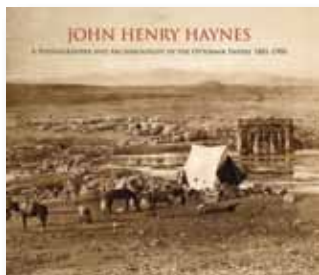


The Father of American Archaeological Photography



John Henry Haynes: A Photographer and Archaeologist in the Ottoman Empire 1881–1900

by Robert G. Ousterhout (Istanbul: Kayık Yayıncılık; Hawick, UK: Caique Publishing Ltd., 2011). 148 pp., 107 color plates, paperback, \$35.00, ISBN 978-0-9565948-1-5

REVIEWED BY PETER J. COBB, *Ph.D. candidate in the Graduate Group in the Art and Archaeology of the Mediterranean World, University of Pennsylvania. He has excavated at many sites across Turkey.*

John Henry Haynes considered himself an objective observer, applying the modern technology of photography to the careful scientific documentation of the archaeological record. Indeed, his late 19th century photographs of the archaeological and architectural heritage of the Ottoman Empire are a gift for those of us who study Turkey's past. They provide us with some of the earliest glimpses of this landscape before the major changes wrought by over a century of modernization, earthquakes, and erosion. Yet, Robert Ousterhout also invites us to appreciate these images for their aesthetic value and importance in the history of the photographic arts. The photographs constitute the main subject of this book, and each picture is printed beautifully on a full page. Four short essays narrate the fascinating story of Haynes's life while he captured these 100 images. The book concludes with a longer essay analyzing Haynes's aesthetic talents and his place in photographic art history.

Haynes's archaeological career began with his tutelage in the photographer's craft under William J. Stillman as they

shot the Athenian Acropolis together. Stillman's intriguing mix of experience with landscape painting, his "aesthetic sensibilities of the picturesque as defined by Ruskin," and his "scholarly approach to architectural form" would have a major impact on Haynes's artistic judgment (p. 137). Haynes's first real assignment came at Assos in 1881 with the earliest excavation of the Archaeological Institute of America, but his camera's late arrival impelled him to spend the season learning how to dig instead. Over the next few years at Assos and Constantinople, Haynes developed his photographic style, exemplified by his dramatic landscape views of the Assos Acropolis and his carefully framed details of the ruins, often with a local posing "almost as an alternative subject" (p. 138).

In 1884, Haynes joined an epigraphical expedition on a circuit of the Anatolian plateau, photographing monuments, mosques, khans (Turkish inns), and even the mundane activities of travel such as the time-honored tradition of a visit to a Turkish barber. One senses, in particular, a fascination shared between the photographer and the author with the strange fusion of anthropogenic and natural environments in Cappadocia (east central Turkey). Haynes next served as photographer for the Wolfe Expedition to Mesopotamia, which explored possible sites for an ini-

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tial American excavation in the “Holy Land.” In 1887, he returned to tour Anatolia, with the goal of publishing a profitable folio of his photographs, a work that unfortunately sold few copies after its delayed release five years later.

Ousterhout paints an often tragic picture of Haynes as a hardworking man from an unprivileged background constantly struggling for financial stability and recognition of his work. Many of the eminent—and arrogant—archaeologists of his day considered Haynes, regardless of his photographic talents, “a common, uneducated man” who lacked their advanced degrees and prestigious university appointments (p. 116). Nowhere are Haynes’s troubles more evident than in the 1890s when he was left alone at Nippur to manage the Penn Museum’s first excavation. The immense scale of the project challenged his limited excavation experience, while the controlling and unsupportive communications from his bosses back home and his own marital problems drained his energy; yet he persevered. When he finally did discover a major cache of tablets, the “archaeologists” back in Philadelphia, who had rarely visited the site, took all the credit. In the end, the strain proved too much and Haynes

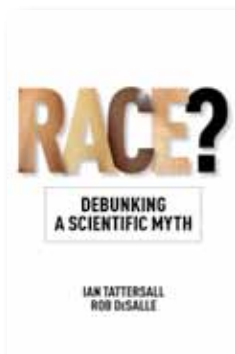
lived out his final decade in obscurity, suffering a mental breakdown and dying in 1910. The headline of his obituary described a man “Broken in Body and Spirit” (p. 119).

