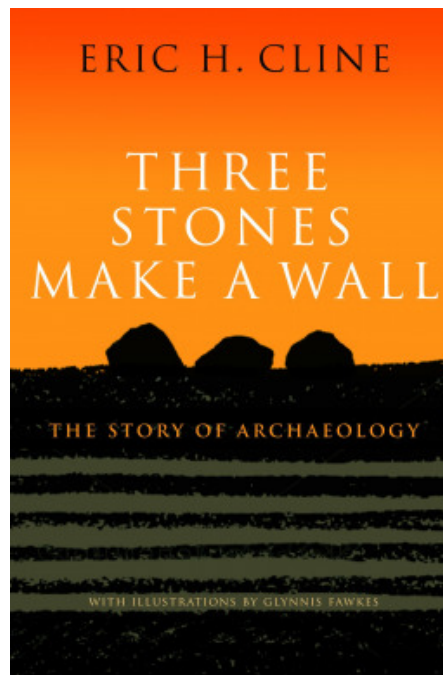




Three Stones Make a Wall: The Story of Archaeology

Eric H. Cline

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From the bestselling author of *1177 B.C.*, a comprehensive history of archaeology--from its amateur beginnings to the cutting-edge science it is today.

In 1922, Howard Carter peered into Tutankhamun's tomb for the first time, the only light coming from the candle in his outstretched hand. Urged to tell what he was seeing through the small opening he had cut in the door to the tomb, the Egyptologist famously replied, "I see wonderful things." Carter's fabulous discovery is just one of the many spellbinding stories told in *Three Stones Make a Wall*.

Written by Eric Cline, an archaeologist with more than thirty seasons of excavation experience, *Three Stones Make a Wall* traces the history of archaeology from an amateur pursuit to the cutting-edge science it is today by taking the reader on a tour of major archaeological sites and discoveries, from Pompeii to Petra, Troy to the Terracotta Warriors, and Mycenae to Megiddo and Masada. Cline brings to life the personalities behind these digs, including Heinrich Schliemann, the former businessman who excavated Troy, and Mary Leakey, whose discoveries advanced our understanding of human origins. The discovery of the peoples and civilizations of the past is presented in vivid detail, from the Hittites and Minoans to the Inca, Aztec, and Moche. Along the way, the book addresses the questions archaeologists are asked most often: How do you know where to dig? How are excavations actually done? How do you know how old something is? Who gets to keep what is found?

Taking readers from the pioneering digs of the eighteenth century to the exciting new discoveries being made today, *Three Stones Make a Wall* is a lively and essential introduction to the story of archaeology.

Three Stones Make a Wall: The Story of Archaeology Details

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From Reader Review Three Stones Make a Wall: The Story of Archaeology for online ebook

Lauren Albert says

A terrific look at archaeology. Cline tells us how archaeologists decide where to dig, how they dig and what happens with what they find. He also goes into past digs from the ransacking archaeologists of old to contemporary ones. I think he might have spoken a bit more on the cultural appropriation issues but otherwise he did a great job introducing me to the reality of archaeology without condescension.

Angelique Simonsen says

I enjoyed reading this. it covers quite a lot of different places. however I would have liked photos as it was hard to imagine some of the lesser known locations

Randal White says

Very interesting. Good writing.

Eszter Bolla says

Archäologie ist für viele ein Kindheitstraum. Irgendwann geben sie diesen Traum jedoch auf, gehen einem anderen Beruf nach. Ihr Interesse an der Archäologie bleibt aber, und irgendwo tief drinnen träumen sie noch immer davon, an archäologischen Ausgrabungen teilzunehmen. Dieses Buch ist für sie.

Und somit auch für mich. Seit ich 6 war, wollte ich unbedingt Archäologin werden. In unserem Garten lagen nach jedem Regen kleine Keramikscherben herum, die ich einfach nur einsammeln musste, um mich als großen Entdecker zu fühlen. Heute weiß ich natürlich, dass meine Vorgehensweise falsch war, damals hatte ich aber noch keine Ahnung, wie Archäologie in der Praxis funktioniert. Deshalb habe ich einige Jahre später meinem Geschichtslehrer geglaubt, als er mir erzählte, Ausgrabungen seien nur in meiner Phantasie so interessant, in der Wirklichkeit bestehen sie nur daraus, kleine Knochenstücke mit einer Zahnbürste sauber zu kriegen. Er hat meinem zehnjährigen Ich den Traum ausgeredet, er konnte aber mein Interesse an Geschichte und Archäologie nicht völlig ausrotten. Bis heute lese ich deshalb gerne Bücher zum Thema, so war es ganz natürlich, dass ich Versunkene Welten und wie man sie findet von Eric H. Cline lesen wollte.

Allerdings machten mir der reißerische Titel und das zu stark nach Photoshop riechende Cover ein wenig Angst, dass es sich hierbei um Pseudo-Archäologie handeln wird, deshalb recherchierte ich zunächst den Autor, der sich als echter Archäologe entpuppte, der an der George-Washington-Universität lehrt und in den Jahrzehnten seines Werdegangs an etlichen Ausgrabungen teilgenommen hat (so zum Beispiel in Megiddo und Tel Kabri).

