

Alabama Archaeological Society

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

Editor
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2602 Green Mountain Rd.
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

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BOOK NOTICE

ARCHAEOLOGY OF ABORIGINAL CULTURE CHANGE IN THE INTERIOR SOUTHEAST: Depopulation during the Early Historic Period. By Marvin T. Smith. XIII + 185 pages with figures, maps, tables, reference and index. Published by the University of Florida Press, 1987. \$20. May be ordered from:

University of Florida Presses
15 N.W. 15th Street
Gainesville, Florida 32603

(Phone 904/392-1351)

The following information was obtained from the book's dust jacket:

"This book focuses on the causes of the cultural disintegration that brought down the powerful aboriginal chiefdoms in part of the interior southeastern United States after European contact began in the sixteenth century.

"As sustained, direct contact spread in the New World, many coastal natives were forced into agricultural labor or into mission systems. Those in the interior southeast were able to avoid such contact, but they underwent drastic culture change nonetheless.

"Because the changes were unrecorded, understanding this disintegration becomes an archaeological problem. These changes are the object of Smith's investigations. He sets out to demonstrate that population collapse, caused by European epidemic diseases, brought down the chiefdoms.

"Smith uses archaeological data from the late nineteenth century to the 1980s to develop a chronology based on European trade goods. He uses the chronology to measure the rate of change from highly developed chiefdoms of the sixteenth century to a system of small towns banded together for defense in the eighteenth, when movements and regroupings had severely altered aboriginal culture.

"Marvin T. Smith is a senior archaeologist at Garrow and Associates, Inc., in Atlanta, Georgia."

August 1988



Russell Cave Indian Day Activities, April 16, 1988. Shown are fire making, drilling, and pottery making. Photos by O. D. Hartley.

NEW MEMBERS

Abrams, Russell
Avery, Gilford
Brock, Charles
Brooks, Tim & Angie
Brown, Robert
Callahan, William M.
Carpenter, Gregory N.
Cole, Brigitte F.
Davis, Mr./Ms.
Duke, M.L.
Edwards, Mark
Gamble, Chan
Gerdes, George
Higgins, George
Holloway, Stanley, Cheri & Joseph
Johnson, David
Jones, Waverly
Kingsbury, John & Pam
Littleton, Glenn
Mack, Morrison
McKenzie, Lee
Moses, Ron
Plummer, Brannon
Reyer, Philip
Velke, John V.

Huntsville, AL
Hendersonville, TN
Fayette, AL
Rossville, GA
Huntsville, AL
Jackson, AL
Harvest, AL
Jacksonville, AL
Madison, AL
Falkville, AL
Huntsville, AL
Cullman
Jacksonville, AL
Fayette, AL
Pell City, AL
Toney, AL
Northport, AL
Florence, AL
Clanton, AL
Vernon, AL
Brewton, AL
Huntsville, AL
Gulf Shores, AL
Athens, AL
South Elgin, IL

CHAPTER NEWS

Cullman Chapter

July 24 was artifact display day at the Cullman County Courthouse. Members and others were invited to display their artifacts.

Howard King

Huntsville Chapter

The Huntsville Chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Huntsville Public Library on St. Clair Avenue. The public is welcome.

Tim Mistovich from the Office of Archaeological Research, Moundville, is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the July 26 chapter meeting. Tim's talk will focus on recent archaeological excavations at a French Colonial site in Mobile.

Huntsville Chapter members recently participated in a two-day exhibit sponsored by The University of Alabama, Mound State Monument and Russell Cave, and held at a local shopping mall. This was the second time the University's travelling exhibit has been on display at a mall; several other cities will be visited before the

end of this year. The exhibit featured Van King's flint-knapping techniques, Larry Beane's tool demonstrations, and TaMara Beane's reproductions of Southeastern Indian pottery. Archaeologists were on hand to answer questions from the public; several hundred children and adults stopped by to study the exhibit, watch the demonstrations and get some hands-on experience at using Indian-style tools.

Dorothy Luke

Tuscaloosa Chapter

The Tuscaloosa Chapter's July meeting was held at Smith Museum, The University of Alabama; and guest speaker was Dr. Richard Krause from The University. Dr. Krause spoke on pottery from the Tombigbee Watershed from west-central Alabama.