Ousterhout’s final essay is a careful study of Haynes’s artistic style, with an emphasis on how his “subjective vision and aesthetic sensibilities shine through and ultimately exalt his photographs” (p. 145). This book fills an important gap in our knowledge about the development of the archaeological discipline in the United States, and it will be of interest to those studying the history of archaeology or photography. The reader already familiar with the geography and chronology of Anatolia will benefit most, but, with its story of the intrigues of Haynes’s life and his stunning photographs, this book will be enjoyable for a wide audience. 🏠

EDITOR’S NOTE

Featuring many photographs from the Penn Museum Archives, this book is available at the Museum Shop. Prof. Ousterhout will present a talk entitled “On the Road with John Henry Haynes: A Photographer in the Ottoman Empire 1881–1900” at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, November 6, in Rainey Auditorium, with a book signing to follow.

Analyzing Race



Race? Debunking a Scientific Myth

by Ian Tattersall and Rob DeSalle (College Station, Texas: Texas A&M University Press, 2011). 256 pp., hardback, \$35.00, ISBN 978-1-60344-425-5

REVIEWED BY PAUL MITCHELL, *B.A. and M.A. student in Biological Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania, and Assistant to the Associate Curator of the Physical Anthropology Collection, Penn Museum.*

From the politics of climate change to the ethics of stem cell research, there are scores of timely social issues for which the science behind the phenomenon in question determines the scope and nature of the debate. Ian Tattersall and Rob

DeSalle, a paleoanthropologist and geneticist, respectively, suggest that “the social conversation [concerning race] would be vastly simplified—and improved—by subtracting many if not most aspects of biology from it” (p. 1). They seek to support this normative claim in their book’s two major sections: a survey of the history of race science and a discussion of the contemporary science of human variation and evolution. The first section broadly outlines major conceptions of race and the thinkers who produced them from the Age of Discovery to the aftermath of World War II. The second section is an overview of some current thinking in evolutionary biology, paleontology, and genetics as it relates to the variation seen in modern humans. The book finishes with some considerations of the use of race in the investigation of ancestry, forensics, and disease.

The book’s major argument, that race should be analyzed socially, not scientifically, is underscored by the authors’ expository run-through of all the notions that offend a liberal conscience: the “noble savage,” the *scala naturae* crowned with Caucasian man (produced, in part, courtesy of Philadelphia’s own Dr. S. G. Morton), and the horrors of eugenics. The desired upshot of this unnerving study is to support the authors’ assertion that “extreme caution is in order” (p. 2) when applying inherently provisional scientific knowledge to social issues.

As biologists, the authors state that race, if it can be understood biologically, must be defined taxonomically. In pursuit of this definition, they review the nitty-gritty of molecular and morphological systematics and investigate the patterns of diversification and reintegration that have characterized human populations for millennia. Their analysis presents the reader with a multifaceted look at human evolution, ranging from the first hominins and the initial expansion beyond Africa to the archaeology of the Upper Paleolithic and the comparative genetics of modern populations. Although their interpretations of some of the fossil and genetic data concerning the “Out of Africa” hypothesis and the Neanderthal admixture in some modern populations are not beyond contention in paleoanthropology, the authors are rightfully sensitive to the limitations of each scientific methodology in revealing the biological basis and history of human diversity. Nonetheless, they do not hesitate to conclude that the extensive admixture and migration among all human populations strongly indicates that we are

a “very closely knit species” (p. 143); race is deemed to be a poor descriptor of human variation.

In their final chapter, Tattersall and DeSalle note that even if race does not do much work as a concept in explaining diversity, it is still commonly used in medical, forensic, and genealogical applications. Here the authors present a thorough critique of race in these endeavors, using the advent of personalized genomics to argue that race is at best a crude proxy for the soon-to-be-realized real desideratum: individualized forensics, medicine, and ancestry. In their conclusion, Tattersall and DeSalle speculate that race will become increasingly irrelevant as globalization results in unprecedented admixture among human populations. The use of race as a biological category today is “hopeless and counterproductive” and “militates against the natural biological trend within our densely packed and increasingly mobile species” (p. 199). Whatever race is and was, the authors view the biology of race as socially meaningless now and incoherent in the future.

While this book hits many of the right notes in its quick glance at the history of the concept of race, readers looking for a comprehensive study would be better served elsewhere. With regard to questions of evolutionary history and to achieve a more well-rounded view, one should read this book in conjunction with *Race and Human Evolution: A Fatal Attraction* (1997) by Milford Wolpoff and Rachel Caspari. *Race?* is an accessible primer on much of the biological theory relevant to the question of race, although it is best in its consideration of the arbitrariness of the concept itself in social discourse rather than the process, historical and biological, whereby that concept emerged. As such, this book appeals to both general readers and students of biology, anthropology, and the history and philosophy of science as a valuable, if incomplete, overview of the topic’s major themes. 🏠