

Every archaeologist knows in his heart why he digs. He digs, in pity and humility, that the dead may live again, that what is past may not be forever lost, that something may be salvaged from the wreck of ages. — **Geoffrey Bibby, The Testimony of the Spade**

ASM Ink



February 2024, Vol. 51, No. 2

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.

www.marylandarcheology.org

In Memorial

George Morton Reynolds, Sr.

September 10, 1922 – January 21, 2024

Former president of the ASM and the 1988 recipient of the William B. Marye Award



[Obituary | George Morton Reynolds, Sr. of Elkton, Maryland | Hicks Home for Funerals, P.A.](#)

From Stephen Israel's Archive with more to be shared in the March issue:

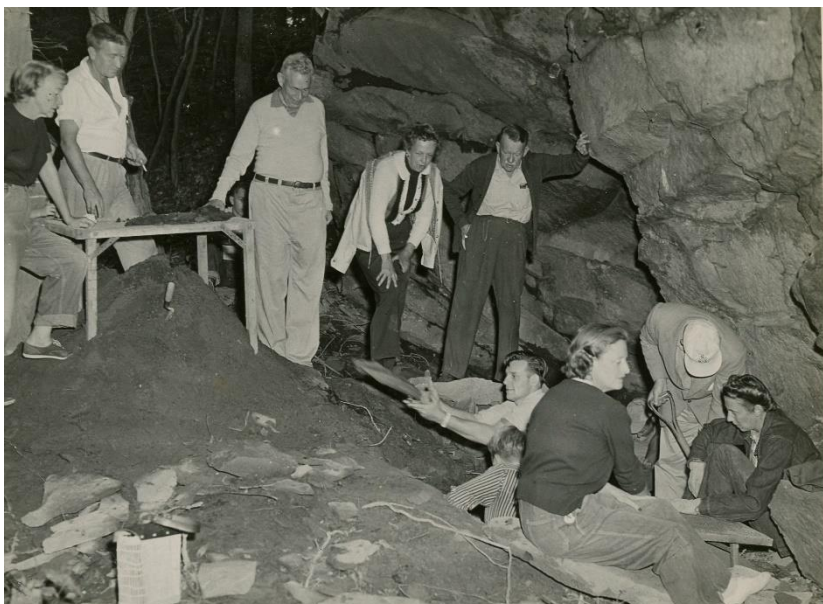


Stephen Israel Photo Credit

George Reynolds, February 2010.

ASM Ink, Newsletter February 2010:3 Interview

“The first important site that I ever dug was in 1957. We called it the Frantsi Rock Shelter. I don't think it's ever been properly published. Some good archeology was discovered here. Margaret Dilks shared the article in a local paper about the rock shelter excavation and visited us. She was not only a collector but associated with the University of Pennsylvania Archeological Museum. I told her I needed professional help. She called and brought on the site as consultant Dr. John Alden Mason, a world-leading authority on the Yucatan, and Dr. Mary Butler, who had excavated a large rock shelter in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. People started visiting us. Elmer Jones and his wife, Virginia, come and we bonded right off. So we started the Northeastern Chapter of the Maryland Academy's archeology society group. This was in the fall of 1957. When I first visited the rock shelter on the banks of the Big Elk Creek, I took my 16-year-old nephew, Steven Bristow. We found a large rock in front of a cave-like entrance, moved the rock, and dug down two to three feet and found a thick bottom piece of a clay vessel sherd. We filled in the hole, moved the big rock back on top, then waited until I got professional guidance on how to excavate this small site going for the maximum information.” This interview with George Reynolds was part of recording the mid-twentieth century archaeology in Maryland for the Maryland Archeology: Past Portraits Project. An interview with ... George Reynolds, Elkton, Maryland.



Frantsi Rock Shelter excavation with George Reynolds in the lower middle in the hole tossing the rock out.

President's Note:

January - from freezing cold and snow to "summer" temps and sun - what a month. I was out for a walk this morning and met some folks enjoying another pastime that many of us enjoy, they were working on the Frederick Bird Count and had called up a Screech Owl (truly sounds like a horse). I had never heard one so close to my house before but have definitely heard them in the middle of the night - camping at the annual field session, what an incredible joy!

