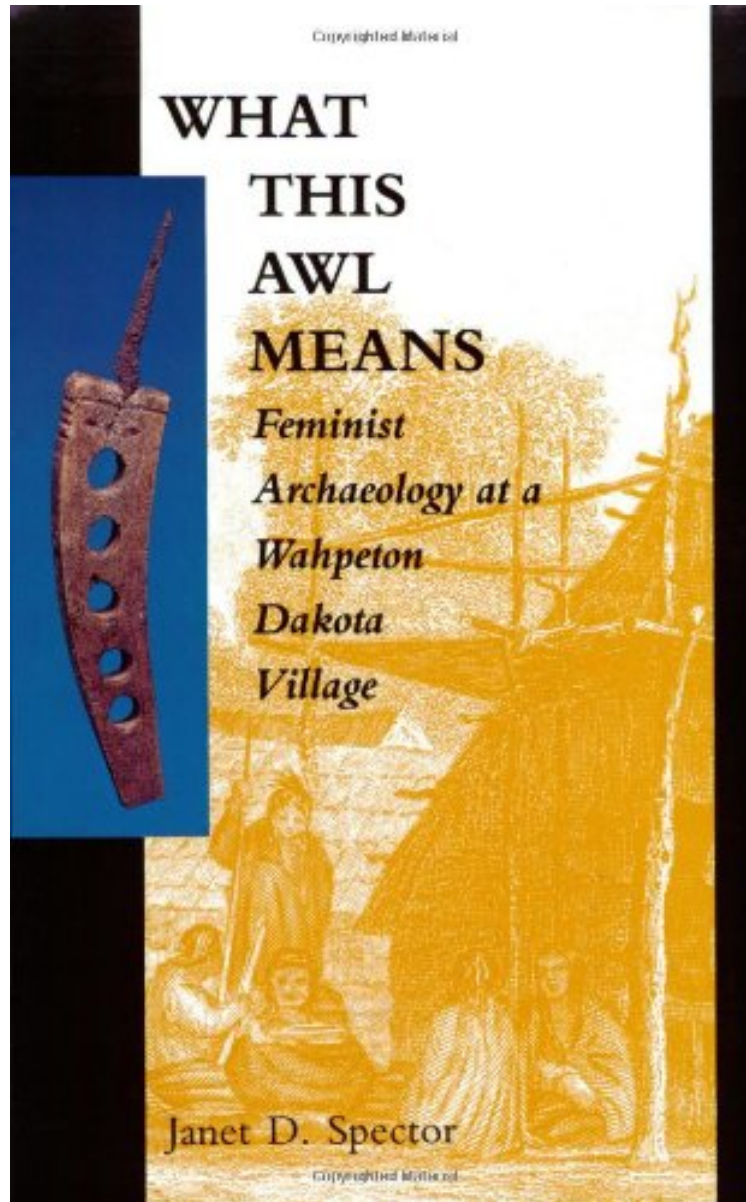


(Download) What This Awl Means: Feminist Archaeology at a Wahpeton Dakota Village

# What This Awl Means: Feminist Archaeology at a Wahpeton Dakota Village

*Janet D. Spector*

*DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#940296 in Books Minnesota Historical Society Press 1993-06-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.50 x .40 x 6.251, .81 #File Name: 0873512782173 pages | File size: 62.Mb

**Janet D. Spector : What This Awl Means: Feminist Archaeology at a Wahpeton Dakota Village** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What This Awl Means: Feminist Archaeology at a Wahpeton Dakota Village:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. but I hated this bookBy ReviewerVery hard to get into, and to understand. I get what Spector is going for, but I hated this book.Quality of the book itself, however, is very good.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. popular archaeologyBy Sandra StrayerThis book is accessible to a wide audience as it explains practice and thinking in North American archaeology since the 1980's as it recounts the story of a dig. As Dr. Spector points out, much of academic archaeological writing is dry and full of tables and maps with little actual illumination of the lifeways of those who made the archaeological record. She actually brings one vanished Native American woman to "life" through a consideration of her awl, a leather working tool. It's not fiction, like *Clan of the Cavebear*, but a very plausible story of the relationship of this woman to her awl and how they fit into 19th century Sioux society. Another important aspect of this book is its explanation of the tension between the anthropological community and that of the Native peoples. This is extremely important in today's North American archaeology regarding Native sites.0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Must read for Dakota historyBy pfurshongTHis is a great book on Dakota history through the female perspective that provides great insights to the life of the people.

This pioneering work focuses on excavations and discoveries at Little Rapids, a 19th-century Eastern Dakota planting village near present-day Minneapolis.

From Publishers WeeklyFrustrated by traditional approaches to interpreting archeological remains, Spector, an anthropologist at the University of Minnesota, attempts a more culturally sensitive reading of a site in Minnesota occupied by the Wahpeton (a division of the Sioux) until the 1850s. Working closely with modern descendants of those earlier inhabitants, Spector examined various tasks of daily life to try to reconstruct gender roles in the culture. In this endeavor, the awl of the title, uncovered in the dig, becomes important both for what it is able to tell us about gender roles and as a metaphor for what Spector believes should be the methodology of anthropologists. The history and daily life of the Wahpetons is imaginatively reconstructed by the author from the bits and pieces discovered in the earth. She writes with an energy and enthusiasm that make interesting what could be academic and dull. Despite her sensitivity to Natives, or perhaps because of it, one cannot help but wonder if she, in the same way as her predecessors, has not looked into the mirror of the past and seen only a reflection of herself. Still this fascinating account should interest both scholar and lay reader alike. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. "What is perhaps most significant about this book is the lesson that good archaeology can reflect feminist scholarship and can involve native descendants of the people who lived at what is today an archaeological site in a mutually beneficial partnership. And this is good historical archaeology." -- Michigan Historical