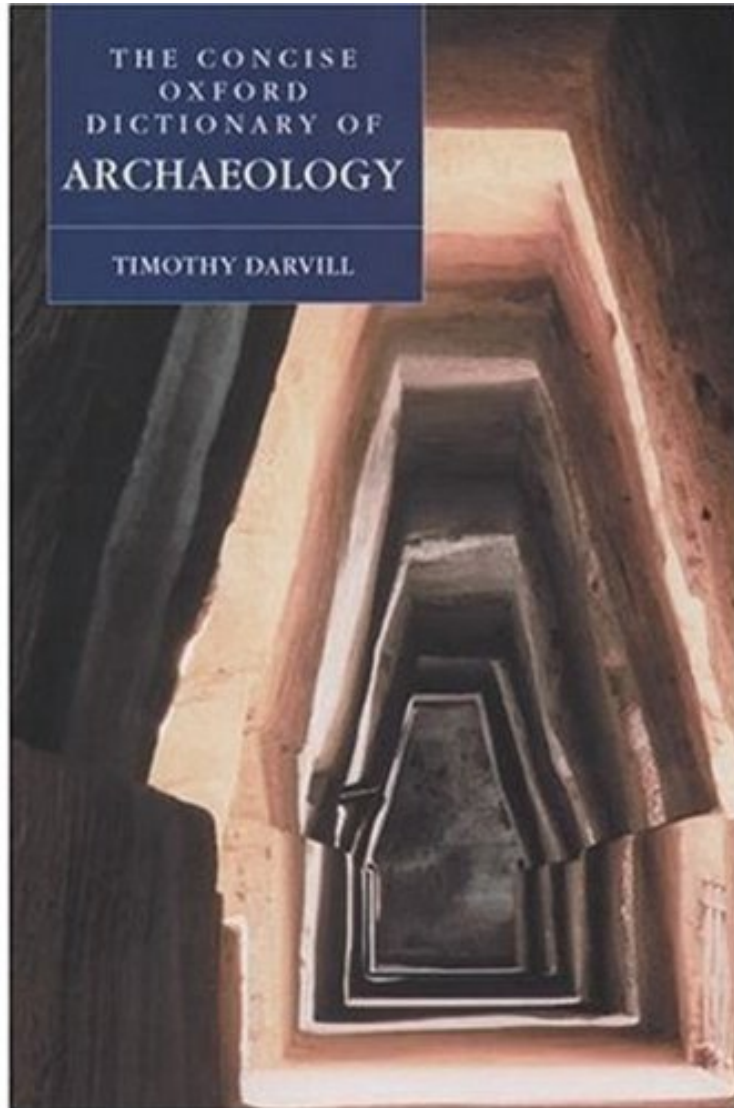


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The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Archaeology (Oxford Paperback Reference)

Timothy Darvill

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Timothy Darvill : The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Archaeology (Oxford Paperback Reference) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Archaeology (Oxford Paperback Reference):

Here is the most comprehensive, up-to-date, and useful guide to the language of archeology. With more than 4,000

original entries mapping the world of archeological theory and research, this book details the concepts, methods, materials, artifacts, findings, and sites around the world. This A-to-Z resource is a virtual introduction to archeology as a science, covering its key themes, trends, techniques, and major figures, as well as its principal discoveries and findings in all parts of the world. Included are quick reference guides to chronological periods and traditions, lists of abbreviations and key historical figures, and detailed portraits of the archeology of key sites from around the world. The Dictionary is unique in providing full coverage of the principles and theoretical perspectives that are the foundations of the field, as well as American and British legislation relevant to archeological sites and research. For students teachers, scholars, for armchair and amateur archeologists, the Dictionary is an invaluable resource-and a much-needed tool.

From Library Journal Darvill (archaeology, Bournemouth Univ.), the author of numerous journal articles and books on ancient Britain, has compiled a useful ready-reference archaeological resource with more than 4000 entries arranged alphabetically and coded by type, e.g., artifact; biographical; cultural phase or period; deity; document; equipment; general term; legal term; material; monument class or category; site, monument, or area of archaeological importance; and technique. This wealth of authoritative information written for the general reader is supplemented with appendixes featuring a list of principal international conventions for the preservation of archaeological and historic sites and artifacts, 1954-93; time lines for the Americas; a chronology of the British Bronze Age; Egyptian dynasties; Roman emperors; and rulers of England to 1066. The form and content are most similar to the out-of-print Facts On File Dictionary of Archaeology (1988), edited by R.D. Whitehouse, but missing its useful subject index, extensive bibliography, and excellent crossreferencing; for instance, Darvill does not refer the user from Hissarlik to Troy, Hattusas to Boghazkoy, or Xi'an to Chang'an. Biographical entries for British monarchs of the 18th and 19th centuries are included while omitting Khufu, Thutmose III, and Hammurabi. Important sites like Abydos, Ebla, and Ugarit are missing. Despite these concerns, this work does fill a current need and is recommended for reference collections not owning the Facts On File publication. Edward K. Werner, St. Lucie Cty. Lib. Syst., Ft. Pierce, FL Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist This is an ambitious work with some flaws. Darvill (professor of archaeology at Bournemouth University, U.K.) has undertaken a survey of the vocabulary of archaeology in "Europe, the Mediterranean, and English-speaking countries in which archaeology has become an established academic and vocational subject." The work is intended for students, journalists, "and other professionals who have cause to dip into the archaeological literature." More than 4,000 definitions range from a couple of lines to a two-column page, with most being quite short. Famous archaeologists have brief biographies, usually taken from obituaries or autobiographies, which are noted. Sources, including excavation reports, are also provided for entries on sites. The "Quick Reference Section" at the back of the book contains lists of international archaeological conventions and recommendations; charts of stratigraphic subdivisions in Europe and North America; cultural periods in North America, Mesoamerica, and South America; and lists of Egyptian, Roman, and British rulers. We found a number of small errors. Flavius Aetius, who defeated Attila, is called Flavours Aetius. Robert Koldewey, who excavated Babylon, is misspelled Koldeway. The Roman poet Martial is listed as Martial, Marcus Valerius, when his full name is Marcus Valerius Martialis. An entry on the Marcomanni says that they annexed Bavaria "in the 6th century BC," instead of in the sixth century A.D. The Oxford Companion to Archaeology (1996) is a good choice for libraries wanting a more comprehensive, encyclopedic approach. Although it is weakened by some careless mistakes, The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Archaeology is suitable for larger public and academic libraries that need a dictionary of archaeological terms. RBB Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "A useful ready-reference archeological resource."--Library Journal "An ambitious work."--Booklist