

By R Lee Lyman Quantitative Paleozoology 1st

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Wells

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James Wells*

quantitative paleozoology describes and illustrates how the remains of long dead animals
recovered from archaeological and paleontological excavations can be studied and analyzed the
methods range from determining how many animals of each species are represented to
determining whether one collection consists of more broken and more burned bones than
another all methods are described and illustrated with data from real collections while
numerous graphs illustrate various quantitative properties

a much needed deep dive into some of the main concepts of archaeology offering a
comprehensive explanation and definition of commonly used terms

outlines the ecological fundamentals assumptions and techniques for reconstructing past environments using fossil animals from archaeological and paleontological sites

documentation analysis and explanation of culture change have long been goals of archaeology scientific graphs facilitate the visual thinking that allow archaeologists to determine the relationship between variables and if well designed comprehend the processes implied by the relationship different graph types suggest different ontologies and theories of change and particular techniques of parsing temporally continuous morphological variation of artefacts into types influence graph form north american archaeologists have grappled with finding a graph that effectively and efficiently displays culture change over time line graphs bar graphs and numerous one off graph types were used between 1910 and 1950 after which spindle graphs displaying temporal frequency distributions of specimens within each of multiple artefact types emerged as the most readily deciphered diagram the variety of graph types used over the twentieth century indicate archaeologists often mixed elements of both darwinian variational evolutionary change and midas touch like transformational change today there is minimal discussion of graph theory or graph grammar in introductory archaeology textbooks or advanced texts and elements of the two theories of evolution are still mixed culture has changed and archaeology provides unique access to the totality of humankind s cultural past it is therefore crucial that graph theory construction and decipherment are revived in archaeological discussion

taphonomy studies the transition of organic matter from the biosphere into the geological record it is particularly relevant to zooarchaeologists and paleobiologists who analyse organic remains in the archaeological record in an attempt to reconstruct hominid subsistence patterns and paleoecological conditions in this user friendly encyclopedic reference volume for students and professionals r lee lyman a leading researcher in taphonomy reviews the wide range of analytical techniques used to solve particular zooarchaeological problems illustrating these in most cases with appropriate examples he also covers the history of taphonomic research and its philosophical underpinnings logically organised and clearly written the book is an important update on all previous publications on archaeological faunal remains

this text presents theoretical background and case studies that demonstrate how evolutionary definitions of archaeological style and function may be applied to the prehistoric record

theodore e white and the development of zooarchaeology in north america illuminates the researcher and his lasting contribution to a field that has largely ignored him in its history the few brief histories of north american zooarchaeology suggest that paul w parmalee john e guilday elizabeth s wing and stanley j olsen laid the foundation of the field only occasionally is theodore white 1905 77 included yet his research is instrumental for understanding the development of zooarchaeology in north america r lee lyman works to fill these gaps in the historical record and revisits some of white s analytical innovations from a modern perspective a comparison of publications shows that not only were white s zooarchaeological articles first

in print in archaeological venues but that he was also at least initially more prolific than his contemporaries while the other founders of the field were anthropologists white was a paleontologist by training who studied long extinct animals and their evolutionary histories in working with remains of modern mammals the typical paleontological research questions were off the table simply because the animals under study were too recent and yet white demonstrated clearly that scholars could infer significant information about human behaviors and cultures lyman presents a biography of theodore white as a scientist and a pioneer in the emerging field of modern anthropological zooarchaeology

this book is the first synthesis of the prehistory of the coast of oregon it analyzes the artifacts and mammalian faunal remains of three representative sites on the coast a model of the evolution of cultural adaptational strategies is presented and tested from which it creates a model of coastal cultural development on a methodological level the volume examines the overriding importance and effects of various sampling techniques

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