Eric Cline ist aber nicht nur ein erfahrener Archäologe, er schreibt auch sehr gut. Es ist, als würde er vor mir

sitzen und mir eine spannende Geschichte nach der anderen erzählen. Das liegt wahrscheinlich daran, dass diesem Buch seine Vorträge aus seinem Kurs „Einführung in die Archäologie“ als Basis dienen. Im Buch zeichnet er die Entwicklung der Archäologie nach, erzählt aber auch viel über die praktische Seite seines Fachs.

Das Buch führt den Leser zu ganz bekannten Grabungsstätten, nach Troja, Mesopotamien, Ägypten, und erzählt dabei über die Anfänge der Archäologie und über die ersten Archäologen, die meistens natürlich noch keine Archäologen waren, weil es dieses Fach noch nicht gab und die Funde sehr oft genauso behandelt wurden, wie ich es damals als Kind gemacht habe: es wurde alles ausgegraben, zusammengepackt und nach Hause gebracht. Es hat Jahrzehnte gebraucht, bis sich die heute gängigen Methoden ausgebildet haben und Funde endlich in ihrem Kontext behandelt wurden (und man nicht nur nach „Schätzen“ Ausschau hielt). Die bekannteste Geschichte ist hier wahrscheinlich Schliemanns Suche nach Troja und die Nachfolgende Ausgrabung, bei der Funde zusammen präsentiert wurden, die gar nicht an der gleichen Stelle gefunden wurden.

Cline bereist die ganze Welt mit uns, und wir überqueren dabei nicht nur Meere, Ozeane, Wüsten und Berge, sondern auch Jahrtausende. Zwischendurch sind kleine Abstecher eingefügt, wo wir der Methodik der Archäologie detaillierter nachgehen: „Woher weiß man, wo man graben muss?“, „Woher weiß man, wie man graben muss?“, „Wie alt ist das Objekt, und warum blieb es erhalten?“ und „Darf man das, was man gefunden hat, behalten?“ sind die Fragen, die dabei beantwortet werden.

Viele der Ausgrabungsstätten und Geschichten waren mir schon bekannt, aber auch in den Bereichen, wo ich mich als doch bewandert betrachte, konnte er mir Neues erzählen. Und hinzugekommen sind noch weitere Episoden aus der ständig wachsenden Geschichte der Archäologie, die ich nicht gekannt habe. Besonders gut hat mir gefallen, dass er einzelne Entdeckungen immer wieder auch zeitlich zueinander in Relation brachte.

Die Geschichte der Archäologie ist eine Geschichte, die kein Ende findet. Die Zeit schreitet unentwegt voran, was heute unsere Gegenwart ist, ist morgen bereits vergangen. Irgendwann werden unsere Nachfahren unser heutiges Leben mit dem gleichen Eifer erkunden, wie wir heute den Alltag in Pompeji zu rekonstruieren versuchen. Auch die Technik entwickelt sich ständig, so dass wir nicht unbedingt graben müssen, um mehr über die Geschichte einer Landschaft in Erfahrung zu bringen. Unsere Vergangenheit ist dabei aber auch gefährdet. Kriege haben viel dazu beigetragen, dass Zeugnisse vergangener Zeiten verloren gegangen sind (und auch heute noch verloren gehen), und der schwarze Markt für gestohlene Objekte hilft auch nicht.

Mich hat dieses Buch dazu inspiriert, mich noch mehr mit meinem Kindheitstraum von der Archäologie zu befassen und das in Zukunft nicht mehr nur in Theorie zu tun: Ich habe mich als Helfer bei einer Ausgrabung angemeldet. Ich glaube, eine eindeutige Leseempfehlung kann ich an dieser Stelle nicht aussprechen.

James Empson says

Feel I just finished the lecture series for "Archaeology 101" at GWU. Liked the professor; clear, knowledgeable and entertaining.

Vicki Cline says

This is a very good intro to archaeology, with a chapter on just about every interesting site. The "Digging Deeper" chapters are particularly informative - "How Do You Know Where to Dig?", "How Do You Know How to Dig?", "How Old Is This and Why Is It Preserved?" and "Do You Get To Keep What You Find?".

Hadrian says

Quick, accessible, entertaining book about the work of archaeology and some of its most spectacular finds. The discovery of King Tut's tomb is an outlier, with the dramatic reveal and stores of pristine artifacts. While Cline devotes much of the book to these spectacular finds, the most intriguing stuff is his introduction to the field 'as it is', and the basic questions people ask - "How do you know where to dig? How do you dig? How old is this? How do you know that? Do you keep what you find?" This is how he outlines the use of modern technology combined with painstaking excavations and documentation.

But even with such methods as radiocarbon dating, K-Ar analysis, pottery typology, rehydroxylation, and dendrochronology, much of the field is on unsteady ground, and many prime sites are under threat from environmental degradation, looting, or DAESH. And even so, he concludes with a humorous and cautionary note, where archaeologists in the future may make mistakes about what they thought of the United States. They may think we worshipped Starbucks.