The field session committee took a jaunt to Western Maryland earlier this month. We were met by Katie Boyle, Justin Ebersole, and Blythe McManus of the National Park Service. We visited the Field Session site, the camp site and visited some historic buildings in the town of Cumberland. Special thanks to Roy Brown, Brent Chippendale, Suzanne Trussell and Krista Morris from the Western Chapter of ASM who showed us around and are instrumental in the logistics of this session.

Not only is this a fabulous and important site (just ask Matt McKnight!!), it is a beautiful location as well. We will be working near the canal near Oldtown, MD and will camp at a wooded location just a few miles away. John Fiveash has updated the [website](#) to include all the information for signing up (including hotel information for those who don't like to be woken in the night by the owls . . .)

There are lots of other activities going on, a CAT workshop was held at MHT, the archives group is working on our new digital version, the election committee is seeking volunteers for a few key positions, and chapters are continuing their talks and meetings through the winter. I suspect spring will come upon us very quickly when we will begin additional public outreach and field activities.

Hope to see you soon, enjoy your month!

Valerie

Upcoming ASM Events

March 2, 2024 - ASM Board Meeting (Virtual)

March 7-10, 2024 – [Middle Atlantic Archeological Conference](#) (All are Welcome)

April 13, 2024 - Discovering Archaeology Day (at Jefferson Patterson Park)

April 20, 2024 – ASM Spring Symposium (at MHT)

May 31, 2024 – June 10, 2024 – Tyler Bastian Annual Field Session



Volunteer Opportunities

ASM Volunteers Needed:

ASM Board of Trustees - Two Important Positions

The nominating committee began its work last month recruiting candidates for 2-year positions on the board for voting in October. Barbara Israel and Elaine Chhean respectively are the Secretary and Treasurer and after many years of service they will not run again in October. We wanted to provide a little information about these jobs so that when the Nominating Committee reaches out, you will hopefully say yes!

Treasurer's Duties:

- Oversee financial administration of ASM (paying invoices, depositing checks and cash payments, recording transactions, etc.)
- Provide quarterly financial reports at board meetings and an annual budget at the October annual meeting
- Submit federal and state taxes
- Advise the board on financial-related decisions
- Serves as the official address of ASM Inc.

Elaine is happy to chat with folks who are considering running for the position and will be happy to support throughout the transition.

Secretary's Duties:

- Attends four Quarterly Board Meetings and takes notes and attendance
- Attends the ASM Annual Meeting and takes notes and attendance
- Distributes minutes and requests corrections
- Finalizes the Minutes
- Other administrative duties if needed

Contact John Fiveash at jsfiveash@marylandarcheology.org or Paul Bollwerk paul.bollwerk@marylandarcheology.org for more information.

Silent Auction: We are looking for someone organize and run the Silent Auction for this spring. Special thanks to Elaine Chhean who has run it for many years and is stepping down from that role. This event benefits the Analysis Fund and is a lot of fun for the membership. It will be held during the Spring Symposium on April 20th, if we receive a volunteer to run it. There is lots of experience and assistance available if you are interested in taking this on. Contact Valerie L. Hall if you are interested at Valerie.Hall@marylandarcheology.org

The following volunteer opportunities are open to CAT participants and other ASM members:

ASM Volunteer Lab, most Tuesdays: The lab in Crownsville. Contact Zachary Singer at Zachary.Singer@maryland.gov

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center seeks participants in its Citizen-Scientist Program in archeology and other environmental research programs in Edgewater. Field and lab work are conducted on Wednesdays and on occasional Saturdays. Contact Jim Gibb at jamesggibb@verizon.net

Charles County for Lab and Field Work welcomes volunteers. Contact Esther Read at ReadE@charlescountymd.gov For more information, contact Carol Cowherd at ccasm2010@gmail.com

The Anne Arundel County Archeology Lab in Edgewater, in conjunction with **The Lost Towns Project**, accepts volunteers for lab work. No experience needed. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. The lab is generally open 2-3 weekdays each week from 9:00-3:00. Volunteers must sign up in advance. There are occasional opportunities for fieldwork as well. For more information, the current lab or field schedule, or to sign up, email Drew Webster at volunteers@losttownsproject.org

Howard County Recs and Parks invites volunteers interested in processing collections and conducting historical research to contact Kelly Palich at Kpalich@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-0423.

