

the early 1980s and may circulate back to Stafford's main argument about the centrality of kin-morality in human cooperation (chapter 1), even at the time when kinship itself has been deterritorialized.

YUNXIANG YAN, *University of California, Los Angeles*

Interregional Interaction in Ancient Mesoamerica. Joshua D. Englehardt and Michael D. Carrasco, eds. Louisville: University Press of Colorado, 2019, 426 pp. \$95.00, cloth. ISBN 978-1-60732-835-3.

In this volume, the role of “interregional interaction,” as included in the title, is considered the important cultural aspect that sparks innovation and the making of Mesoamerica. From this mechanism comes the shared ideologies, architectural styles, and familiar patterns of being across Mesoamerica. The volume has 14 chapters: an introduction, 12 numbered chapters on varying topics, and a conclusion. The book is intended to address three aspects: (1) the role of interregional interaction as part of the processes that shaped prehistoric Mesoamerica (p. 6), (2) the critical question of how interregional interaction made possible what we label “Mesoamerica” (p. 6), and (3) a multidimensional view “of the large cultural systems that at once reflected interregional interaction and produced cultural meaning in ancient Mesoamerica” (p. 18).

The volume does indeed provide a wide range of information concerning interregional interaction, including material culture, linguistics, iconography, and methodological concerns. The chapters are in approximate chronological order, from the Formative through the Late Postclassic. The introduction and conclusion provide context and bind the volume together thematically.

Chapter 1, by Feinman, provides an overview that helps contextualize the complexity of Mesoamerica. Chapter 2 (Hepp) concerns Formative Oaxaca and uses pottery, obsidian, and other evidence from the period. Interestingly, Hepp questions the often-assumed interaction between regions and the mechanisms of the interaction. Chapter 3 (Englehardt and Carrasco) concerns the development of Mesoamerican writing systems. It is clearly difficult to track how writing (and the knowledge of writing) moves between regions, but there are overlapping similarities that must have included the exchange of ideas. Chapter 4 (Hull) discusses contact and linguistic sharing that were clearly of long-term and sustained interaction (p. 138).

The Early Classic and Teotihuacan interaction are introduced in chapter 5 (Schaeffer). The principal interest concerns the “Teotihuacan” tripod cylinder that likely originated in Veracruz and was adopted by Teotihuacan and then the Maya. Chapter 6 (Nielsen,

Jiménez García, and Rivera) reviews Teotihuacan-style monuments in Guerrero, a region that has received scant research attention. One concern is that they seem to conflate Fine Orange or Fine Thin Orange and what should just be identified as “Thin Orange(?).” Chapter 7 (Arnold and Budar) addresses Thompson’s interest in (or at least comments concerning) a Veracruz-Maya connection/interaction. Chapter 8 (Knight) addresses the Early Classic and is focused on the site of Cantona, with attention paid to obsidian dart points representing a specific flaking technology. The source of this artisan work, which overlaps with Teotihuacan and its distinctive obsidian points, remains a question, but the artifacts nonetheless evidence long-distance (gift) exchange.

Chapter 9 (Punzo Díaz) moves chronologically to the Classic and Postclassic of Northwest Mesoamerica. The region is discussed in terms of materials from Zacatecas, Nayarit, and Sinaloa. Data of similar material expression, including ceramics and architecture (such as colonnaded halls and ballcourts), are discussed as evidence for interaction between Northwest and Central Mesoamerica. In chapter 10 (Knab and Pohl), Cholula is discussed as perhaps an anomaly to more traditional discussions of interchange, especially during Aztec (Late Postclassic) times. Knab and Pohl suggest a rotating power system likely to be the Mesoamerican norm rather than the hierarchical Aztec model, and that the rotating power system may have been in place much earlier. Chapter 11 (Schulze and Maldonado) covers an aspect of the Late Postclassic. They discuss several metals but focus on copper alloy bells from a Templo Mayor collection. Their discussion makes very clear that several strategies are in place, from acquiring raw material to processing to final artifacts and distribution.

Chapter 12 (Marcus) concerns how Mesoamerican societies may have interacted. This chapter is an excellent review of several models, including exchange, direction of exchanges, and competitive interaction interests, and ultimately concludes that “The engine of history is competition” (p. 357). In the conclusion, Freidel provides a wonderfully detailed discussion/review of concepts generated from the volume’s papers with great analytical insights. This chapter concludes that the volume’s theme of “inter-regional interaction” is highly useful for archaeological models for Mesoamerica.

The volume as a whole is quite valuable as it brings together various disciplines on a unified topic of interest. Unfortunately, this book only starts the discussion, and it is obvious that a dozen similar volumes could be produced on such an important topic and its potential role in the development and defining of Mesoamerica. The editors and authors are to be complimented for their efforts and often brilliant insights.