This work begins with that sourdough saga, about which railroad publicist Eugene Smalley wrote in 1884: "Of all the stampedes in old times or in recent years, the Great Coeur d'Alene stampede of the winter and spring of 1884 was probably the most remarkable." Such hyperbole attaches to many mining districts. This book not only unmask the truth behind the boasts, but also follows the fortunes of those living along the creeks and mountainsides of the North Fork watershed from the nineteenth into the twenty-first century.

Because the South Fork's mining operations and ore production overwhelm the North Fork's, most studies offer but a few pages on the earlier gold rush before devoting themselves to South Fork developments. *Coeur d'Alenes Gold Rush* reasserts the North Fork's contribution. Albeit mining ventures dominate, the logging industry's expansion, transportation improvements, activities of the U.S. Forest Service and Civilian Conservation Corps, and recreation opportunities receive attention too. Insights gained from the authors' familiarity with the locale and profiles of North Fork families animate the narrative. Those personal connections gave the authors access to many private photographic collections, and thus the reader to images not seen elsewhere.

To substantiate the "lasting legacy" of the title, the Bamontes describe how the early gold rush resulted in prospectors exploring throughout the area to discover the spectacularly rich ore bodies