HERE'S A QUESTION: If you were going to organize a three-hour dinner party according to the tempo of human prehistory, at which course would the Neanderthals appear?

This is not a trick question casting aspersions on the intelligence of your guests. It is instead just one of the wacky ideas put forth in the *Human Evolution Cookbook*, written by Harold Dibble, professor of anthropology and deputy director for curatorial affairs at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Dibble, with the help of recipes from Dan Williamson, of Chef Dan’s Culinary Adventures, and illustrations by Brad M. Evans, has put together an informative, tasty, and very silly book designed to offer a tongue-firmly-in-cheek rendition of human prehistory, along with some darn good recipes. They were tested at various archaeological digs around the world, including the one at which Dibble and Williamson are currently working, Pech de l’Azé in France’s Dordogne Valley, near the town of Sarlat.

You don’t have to be a history head to like this book. Even I understand statements like “There is little doubt that the earliest humans arose in Africa, but by about 1.5 million years ago they started getting restless and decided to move on.” Some of the prehistory lore is indeed suspect — I highly doubt that Obladi and Obladoh are real places in Africa — but the recipes are straight-ahead yummy. I especially liked Serengeti Scavenged Stew, which includes the usual garlic, onions, carrots, potatoes, and red wine, along with at least four pounds of roadkill, freshly scavenged to avoid bacteria. Stew beef can be substituted if decent roadkill is unavailable.

By the way, during a three-hour evening representing the span of human evolution to the present, Neanderthals would appear at about 9:50 P.M. along with the main course, the *confit de canard* and *pommes de terres du Perigord*. In order to save time, since there is still the appearance of modern humans and the beginning of the Upper Paleolithic to get through, Dibble suggests that guests eat directly from the communal pot, digging in with long-handled trowels or maybe just with their hands. Archaeologists call this “eating in the way of the Neanderthals.”

Sounds like a good time to me.

Beth D’Addono is a food and travel writer based in Belmont Hills, Pennsylvania. She considers herself relatively evolved, though she has been known to scavenge dinner.

**THE LYRES FROM THE SO-CALLED ROYAL GRAVES AT UR**, the ancient capital of Sumer, are among the most remarkable archaeological finds of the 20th century. They are exceptional both for their preservation and for C. Leonard Woolley’s pioneering archaeological fieldwork in recovering the lyres in the 1920s. In Two Lyres from Ur, Maude de Shauensee tells...
the story of the lyres’ discovery, curation, and conservation. She also offers a rare view of their construction through computer-assisted tomography and X-ray illustrations.

Who was this woman and why was she here? What sort of life did she live? How and why did she die, and why was she laid to rest differently than others in this spot? Amy Zoll — who is in the Ph.D. program in anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania — explores these questions in 
Picturing Romans, 51 plates, cloth, $29.95, ISBN 0-924171-88-X.

Reviewed by Irene Good, Research and Curatorial Associate, Peabody Museum, Harvard, and Azor Visiting Lecturer, University of Oxford

of Pennsylvania — explores these questions in Gladiatrix: The True Story of History’s Unknown Woman Warrior and in so doing introduces us to a world of new interpretations of ancient life.

In parallel narratives — one speculative, dramatic, and imaginative, one based meticulously on the archaeological and historical record — Zoll helps us understand the facts and significance of the actual grave and the experiences of Roman and Celtic women after the Roman conquest of London in

In the fall of 1996 a team from the Museum of London Archaeological Service investigated a block along Great Dover Street in the Southwark District of Greater London as part of an analysis of a construction site. They discovered a funerary complex that included one first-century burial that differed dramatically from the rest — a female gladiator, unique in herself, but also accompanied by grave objects of wealth, status, and perhaps Persian and Egyptian origin.

Everything about this find was unusual and puzzling. Zoll’s heroine, Camilla, named for the female Volusian warrior in the Aeneid, seems modeled on Britain’s warrior queen, Boudica, who nearly drove the Romans from London after protracted battles in A.D. 60–61 as reported by Suetonius. The story of the lyres’ discovery, curation, and conservation. She also offers a rare view of their construction through computer-assisted tomography and X-ray illustrations.

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