Montgomery County for Lab and Field Work welcomes volunteers. Contact Heather Bouslog at 301-563-7530 or Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org

Mount Calvert for Lab and Field Work: call 301-627-1286.

Jefferson Patterson Park invites volunteers to take part in its activities, including archeology, historical research, and conservation. Contact 410-586-8554.

The Archaeological Institute of America provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide. Click on <https://www.archaeological.org/fieldwork> to get started.

CAT Corner

The updated CAT Program Guide has been emailed to current CAT Candidates and is available for download from the [CAT webpage](#). Please delete the old one. For more information the CAT Committee Chair can be reached at CAT@marylandarcheology.org

The Historic Overview workshop will be offered online on February 17, kibitzers are welcome, contact Tom for details.

Precontact Lithics and Ceramic Workshops were held January 27. Many thanks to Dr. Zac Singer for leading the workshops and for hosting on a Saturday.



The Precontact Lithics and Ceramics Workshops

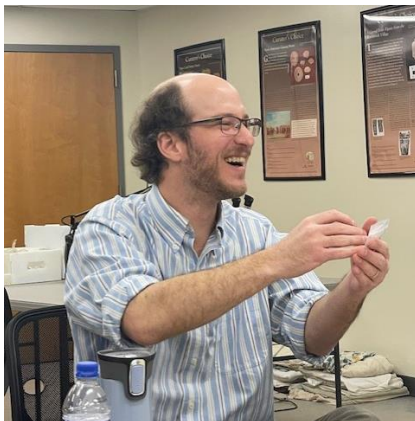
The workshop started ominously with the pile up and closing of the Bay Bridge. Many CAT Candidates were stuck and could not make it to the workshop. Part of my self-appointed duties was messaging to those stuck that there would be a repeat performance



of the workshops in the summer. It was the best news that could be hoped for, and the Crownsville lab was still full despite the weather and the missing participants. So, if you missed the workshop, it's coming again!

It was wonderful meeting back up with old friends from all parts of the state. I love it when everyone comes to me, and I don't have to travel to dig close to them.

I volunteer at the Crownsville lab every Tuesday that it's open. So, while I do take out the trash, I can also be too familiar. I do enjoy helping everyone to become acquainted with the facility. I admit to pointing out every book in the lab, and to my chagrin every possible accommodation but tea and cookies. Those unfortunately will have to wait until next time. It was fun chatting and catching up with where everyone was in both the CAT program and in life.



Dr. Zachary Singer, my mentor in the program, led both workshops with infectious excitement. With each projectile point we journeyed through time and discussed hafting and debitage. The flakes and angular debris we see in the historic record but the hafting we see with the wear on the point, not usually with any fiber. So many things disappear, and the rock remains to tell the stories. I would also like to note that last year Matt and Zac tried to teach me, "tried," to throw an atlatl and I still say that it is hard to do! Zac assured me that it was not hard for the users.



*Chalcedony Morrow
Mountain II Point*

I'm just saying that I would have lost my projectile point in the mud. Anyone that knows me would agree.

During the Woodland period, ceramics were introduced. We were able to see the cord marked, net impressed, incised, and the various tempers of ceramics as well as learning how vessels were formed. We even discussed ceramics with visible encrustations where there could be diagnostic residue.



