

# Alabama Archaeological Society

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## STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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### Recent Survey Results From Old Mobile

During the last three years the University of South Alabama's archaeological research team has been surveying the area around Old Mobile to determine the extent of the site and the precise locations of individual structures in the old town. The research team at the University of South Alabama (consisting of Jody Badillo, Amy Carruth, Warren Carruth, Ray Keene, Catherine Potter, and field supervisor Diane Silvia Mueller) surveyed much of the site by digging a total of 2,496 shovel tests, which were dug at 4-meter intervals and screened through 1/4 inch mesh. Six hundred and eighty-six shovel tests were also dug at 16-meter intervals and 44 additional shovel tests excavated at places that the survey team thought might be high-probability locations for house remains.

One of the most surprising archaeological discoveries from the last four years of excavation at Old Mobile has been the widespread occurrence and abundance of red pipestone at this site. Although Minnesota was suspected as the source of the Old Mobile pipestone specimens, their actual source (or, as it turns out, sources) has only now been determined through mineralogical studies conducted by Dr. James Gundersen and Lillian Pollock at Wichita State University. Their x-ray diffraction analysis revealed the constituent minerals in 24 samples of red pipestone from the site.

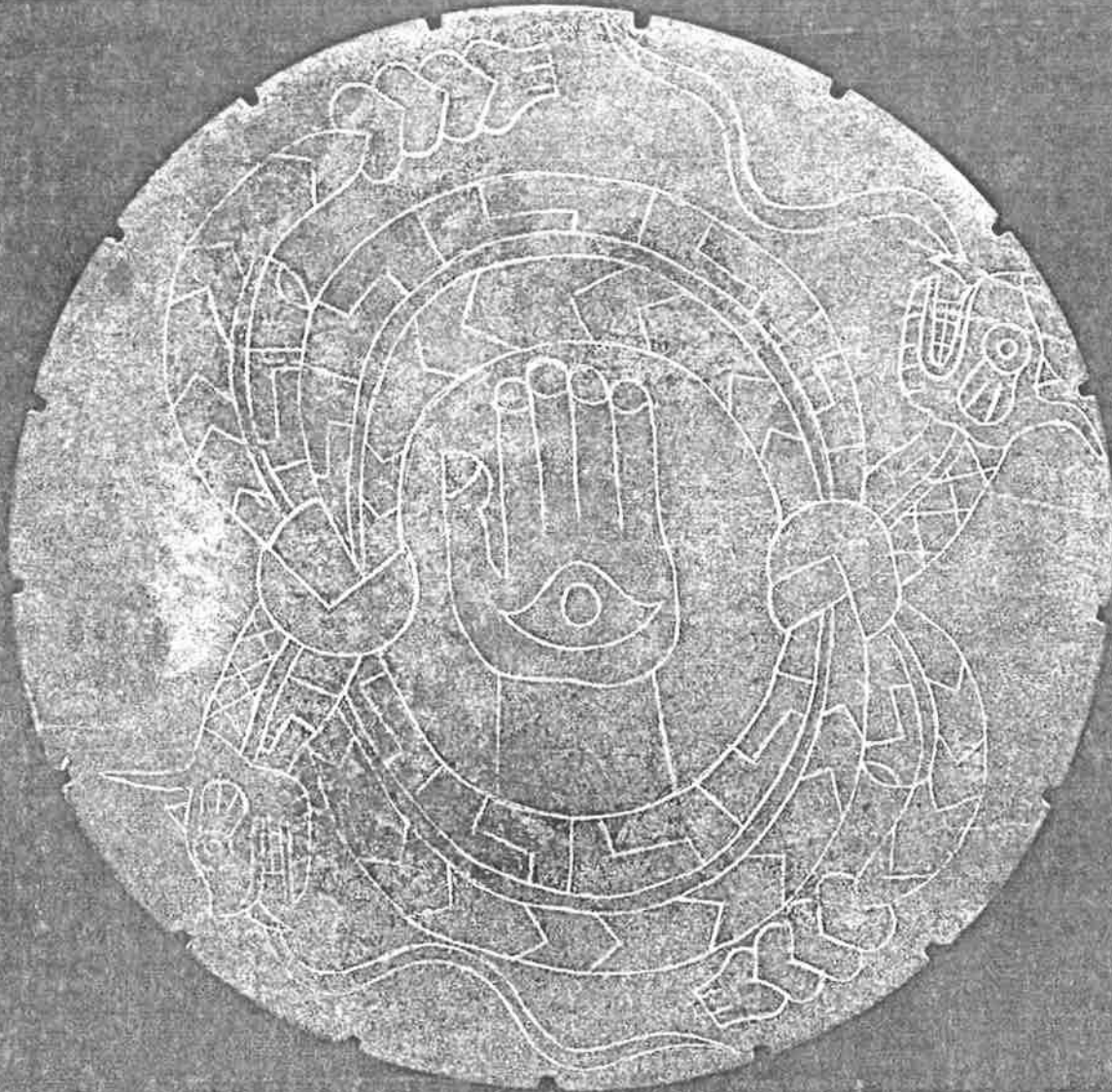
Of the 24 old Mobile specimens, 18 are true catlinite pipestone from Minnesota. However, five of the specimens are Kansas pipestone, an unexpected source that has not been identified previously from a site in this region. The existence of these Kansas specimens at Old Mobile suggests that the French colonists obtained them via the Native American trade network, rather than by directly visiting the source.

