



NICHOLE BODIN

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ARCHAEOLOGY AS A HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE METHOD



Representation of the Taino revolt. Fragment of the cover of General History of the Deeds of the Castilians in the Islands and the Mainland (1601) by Antonio de Herrera.

Historical Archaeology manifests, within its interdisciplinarity, different philosophical, scientific and social aspects that determine the physical effectiveness of the chronological, descriptive and analytical study of events in history. Archaeological theories that are established within epistemological and methodological characteristics constitute a manifestation in systems that surpass intellectual limits, creating sustainability in auxiliary processes.

As an investigative science, Historical Archaeology is an effective discipline that can determine, reveal and demonstrate historical events that were not fully documented during research processes. To contend with materiality, Historical Archaeology has used the contributions and thoughts of Marx and theoretical thoughts in its response such as those of Louis Althusser, Michel Foucault and Pierre Bourdieu. Another important theoretical aspect that has created contributions in this field is Structuralism, such as the contributions of Claude Levi-Strauss, Henry Glassie, and James Deetz.

Archaeological archival sources create an intellectual opposition between archaeological and historical records and the reconstruction of people's daily lives in the past, establishing a variety of contrasts with an analytical approach between the study of history and decorative arts. Data collected in archaeological deposits, despite new innovative dating techniques, have a modernized approach that classifies artifacts with statistics and computerized approaches. Some texts are archives that require further interpretation with a degree of precision required to decipher the specific context.

One of the challenges for historical archaeology is its interest in normative types within chronology as a definitive diagnosis. Early Historical Archaeology was unifying in the search for general principles. The generalizations of the new archaeology in the 1960s recognized broad patterns of structuralism that sought forms in the cognitive systems of different cultures and human condition.

Oral history, textual history, and material sources about the past have created a temporal and scalar resolution of evidence that vary radically. Although contemporary historical archaeology is formed within an uncertain world of fragmentation, contradictions, and conflict, the approach to documentary archaeology intrinsically provides articulations in the diversity of materials related to cultures and societies.

Documentary archaeology has become a global effort that shares its knowledge in ethnographic interpretations with historical anthropology, having a relationship between chronology and typology found in archaeological artifacts that demonstrate a process rather than an era or condition. However, the categorization of important archaeological documents has become a difficult task for the development of historical research.



Los bucaneros de América, de Alexandre Exquemelin

The intention to identify the people who lived in a certain place and time with the purpose of an understanding of the socio-cultural contexts and the social meaning of the recovered objects are part of everyday history. The use of archaeology as a means to understand the past has followed a path of inscrutable research, interpreting the prehistoric contexts of the native peoples, the historical sites and their early periods within the protohistoric arguments used for the study of the pre-Hispanic peoples.

The processes of acculturation and multicultural transformation in the Caribbean area and the findings of archaeological materials express the associations regarding archaeological research and constitute a link between the impact of cultures and their sustainable manifestation before scientific, philosophical and analytical knowledge at a global level. Systematic research is a privileged axis for interdisciplinary research in which archaeological excavation, digital photography techniques, recording, chemical analysis of materials and documentary research of ethnohistorical sources are combined.



Illustrative source: Spanish in DDL

A global approach to these studies can create a characterization of a transitional era between the indigenous lifestyle and the colonial lifestyle. The extension of the research documents that explore these periods through architectural and material evidence creates an interdisciplinary research for the scientific sphere of great projection and importance in the coming years of archaeological work. Archaeological texts often become incomplete for various reasons. Historians must work hard on behalf of archaeologists with the work of analysis and criticism of historical texts, founding a process of producing a source of information for the optimization of reconstruction and historical chronology.