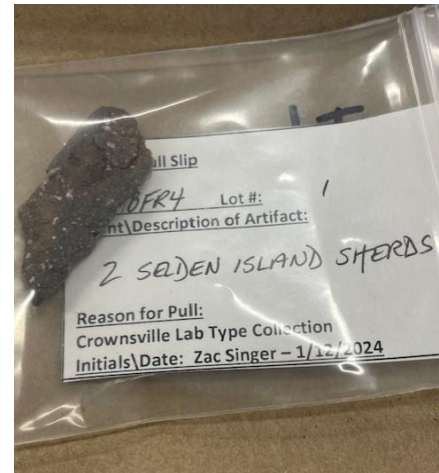
Ceramic with Visible Encrustations



Incised Ceramic

I must thank the MAC Lab not only for their patience and grace towards me, but also for allowing Zac and I to create the MHT Typology Collection. The collection is housed in the Crownsville Lab and allows for workshops and study. The MHT Typology Collection was used by the CAT Candidates during the workshop. The

Crownsville lab houses the historic typology collection as well. This collection has been my passion since the reopening of the lab after Covid and my first day. I am forever grateful to everyone involved.



Typology Collection

The other notable collection is the new MHT CAT library. It is housed in the lab. Several candidates have already selected physical books and are now studying. The books will rotate and if necessary, be replaced as books become available on the market. There are printed copies in binders of materials Tom Mclaughlin digitized. The idea behind the collection is to allow for those with differing abilities and those with differing preferences to have access to physical books and notes. In turn, all learning styles would be addressed and welcomed. If you have CAT materials that you no longer need, please donate them so that more candidates can read their requirements.

The workshops were a huge success!

Thank you to the Cat Candidates, Dr. Zac Singer, and Tom McLaughlin for a wonderful experience. –Kim



To explore and study the MHT Typology Collection or the CAT Library, you may come Tuesdays when the lab is open and by special request.

Book Review

Lynne Bulhack

Ceramic Petrography and Hopewell Interaction,
James B. Stoltman (1935 -2019),
University of Alabama Press, 2015, 203 pages

James B. Stoltman was an archaeologist with an undergraduate degree in geology. He focused on Great Lakes archaeology and was a pioneer in ceramic petrography as well as being professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin where the archaeology lab is named in his honor.

The goal of his book is to use the technique of petrography to uncover and explain evidence of cultural interaction among Hopewell societies of the Ohio Valley region and contemporary people of the Southern United States as evidenced by the circulation of pottery vessels among sites having evidence of participation in the Hopewell interaction sphere.

Petrography is a tool of paleontology, geology and minerology used to study rocks, fossils, soils, clays, wood, bones, teeth and ceramics in thin sections by means of a petrographic microscope. It is well suited for pottery analysis because ceramic clay matrices are a mixture of mineral and rock fragments, most of which are natural inclusions, but some of which may be intentional human additives (i.e., temper). Thus, pottery can be treated as if it were metamorphosed sedimentary rock. A petrographic analysis of thin sectioned ceramic sherds produces more reliable data about natural inclusions and temper introduced by potters than can be discerned with a visual inspection.

Chapter 1 explains in detail the process of creating slides of thin sections of pottery, clays and sediments for examination using a petrographic microscope as well as describing the microscope and how it is used. One liability of petrography is that it is destructive, requiring a slice of a sherd to be prepared and mounted onto a glass slide. A second liability is that it cannot identify individual clay minerals because of their small grain sizes (i.e., <.002mm). A third characteristic of petrography is that it deals with the physical properties of rocks and minerals and does not provide chemical compositional data.

Anna O. Shepard (1903 – 1971) authored *Ceramics for the Archaeologist*, published in 1956. It is, to this day, a valued resource regarding all things ceramic for the archaeologist. In 1936, 1939, and 1956 Shepard conducted petrographic studies on vessels recovered in prehistoric villages of New Mexico and identified vessels locally made and vessels that had been made elsewhere, thus, imported. Shepard's early studies revealing provenance motivated Stoltman to begin amassing a collection of thin-sectioned pottery sherds from Ohio Hopewell and Southeast Hopewell sites in 1985.

