Contents

Epigraph		ix
Li.	List of Figures	
Acknowledgments		xii
1	Thinking About Things Differently	1
	Approaches to Things	1
	Themes About Things	3
	Things are Not Isolated	3
	Things are Not Inert	4
	Things Endure over Different Temporalities	5
	Things Often Appear as Non-things	5
	The Forgetness of Things	6
	What Is a Thing?	7
	Humans and Things	9
	Knowing Things	10
	Conclusion: The Objectness of Things	13
2	Humans Depend on Things	15
	Dependence: Some Introductory Concepts	17
	Forms of Dependence	17
	Reflective and Non-reflective Relationships with Things	18
	Going Towards and Away From Things	21
	Identification and Ownership	23
	Approaches to the Human Dependence On Things	27
	Being There with Things	27
	Material Culture and Materiality	30
	Cognition and the Extended Mind	34
	Conclusion: Things R Us	38

vi Contents

3	Things Depend on Other Things	40
	Forms of Connection between Things	42
	Production and Reproduction	42
	Exchange	43
	Use	43
	Consumption	43
	Discard	43
	Post-deposition	44
	Affordances	48
	From Affordance to Dependence	51
	The French School – Operational Chains	52
	Behavioral Chains	54
	Conclusion	58
4	Things Depend on Humans	64
	Things Fall Apart	68
	Behavioral Archaeology and Material Behavior	70
	Behavioral Ecology	74
	Human Behavioral Ecology	80
	The Temporalities of Things	84
	Conclusion: The Unruliness of Things	85
5	Entanglement	88
	Other Approaches	89
	Latour and Actor Network Theory	91
	The Archaeology of Entanglement	94
	The Physical Processes of Things	95
	Temporalities	98
	Forgetness	101
	The Tautness of Entanglements	103
	Types and Degrees of Entanglement	105
	Cores and Peripheries of Entanglements	108
	Contingency	109
	Conclusion	111
6	Fittingness	113
	Nested Fittingness	114
	Return to Affordance	115
	Coherence: Abstraction, Metaphor, Mimesis and Resonance	119
	Abstraction, Metaphor and Mimesis	120

	Contents	vii
	Synaesthesia	124
	Resonance	125
	Coherence and Resonance at Çatalhöyük	132
	Conclusion	135
7	The Evolution and Persistence of Things	138
	Evolutionary Approaches	139
	Evolutionary Ecology (HBE)	141
	Evolutionary Archaeology	142
	Dual Inheritance Theory	144
	Evolution and Entanglement	147
	Niche Construction	149
	Evolution at Çatalhöyük	151
	Conclusion	156
8	Things happen	158
	The Complexity of Entanglements	159
	Open, Complex and Discontinuous Entanglements	159
	Unruly Things: Contingency	159
	Conjunction of Temporalities	160
	Catalysis: Small Things and the Emergence of Big Effects	163
	Is there a Directionality to Entanglements?	167
	Some Neolithic Examples	171
	Macro-evolutionary Approaches	173
	Why Do Entanglements Increase the Rate of Change?	174
	Conclusion	177
9	Tracing the Threads	179
	Tanglegrams	180
	Locating Entanglements	185
	Sequencing Entanglements – at Çatalhöyük	189
	Sequencing Entanglements – the Origins of Agriculture	
	in the Middle East	195
	Causality and Directionality	200
	Conclusion	204
10	Conclusions	206
	The Object Nature of Things	207
	Too Much Stuff?	210

Temporality and Structure

viii Contents

Power and Agency	213
To and from Formulaic Reduction	216
Things Again	218
Some Ethical Considerations	220
The Last Thing on my Mind	221
Bibliography	223
Index	245