

cus of the book is admittedly narrow, it provides a welcome compilation of many sources that together enrich our understanding of the opening of the Southwest in general and of southwestern Colorado and Mesa Verde in particular.

*An Analysis of Classic Lowland Maya Burials.* W. B. M. WELSH. International Series 409. BAR, Oxford, 1988. xv + 377 pp., tables, figures, biblio., appendices. £24.00 + \$8.00 (paper).

*Reviewed by* Diane Z. Chase, University of Central Florida.

Welsh's monograph is an attempt to provide a new synthesis and analysis of Classic period burials from the Maya Lowlands. Published and unpublished data from 16 sites are included: Mountain Cow, Baking Pot, Barton Ramie, Benque Viejo, San Jose, Holmul, Uaxactun, Tikal, Altun Ha, Dzibilchaltun, Altar de Sacrificios, Seibal, Copan, Piedras Negras, Palenque, and Tonina. The study begins with a review of literature on Maya grave typologies and establishes a standardized classification consisting of "simple," "chultun," "cist," "crypt," "tomb," and "unclassifiable" or "unknown" graves; each of these types is further subdivided. Subsequent chapters in the volume include consideration of: the locational and structural context of burials, methods of disposal, head orientation, urn and pot-skull burials, skeletal mutilation, grave type and context, and associated grave goods. Detailed tables following the various chapters correlate the features considered within the text with data for each site. Chapter 10 examines the social implications of Maya burial data and reevaluates Rathje's (*World Archaeology* 1:359-374) seminal treatment of Lowland Maya mortuary practices, questioning his statistics, dating, and interpretations. Final chapters review the evidence for human sacrifice and ancestor worship and provide a general discussion of Maya burial customs and possible regional ritual patterns.

This is not a theoretical book; its strength lies in the extensive data tabulations that form a most useful starting point for further analyses. Discussions do not include current archaeological literature relevant to mortuary analysis, specifically that dealing with status differentiation. Nevertheless, the data and discussions in this monograph should once and for all put to rest Rathje's consideration of Lowland Maya burials.

→ *Las Unidades Domesticas del Preclásico Superior en la Mixteca Alta.* NELLY M. ROBLES GARCÍA. International Series 407. BAR, Oxford, 1988. 166 pp., indices, biblio. £11.00 + \$8.00 (paper).

*Reviewed by* Susan D. Gillespie, Illinois State University.

Robles García describes the 1980 INAH excavations at a satellite hamlet to San Jaun Yucuita in the Nochixtlán Valley, Oaxaca, Mexico. The importance of this site to the prehistory of the Mixteca Alta, with

special regard to social organization, is its principle occupation in the Ramos phase (Late Preclassic, 300 B.C.-A.D. 200), a time when Yucuita already was evolving into a primary regional center.

Seven household clusters were excavated. The bulk of this report is a description of each household cluster, following a brief summary of the basic ceramic wares with illustrations of the forms. The descriptions are supplemented with maps and many plan and profile drawings of the adobe house wall remains and the features, which include refuse pits, ovens, and both multiple-interment adobe tombs and direct burials. Photographs of the major artifacts are provided, as are charts that summarize the ceramic and lithic artifacts at each household cluster, but these data are not discussed, and the emphasis is on the architecture and features.

The summary chapter concentrates on the architectural evidence for social differentiation at this site. One of the seven households is distinguished by its much larger size, stone walls, multiple plastered floors, and interior patio. This household cluster, which was in a direct line with the elite/public buildings of Yucuita, is similar to those buildings, and is interpreted as the residence of a higher-ranked family presumably in control of this satellite and tied to the ruling elite in Yucuita.

*The Seedskaadee Project: Remote Sensing in Non-Site Archeology.* DWIGHT L. DRAGER and ARTHUR K. IRELAND, editors. United States Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., 1986. ix + 642 pp., tables, illustrations, appendices, references. Free (paper).

*Reviewed by* Arthur Roberts, Simon Fraser University.

Since O. G. S. Crawford's pioneering work in aerial archaeology in Great Britain remote sensing in archaeology generally has been regarded with considerable hope and promise. Unfortunately, with a few exceptions, there has been little North American success with traditional aerial archaeological approaches. Fundamentally the problem has been the nature of the North American prehistoric record, which usually does not sufficiently alter the environment to permit detection and analysis. This problem is not really unique to the New World, as similar problems have been encountered when dealing with Old World Mesolithic and Paleolithic occupations.

The Seedskaadee Project technique was to use remote-sensing data to classify the physical environment into archaeologically relevant geographical units. These classifications were based on information gleaned from archaeological site files for the general study area in southwestern Wyoming and on an environmental evaluation using panchromatic aerial-photography mosaics, Landsat MSS false color images, and relevant topographic and thematic maps. Subsequently a selected sample of these geographical units was test surveyed to locate archaeological material that would be used to test the predictive power and survey utility of this terrain-analysis procedure.