He compiled compositional data on 586 pottery thin sections from 31 Middle Woodland sites from the Ohio Valley to the Gulf Coast of Florida and from North Carolina to Tennessee. Developing a compositional baseline for Ohio Hopewell pottery revealed stylistically and compositionally anomalous, possibly nonlocal signatures and suspected Southeast sites to be

sources of the exotic vessels recovered at Ohio Hopewell sites. Provenance can be specific or broad. Key is that variation within a given material source is less than variation between sources. Critics suggested that rocks for temper were imported and not pots made in different locations. Shepard then suggested adding a stylistic component to future petrographic analysis.

Taking a cue from Shepard, Stoltman added quantitative measures to traditional petrography. Data collected from Stoltman's analysis of the 586 pottery thin sections is presented in figures, tables, graphs, photomicrographs and a map of locations outside of Ohio where sherds for thin section analysis were selected.

Conclusions from this Petrographic analysis revealed that Ohio Hopewell potters used coarse-grained crystalline rocks, probably from glacial drift, added to alluvial clays. Data suggested that different recipes appeared to be used with Ohio Hopewell pots serving different functions. Data also showed that Hopewell influenced potters throughout the Southeast used fine-grained rocks and minerals referred to as sand, a distinctly different tradition than the Ohio Hopewell vessels.

More fine-grained tempered pots from the South East were found to be intrusive to the Ohio Hopewell sites than coarse-grained- tempered pots traveling south. To explain this Stoltman discusses the characteristics of trade and exchange vessels and what he defines as "travel gear". He then hypothesizes that South East people made frequent short- term visits to northern centers carrying pots to prepare meals during travel and while in residence.

A study by Carr (2005:579-580) offers many possible reasons or motives for Southeasterners to venture to Ohio Hopewell centers: "(1) vision and power questing; (2) pilgrimage to a place of power in nature; (3) travels of medicine people to heal the sick or sick people seeking healing; (4) buying, selling or learning ceremonial rites; (5) spirit adoption; (6) interregional intermarriage; (7) pilgrimage to a ceremonial center; (8) valuables exchange among elites; (9) travels to a center of learning to gain esoteric knowledge; (10) elite-orchestrated transference of religious cults to facilitate supralocal exchange."

Of course, there are no identifying archaeological correlates for nonmaterial human motives but Stoltman suspects that the purveyors of pottery vessels were on some sort of mission, not simply visitors. I read this book to learn about the process of petrography, how a petrographic analysis differs from a visual typological assessment of pottery sherds, and how the data can be applied to give new insights to chronology and geographic distribution. I will read it again and I will seek other studies applying petrography to questions of vessel function, clay sourcing, geographic distribution, forming techniques, firing conditions and how, combined with morphological and surface treatment data archaeologists can move beyond a restrictive type system and its complications. What I most want to understand are the beliefs and behaviors that birthed all the stuff we pile into Hollinger boxes waiting for research questions.

In the News

Myron Beckenstein shared: [An Antique Dress Held a Secret: A Coded Message From 1888 - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#) Sara is with JeffPatt

Keith Allison shared:

[Carroll Yesteryears: Archaeologists uncover treasures throughout the county – Baltimore Sun](#)

In April 1993, Joe Getty, then-director of the Historical Society of Carroll County, wrote in The Carroll County Times, “Although historical archaeology work in Carroll County has been limited, the few sites that have been investigated have helped us gain a better understanding of everyday life in our communities.”

In the 31 years since, it is nice to report that additional work has been done by a variety of groups, some professional, some amateur, and some a mix of both. Parts of the county have been covered, but many more are begging for investigation.

[Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

NAGPRA requires Federal agencies and institutions that receive Federal funds (including museums, universities, state agencies, and local governments) to repatriate or transfer Native American human remains and other cultural items to the appropriate parties by--

- Consulting with lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations on Native American human remains and other cultural items;
- Protecting and planning for Native American human remains and other cultural items that may be [removed from Federal or tribal lands](#);
- Identifying and reporting all Native American human remains and other cultural items in [inventories](#) and [summaries](#) of holdings or collections; and
- Giving [notice](#) prior to repatriating or transferring human remains and other cultural items.

