

# Alabama Archaeological Society

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## PRE-COLUMBIAN ART FOUND IN TENNESSEE CAVE

A figure of an owl-like bird is part of a series of ancient cave drawings discovered recently in eastern Tennessee. The find was announced this week by the National Geographic Society, which is sponsoring a team of anthropologists studying the art. The drawings include images of woodpeckers, turtles and human figures, and were etched in the mud-lined walls of a subterranean tunnel perhaps as long ago as A.D. 1100, according to team leader Charles Faulkner of the University of Tennessee. "A decorated cave like this is unique in North America so far", says Faulkner, who added that he thinks the images "may be part of a religious iconography."

Nothing is known of the cave artists themselves, except that they probably belonged to one of several Indian cultures that flourished in the Tennessee region before the arrival of Europeans. "There is a great deal of resemblance between the cave pictures and motifs that have been found on artifacts from that period", says Faulkner. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal fragments found on the cave floor indicates that the paintings may have been produced over several centuries. The fragments, probably remnants of fires used by Indians to light the pitch-dark tunnel, date from the 12th through the 16th centuries.

(Science News, Vol. 122 - January 1983)

NOTE: One of our Society members, B. Bart Henson, is a member of the team investigating this cave.

The Editors

## REQUEST FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

The Editors will welcome any black-and-white photos - preferably 3 x 5 inches or 5 x 7 inches - of unique or unusual artifacts to be published in future issues of the newsletter. Photos will be returned. There should be enough information included to fully describe the artifact and make it meaningful to the membership. Send a short narrative description. (Mail to Editor Amos J. Wright at above address.)

The Editors

February 1983

#### NEW CHAPTER AT DOTHAN

"Dear Mr. Wright:

"On January 9 the first organizational meeting of the soon-to-be Dothan Chapter was held with 16 of 19 prospective members attending. The necessary state laws were read, and it was understood that all future Dothan activities would be in accordance with state and Society laws; nor would we undertake any activity not qualified. A committee was formed to write a charter, and we hope to become an official chapter in the near future.

"One of our members is a retired geologist and another, Mr. Rowe, is an archaeologist. Others have had some experience with professionals. I believe we have a quality group and we are anxious to get started.

Sincerely,

Norman Thames"

FOOTNOTE: Anyone interested - get in touch with Mr. Thames at 2306 Kristi Lea Drive; Dothan, Alabama 36303 (Telephone 983-3450).

Good luck!

The Editors

#### OPEN HOUSE

The National Park Service and Ocmulgee National Monument cordially invite you to attend an Open House Ceremony at the Museum and Visitor Center - Ocmulgee National Monument; Macon, Georgia (1207 Emery Highway). The date is Sunday, March 26, 1983, 2:00 p.m.

The Editors

#### CHAPTER NEWS

##### Cullman Chapter

Excellent programs already lined up, prospective site surveys, and lots more for the Chapter membership. Displays! Please bring all displays again, so that newer members and guests may see them. Also, several members will be available to help catalog any new findings, so bring everything. Ron Morrow is the Chapter president for the coming year; everyone wishes him the best and will give him full support.

The January speaker was past president Dee Coleman, who spoke on artifacts from the Tennessee River area. Dee has collected a multitude of projectile points and other Indian material, and he possesses a great insight and knowledge of the sites, artifacts and significant ways of searching the river.

#### Huntsville Chapter

The speaker at the January Chapter meeting was Ms. Melinda Herzog, Director of the Burritt Museum on Monte Sano. Ms. Herzog spoke on "The Adaptation and Formation of Anglo Log Structures from Aboriginal Origins, with a Description of Ethnic Cultural Influences on Their Stylistic Differences".

The Huntsville Chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Arts Council Conference Room, Von Braun Civic Center. For more information call Program Chairman Roy Blair at 534-9663.

#### Muscle Shoals Chapter

The Chapter met on Monday, January 10, at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. Al Beinlich led a discussion on Mississippian artifacts. He and other members brought examples for study and comparison.

Houston Wright of Huntsville presented the program, which was a slide narration of the Mississippian culture, with special emphasis on mounds. The next meeting will be held on February 14 at 7:15 p.m. at the Indian Mound Museum.

#### NOTE FROM THE SITE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Vandalism of archaeological sites on TVA property may be reported to Mr. Bennett Graham, 615/632-6450, or to Mr. Steele at 205/386-2444.

Charles Moore  
Florence

#### AHC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

The Alabama Historical Commission will hold its 16th Annual Preservation Conference at the Sheraton Riverfront Station Hotel in Montgomery on June 17 and 18.

