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BOOK REVIEW

Phytoarchaeology. Robert R. Brooks and Dieter Johannes. Portland, Oregon: Dioscorides Press, 1990. Pp. 268. 20 color and 32 b/w photos. \$39.95. ISBN 0-931146-16-X.

The two authors of this book—both outstanding specialists in archaeoethnobotany—approached phytoarchaeology from different fields of research. The first, a New Zealander, is an expert who was intrigued with results from studying two different sites thousands of miles apart, in Corsica and in Zaire. The second conducted research based on vegetational studies in mineralized areas in Germany. "It was," as the authors confess in their preface, "a difficult book to write because of the wide range of disciplines covered and the wide dissemination of the literature in several languages." They have, this confession notwithstanding, done a magnificent piece of writing and have produced a volume which will long stand as an example of superb research.

The volume is arranged under two parts: Part I, General Principles, with nine chapters; and Part II, Aerial Phytoarchaeology, with seven chapters. The extraordinary coverage—technological and geographical—are evident in these parts. There follows a glossary of terms, a botanical index, a geographical index, and a subject index.

The book is superbly produced by Dioscorides Press which must be congratulated for publishing a jewel at such a reasonable price. The authors are to be thanked for their multidisciplinary treatment, much to be desired in this period of extreme compartmentalization.

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