

the Montgomery writings is the one which is best aligned with the overall environmental thrust of the collection. The others seem to simply conflate the environment with landscape.

Unusually for a collection of essays, the editors' introduction and conclusion are among the high points of the volume. The chapters are diverse but the editors have successfully demonstrated a unity and have provided a thoughtful overview, not merely justifying, but celebrating, the deeper study of the Gulf, no matter how defined. Rather than being the last word in the environmental history of a region, these essays should stimulate research of other locations where the contact between land and sea combines natural and human history to create a unique narrative.

H.T. Holman
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

Alicia Caporaso (ed.) *Formation Processes of Maritime Archaeological Landscapes*. Heidelberg, Germany: Springer International Publishing and the Society for Historical Archeology, www.springer.com, 2017. xii+220 pp., illustrations, tables, notes, bibliography, index. Euro 114,39 €, cloth; ISBN 978-3-319-48786-1. (E-book available.)

Apart from a human tragedy, an economic, or perhaps a cultural loss, the sinking of a vessel is an intrusion into a territory for which it was not designed. As every activity has to meet certain conditions before another state of being is reached, so does the loss of a ship. Most human interaction with the environment is carefully prepared, timed and measured. The marine environment, however, is confronted with mostly accidental encounters, as in the case of a ship losing the ability to stay afloat. Over the years, maritime archae-

ology has evolved from the confines of the study of a single wreck at an individual site to embrace a broader view that takes into account the various motivations that send a ship out to sea, such as market demands, economic necessity or war; as well as the circumstances in which a vessel operates, like rain, fog, storm, with a dangerous cargo, in treacherous waters. In that broader view, the transition of sites in the marine environment is also taken into account; for example, the effect of natural transformation, like the reaction with seawater or storm surges on a site, and the impact of cultural processes like salvage, fishing, blasting and the removal of artefacts. This broader view is expressed in subsequent models that have been developed over the years by Keith Muckelroy in 1978, Michael Brian Schiffer's cultural and natural transformations (1987), William Ward on natural transformational process (1999) and James G. Gibb's (2006) stages in shipwreck and finds. Maritime archaeology is a dynamic discipline that requires an open eye for evaluation and refining, not only for scientific purposes, but also for a better understanding of the interaction between nature and culture.

Caporaso's study of the *Formation Processes of Maritime Archaeological Landscapes* presents an excellent perspective of current research in maritime archaeological landscape formation processes.

Jacob Bart Hak
Leiden, The Netherlands

Jesse Cromwell. *The Smugglers' World: Illicit Trade and Atlantic Communities in Eighteenth-Century Venezuela*. Williamsburg and Chapel Hill, NC: Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and University of