



Beastly Questions: Animal Answers to Archaeological Issues

By Naomi Sykes

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Zooarchaeology, or the study of ancient animals, is a frequently side-lined subject in archaeology. This is bizarre given that the archaeological record is composed largely of debris from human–animal relationships (be they in the form of animal bones, individual artifacts or entire landscapes) and that many disciplines, including anthropology, sociology, and geography, recognise human–animal interactions as a key source of information for understanding cultural ideology.

By integrating knowledge from archaeological remains with evidence from texts, iconography, social anthropology and cultural geography, *Beastly Questions: Animal Answers to Archaeological Issues* seeks to encourage archaeological students, researchers and those working in the commercial sector to offer more engaging interpretations of the evidence at their disposal. Going beyond the simple confines of 'what people ate', this accessible but in-depth study covers a variety of high-profile topics in European archaeology and provides novel interpretations of mainstream archaeological questions. This includes cultural responses to wild animals, the domestication of animals and its implications on human daily practice, experience and ideology, the transportation of species and the value of incorporating animals into landscape research, the importance of the study of foodways for understanding past societies and how animal studies can help us to comprehend issues of human identity and ideology: past, present and future.

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Beastly Questions: Animal Answers to Archaeological Issues By Naomi Sykes Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #4697530 in Books
- Published on: 2014-10-23
- Released on: 2014-10-23
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.21" h x .56" w x 6.14" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 240 pages



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Review

“This ambitious volume … will significantly enliven debate both within and outwith zooarchaeological circles; this is an important book.” –*Medieval Archaeology*

“Ultimately, the boom invigorates zooarchaeological scholarship … in addressing the potential born from critical and creative inter- and multi-disciplinary perspectives within, and beyond, the discipline.” –*Journal of Roman Archaeology*

About the Author

Naomi Sykes is Senior Lecturer in Zooarchaeology at the Department of Archaeology, University of Nottingham, UK.

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