[Statement on New NAGPRA Regulations | AMNH](#)

The American Museum of Natural History

Beginning this Saturday, we will be closing two halls dedicated to Indigenous cultures of North America, the Eastern Woodlands and Great Plains Halls, to visitors and staff. Both Halls display artifacts that, under the new NAGPRA regulations, could require consent to exhibit. The number of cultural objects on display in these Halls is significant, and because these exhibits are also severely outdated, we have decided that rather than just covering or removing specific items, we will close the Halls. In addition to closing these two Halls, we will be covering three cases just outside of the Hall of Eastern Woodlands and two cases in the Mead Hall of Pacific Peoples, which display Native Hawaiian items. In addition, two cases in Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Hall also will be covered.

Chapter News

Central Chapter

Central Chapter meetings are by Zoom only. Katharine Fernstrom sends the link to the email group. Stay tuned for more details. For more information and to be added to the Zoom list contact Katharine Fernstrom at kwfappraising@gmail.com

Charles County

Meet in person September through April at the Community Room of the LaPlata Police Department in LaPlata, MD on the third Thursday of the month. Email ccasm2010@gmail.com for more information.

February 15, 2024

Topic: What do the Titanic, Superman, and the Bible have in Common?

Speaker : Dr Susan Langley

March 21, 2024

Topic: The Mallows Bay Graveyard Laboratory:

Archaeological and Ecological Science of the Ghost Fleet

Speaker : Allyson Ropp, PhD Candidate and NOAA Dr. Nancy Foster Scholar

Eastern Shore

Dates and events are on chapter's website [ASM Eastern Shore \(google.com\)](http://ASM Eastern Shore (google.com)) Facebook page Eastern Shore Maryland Archaeology and Instagram (@esmdarch). For more information, email esarcheology@gmail.com or jamrkin2@washcoll.edu

Open lab on Thursdays from noon to 4 pm at Washington College. Contact Julie Markin @ jmarkin2@washcoll.edu. 2/1 through 5/2, except for 3/14 and 4/4.

Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month from September through June. In-person meetings begin at 7pm. at Needwood Mansion for the business meeting followed by a presentation at 7:30. Pizza will be available before the in-person meeting starting at 6:30pm for \$5 per person. If virtual meetings are necessary, they will be via Webex with the business meeting also starting at 7 p.m. and the presentation at 7:30. For up-to-date information concerning meetings, please contact Don Housley at donhou704@earthlink.net or 301-424-8526 or check the chapter website: www.asmmidpotomac.org, or send an email to: asmmidpotomac@gmail.com

Thursday, February 15, 2024: Ralph Buglass, chapter member and county historian, will present on “A Shadow on Our Schools? Enslavers as Namesakes.”

Thursday, March 21, 2024: Dr. Genie Robinson, chapter member and Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Montgomery College, will give an update on the analysis of Montgomery College’s past excavations at the Nursery Site (18MO29) on Rock Creek

Monocacy

For information contact: monocacyarcheology@gmail.com (mailbox monitored intermittently) or call Jeremy Lazelle at 301-471-8433.

Northern Chesapeake

A business meeting at 7pm and is followed by the presentation at 7:30. Locations vary. Contact Dan Coates at 410-808-2398 or dancoates@comcast.net

Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 pm. Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 211 S. Lee Street in Cumberland, unless noted. Contact Roy Brown, 301-724-7769. Chapter email: wmdasm@yahoo.com

Much love to Roy Brown for his service as President!

Election Results:

President: Suzanne Trussell

Vice President: Brent Chippendale

Treasurer and Director of Social Media: Krista Morris

Secretary: Ralph Sheaffer

Contact Us:

The **Archeological Society of Maryland Inc.** is a statewide nonprofit organization devoted to the study and conservation of Maryland archeology.

ASM members receive the monthly newsletter, ASM Ink, the biannual journal, MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10-percent discount on items sold by the Society.



Contact Membership Secretary Ethan Bean, ethan.bean@marylandarcheology.org, for membership rates.

Newsletter submissions: Kim Malinowski kim.malinowski@marylandarcheology.org
Text: 301-633-0021

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