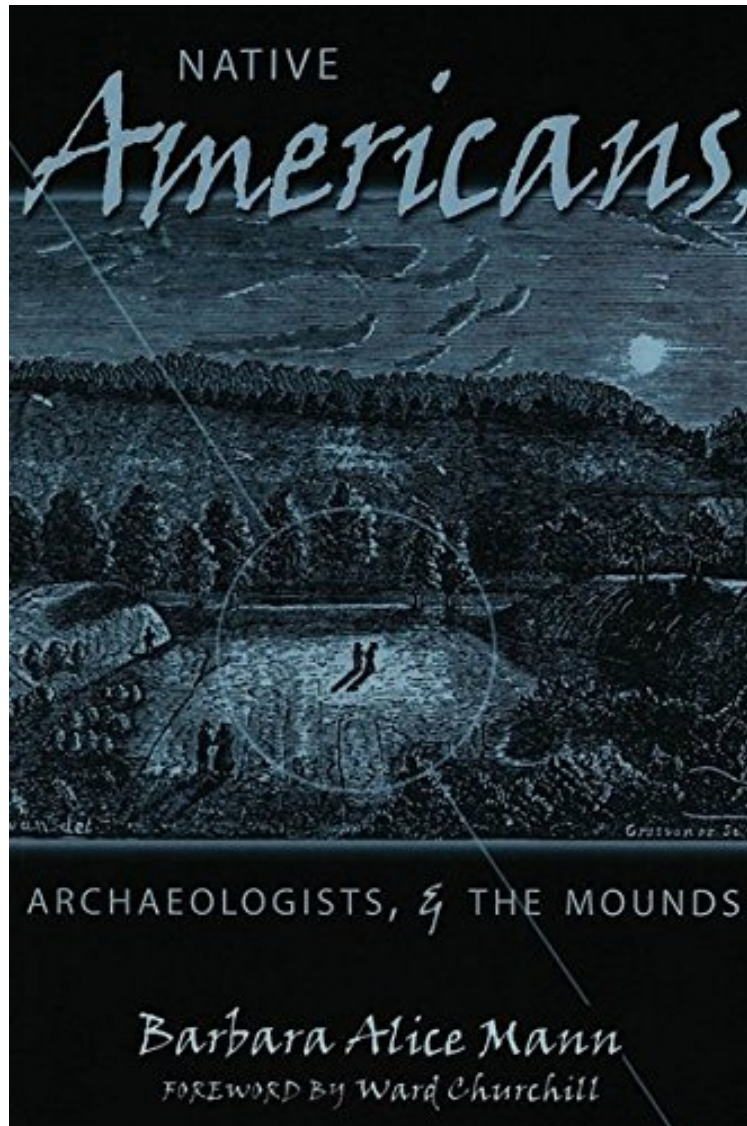


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## Native Americans, Archaeologists, and the Mounds (American Indian Studies)

*Barbara Alice Mann*

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**Barbara Alice Mann : Native Americans, Archaeologists, and the Mounds (American Indian Studies)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Native Americans, Archaeologists, and the Mounds (American Indian Studies):

3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Who "owns" the mounds? By S. Crane "Ever since 18th C European settlers stumbled upon the mounds, explanations and interpretations of them -often ridiculous and seldom native

American -have appeared as sober scholarship. The native American graves protection and Repatriation Act of 1900 (NAGPRA) has intensified the debate over who "owns" the mounds- modern descendants of the Mound Builders or Western archaeologists. This book is the first cogent look at all the issues surrounding the mounds, their history, preservation, and interpretation. Using the traditions of those native Americans descended from the Mound Builders as well as historical and archaeological evidence, Mann places the mounds in their Native cultural context as she examines the fraught issues enveloping them in the 21st C. Mann is a lecturer of English at Toledo University as well as a noted author and speaker on the culture and history of native Americans of the eastern woodlands. She has a deep store of indigenist scholarship and personal experience. "She is therefore conversant with broad range of traditional native American understandings as well as the "eurocentric literature" (scientific or otherwise), and demonstrates that the former are vastly more consistent with available evidence than the latter. Mann reconstructs the reality of Mound Builder culture in the Ohio valley and offers the beginnings of an overall history of the interactivity of these oft-ignored people with their modern descendants. She chronicles how archaeologists have sought to maintain control over the artifacts and skeletal remains interred in the mounds. "This is another useful contribution to the debate of archaeology, and investigation of ancient Native American culture/ remains as exemplified by Kennewick Man (See David Thomas- "Skull wars" and Roger Downey " The Riddle of the Bones"). It is an issue wherever the culture of First Peoples of a country is alive and well, and merits respect and consultation. Such is the case in Australia and New Zealand too.

Ever since European settlers stumbled upon the eighteenth-century mounds, explanations and interpretations of them often ridiculous and seldom Native American have appeared as sober scholarship. Today, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA) has intensified the debate over who owns the mounds modern descendants of the Mound builders or Western archaeologists. Native Americans, Archaeologists, and the Mounds is the first cogent look at all the issues surrounding the mounds, their history, their preservation, and their interpretation. Using the traditions of those Natives descended from the Mound Builders as well as historical and archaeological evidence, Barbara Alice Mann placed the mounds in their native cultural context as she examines the fraught issues enveloping them in the twenty-first century.

Native Americans, Archaeologists, and the Mounds is a tour de force...in its breadth and significance. Displaying conversance with an astonishingly broad range of traditional understandings as well as the relevant corpus of eurocentrist literature (scientific' and otherwise), Barbara Alice Mann compellingly demonstrates, time after time, that the former are vastly more consistent with available evidence than are the latter. She is thus able not only to reconstruct the reality of Mound-Builder culture in the Ohio River valley far more coherently and convincingly than have past researchers, but to offer the beginnings of an overall history of the interactivity of these ill-perceived and oft-ignored people with their more familiar modern descendants to both the north and the south. [...] Along the way, she chronicles how archaeologists, in particular, have long asserted and still seek to maintain control over the artifacts and skeletal remains interred in the mounds, mainly as a means of obscuring the contrived and often ludicrous nature of their own interpretive schemas. (Excerpt from the Foreword, Ward Churchill, Professor of Ethnic Studies, University of Colorado at Boulder; Author of *A Little Matter of Genocide*) People who disdain the Native American dead also disdain their living descendants. This destructive process is still going on and is why I say of Barbara Alice Mann's monumental book, *Native Americans, Archaeologists, and the Mounds*, Read it-for truth's sake, for life's sake. From her deep store of indigenist scholarship and personal experience with the issue, Mann speaks Native-style, a courageous act in academia. She keeps her promise to the reader not only to be direct and unapologetic in her use of bold language and oral tradition, but also to root her discussion, tracing the convoluted path of the issue from its inception into the present. One strategy of colonizers is to keep authors and their readers boxed in categories of ethnicity, or gender, or discipline, but Barbara Alice Mann's voice is so powerful and resonant that it carries through academia and on to the general public, where there are also many people with ears to hear her truth-telling-and to respond. (Marilou Awiakta, Author of *Selu: Seeking the Corn Mother's Wisdom*) About the Author: The Author: Barbara Alice Mann is a Lecturer of English at the University of Toledo, as well as a noted author and speaker on the culture and history of Native Americans of the eastern woodlands. She authored *Iroquoian Women: The Gantowisas* (2000), edited *Native American Speakers of the Eastern Woodlands* (2001), and co-edited *The Encyclopedia of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy)* (2000), in addition to writing major articles on various aspects of the Iroquois League and its culture.