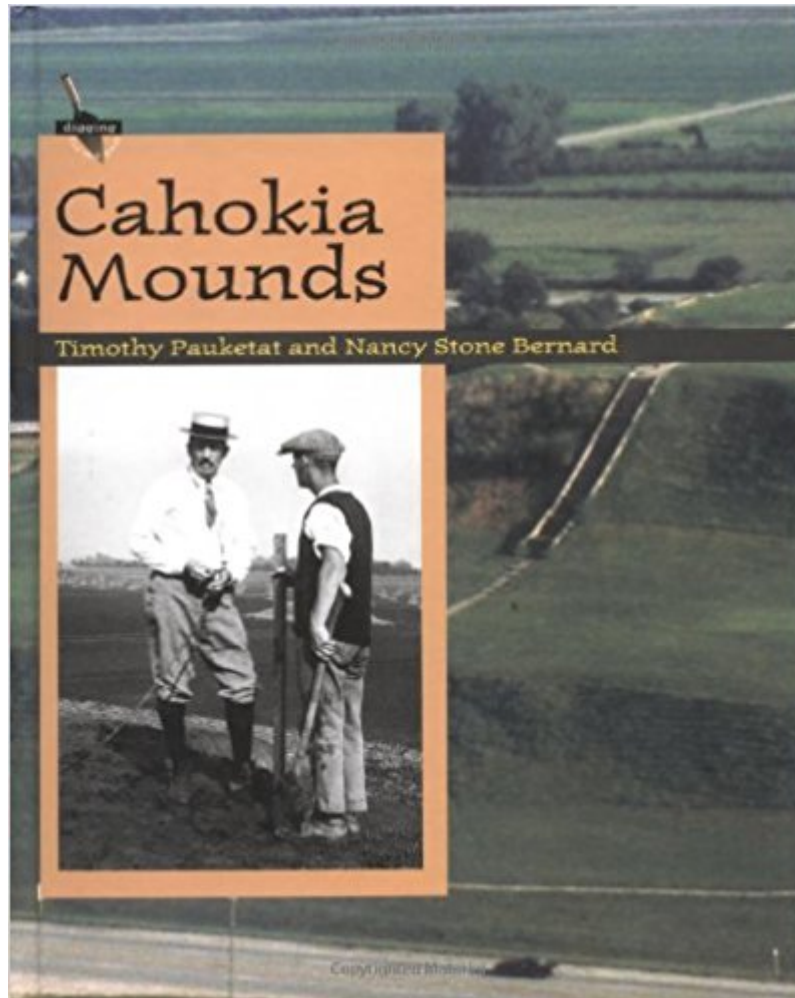




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Cahokia Mounds (Digging For The Past)



Synopsis

Just a few miles west of Collinsville, Illinois lies the remains of the most sophisticated prehistoric native civilization north of Mexico. Cahokia Mounds explores the history behind this buried American city inhabited from about A.D. 700 to 1400.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 5-7
Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site in Illinois preserves the remains of 68 of the 120 Native American mounds that were originally built there. This book explains what is known about the people who built them and what might be left to be discovered. Average-quality, full-color photographs and drawings trace the history of this area, with the emphasis on the archaeology that has allowed scientists to gain some understanding of the culture that was responsible for building the structures. The earliest excavations were done by amateurs and their crude digging probably destroyed more evidence than it preserved. The first professional, systematic excavations occurred in the 20th century and are ongoing, as the site has been officially protected by the state. This is not only a fine introduction to the intricacies of archaeology, but also of the Cahokian society. For a more comprehensive treatment, consult Dale Brown's *Mound Builders & Cliff Dwellers* (Time-Life, 1993).
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"This is not only a fine introduction to the intricacies of archaeology, but also of the Cahokian

for the beginner it's ok

The series, Digging for the Past, is always intelligible, informative and fun to read; and I found "Cahokia Mounds" is no exception to this. The book was an eye opener to me, as it is a geographic area that I would never have expected archeologists to discover such a major site peopled by what seems to have been an advanced civilization. As in the Southwest, some of the "mystery" of the Cahokia indians appears to be similar to the Anazasi around whom there also are numerous theories of their lives and disappearance. In addition to this, the authors explain the discovery and subsequent excavations and studies in such a way as to make the mounds and the civilization they represent relevant and accessible today. After reading "Cahokia Mounds" I would be interested in knowing more about this Native American culture that lived in the Midwest. In conclusion the book was well-written and enjoyable, and I continue to look forward to other books in this series.

tells the story of how one of the US's most profound archaeological sites almost ended up a trailer park, but was saved thanks to some efforts of concerned citizens. Then this book gives a good concise overview of the site itself. But I had some questions, at its peak just what was the population of Cahokia. How far from the center of the Monk's Mound is the population considered to be a part? I've read as high as 38,000 and then as low as 2,000 at its peak, about 1100. From reading this book, it seems that Cahokia actually had a very short span of influence in regard to years, how about territory as well? Then there is the question of Mound 72, where there was evidence of human sacrifice. Too often this info is pushed under the rug or dismissed as propaganda from early catholic missionaries. Actually instead of making the Amerindian look like a bloodthirsty savage the effect is the opposite. There are some accounts I've read that allude to the overthrow of the Cahokia chiefdoms because of this practice, not revelry in the ritual of holding a live beating heart up to the sun as in the case of the Aztecs. Maybe this was the reason for the short span of years for the rulership of the Cahokia chiefdoms. No book I've yet read deals in any length on this subject except a few archaeological journals, most of them only lightly. The fact that not much info is available on this could mean that maybe this although a shocking practice, it was not a frequent or popular one and this type of ceremony only took place once in a "blue moon"

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