civilization. Yellowstone remains tied to economic and cultural forces of American life, as well as to the landscape beyond the park border. We need to re-envision Yellowstone National Park “as a place unknown” (p. 190), suggests Magoc, and dissolve the boundaries between sacred and profane landscapes. Readers will agree that this book is a good beginning.

JAMES PRITCHARD

Ephraim G. Squier; Edwin H. Davis. Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley. Edited with an introduction by David J. Meltzer. [vi] + 98 + 316 pp., illus., figs., tables, bibl., index. Reprint of 1848 edition. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1998. $60 (cloth); $29.95 (paper).

Ephraim Squier and Edwin Davis’s classic archaeological study of the mounds of the Mississippi Valley, which appeared in 1848 as Joseph Henry’s maiden volume of the “Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge,” has long been out of print; this reissue of a landmark in the history of American archaeology, handsomely reproduced with a sensitive and historically informed introduction by David Meltzer, should therefore be most welcome in every Americanist library. The editors have left out nothing; Meltzer has even gone to the unusual trouble of preparing a valuable “Guide to Squier and Davis’s References” for those who seek a fuller intellectual context for early North American archaeology.

Meltzer’s long (ninety-five-page) introductory essay is foundational and deserves separate publication. Here he both emphasizes the weight of importance that was riding on Joseph Henry’s first publication as secretary of the new Smithsonian Institution and traces in fascinating detail the remarkable, twisting series of events and crises that led to its emergence in 1848. Squier and Davis appear as an unlikely scientific duo—indeed, even before the volume actually found its way into print they had bitterly and permanently parted ways, squabbling over priority, credit, and even free copies of the book. Meltzer draws intelligently on previous scholars such as Tom Tax, Robert Bieder, William Stanton, and Stephen Williams; on the invaluable, decades-long Joseph Henry Papers project at the Smithsonian; and on his own substantial archival digging into the papers of Squier, Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, and others to construct a narrative that verges at times on the tragi-comic. The full story of Ancient Monuments, its patronage, and its authors becomes a mixture of ambition and deceit, hyperbole and hucksterism, serious science and fraud, and, finally (for Squier in his later years), personal betrayal, depression, and madness.

For Henry, the publication of this first “Contribution to Knowledge” was part of a lifelong crusade against amateurism and speculation in American science, a strong step away from “throwing dice for discovery” and toward verifiable, sober scientific observation. As he admonished Squier and Davis, “Your labors should be given to the world as free as possible from everything of a speculative nature . . . and your positive addition to the sum of human knowledge should stand in bold relief unmingled with the labors of others.” Henry, an outstanding figure in nineteenth-century physics and electromagnetism, was particularly pleased to begin his tenure at the Smithsonian by endorsing an unexpected and scientifically suspect field, “because,” as he told Elias Loomis, “it will show that I am not inclined to devote the funds [of the Smithsonian] entirely to the advance of Physical science.”

Authoritatively but kindly, Meltzer assesses the field methods and classificatory principles of these untrained pioneer archaeologists. He reminds us that while their assumptions of a distinctive and separate “Moundbuilder Race” played into dangerous polygenist arguments in defense of slavery in the tumultuous decade before the Civil War, and were in any case overturned by the Bureau of American Ethnology Mounds Survey even before 1900, the direct field observations, drawings, and plans that Squier and Davis left to posterity have ever since provided an invaluable early resource for our continuing inquiry into the prehistory of North America.

It should be noted, finally, that this edition of Ancient Monuments is dedicated to the archaeologist James B. Griffin (1905–1997), a “living link” through two generations to Squier and Davis. North American archaeology has always maintained a strong sense of lineage; this sesquicentennial publication serves to ground us more firmly in our multiple and overlapping pasts.

CURTIS M. HINSLEY

C. Lee Campbell; Paul D. Peterson; Clay S. Griffith. The Formative Years of Plant Pathology in the United States. xviii + 427 pp., illus., app., bibl., index. St. Paul, Minn.: American Phytopathological Society, 1999. $49.