John Wm. "Bill" Adkison

BOOK REPORT

FOOTSTEPS - by Bruce Norman. Salem House Publishers, Mass., 1988. Hardback - 279 pages. Index, bibliography. \$24.95.

There's nothing like a good adventure story to quicken the pulses and tempt one to play hooky. FOOTSTEPS reads like a novel but is an account of nine of the early explorers during "the romantic period of archaeology". We find Giovanni Belzoni, a circus strongman turned antiquarian, in Egypt; Jean-Louis Burckhardt, the first non-Arab in a thousand years to see the "rose red city" of Petra; Hiram Bingham in the Andes and Alfred Maudslay in Guatemala. Karl Mauch explored the Temples of King Solomon; Charles Fellows, Asia Minor. John Seely wrote of the "wonders of Elora" in India; cowboy Richard Wetherill explored the Four Corners area in the American Southwest. Reginald Le May became fascinated by pottery kilns in Siam during his stint as British Consul to Bangkok.

These were the "bad old days of looting and ignorant destruction by people who knew no better". But their stories - the difficulties of travel in the remote areas, the physical dangers to Europeans and Americans "where an explorer's survival could depend upon the whims of the local people", the sheer thrill of discovery - make for fascinating reading.

FOOTSTEPS is generously illustrated - 100 pages in black and white and 24 in color. A reviewer calls it "A rollicking jaunt atop mountains, beneath the earth and across continents for the lost ruins of the ancients". A jaunt we think you'll enjoy.

BOOK NOTICE

Book: Stone Age Spear and Arrow Points of the Midcontinental and Eastern United States: A Modern Survey and Reference by Noel D. Justice; published February 1988 (Copyright 1987) by Indiana University Press; 320 pages—including 8 color plates, 104 maps, 54 figures, 485 drawings, appendices, bibliography and index. Price: \$37.50

This "modern survey and reference" is the most recent publication dedicated to the study of projectile points and cutting tools of native Americans of the eastern United States.

The publication covers the time period from paleo to historic and describes more than 100 separate types of projectile points with a drawing of each type, time period, cultural affiliation and region of occurrence. Small scale maps depicting the distribution of projectile points provide a most useful method for quickly comprehending the "big picture." Color plates illustrate examples of points/tools by specific time periods.

Mr. Justice presents the projectile point and tool data by "cluster" rather than by individual types. This is a welcome format, especially for a popular publication intended for non-specialists as well as specialists. The cluster organization of data places in perspective those projectiles which have overlapping characteristics and definitions. As an example, the author lists under the Dalton cluster the Beaver Lake, Quad, Dalton, Greenbriar and Hardaway Side-Notched. These are first physically described, identified by age and culture, illustrated and, finally, shown on a distribution map. This logical arrangement permits the immediate recognition of point and tool associations. Incidentally, many of the 54 figures illustrating the points extend for several pages.

Readers of this newsletter will be familiar with much of the material presented in this book. However, the careful organization and presentation of data make this an exceptionally "easy to use" reference and provide a visualization of projectile point association not generally available elsewhere. The book is scholarly, yet very readable.

This book is highly recommended for those who are interested in projectile point and tool studies and need a comprehensive reference or identification guide.

The book is available from:

INDIANA UNIVERSITY PRESS
10th and Morton Streets
Bloomington, IN 47405

For an unspecified length of time, individuals may order the book for \$27.50 each; plus \$2.75 for shipping and handling.

The Editors

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION-PLEASE NOTE

To pay membership dues or inquire about membership, send request to:

ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
7608 Teal Drive SW
Huntsville, AL 35802

Bettye Henson, Secretary

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of <i>Journal of Alabama Archaeology</i> Vol. 20-29 each issue	(\$2.50 to Members) \$5.00 pp
<i>Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations</i> (<i>Journal of Alabama Archaeology</i>) Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint, each issue	\$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>	\$10.00 pp
Lively, Long, Josselyn - <i>Pebble Tool Paper</i>	\$3.00 pp
<i>Investigations in Russell Cave</i> , published by the National Park Service	\$7.50 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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