

these regions. *The Last House at Bridge River* is also a valuable addition to the archaeology of Indigenous peoples in colonial contexts generally. It demonstrates a range of methodological and theoretical approaches, and it presents a set of inferences that can be applied or evaluated in other studies of Indigenous communities in colonial contexts across North America and beyond.

The Last House at Bridge River is highly readable. The chapters are generally well written and should be accessible not only to scholars but also to a general audience. Tables, maps, graphs, photographs, and illustrations communicate large amounts of information clearly. Several chapters include excellent syntheses of previous archaeological and ethnohistorical research in the Mid-Fraser region and thus are useful as references and stand-alone studies.

doi:10.1017/aaq.2023.65

***Far Western Basketmaker Beginnings: The Jackson Flat Project.* Heidi Roberts, Richard V. N. Ahlstrom, and Jerry D. Spangler, editors. 2022. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City. xvi + 336 pp. 106 illust. \$80.00 (hardcover), ISBN 978-1-64769-064-9. \$64.00 (e-book), ISBN 978-1-64769-065-6.**

Richard H. Wilshusen

Independent Researcher, Fort Collins, CO, USA

Far Western Basketmaker Beginnings is a remarkable book. Ostensibly, it is an excavation report and synthesis of the CRM investigations of 10 sites associated with the construction of the Jackson Flat Reservoir south of Kanab, Utah. But this is far more than a typical contract report. First, it is a beautifully published book illustrated with 106 figures—many of them high-quality color images of architecture, features, maps, and artifacts—complemented by detailed black-and-white site maps, graphs, and 45 data tables. Second, it challenges us to rethink our conception of the Pueblo world. We need to expand our conception of the northern Southwest beyond Mesa Verde, Chaco, and Kayenta if we are to truly understand the beginnings of agriculture and social complexity. Perhaps most importantly, this book reminds us of the importance of well-conceived CRM archaeological research done by firms and agencies willing to go the extra mile to reveal something totally new.

Some of the more striking findings include evidence that maize-growing migrants from the south settled this region between 1310 and 1120 BC and established an Early Agricultural period settlement reminiscent of San Pedro habitations in southern Arizona. Although this farming and foraging group must have been small, the ubiquity of maize in six macrobotanical samples, the expansion of an original small pithouse to one that was almost 5 × 4 m in area, and large and deep bell-shaped storage pits and other features on the site testify to the success of this agricultural outpost for at least several years, and maybe for several generations. There are only a handful of potentially contemporary Early Agricultural period sites this far north, and they are clustered around the Four Corners almost 200 miles to the east.

This occupation alone is noteworthy, but what makes the Jackson Flats research remarkable is that this same site was reoccupied in the Basketmaker II and III periods and in Pueblo I with multiple pithouses and storage features. These later occupations are intermittent; however, the fact that this area and some sites persist as magnets for agricultural communities from the second century BC to as late as the ninth century AD challenges our preconceptions of this far western area in southwestern Utah as being peripheral. Instead, the authors propose that the region previously known as the Virgin River Anasazi should be considered the Far Western Pueblo.

The book offers a background and context for the project, detailed summaries of the excavated sites grouped by period from the Archaic (5000–1300 BC) to the Post-Puebloan (AD 1300–1776) period, summaries of the analytical results of categories of recovered material culture, and finally seven chapters that place the project research results into a larger context. If we combine the research presented in *Far Western Basketmaker Beginnings* with Phil Geib's *Foragers and Farmers of the Northern Kayenta Region: Excavations along the Navajo Mountain Road* (University of Utah Press, 2011), we can see that the transition to agriculture is both sudden and gradual, depending on where and when we look for early agricultural communities.

As with any edited work that brings together chapters by more than a dozen authors and summarizes the research of three archaeological firms, there is an unevenness in the quality of some of the chapters and the reporting. In addition, I would wish for a few additional architectural maps to complement some of the first-rate color photos. Nonetheless, this report is remarkable and surpasses those contract reports I am most proud of coauthoring. It offers a fundamental revision to what we know about an area that has been on the periphery of our maps of the US Southwest for far too long.

doi:10.1017/aaq.2023.59

***The Nine Lives of Florida's Famous Key Marco Cat.* Austin J. Bell. 2021. University Press of Florida, Gainesville. xi + 241 pp. \$26.95 (hardcover), ISBN 978-0-8130-6699-8.**

Christina Perry Sampson

Anthropology Department, Everett Community College, Everett, WA, USA

This book is an exuberant account of one remarkable artifact. The 6-inch-tall carved wooden panther that is the star of the tale has attracted the kind of attention that builds on itself and makes the object ever more captivating. *The Nine Lives of Florida's Famous Key Marco Cat* explores how this Native American sculpture has become a “truly transcendent” object in North American archaeology. Austin J. Bell offers archaeologists an interesting case study of preservation, heritage, and connections between past and present. Those outside the profession will also enjoy Bell's detailed history of the Key Marco Cat and his insights into the ways that objects and their meanings are contested and created through processes of excavation, curation, and exhibition.

Bell is curator of collections at the Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) and a consulting scholar at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. His successful effort to have the Key Marco Cat loaned to the MIHS by the Smithsonian Institution informs his perspective on it and its apparent power to compel people to possess and understand it. He acknowledges how historical and idiosyncratic circumstances elevated it to a position of esteem and mystique, but he also conveys a genuine sense of wonder at the object and invites readers also to become enthralled with the Cat.

The Key Marco Cat is one of the carved wooden items recovered by Frank Hamilton Cushing and his crew in 1896 during excavations at an unusually well-preserved, waterlogged site on Marco Island, Florida. It and other artifacts from the site likely date to between AD 500 and 1500. In this book, each of the nine chapters represents one of the Key Marco Cat's lives. These nine lives are organized into three main phases: the artifact's production and use by Indigenous South Floridians, the archaeology of its discovery, and its curation and exhibition.

Chapters 1–3 summarize the culture and history of the Calusa Indians of South Florida and their predecessors and consider what is known and unknown about the artifact's original production and