

puestas aquí en términos de “líneas” (un tema al que ha dedicado, de hecho, un reciente libro suyo), constituyen, en realidad, una toma de posición frente al tipo de antropología propugnado por aquel.

Para concluir, quisiéramos señalar algunas características generales de este libro. Lo primero que llama la atención es, quizá, el tono altamente especulativo de esta obra – visible, por ejemplo, en el recurso frecuente a la etimología. También valdría la pena notar, en segundo lugar, su firme apuesta por la interdisciplinariedad. Este rasgo se entrevé, por ejemplo, en el eclecticismo de sus referencias. Finalmente, quisiéramos añadir que “Making ...” no oculta su nostalgia por aquello que considera que hemos “perdido” (122). Es en este sentido que, aludiendo de nuevo a la anécdota sobre Lévi-Strauss, Tim Ingold, el antropólogo el profeta, concluye afirmando – en un gesto de libertad – que, felizmente, todo verdadero académico, en el fondo, es o debería ser como una mula (141).

Juan J. Rivera Andía

Insoll, Timothy, Rachel MacLean, and Benjamin Kankpeyeng (eds.): *Temporalising Anthropology. Archaeology in the Talensi Tong Hills, Northern Ghana*. Frankfurt: Africa Magna Verlag, 2013. 270 pp. Photos. ISBN 978-3-937248-35-6. (Journal of African Archaeology Monograph Series, 10) Price: € 44.00

A student trolling the library shelves for inspiration (if any of them still do that) could be forgiven for bypassing “Temporalising Anthropology.” With its somewhat ambiguous title, whisper thin introduction, and thick descriptive chapters named for archaeological methods and materials, it bears all the hallmarks of a bland site report from a remote part of Africa. To overlook this book, however, is to miss the opportunity to explore one of the world’s truly remarkable landscapes and cosmologies through a multiplicity of temporal lenses. The book should be read not just by people who are interested in this part of the world or African ritual and religion, but also by those who seek to understand how to incorporate ethnographic, historical, and archaeological research with concerns for the future of the communities under study.

The research aims of the project, dispatched in two paragraphs, were to fill in some chronological gaps in the archaeology of West Africa, and understand and document the materiality of Talensi religion. The Talensi people were intensively studied in the 1930s and 1940s by Meyer Fortes who was an important figure in the structural-functional approach to anthropology. As such the Talensi loom large in the annals of anthropology, but have not been paid very much attention since. The ethnography produced by Fortes as with most ethnographies of its time, was little concerned with the history of the Talensi or their dynamic relationship with the modern world. Insoll, MacLean, and Kankpeyeng were interested in contextualizing Talensi life within its wider temporal contexts by conducting archaeological research, analyzing historical and early ethnographic documents, and participating with the contemporary community in documenting the modern landscape and helping to preserve it as a heri-

tage site. They worked with an international team of students and scholars who co-authored or wrote many of the book’s eleven chapters and nine appendices.

The first seven chapters of the book following the “Introduction” thoroughly document the survey, excavations, and analysis of the materials. All chapters are lavishly illustrated with line drawings, maps, and photographs, and they present a large quantity of data in well organized tables and graphs. Many of the appendices give the results of petrographic and chemical analyses of archaeological materials. In this respect the book does everything a site report is expected to do by presenting information in such a way that it can readily be compared to other sites in the region. Unlike standard site reports, however, each chapter is thoroughly informed through consultation with community members at all levels of society. Their historical narratives and current practices show points of convergence and divergence with documents and archaeological data and it is in explaining these similarities and differences that a dynamic history emerges.

Chapters three and nine are about the shrines that are the focus and material manifestation of much of Talensi religion. Chapter three is a survey of the shrines that documents their location, appearance, contents, and purposes. Most of these shrines are actively being used, but those that are no longer active are often recognizable by characteristic arrangements of stones and other materials. In chapter nine, Insoll analyzes medicine shrines, associated broadly with health and well-being by documenting their associated materials and practices. Some of the most powerful medicinal shrines are “franchised” and pieces from them may be found in many of the surrounding communities, often at great distance from their original sources.

Chapter ten, on “Heritage Management,” highlights the importance of having communities involved in planning their own futures, and the paradoxes that emerge from the competing desires to receive money from tourism without compromising the traditions that make the community attractive to tourists.

Insoll, MacLean, and Kankpeyeng do not refer to their work as “ethnoarchaeology,” a term that has become laden with unfortunate meanings and misunderstandings. Yet their work is ethnoarchaeological in the sense that they investigate living peoples and their practices to address archaeological questions. No matter what it is called, this book is an excellent example of how archaeology, history, ethnography, and material culture studies can be engaged to give a multidimensional and dynamic picture of a community. Data-rich, thought-provoking, and beautifully produced “Temporalising Anthropology” is another great product from “The Journal of African Archaeology’s Monograph Series.”

Joanna Casey

Jong, Edwin de: *Making a Living between Crises and Ceremonies in Tana Toraja. The Practice of Everyday Life of a South Sulawesi Highland Community in Indonesia*. Leiden: Brill, 2013. 332 pp. ISBN 978-90-04-25240-0. (Verhandelingen van het Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde, 284) Price: € 89.00