The remaining specimen, a pipe stem fragment of hematite-talc pipestone, comes from a geologic source that is, as yet, unknown to Gunderson and Pollock. Perhaps the steatite outcrops of central Alabama, which furnished dark green pipestone during the 18th and early 19th centuries, were also the source of this unusual, red, raw material. More Old Mobile pipestone specimens will be analyzed in the near future.

*Excerpt from The Old Mobile Project Newsletter submitted by Dr. Gregory A. Waselkov.*

## State Artifact

In association with the Alabama Archaeological Society and the Council on Alabama Archaeology, the Alabama Historic Preservation Officer has declared the Rattlesnake Disk as the State Artifact. The 12.5" diameter ceremonial disk was discovered at Moundville around the turn of the century and is currently housed at the Alabama Museum of Natural History on the University of Alabama campus. The disk was a surface find which, according to one account, may have been plowed up by a farmer. After a great deal of consultation with the A.A.S. Board and archeologists in the state, it was determined that the Rattlesnake Disk was the single most important artifact that amateur and professional archaeologists would associate with the state of Alabama.



## NHPA Amendments

The following are amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act, as reported by Kathleen Schamel, Assistant Washington Representative, in the January-February issue of the *SAA Bulletin*. These amendments, after more than four years of preparation, will have serious effects on future archaeological programs.

**Archaeological Provisions:** Section 112, new to the NHPA, states that each federal agency responsible for historic resources will insure that actions taken by employees or contractors of such agency meet professional standards. The standards will be developed by the Secretary in consultation with the Council, agencies, and appropriate professional societies with interests in archaeology, architecture, conservation, history, landscape architecture, and planning. In addition, agency personnel or contractors responsible for historic resources will meet professional qualification standards established by the Office of Personnel Management, in consultation with the Secretary and appropriate professional societies.

**Antiquities Trade:** Section 133, also new, calls for a study to help control illegal interstate and international traffic in antiquities, including archaeological, curatorial, and architectural objects and historical documents. The study will be done in consultation with the Council, federal agencies, and State Historic Preservation Officers, and archaeological, architectural, historical, conservation, and curatorial organizations.

**Withholding Information:** Section 304, also new, allows the head of a federal agency or other public official receiving grant assistance, after consultation with the Secretary, to withhold from disclosure to the public information about the location, character, or ownership of a historic resource. This will be done if the Secretary and the agency determine that disclosure may cause a significant invasion of privacy, risk harm to the historic resource, or impede the use of a traditional religious site by practitioners.

