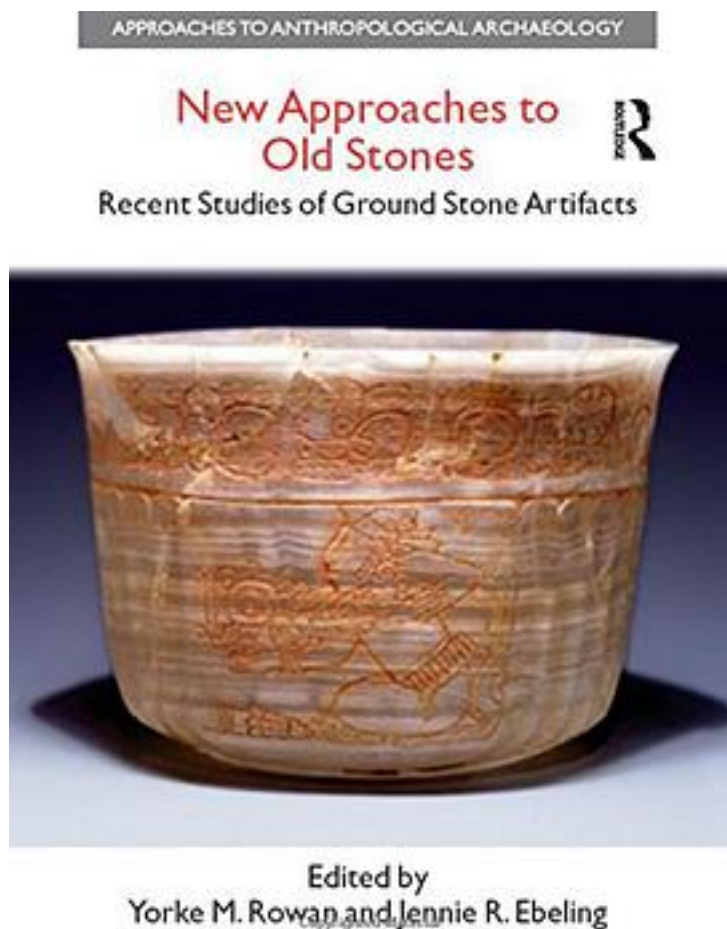


New Approaches to Old Stones



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著者:Yorke M. Rowan

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This volume expands archaeological understandings of the past by using a neglected database - ground stone artifacts - to stretch the boundaries of our comprehension of the ancient world. Ground stone artifacts, long recognized as part of the essential

domestic tool kit for food production and other activities, have received little methodical attention in the archaeological community until relatively recently. A trend of increasing focus on ground stone artifacts in the archaeological literature over the past two decades, particularly in the New World, indicates the need to integrate such analyses with larger theoretical and methodological issues. The editors bring together for the first time a detailed, comprehensive view of the variety of approaches to the archaeological analyses of these artifacts melding together archaeological data and innovative analyses of the most recent research. In a thought provoking introduction, the editors provide context for the issues and note recent advances made in ground stone artifact analysis. Case studies based on original data, organized along broad thematic interests, form the bulk of the volume. The limitations and opportunities that natural resources of a given region impose on technological change, production, and exchange are key points that many contributors touch upon. In the concluding remarks, the case studies are critically summarized with an eye towards a synthetic, diachronic appraisal, and potential avenues for future related studies.

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目录:

[New Approaches to Old Stones 下载链接1](#)

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