Nikki says

Three Stones Make a Wall is an overview of a lot of different archaeological sites and how archaeology is actually done there, and how it has been done in the past. It only glancingly deals with sites about which whole books can or should be written, but it does so by highlighting everything that's so fascinating about them, and it definitely whetted my appetite for more. It's easy to read and not technical at all, and if you have read specialist books on any of the digs mentioned — Schliemann's dig at Troy, for instance — then it won't be new to you, but Cline's enthusiasm makes it worth reading anyway.

His choice of sites is reasonably diverse, too, including Greek and Roman sites, Native American sites, Biblical sites and more. Honestly, if you're looking for a general book to give you a survey of archaeology, or give you some ideas for sites you want to learn more about, I recommend this whole-heartedly. It's the pop-archaeology book I was longing for, after a childhood raised on Channel 4's Time Team. It includes a list of sources, so you can look things up for yourself, and contextualises each dig and discovery beautifully. In retrospect, I'm giving it five stars for being exactly what I wanted at exactly the right moment.

If you're looking for something substantial, it probably won't be for you, but if you're grasshopper minded like me and enjoy the idea of getting a tour of half the globe in archaeology, it's great.

Reviewed for The Bibliophibian.

Zb1113 says

Interesting survey of some very important archaeological digs, how they were done, what we gleaned of the culture/history from them, and how we have improved. There are stretches of the book that drag on a bit, but each chapter had something either unique or created a pattern of interesting connections between past cultures.

Brian Harrison says

Brilliant, knowledgeable and engaging, this book brings archeology alive, and Eric H. Cline, with his enthusiasm and life time experience offers the reader rare insights into some of the many important archeological sites around the world. He provides the who did what where, essential in providing the deeper understanding, and importance of archeology today, enshrining the traditional methodology with the latest cutting edge technology, that is providing a greater understanding of the planets deep history and cultures.

A truly enjoyable and captivating read.

Errobins says

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book about archaeology. In addition to learning about many fascinating ancient cultures, Cline was able to add a refreshing bit of humor to the subject. I often found myself Googling the places he was talking about, and often wish books like these had some sort of online companion with pictures of the places and objects that were discussed, as well as to illustrate some of the more technical concepts in archaeology.

Cline also explored issues pertinent to modern archaeology, such as the need for measures to prevent looting, and explained how archaeology can become politically contentious at times and gave the reader a feel for the complexity of these issues. Reading this was also a good demonstration on how science changes to accommodate the evidence that we find and gives the reader a good feel for how science works.

My sole quibble was that the chapter on Masada sort of petered out after the mystery of what happened there was presented and got me rather intrigued. Other than that this was a solid, enjoyable read.

Cheryl Olseth says

This book is for anyone who wishes they had pursued a career in archeology. In a readable format this book provides the history of archeology, as well as explanations about how sites are located, the excavation process and the latest methods technology is aiding the scientists. It is concise and interesting. I now feel ready to volunteer.

Jim says

I thought this was an outstanding and interesting explanation of archaeology and update on recent discoveries and new interpretations, as well as techniques, delivered for nonspecialists like myself, who nonetheless have always been fascinated with the field. When I was about eight I did a huge dig in my backyard. I like visiting active digs and chatting with the archaeologists. They had an interesting dig a few years back around the corner from where I worked. I learned a lot, altered some outdated beliefs, was inspired to read more. A few times I wish his editor had been a little stricter, but not too often. I would love to attend one of his lectures.

Barbara von der Osten says

Fascinated by archaeology, I wanted to find a book that would provide a foundation, and an overview of the field and its history. I found that and more in *Three Stones Make a Wall: The Story of Archaeology* by Eric H Cline.

Cline's mother gave him a book called *The Walls of Windy Troy* by Heinrich Schliemann, written just for children, when he was only seven years old. That's when he decided to become an archaeologist. This shows how important books are and how important it is to write books specifically for children. Cline more than fulfills his dream and you can feel his enthusiasm for his career in every word he writes.

Starting with early archaeology (Pompeii, Troy, Egyptian Pyramids, the Maya), to our earliest ancestors (anthropology), to the Greeks, the Romans, the Dead Sea Scrolls, cities in the desert such as Petra, and finally, a section on New World Archaeology (Nazca Lines, Machu Picchu, Civil War submarine H.L. Hunley, and findings at Jamestown), this book reads like a novel at times.

In the closing chapter, Cline briefly addresses how archaeology in the future will interpret us (and our Starbucks coffee shops and the like). It starts you thinking about what our future descendants will say about us one day.

The last one-hundred pages of this book are filled with chapter end notes, a comprehensive bibliography, and a thorough index. Overall, a well written book. Fascinating, informing, entertaining and thought- provoking. And one I will keep on my resource shelf for future writing projects.

Repix says

Una narración entretenidísima, historias curiosas, entornos maravillosos y solo un par de pegs. Me han faltado imágenes, hay poquísimas, y que el libro hubiera sido revisado. He encontrado palabras mal escritas y, al principio sobre todo, alguna frase traducida de forma rara. No me ha molestado, pero en un libro de esta temática, al que se presupone una cierta calidad, no se puede permitir eso. Eso sí, me ha encantado. :)
