



"This is a magnificent and vital piece of research that covers many different issues of island archaeology from many different perspectives. It will serve as an important reference for decades to come."

Mark Williams, Director, Laboratory of Archaeology, The University of Georgia

St. Catherines Island lies ten miles off the Georgia coast, blanketed with dense forests, briar patches, and impenetrable palmetto thicket. For five thousand years aboriginal people have made St. Catherines Island their home. Mission Santa Catalina de Guale, founded in the late 16th century, was the northernmost Spanish settlement along the Atlantic seaboard for a century. Through the foresight of the Edward John Noble and St. Catherines Island foundations, St. Catherines Island is today preserved as a center for science, education, and conservation.

Native American Landscapes of St. Catherines Island describes the long-term archaeological program conducted by the American Museum of Natural History. Four deceptively simple questions have guided this research:

1. How and why did the human landscape (settlement patterns and land use) change through time?
2. To what extent were subsistence and settlement patterns shaped by human population increase, intensification, and competition for resources?
3. What factors can account for the emergence of social inequality in Georgia's Sea Islands?
4. Can systematically collected archaeological evidence resolve the conflicting ethnohistoric interpretations of the aboriginal Georgia coast (the so-called "Guale problem")?

The three parts of this monograph, written by more than two dozen collaborators, summarize three decades of archaeological research on St. Catherines Island.

PART I summarizes the contextual and theoretical perspective, describes the current thinking about the nature of Guale Indian society, and reconstructs the changing coastal environments in which these aboriginal people lived. That volume sets out the overarching framework of human behavior ecology as a theoretical baseline and concludes with a series of specific testable hypotheses regarding

the subsistence and settlement practices of these aboriginal foragers and farmers.

PART II presents the empirical archaeological data now available, beginning with the chronological controls necessary to monitor the temporal landscape. Working from a database of 254 radiocarbon dates, we define the reservoir correction necessary to calibrate these ^{14}C determinations, then compare the available radiocarbon and ceramic chronologies. We also develop a method of incremental growth sequencing in *Mercenaria mercenaria* to establish seasonality estimates for the 122 archaeological sites recorded and tested during the Island-wide transect survey. We present site-by-site details for the island-wide and shoreline archaeological surveys and Elizabeth Reitz discusses the vertebrate zooarchaeological remains recovered. We reanalyze the mortuary evidence and summarize our findings from the more extensive excavations at the Meeting House Field and Fallen Tree sites. The final chapter introduces a new paleoenvironmental perspective available from recent tree-ring research along the Georgia coastline.

PART III synthesizes the diverse lines of evidence, combining the geomorphological and archaeological findings to reconstruct, in some detail, the changing configuration of St. Catherines Island over the past five millennia. Part III also evaluates the various hypotheses derived from central place foraging theory, patch choice modeling, and diet-breadth considerations, then concludes with a reconsideration of the "Guale problem" in light of the new data available on economic intensification, residential mobility, and paleoclimatic fluctuations.

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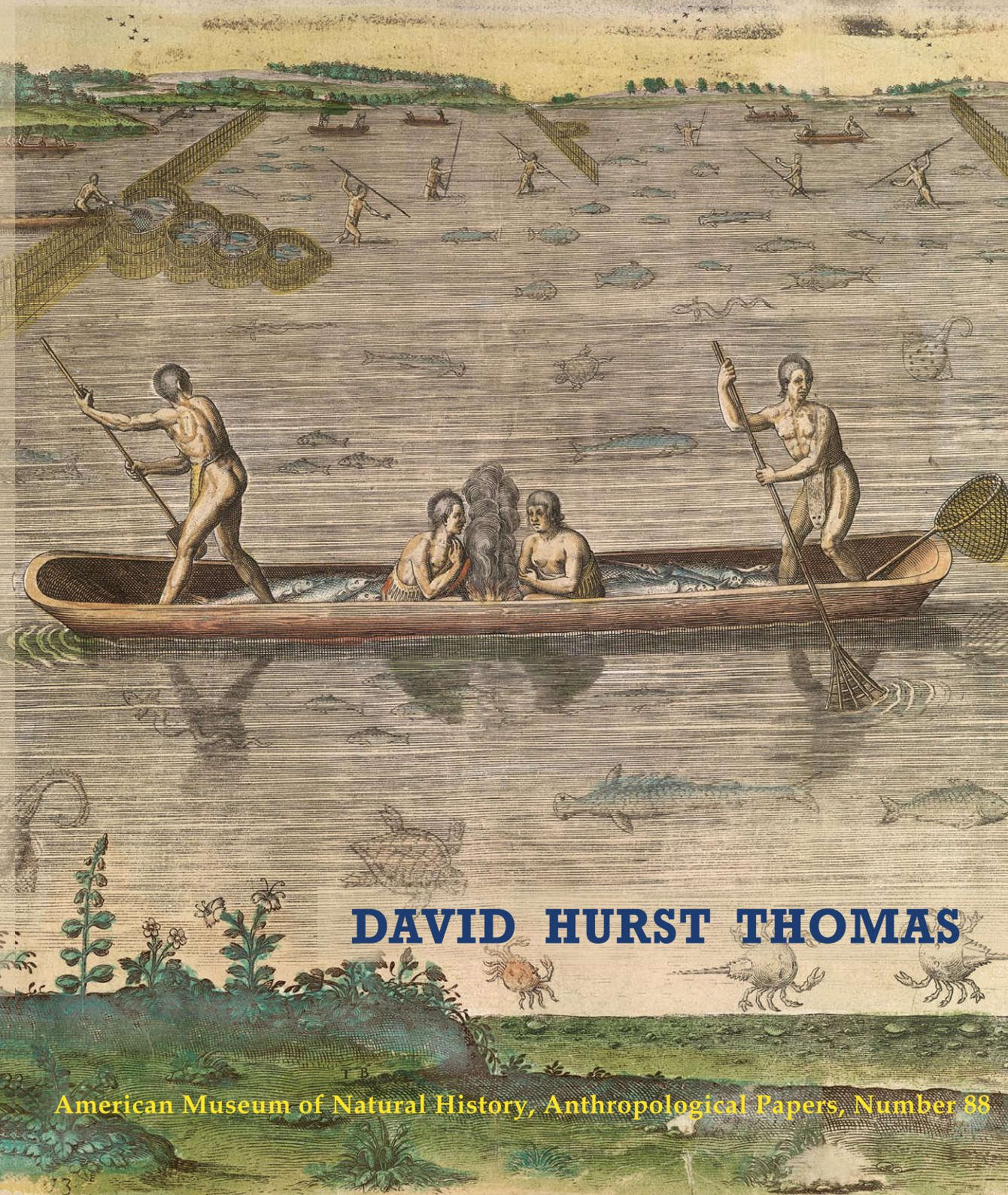
PART II

THOMAS

NATIVE AMERICAN LANDSCAPES
OF ST. CATHERINES ISLAND, GEORGIA

Anthropological Papers
No. 88—2008—AMNH

NATIVE AMERICAN LANDSCAPES OF ST. CATHERINES ISLAND, GEORGIA II. THE DATA



DAVID HURST THOMAS

American Museum of Natural History, Anthropological Papers, Number 88

Scientific Publications of the American Museum of Natural History

American Museum Novitates

Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History

Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History

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