SEND ME YOUR BOOK SUGGESTIONS!

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With this issue the Pennsylvania Archaeologist is returning to the practice of including book reviews in each issue. Book reviews are a part of many archaeology journals. They provide an opportunity for archaeologists to become aware of relevant publications, and they can expose us to a broader range of topics within the field than we might encounter on our own. This journal used to publish book reviews on a regular basis, but in recent years they have seldom been included. It’s possible that many readers are even unaware that book reviews might be included in the Pennsylvania Archaeologist or that they have forgotten past practice concerning them. However, our editor, Roger Moeller, believes it’s time to make an effort to restore this feature of the journal.

At Roger’s suggestion, I’ve agreed to take on the role of Book Review Editor. This means I will be identifying books of interest for review and selecting people to write reviews for publication. It seems to me that there are a wide variety of book topics of interest to readers of the Pennsylvania Archaeologist. While we do want to review books which cover aspects of Pennsylvania archaeology directly, readers will also be interested in publications dealing with the archaeology of other states in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and even the Midwest. Appropriate review choices might be books about various topics in the prehistory and history, archaeological methods and practice, prehistoric technology, public education in archaeology, archaeological ethics, artifact collections and curation, and more. I also will be seeking reviewers who can respond to review requests in a timely manner. Currently, I am developing a list of people who are willing to be reviewers and the topics of interest to them.

For those of you who don’t know me, I have a broad acquaintance with Pennsylvania and regional archaeology. Although I retired in early 2018, I taught archaeology and anthropology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania for more than 30 years. I am a Research Associate at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and I have been active in both the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology and the Pennsylvania Archaeological Council since the mid-1980s. I’m pleased to play a part in revitalizing the Book Review feature for the Pennsylvania Archaeologist. It provides a great opportunity for me to help the journal and expand my own knowledge of Pennsylvania archaeology and related topics in the process. However, I will need the help of all readers in suggesting books to be reviewed, and in agreeing to write reviews if I ask for your help. Please contact me at sraahneusius@gmail.com or sawn@auxmail.iup.edu to suggest books to be reviewed and to offer help in reviewing particular kinds of books. If sending book ideas please be sure to provide complete publisher information so I will be able to request a review copy. You may also send me copies of books for review at 1203 Arrowood Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15243.