

## SHELLS

Cheryl Claassen offers an authoritative, readable and clear guide to the study of shells, which is addressed to students and professional archaeologists and paleontologists. She considers the history of archaeological interest in shells and the biology of freshwater and marine molluscs, and critically discusses current techniques, methods, and research problems. Drawing on examples worldwide, and covering prehistoric and historic periods, among the topics covered are: Is shell deposit natural or cultural? How long do shells last? What can shells tell us about environmental characteristics and ancient habitats, or about the people who collected them? What symbolic roles have shells served in human societies? This is a well-balanced account, and all aspects of the subject are clearly represented.

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**This book is dedicated to my parents  
Harold F. Claassen and Dorothy Buchanan Claassen  
of Tulsa, Oklahoma**

they took an undisciplined 7-year-old girl and, through their  
example, taught her the value of discipline

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