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**Review: Anne-Marie Flambard-Héricher and François Blary (Eds.), *L'animal et l'homme: De l'exploitation à la sauvegarde* [Animal and man: From exploitation to protection]. Paris: Éditions du Comité des Travaux Historiques et Scientifiques, 2021. Pp. 358.**

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*L'animal et l'homme: De l'exploitation à la sauvegarde* ed.

by Anne-Marie Flambard-Héricher and François Blary

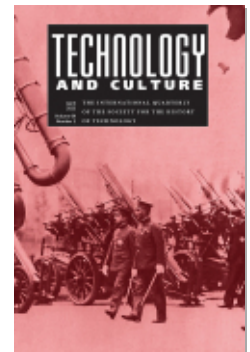
(review)

Violette Pouillard

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questions about the inevitability of extinction and wonder how many technologies could have progressed differently.

ALLISON MARSH

Allison Marsh is associate professor of history at the University of South Carolina. She writes the “Past Forward” column for IEEE’s *Spectrum*, where each month she features a different museum object in the history of computer and electrical engineering, broadly defined.

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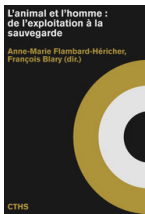
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*Citation:* Marsh, Allison. “Review of *Extinct: A Compendium of Obsolete Objects* edited by Barbara Penner, Adrian Forty, Olivia Horsfall Turner, and Miranda Critchley.” *Technology and Culture* 64, no. 2 (2023): 580–82.

### L’animal et l’homme: De l’exploitation à la sauvegarde

Edited by Anne-Marie Flambard-Héricher and François Blary. Paris: Éditions du Comité des travaux historiques et scientifiques, 2021. Pp. 358.



This edited collection, which gathers papers around the theme of the exploitation and protection of both domestic and wild animals, is one of several collections of the proceedings of the 141st French National Congress of Historical and Scientific Societies (Comité des travaux historiques et scientifiques) devoted to the theme “Animal and Man.” In line with the Congress’s multidisciplinary approach, this volume brings together contributions in history, archaeology, archaeozoology, sociology, anthropology, and geography, as well as fields including architecture, information and communication sciences, ethics, and (ethno)pharmacology. The associated diversity of heuristic and methodological issues is reinforced by the broad spectrum of themes, cultural areas, and periods investigated.

Thus, if the publication of the proceedings of the annual Congress reflects the current state of the art and research debates, as stated in its aims, this edited collection cannot escape the observation that research in human-animal studies is marked by a deep fragmentation. The exploitation-protection dialectic forms a salutary binding theme; however, the effect is diminished by the absence of introductory remarks for each part of the volume. Finally, though the field of animal history, and more broadly of human-animal studies, has been marked by a profound renewal of research questions for more than a decade, notably around the integration of animals as actors into academic narratives and the forms this integration may take, the book evokes these historiographical debates only marginally.

Although the book cannot reflect the current state of the art, it indirectly raises questions about the place and future of the field of animal history and human-animal studies: Is the human-animal issue sufficient to define or institutionally establish a field of research that would be interdisciplinary by nature? How can animal history dialogue with other research fields, and can the discipline exempt itself from addressing historiographical issues that have

influenced adjacent fields such as environmental history (e.g., concerning the social impact of wildlife conservation policies) or the history of science (e.g., the reevaluation of empirical knowledge) without running the risk of provincialism or isolation? Finally, could the prominence of controversies regarding the status and condition of animals in (French) academic and public discourse blur the boundaries between academic production and societal debates on the “animal issue,” rather than enrich academic production and enhance its specificity and (societal) interest? The defense of the “indispensable nature of animal experimentation” (p. 291) by Jean Costentin and Hubert Vaudry, who write as practitioners and not as researchers in ethics, particularly highlights this issue.

