

*Village Ethnoarchaeology: Rural Iran in Archaeological Perspective.* By Carol Kramer. 1982. xx + 302 pp., figures and plates, bibliography, index. New York, London: Academic Press. \$34.50.

In its broadest sense, ethnoarchaeology attempts to provide analogue experience to help interpret the configurations, matrix and artifacts of archaeological sites. Beyond that there is as yet little unanimity about problem-formulation or methodologies, each case study providing new understanding and a clear conception of the possibilities and the inadequacies. Kramer has built upon the experience of others in this study of a relatively traditional, farming and stock-raising village in the hill country of west-central Iran.

After introducing the village and its kin group, Kramer deals successively with land ownership, the seasonal cycle of subsistence activities, food productivity and consumption, the tangible reflections of differences in socioeconomic status within the village and cemetery, the spatial reflections of in-house and external subsistence activities, population density within the settlement, and kinship and location. Significantly, Kramer then turns from the village to the regional settlement network, to explicit consideration of "sustaining" areas and intersettlement interactions, and finally to a review of west Iranian prehistoric archaeology. The volume is enriched by an excellent village plan, informative photos, and valuable tabular data.

One can debate some of the details, or question the inclusion of a detailed archaeological review, and the absence of substantial information on building materials or sedimentation processes within roofed or unroofed areas, during or subsequent to occupation. Despite any limitations, this is an excellent, succinct study, replete with ideas that reflect the author's constant search for information and for leads of archaeological relevance. In fact, the strength of the book is that it asks more questions than it can provide answers for. Future village ethnoarchaeologies would do well to build upon Kramer's experience and reflections.

*Karl W. Butzer*