

Prehistoric Archaeology and Cognitive Anthropology: A Review*

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This paper provides a detailed analysis of several publications explicitly directed at deriving information about prehistoric cognition from archaeological data. Focussing on the methodology employed in these attempts, this review leads to the conclusion that procedures suited to implement such an objective have not been worked out as yet.

The development of what has become known as *Ethnoscience*, *Ethnosemantics*, *New Ethnography* or, most recently, *Cognitive Anthropology* (TYLER 1969) can be traced back to the early 1950s. It originated at Yale where most of the leading proponents of this approach received their graduate training in anthropology. Cognitive anthropology is "new" in so far as it argues for an anthropological methodology (and, as for that, theory) that is centered in *folk cognition*.

Though most of the work along this line is being done in cultural anthropology, attempts to investigate folk systems of cognition are not restricted to this particular field of study. This paper deals with corresponding efforts in prehistoric archaeology, be they implicit or explicit. Its first part provides some background information about cognitive anthropology, whereas the second and the third are directed at several studies in which the derivation of cognitive systems from archaeological data was either proposed or actually attempted.

It is not the aim of the following exposition to deal systematically with the question whether or not cognitive information can be derived from archae-

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