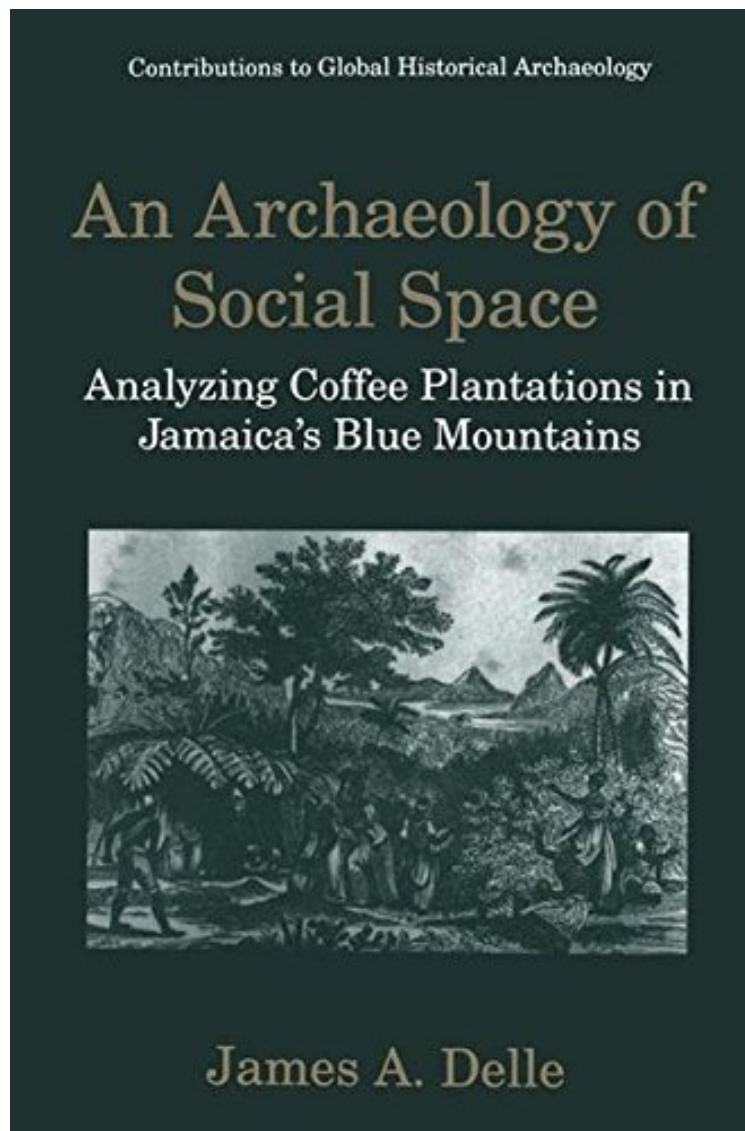


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## **An Archaeology of Social Space: Analyzing Coffee Plantations in Jamaica's Blue Mountains (Contributions To Global Historical Archaeology)**

*James A. Delle*

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6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. **BOOK PROVIDES ENGAGING LOOK AT JAMAICA'S PAST** By A Customer James Delle's book successfully explores the historical relationship between the Jamaican power structure and the physical characteristics of several coffee plantations. The book also goes beyond Jamaica, and demonstrates how the global economy is physically represented in the slave populated plantations. Delle provides a generous amount of historical background by tracing the rise and fall of the coffee industry in the 1800's. The text also includes sharp economic and social analysis. Overall, the book is packed with information that is both fascinating and comprehensive. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Text provides a useful framework for studying capitalism. By A Customer The book provides a good theoretical discussion of spatiality within the context of world systems theory. However, insufficient attention was paid to the dynamics of what was purported by Delle to be the major area of study - the Yallahs Coffee Plantations of Jamaica. 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. **Don't Judge a Book by Its Title** By A Customer This book talks little about archaeology and when it does, the interpretation is poor at best. The author is very repetitive with the few sources he has. Despite the lack of a credible discussion of social space, the book is well written and easily read.

James Delle has solved a number of problems in Caribbean archaeology with *An Archaeology of Social Space*. He deals with most of the problems by using historical archaeology, and clearly implicates Americanist prehistorians. Although this book is about coffee plantations in the Blue Mountains area of Jamaica, it is actually about the whole Caribbean. Just as it is about all archaeology, not only historical archaeology, it is also a book about colonialism and national independence and how these two enormous events happened in the context of eighteenth and nineteenth century capitalism. The first issue raised appears to be an academic topic that has come to be known as landscape archaeology. Landscape archaeology considers the planned spaces around living places. The topic is big, comprehensive, and new within historical archaeology. Its fundamental insight is that in the early modern and modern worlds everything within view could be made into money. Seeing occurs in space and from 1450, or a little before, everything that could be seen could, potentially, be measured. The measuring-and the accompanying culture of recording called a scriptural economy-became a way of controlling people in space, for a profit. Dr. Delle thus explores maps, local philosophies of settlement, town dwelling, housing, and the actual condition of plantations and their buildings now, so as to describe coffee-Jamaica from 1790-1860.