
1999 Review of Mining Archaeology and Historic Preservation

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Publications and research reports during the past year show that mining archaeology continues to thrive. In the 1996 annual review, I mentioned the international conference on the archaeology and anthropology of mining at Bellagio, Italy. Late last year Routledge published many of the papers from the conference in the book *Social Approaches to an Industrial Past: the Archaeology and Anthropology of Mining* (Routledge, 1998), edited by A. Bernard Knapp, Vincent C. Pigott, and Eugenia W. Herbert. The book includes chapters on mining that range from ancient Egypt, Cyprus, Thailand, and Europe to the 16th-century Arctic to the last couple of centuries in Africa, Australia, Cornwall, and the American West. In addition to this book, Routledge also published Marilyn Palmer and Peter Neaverson's *Industrial Archaeology: Principles and Practice* (Routledge, 1998) in the past year. The book, which is intended as an introductory text, includes a lot of useful information about the documentation and interpretation of the physical remains of mining in Great Britain, especially Cornwall. Journal publications on mining archaeology during the year were scarce, but *Antiquity* published articles on European Bronze Age copper production and on the earliest use of tin in western Asia and the Aegean.

Professional conferences continued to be the primary medium for the reporting of mining-related archaeological research during the year. The annual conference of the Society for Historical Archaeology in Salt Lake City, for example, included

- poster sessions on a Chinese placer mine in Nevada and on privies in the gold rush town of Skagway;

- symposia on the Klondike Gold Rush and on work camps in the American West;
- papers on mining camps in central Nevada, architecture in western ghost towns, mining landscapes in central Washington, and a variety of other papers on coal, silver, gold, copper mining in Texas, Nevada, California, Washington, and Alaska.

Mining archaeology papers given at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Chicago included papers on

- ghost towns and heritage tourism in Arizona,
- metallurgy in Peru's lower Ica valley,
- quarry landscapes in the eastern Appalachians, and
- Inka and Spanish silver mining in Bolivia.

The annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America in Washington, D.C., included a poster on a Minoan period copper smelting workshop on the Island of Crete. Finally, the annual conference of the Society for California Archaeology in Sacramento included a full day symposium on the California Gold Rush and a paper on the archaeology of California's North Star Mine.

Government agencies continued to play an active role in mining-related archaeological research. The U.S. National Park Service (NPS) conducted an historical and archaeological study of the site of the "scam" gold rush in Kobuk Valley National Park in

northwest Alaska. Documents helped locate the remains of cabins lived in by the misled miners during the winter of 1898-99. Another NPS project surveyed and recorded the remains of the Sheep Camp townsite and parts of the Chilkoot Railroad and Transport Company's aerial tramway system, both situated along the Chilkoot Trail in southeastern Alaska. In addition, the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, in cooperation with the University of Nevada, Reno and Las Vegas, and the Wing Luke Asian Museum in Seattle, also sponsored a public archaeology project at the site of the late 19th century placer mining camp of Island Mountain or Gold Creek in northeastern Nevada.

In addition, both private sector cultural resource

management companies and universities conducted mining-related archaeological research during the year. Jones and Stokes Associates of Sacramento, for example, completed a documentary search and archaeological survey of the Tesla Mine and townsite near Livermore, California. The Tesla Mine extracted coal from a seam in Corral Hollow from the late 1880s until 1907. Universities continued to do mining archaeology within the context of summer field schools. The University of Denver, Fort Lewis College, and SUNY-Binghamton, for example, conducted a second season of excavations at the site of the Ludlow Tent Colony massacre and began excavations at the company coal town of Berwind as part of Colorado coal field war archaeology project.