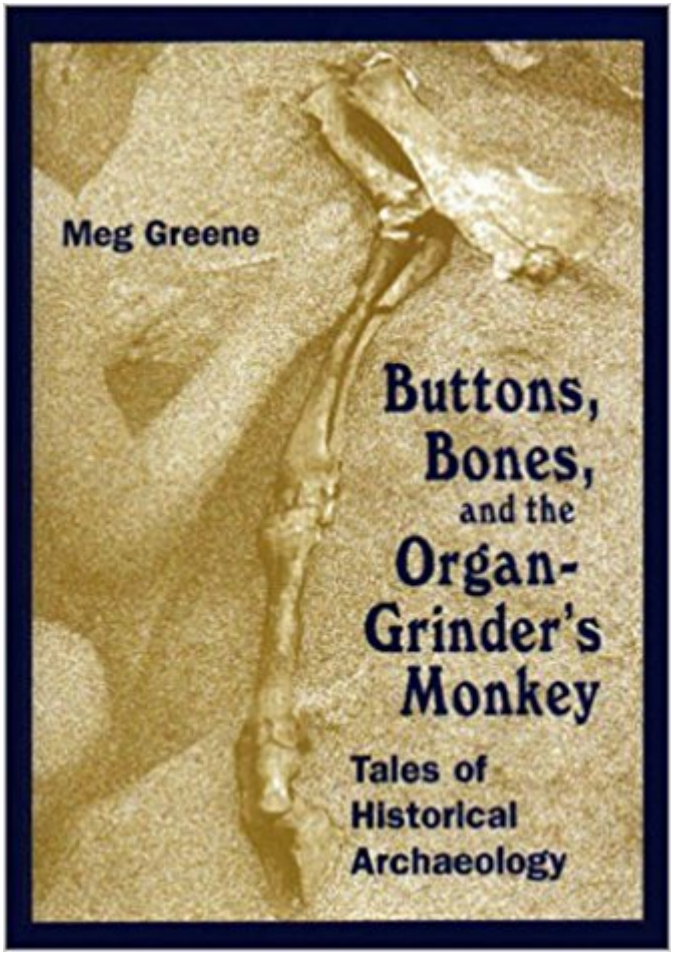
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Buttons, Bones And The Organ Grinder's Monkey: Tales Of Historical Archaeology



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Synopsis

Buttons, Bones, and the Organ-Grinder's Monkey: Tales of Historical Archaeology by Meg Greene This book follows contemporary archaeologists in five cases of discovery that have reinterpreted history: the excavation of the French explorer La Salle's ship Belle off the coast of Texas; the reconstruction of life in the Jamestown settlement through its original fort; the battle of the Little Bighorn, where Sioux accounts were at odds with the U.S. Army explanation; the excavation of the slave quarters in Jefferson's Monticello; and the diggings in the Foley Courthouse Square, a New York City immigrant neighborhood over 150 years ago. What the archaeologists made of what they found in the dirt will give kids a fresh and fun way to understand the importance of history. A Linnet Book Age 11 up. xiv, 122 p., illus., notes, bibliog. Library binding, 0-208-02498-0 $25.00

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Customer Reviews

Gr 6-10-Historical archaeologists, those who use written records to help find and interpret the material evidence remaining from past lives and cultures, have become increasingly focused on overlooked peoples and their daily lives. Five such investigations are described in this book. They include the discovery and reconstruction of the actual Jamestown fort and first settlement; investigations that support Sioux versions of Custer's defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn; and excavations of New York's infamous Five Points Neighborhood, once thought an unsavory slum. Each episode is presented as a mystery, narrated in roughly chronological order in two time frames-then and now-which may make the stories a bit hard to follow for some readers. Occasional

black-and-white photographs illustrate the topics and a map clarifies the movement of troops at Little Bighorn. Footnotes and an extensive bibliography document Greene's research but the necessary interpretation and explication of it are not always presented. For example, the author has 38 surviving Jamestown settlers building "between forty and fifty thatch-roofed houses" after a fire in the fort. However, the concept of this book is intriguing and the collection could spark interest in the field.Kathleen Isaacs, Edmund Burke School, Washington, DCCopyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 5-8. In this intriguing introduction to historical archaeology, Greene spotlights five sites of recent investigation: the Jamestown Fort, the sunken seventeenth-century ship La Belle, the slave quarters at Jefferson's Monticello, the Montana battlefield of Little Bighorn, and the Five Points neighborhood in New York City, a notorious slum in the mid-1800s. The diversity of sites and their particular challenges and stories provide interesting reading and, collectively, a good picture of the uses and processes of the archaeological approach to history. Illustrated primarily with photos, this lively and informative book offers readers new perspectives on old stories. It also shows how original research can bolster a previously rejected view of history, as in the case of Little Bighorn, where the archaeologists' findings support the Indians' reports of the battle. Detailed source notes and a lengthy bibliography of source materials are appended, along with lists of recommended books and Web sites. Carolyn PhelanCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

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