With the theme "Preservation Directions", the conference will look at the philosophy of historic preservation from 1850 to the present, and in the future. Leading national speakers in the preservation movement will discuss issues and trends in historic preservation - past, present and future.

Many events are being planned in conjunction with the conference, so make plans now and mark calendars for June 17-18, 1983.

(From Preservation Report, Fall/Winter 1982/1983)

The Editors

### STONE-AGE SANCTUARY DISCOVERED IN SPAIN

A sculpted stone face - half animal, half human - presided over a sanctuary at El Juyo Cave in northern Spain 14,000 years ago. Scientists who discovered the 118-foot-square complex just within the entrance to the cave say that it is the first intact religious sanctuary found from the Paleolithic times and the oldest known religious shrine.

Other signs for religious belief, such as gravesite offerings placed with Neanderthal burials, go back to about 50,000 years but are almost exclusively associated with death and the dead. "That's only one part of a religious belief system", says Leslie G. Freeman, an anthropologist at the University of Chicago. The fact that hunting implements and sewing needles were kept separately in the sanctuary suggests that "sex role differentiation was important in the way rituals were carried out", Freeman says. He discovered the sanctuary in 1978.

An early Stone Age culture called Magdalenian III flourished in the area for a brief time about 14,000 years ago. When the sanctuary was discovered, Freeman reports, the scientists were looking for other structural features, such as living or cooking areas. Signs of tools and food debris suggest that the sanctuary was a place where people came to spend time. The worn surface of the floor indicates active use.

In the center of the complex was a shallow trench 43 inches long and 31 inches wide filled with spearpoints, animal bones and shells, and coloring material. On top of the trench a mound about 30 inches high was encased in a clay shell reinforced by stone slabs and fragments of animal bones, especially those of deer. An altar-like horizontal limestone slab weighing nearly a ton was supported on vertical slabs above the mound.

Above the mound complex was the free-standing stone sculpture, 14 inches tall, 13 inches wide and 8 inches thick. A natural vertical fissure in the rock divides the face. On the right side of the rock is the half face of a man with a moustache and beard. On the left side is the half face of a carnivore, perhaps a lion or leopard.

The lateral division of the face is notable, Freeman says, because it shows that graphic metaphor was used earlier than thought. The sculpture may reflect the fusion of the domesticated and cultural aspects of man with his bestial nature. The face also associates the right side with good and the left with evil. This bias pervades modern cultures but previously was not known at such an early time.

(From an article in Science News - December 5, 1981 - by C. Simon.)

The Editors

### CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

The American Rock Art Research Association will hold its Tenth Annual Symposium on Rock Art on May 28, 29 and 30, 1983, in Price, Utah. The symposium seeks to bring together people interested in the scientific and interpretive research, preservation, education, and artistic aspects of rock art.

For more information, write to ARARA; P. O. Box 1539; El Toro, California 92630.

The Editors

### PUBLICATIONS

The Southeastern Archaeological Conference has announced the availability of Special Publication Number 5: David L. DeJarnette - A Southeastern Archaeological Conference Tribute. This conference was organized by John A. Walthall and the publication edited by Drexel A. Peterson, Jr.

On Saturday morning, November 6, 1976, members of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference met to present two symposia in honor of David L. DeJarnette on his retirement from The University of Alabama faculty. The first symposium consisted of formal papers covering a variety of topics in Alabama archaeology. Presentations were made by D. W. Chase, C. G. Curren, N. J. Jenkins, C. S. Peebles, J. A. Walthall, V. K. Fleming, J. W. Cottier, Elizabeth Sheldon, C. T. Sheldon, H. B. Ensor and R. S. Dickens. The session was adroitly chaired by J. B. Griffin.

During the second symposium of the morning, colleagues of long standing, as well as representatives of younger generations of Southeastern archaeologists, presented personal reminiscent accounts of times of work and leisure in DeJarnette's company over the past forty years. Participants in this latter session were J. B. Griffin, S. B. Wimberly, W. G. Haag, Charles Fairbanks, Bennie Keel, C. S. Peebles and C. T. Sheldon. Chris Peebles chaired this event, considered by many to represent the highlight of the 1976 conference.

Copies of the publication, at \$5 each, may be obtained from Dr. K. Deagan; SEAC Treasurer; Florida State Museum; University of Florida; Gainesville, Florida 32611.

