French Colonial Archaeology in the Southeast and Caribbean

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Often overlooked, the French colonial presence in the southern United States and Caribbean shaped the history and development of these regions in unique ways. To address this imbalance, Kenneth Kelly and Meredith Hardy have compiled a selection of case studies analyzing and assessing French impact throughout this area.

This innovative collection brings together archaeological research on French colonial sites in Maryland, South Carolina, the Gulf Coast, the lower Mississippi Valley, the Caribbean, and French Guiana. The contributors seek to reveal how French colonial life was both different from and similar to that of Spanish and English settlements, how it influenced the character of the communities, and how French identity was maintained in these locales. Many subjects are examined, including French Huguenots in South Carolina, French colonial and creole cuisine and food technology, the broad concept of creolization, impacts of the French-Chickasaw War in the Louisiana Territory, and even the differences in plantation and slave practices among individuals in various French settlements.

Featuring investigations into both urban and plantation settings, the volume reveals the range of insights archaeological investigations can bring to a wide variety of historical milieux. As a whole, French Colonial Archaeology in the Southeast and Caribbean offers a much-needed corrective to the traditional emphasis on British and Spanish colonial sites.

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