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**Book Review: "Ruin Memories: Materiality, Aesthetics And
The Archaeology Of The Recent Past"
edited by Bjornar Olsen and Thora Petursdottir**

By: Kelly McCallister

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life centered on marine animals, mainly mollusks. The author discusses the uses and beliefs about and names of the mollusks of the area, which were closely linked to the coastal ecology. Names did not always follow taxonomic relationships; an olive snail was named for the yellow-crowned night heron that its shell somewhat resembled. Similarly, mollusks were eaten, but the shells were used afterward as ornaments or tools, from decorative necklaces to scrapers or bailers for water. Malacologists will find here the account of the clams, snails, and cephalopods of the area and anthropologists the explanation of a way of life adapted to the specialized environment. But Marlett is still primarily a linguist, and this account is perhaps most valuable for the detailed description of how the language represents the ecology and viewpoint of an isolated group. Useful for advanced students and specialized researchers. **Summing Up: ★★** Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through researchers/faculty.—*J. A. Mather University of Lethbridge*

52-2065 GR356 Can. CIP
Mirzeler, Mustafa Kemal. **Remembering Nayeche and the gray bull Engiro: African storytellers of the Karamoja Plateau and the Plains of Turkana.** Toronto, 2014. 365p bibl index afp ISBN 9781442648661 cloth, \$80.00; ISBN 9781442626317 pbk, \$34.95

In northern Kenya, pastoralist wayfarers may greet each other by calling out *akoro* (hunger). With eloquence, this single word bespeaks how Jie and Turkana construct themselves as “vulnerable person[s] living in an arid environment” and who share “a destiny with others who are also vulnerable,” especially when such harsh insecurities are compounded by dire international political realities, often including armed conflict. In this excellent extended case study, readers learn how storytellers recount the past to address today’s most pressing concerns. Social processes of memory and the making of histories are elaborated, but as revealed through people’s own voices. Their aspirations, fears, courage, and dignity are presented with such sympathy that in the end, one feels that one “knows” Jie and Turkana individuals, landmarks, lifestyles, and deep wisdom. If the heroine Nayeche followed the gray bull Engiro to find a home, raise cattle, and grow old in peace, might we all hope to do as well? This text would be superb for an undergraduate humanities class, guided through long and patient reading. **Summing Up: ★★★** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*A. F. Roberts University of California, Los Angeles*

52-2066 F2229 2013-25670 CIP
Quilter, Jeffrey. **The ancient central Andes.** Routledge, 2013. 336p bibl index ISBN 9780415673099 cloth, \$130.00; ISBN 9780415673105 pbk, \$39.95

Surveys of Andean civilization commonly occupy the final and shortest chapter of archaeology texts. The reasons for this are many, including scholars’ lack of familiarity with Andean cultural traditions or the alternative trajectories to complexity documented in the Andes that defy traditional evolutionist models. Quilter (Peabody Museum, Harvard) offers a readable introduction to the archaeology of the Central Andes (the region incorporated into the Inca Empire) and proves that study of the region’s highly sophisticated and diverse archaeological cultures is critical for better understanding the human condition. Organizing his book according to the standard periodization of Andean culture history, Quilter presents a concise but engaging summary of the archaeological cultures of western South America and introduces Andean structures of practice, including verticality, ayllu social organization, reciprocity, huaca worship, and religious and political dualism. He

stresses the historical variability and dynamism of such structures and focuses especially on the force of religious ideologies in shaping historical process and distinct political orders in the prehistoric Andes. The book should appeal to non-Andeanists, for Quilter adeptly situates the study of the ancient Central Andes within the larger current of theoretical and methodological debates in archaeology while highlighting the different perspectives developed to reconstruct ancient South American social formations. **Summing Up: ★★★** Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.—*E. R. Swenson University of Toronto*

52-2067 CC77 2013-42673 MARC
Ruin memories: materiality, aesthetics and the archaeology of the recent past, ed. by Bjørnar Olsen and Thóra Pétursdóttir. Routledge, 2014. 492p bibl index ISBN 9780415523622 cloth, \$205.00; ISBN 9781315778211 ebook, contact publisher for price

In this physical and philosophical account of the archaeology of modern ruins funded by the Norwegian Research Councils program, members of the Ruin Memories project and several of their colleagues guide readers through eerie landscapes and objects that resemble what could be found in any backyard. Going beyond a typical archaeological report of statistics and artifact analysis (although these are present as well), readers can’t help but feel emotion and a sense of familiarity with the narrative of the ordinary, typical contemporary ruins of the most recent past. Although this collection focuses on several locations within the upper Northern Hemisphere, all readers can easily identify with the essays, as the observations are philosophical in nature. This is a fascinating look at ruins as the ultimate, modern art made by unknown, ordinary “artists” in the not-too-distant past. **Summing Up: ★★★** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*K. C. McCallister Appalachian State University*

52-2068 E99 2014-10377 CIP
Wilson, Gilbert Livingston. **Uses of plants by the Hidatsas of the northern plains,** ed. by Michael Scullin. Nebraska, 2014. 432p bibl afp ISBN 9780803246744 cloth, \$65.00

Gilbert Wilson, a pioneer anthropologist, published in 1917 the first full-length ethnography of a traditional small-scale agricultural system, *Agriculture of the Hidatsa Indians*, the farming of the Hidatsa people of North Dakota. It was an amazing collaboration between him and a Hidatsa authority, Buffalo Bird Woman; it remains one of the best studies of traditional agriculture, and is still in print (*Buffalo Bird Woman’s Garden*, 1987). A great deal of Wilson’s ethnobotanical work remained in manuscript. It has finally been edited, annotated, and published by Michael Scullin, a veteran gardener who has spent decades replicating Native American plains agriculture, as well as doing much other horticultural work. Scullin’s knowledge of plants and gardening is greater than Wilson’s was, so a great deal of new useful information is brought to the interpretation of Hidatsa and Mandan material. In addition to ethnobotany, this book provides much data on Hidatsa life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. During this time, they were impacted by settler society, changing from independent warriors and hunters to settled reservation dwellers who had adopted much Anglo-American culture. Indispensable to anyone interested in Native American life on the plains; valuable for ethnobiology and Native American studies. **Summing Up: ★★★** Essential. Most levels/libraries.—*E. N. Anderson University of California, Riverside*