The Vail Site: A Paleo-Indian Encampment in Maine, by Richard Michael Gramly, is available at \$12.95 each, postpaid. Write: Publications Sales Division; Buffalo Museum of Science; Humboldt Parkway; Buffalo, New York 14211.

A concisely-written account of archaeological excavations at a rich fluted point site in western highland Maine. Notable discoveries were a hearth with dated charcoal over 11,000 years old and a kill site, 250 meters from the habitations.

Unique finds were four projectile point tips deposited anciently upon the killing ground that fitted spearpoint bases unearthed at the living site. The style of fluted point and other tool forms link the Vail site to the well known Debert Palaeo-Indian encampment in Nova Scotia.

Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, Vol. 30. 183 pp. (including 8 tables, 15 figures and 31 B&W plates), 8 fold-out maps in color. Frontispiece; wire-reinforced perfect binding on heavy, glossy stock, color paper cover, appendices.

The Editors

#### HISTORIC ARTIFACTS LURING THIEVES DURING RECESSION

Phoenix, Ariz. (AP) - Thousands of dirty, broken pots buried in the Southwest are taking on new lustre for professional thieves as the nation's recession continues, with some of the prehistoric Indian artifacts selling for as much as \$10,000.

But tough new state and federal laws designed to stop stealing are stopping "mom and pop collectors" from poring over Indian sites in the Southwest for loot, said U. S. Forest Service archaeologist Martin E. McAllister.

"The economy seems to have pushed more hobbyists into the professional type of pot-hunter", added McAllister. He said the trend is similar to the increase in poachers who illegally take game and fish during tough economic times.

"I'm optimistic, however, that the stiff new laws will eventually bring things under control", McAllister, who is assigned to Tonto National Forest, said in an interview Monday.

McAllister said fear of a felony conviction and sentences of up to five years in prison have discouraged most amateur "pot-hunters".

The three peak periods for the theft of American artifacts have been the 1890's when there was a general economic collapse, during the Depression in the 1930's, and now, he said.

Most undiscovered artifacts seem to be in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah, all of which are large and sparsely populated in areas, making detection of illegal pot-hunting difficult.

The potential profit is huge: a single pot in good condition can bring from \$200 to \$5,000 and sometimes as much as \$10,000, McAllister said.

"The tragedy is that once the pot-hunter has ripped into a site, not only is it destroyed for visitors, but the information left for us by people from pre-historic times is lost forever", he said.

The new Arizona state law became effective last summer; the federal law a few months earlier.

People arrested on federal lands for stealing artifacts or damaging a site can be sentenced to a year in prison and a fine of \$10,000 for a first offense if the loss is less than \$5,000; and two years and \$20,000 if the loss is more than \$5,000. A second offense calls for five years and a \$100,000 fine.

Damage on state lands calls for a possible two-year sentence and \$150,000 fine for a first offense and five years and \$150,000 for a second offense.

McAllister said convictions under the new laws have been for first offenses so far, and "judges are not inclined to sock it to first offenders, whether they be pot-hunters or drunk drivers or what".

Hikers and ranchers can help archaeologists curb the pot-hunters, he said. "Many of our cases develop from a rancher or hiker or someone like that - on the land for a legitimate purpose - being angry enough to call us to report pot-hunting activity", he said.

(Article by James E. Walters in The Huntsville Times - Tuesday, June 8, 1982)

The Editors

#### REMINDER

Don't forget to renew your membership in the A. A. S. for 1983. Dues are payable now; see back cover of this issue of Stones & Bones for categories of membership and amounts due.

The Editors

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of <i>Journal of Alabama Archaeology</i> Vol. 13-18 .....	\$1.00 pp
Vol. 20-24 (\$2.50 to Members) .....	\$4.00 pp
<i>Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations</i> (Journal of Alabama Archaeology) Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint .....	\$5.00 pp
Special Publication 1 — Fort Mitchell .....	\$2.00 pp
Special Publication 2 — <i>The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County, Alabama</i> .....	\$4.50 pp
Special Publication 3 — <i>Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend</i> .....	\$6.50 pp
<i>Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part 1, Point Types</i> .....	\$7.35 pp
Lively, Long, Josselyn - <i>Pebble Tool Paper</i> .....	\$3.00 pp
<i>Investigations in Russell Cave</i> , published by the National Park Service .....	\$5.00 pp
<i>Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology</i> (Juvenile) .....	\$7.00 pp

CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO: **ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

SEND CHECKS TO: **MR. EUGENE FUTATO, Office of Archaeological Research**

1 Mound State Monument, Moundville, Alabama 35474

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