**National Preservation Center:** Sections 401-407, new to NHPA, establish the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training as part of the National Park Service. The Center will be located at Northwestern State University of Louisiana in Natchitoches, Louisiana. It will develop and distribute information on preservation and conservation skills, and technologies for the identification, evaluation, conservation, and interpretation of prehistoric and historic resources. The Center will also develop and facilitate training for federal, state and local resource preservation professionals, cultural resource managers, maintenance personnel, and others working in preservation. Work will be done in cooperation with federal agencies, state and local governments, universities, international organizations, and the private sector. The center is also authorized to provide grants.

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### **In the Alabama Archaeological Society's Past**

Twenty years ago in the March 1973 issue, members of the society were asked to send hair samples to the University of Michigan. Dr. Adon A. Gordus was conducting a study on the human intake of lead and other potentially dangerous substances by studying hair. Only a small sample was needed. Members were asked to describe their specimen, and all hair was promised to be returned safely.

### ***Arrowpoints Missing***

The following issues of the *Arrowpoints* journal are missing from the Alabama Archaeological Society's archives: Vol. 1 - #s 1, 3, 4, 5, 6; Vol. 2 - #s 1, 2, 5, 6; Vol 3. - #s 1, 2, 3, 4; Vol. 22 - #s 3, 4, 5, 6. Any member who might have copies of these issues and would like to donate them to the A.A.S. should contact Amos Wright (see address & phone number under A.A.S. Board Members.

## Chapter News

### *Muscle Shoals Chapter*

The Muscle Shoals chapter met on February 8 at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. Twenty-five members and guests attended. Charles Moore spoke to chapter members about his and his wife Mary-Eliza's recent trips to Phoenix and Tuscon, Arizona, and included a video of several Southern Arizona sites.

The March meeting was a "show and tell" meeting which was held on March 8 at the museum. Twenty-eight members and guests attended. A number of interesting stories and artifacts were shared.

Charles E. Moore

### *Troy State Chapter*

Chapter members held their April meeting on the 8th at the Pike Pioneer Museum. During their tour of the museum and old General Store, members were enlightened on the agricultural and social history of Pike County and surrounding areas.

Garnet Phalen



### Attention Chapter Secretaries



Please send the names, addresses, and phone numbers of individuals responsible for chapter news to the *Stones and Bones* editorial office, so that we can publish them. We also would like the same information for all chapter presidents, so that the secretary can contact them about A.A.S. Board meetings.

## The Calendar

The annual Old Cahaba Festival will be held Saturday, May 8, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the site of Alabama's first state capital near Selma on Hwy. 22 West. This will be an old fashioned family day which will include games, contests, storytelling, live music, living history, and food. The cost is \$3 per car load and all proceeds will benefit buying the site. The official opening of the Old Cahaba Archaeological State Park will be May 5. All are welcome to attend. For more information on either the opening or the festival, contact Julie Lyons at (205) 875-2529.

The annual meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society will be held at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort in Clearwater Beach, Florida, May 7-9, 1993. For information on registration or presentation of papers, write: CGCAS, FAS Meeting, P. O. Box 82255, Tampa, FL 33682, or call: Terry Simpson (813) 855-1318.



# PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

## Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

Vol. 20-31, each issue	\$3.50 pp
Vol. 32 & up, each issue	\$6.00 pp
Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations (Journal of Alabama Archaeology) Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint	\$7.50 pp
Special Publication 2 — <i>The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County, Alabama</i>	\$6.00 pp
Special Publication 3 — <i>Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend</i>	\$8.00 pp
Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part 1, Point Types	\$15.00 pp
Lively, Long, Josselyn - <i>Pebble Tool Paper</i>	\$3.00 pp
<i>Investigations in Russell Cave</i> , published by the National Park Service	\$10.00 pp
<i>Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology</i> (Juvenile)	\$9.00 pp

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