

## African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter

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### The Archaeology of Africa: Food Metals, and Towns. One World Archaeology Volume 20

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## *The Archaeology of Africa: Food Metals, and Towns*

*Thurstan Shaw, Paul Sinclair, Bassy Andah, and Alex Okpoko, editors, 1995 edition, The Archaeology of Africa: Food Metals, and Towns. One World Archaeology Volume 20, Routledge, London and New York. xxxvii + 857 pp. References, index, and site index (paper).*

Africa has a rich and complex past, and this volume does much to make that past better known to the western scholarly community. An intricate interweaving of peoples and cultures is presented, reflecting an extraordinary diversity of economic and social strategies over an enormous range of environmental settings. This volume has been called enormously important for the many misconceptions about Africa's past that it demolishes.

A total of 45 essays comprise the volume, including an introduction by the editors that identifies the thematic and geographic issues that run through the collection. Readers of A-A A will find Manfred Eggert's paper on the archaeology of Central Africa of particular interest for its discussion of pottery from the inner Congo-Zaire basin. He provides clear line drawings of archaeological examples.