Despite the heterogeneous character of the volume, the reader will find in it many interesting contributions, impossible to detail in full here. An important set of contributions focuses on the choices and constraints associated with the use of animals and animal products which, as demonstrated in several articles on medieval (Sarah Claire) and early modern (Opaline Robin and Benoît Clavel) cases, can only be understood in relation to the changing economic, social, and environmental specificities of the time, the study of which requires a localized and fine-tuned approach. Other contributions, in particular that of Mathieu Béghin on intensive pig farming in Amiens during the Middle Ages, reframe the intensification of livestock farming in the long-term and shed light on local to regional remapping of farming geographies resulting from increases in productivity. Catherine Chadefaud and Philippe Madeline both draw attention to the interest of approaching such socio-spatial redistribution through the gestures, techniques, and structures of animal husbandry. In the third part of the book, on the dialectic between protection and destruction, moving from Nicolas Baron’s contribution on rabies in cattle, which sheds light on the protective role of vaccines, to Christiane Demeulenaere-Douyère’s article on the antivivisection and antivaccination activities of the activist Marie Huot (1846–1930) brings to light the tensions between animal health protection and animal protection and confirms the interest of cross-fertilization between the history of the “animal point of view” and cultural history. Thus readers, weaving their web between selected chapters, will discover both sophisticated case studies and methodological food for thought. Furthermore, the Congress, which is committed to fostering exchanges between the worlds of both academic research and learned societies, opens up a unique space for dialogue. This book shows the collaborative potential of such a dialogue for local and regional studies.

VIOLETTE POUILLARD

Violette Pouillard is a permanent researcher at the French National Centre for Scientific Research and visiting professor at Ghent University in Belgium. She works on the history of human-wild animal relationships, conflict, and coexistence and is currently researching the social,

environmental, and animal history of (post)colonial wildlife conservation policies in the Democratic Republic of Congo from the nineteenth century to the present day.

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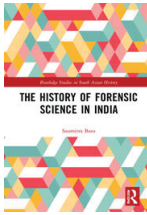
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## The History of Forensic Science in India

By Saumitra Basu. London and New York: Routledge, 2021. Pp. xvii + 204.



“Forensic science,” the application of science for purposes of law and justice, entails the uses of biology, physics, chemistry, and general scientific principles and methods to solve legal problems. Thus, legal setup and requirements play a crucial role in the evolution of forensic science. In India, argues Saumitra Basu in *The History of Forensic Science in India*, the rise, growth, and development of forensic science can be located in the colonial period (p. 19). The British Raj not only drastically altered the precolonial concept of crime and criminal justice but also revolutionized the nature and magnitude of criminal investigation. Extensive use of forensic science in criminal jurisprudence was part and parcel of this phenomenon.

However, instead of beginning his narrative directly in the colonial period, the author starts with a discussion of the beginning of crime identification in different civilizations. Thus, in the first chapter, he begins with the notion of crime and punishment and associated investigations in ancient India with special attention focused on toxicology (pp. 27–56). Here, Basu’s primary focus is on *agada tantra*, the branch of Ayurveda (a traditional Indian healing system) that deals with various kinds of toxins, ways to clean them out of the body, and antidotes for particular poisons. Similarly, when discussing crime and justice in ancient India, the prime attention is on the *Arthashastra*, a comprehensive administrative manual. However interesting these discussions are, they do not connect well with the central theme of the book, as forensic science was not used in ancient India (p. 45). Basu does, however, believe that crime was detected according to scientific observation and analysis, as delineated in *agada tantra* and the *Arthashastra*. This discussion seems to reveal the author’s love for India’s ancient past more than historical rigor.

This assessment also applies to the second chapter, which looks at long-term developments in criminal investigation in West Asia, China, Rome, Egypt, England, America, and Latin America. In fact, investigation of any crime by its very nature includes the application of some scientific methods to reach any conclusion. However, it should not be treated as a precursor of forensic science, which is very much a modern discipline, even though the word “forensic” can be traced to the Latin word *forum*, or the public square where cases were heard and debated based on certain evidence. This is like