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978-1-107-04652-8 - Making Ancient Cities: Space and Place in Early Urban Societies

Edited by Andrew T. Creekmore III and Kevin D. Fisher

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MAKING ANCIENT CITIES

This volume investigates how the structure and use of space developed and changed in cities and examines the role of different societal groups in shaping urbanism. Culturally and chronologically diverse case studies provide a basis for examining recent theoretical and methodological shifts in the archaeology of ancient cities. The book's primary goal is to examine how ancient cities were made by the people who lived in them. The authors argue that there is a mutually constituting relationship between urban form and the actions and interactions of a plurality of individuals, groups, and institutions, each with its own motivations and identities. Space is therefore socially produced as these agents operate in multiple spheres.

Andrew T. Creekmore III is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Northern Colorado. As part of his graduate work, he completed a Fulbright Fellowship in Turkey from 2002 to 2003. Creekmore's research areas include Near Eastern archaeology, High Plains archaeology, and archaeogeophysics. He is especially interested in how people organize themselves in space, in contexts ranging from Native American mobile forager campsites in the Rocky Mountains and Front Range of Colorado to Bronze Age cities of the Near East. Creekmore has conducted research in Turkey, Israel, Syria, Iraq, the eastern United States, and the plains of Colorado. His most recent publication in the area of urbanism and geophysics is in *Archaeological Prospection*.

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Making Ancient Cities

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Edited by

Andrew T. Creekmore III

University of Northern Colorado

Kevin D. Fisher

The University of British Columbia



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Andrew Creekmore dedicates this volume to his parents, Ted and Carol Creekmore; his grandmother Sarah Roberts; and his wife Eleanor Moseman. Their love, support, and self-sacrifice made possible his career in archaeology.

Kevin Fisher dedicates this volume to the memory of Todd Michael Fisher (1973–2010), his little brother.

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Contributors

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Andrew T. Creekmore III is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Northern Colorado. His research interests include spatial organization of human settlements ranging from mobile forager campsites in the High Plains of the United States to Bronze Age cities of Mesopotamia. His current research involves the application of multiple archaeological geophysics methods to these kinds of sites in order to investigate their structure and life history.

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Yoko Nishimura is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research centers on the household archaeology and urban layout of third-millennium BC city-states in northern Mesopotamia. She is particularly interested in the ways ordinary city inhabitants organized their domestic space and activities within the context of a much larger, urban spatial configuration. By examining ancient burials made beneath house floors, she is also investigating the complex relationship between the quotidian activities and intra-mural mortuary practices of ordinary city inhabitants in the past.

Anna Razeto is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Cross-cultural and Regional Studies of the University of Copenhagen.

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Her main field of research is comparative archaeology, particularly focused on aspects of urbanism in the Roman and Han empires. She is currently working on a volume on the comparison between the Han and Roman capitals. Her current project looks at modern interpretation techniques for the public of urban archaeological sites in a cross-cultural perspective.

Barbara L. Stark is Professor Emerita of Anthropology at Arizona State University. She is an archaeologist specializing in Mesoamerican civilizations, especially the Gulf lowlands. Her recent publications include (with coauthors) *Ethnic Identity in Nahua Mesoamerica: The View from Archaeology, Art History, Ethnohistory, and Contemporary Ethnography* (2008) and, coedited with C. P. Garraty, *Archaeological Approaches to Market Exchange in Ancient Societies* (2010).

Stephanie Wynne-Jones is Lecturer in Archaeology, Department of Archaeology, University of York, specializing in the archaeology of the Eastern African Swahili coast and its links with the wider Indian Ocean world, AD 600–1500. Her interests include urbanism, social space, and identity; in particular she has developed projects revolving around the ways that objects move and act within global and local networks. Wynne-Jones has directed projects at Vumba Kuu in Kenya and at Uvinza, Ujiji, Mafia Island, Kilwa, and Songo Mnara in Tanzania. Her current fieldwork is at the fourteenth- to fifteenth-century stonetown of Songo Mnara. In addition, she is working on a project exploring the movement of objects in the Indian Ocean in the early Islamic period of the seventh to tenth centuries AD.

Norman Yoffee is Senior Fellow in the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University, and professor emeritus in the Department of Near Eastern Studies and the Department of Anthropology at the University of Michigan. His most recent books are *Myths of the Archaic State: Evolution of Cities, States, and Civilizations* and *Questioning Collapse: Human Resilience, Ecological Vulnerability, and the Aftermath of Empire*, the latter co-edited with Patricia McAnany.

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Preface

This volume owes its origins to a round-table discussion on ancient cities organized by Michael Smith at the 2008 Society for American Archaeology (SAA) annual meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. The round table was attended by both editors of this volume and a number of other archaeologists interested in furthering the analysis of urban form across ancient cultures. The stimulating discussions that arose during the round table prompted us to organize a more formal symposium that would explore how urban space was produced through social action and interaction, using case studies from around the world. The chapters in this volume are expanded and updated versions of papers presented at the “Studies of the Production of Space in Ancient Cities” symposium at the 2009 SAA annual meeting held in Atlanta, Georgia. George Cowgill, who kindly served as discussant for the symposium, was unable to participate in this volume, and we are fortunate that Norman Yoffee was able to assume this role. Our work as editors was made easier by the patience and hard work of the volume contributors, and we thank them profusely for all their efforts. We are grateful to Michael Smith and an anonymous reviewer for their thoughtful comments on both the individual chapters and the volume as a whole. We also thank Virginia Ogg, who served as Assistant Editor, for her attention to detail through the final stages of the volume. As editors, we bear responsibility for any remaining errors or omissions.

Andrew T. Creekmore III and Kevin D. Fisher, June 2013