Historical Archaeology at the Cape

About this Publication:

This volume documents the analysis of excavated historical archaeological collections at the Cape of Good Hope, specifically The Castle in Cape Town and Oudepost in Saldanha Bay, over a period of 30 years. It provides a rich picture of life and times at this distant outpost of an immense Dutch seaborne empire in the late 17th and early 18th centuries – a vision of consumption, waste, taste, provisioning, identity and heritage. The book examines ceramics, glass, metal and other material objects in their archaeological contexts. By revealing the source, uses and significance of some of the material residues of the VOC, this book seeks to create a rich, comparative picture of colonial material culture in an emerging capitalist world.

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Archaeologists and historians of colonial South Africa, as well as the general interested reader.