

# Alabama Archaeological Society

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA P.O. BOX 6135, UNIVERSITY, AL. 35486

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## STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

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### SPECIAL NOTICES

If you have not as yet paid your 1976 dues to the society, this is the last newsletter you will receive. The time for procrastinating is over. Send in your check right away, so your name can be entered in the appropriate records and you can remain on the mailing list for 1976.

Please be aware of the address changes for the newsletter office, Journal office and the secretary. These are all on the back cover of this newsletter. The front cover (see letterhead above) still contains the old addresses because we had a number of front covers on hand when we moved and do not want to waste them, and the money they cost us to print. As soon as these run out, the new fronts with the correct addresses will be used.

Another change for 1976 is the deletion of the "Address Correction Requested" from the back covers. This was necessitated by the increasing cost of the postage we had to pay for returned newsletters. This puts the burden for reporting address changes on you. Let us know your change of address at least two weeks in advance of your move. No matter what your local post office says, they will not forward our Permit 22 mail unless you pay the forwarding postage (at 13¢ per newsletter).

The Archaeological Research Association is still in need of funds to cover the 1975 excavations. So please see if you can spare a couple of dollars and send it to Mr. William Spencer (see inside back cover). As citizens interested in archaeology, we have all benefitted from the past archaeological excavations and the resulting data received, and we will continue to benefit from future excavations. But money is needed to pay for this work and this money has to come from you.

The newsletter is in need of articles for next month's issue. Write us something, send an interesting newspaper clipping, tell about an archaeological book you have read, or whatever you think the other members will be interested in hearing about. A newsletter is supposed to contain "news" and this news should be about and from the members. Let us know what your 1976 chapter projects are, an update on accomplishments in 1975. Don't just leave the work up to someone else...as they are leaving it up to you.

The chapter news reports this month were almost non-existent. Are all but two chapters on holiday? You don't have to have a special format for sending in a report. Muscle Shoals sends theirs on a post card. We are interested in your chapter, as are the members of other chapters, but we don't know if you don't tell us.

APRIL 1976

## MEETINGS

March 31 - April 3. The Southern Anthropological Society - Sheraton Biltmore in Atlanta, Georgia. A joint meeting with the American Ethnological Society and the Association for the Anthropological Study of Play. Contact Robert Blakely, Department of Anthropology, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia 30303 for additional information.

April 8 - 10. The Alabama Academy of Science - University Center and the Humanities Building on the campus of the University of South Alabama, which is located approximately 3 miles from the headquarters motel, the Quality Inn at Interstate 65 and Airport Boulevard. Local arrangements chairman is Dr. Eugene Wilson, Department of Geology/Geography, University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama 36688. N. Read Stowe is vice-president of Section XI, Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama 36688.

April 7-9. An Appalachian Symposium - Center for Continuing Education, Boone, N.C. Some of the subjects to be covered are Appalachia in Context, Mountain Architecture, Literary Tradition and Folklore, the Oral Arts and a special program entitled Salute to Cratis D. Williams, who is the recognized leading authority on Appalachian literature, folkways and speech. For more information contact the Registrar, Appalachian Symposium, Center for Continuing Education, Boone, N.C. 28607.

April 30 - May 1. Georgia Academy of Science - Georgia Southwestern College, Americus, Georgia. Registration will be in the Center for Continuing Education beginning at noon on April 30. The program has been planned around a bicentennial theme with special emphasis on the contributions that Georgians have made in the field of science in the last two centuries. The chairmen for Section VIII, Anthropology, are Frank and Gail Schnell, Columbus Museum of Arts and Crafts, 1251 Wynnton Road, Columbus, Georgia 31906.

May 6 - 8. Society for American Archaeology - Stouffer's Riverfront Towers, 200 South Fourth Street, St. Louis, Mo. 63102. Some 40 symposia and general sessions will fill the three days of meetings. Thursday evening there will be a dinner in honor of Dr. James B. Griffin. Program subjects will include Paleonutrition, Teaching and Training of Archaeologists, Ceramic Studies, Zooarchaeological Theory, Competitive Contract Archaeology and Computerized Data Management.

May 6 - 8. Southern Regional Convention of the Archaeological Institute of America in Tallahassee, Florida. Program information may be obtained from Warren Sanderson, President, Tallahassee Archaeological Society, c/o Department of Art, FSU, Tallahassee, Florida 32306.

## AWARD

The John M. Goggin Award for Method and Theory in Historical Archaeology will again be offered in 1976 by the Conference on Historic Site Archaeology to encourage scholarly research in method, theory and interpretation in historical archaeology. Any member of the Conference is eligible to submit a manuscript for this \$500 award. The manuscript should be original, unpublished, not over 30,000 words, typed and double-spaced, footnotes and bibliography should be American Antiquity format. Entries and a one page abstract should be sent to Stanley South, Chairman for the John M. Goggin Award Committee, The Conference on Historic Site Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. 29208.

(Entire page submitted by Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter, Standing Rock, AL)

### SMITHSONIAN ASSOCIATES TRAVEL PROGRAM

Membership in the Smithsonian Associates affords several benefits: the Smithsonian Magazine each month, discounts on books and gifts, the Associates Reception Center at Smithsonian Institution and the opportunity to participate in travel programs. Dues are \$10.00 a year and are to be sent to Smithsonian Institution, Membership Service, P.O. Box 8800, Greenwich, Conn. 06830. A foreign tour of Sicily and Southern Italy, June 6 - 28, will visit archaeological sites and museums from Naples south. On August 1 - 8, a tour of Southwest Pueblos will visit near Albuquerque and Santa Fe, including the Corn Dance at Santo Domingo. A study program in Mexico City, November 6 - 17, concentrates on Aztec and Toltec cultures. Information for bicentennial travel is also available. Details for these and many other events are given each month in the Smithsonian Magazine.

### MORE PUBLICATIONS

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE HOCKING VALLEY by James L. Murphy \$15.00. The Hocking River stretches 95 miles southeastward from Columbus to the Ohio River. In this detailed study, Murphy reevaluates and summarizes archaeological explorations in the light of current knowledge. He discusses the prehistory of the Hocking Valley for six major time periods and there are detailed reports on the excavation of three Adena Mounds, two Fort Ancient village sites and several multicomponent rock shelters. Ohio University Press, Administrative Annex, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio 45701

SOUTHERN INDIAN STUDIES. A 23 issue set of this publication (Vol. I, No. 2 - 1949 through Vol. XXIII - 1971) is available for only \$15.00 from ASNC, Box 561, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514. Individually the volumes run from \$1.50 to \$5.00 each.

FIBER TEMPERED POTTERY IN SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES AND NORTHERN COLOMBIA: ITS ORIGINS, CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE, Florida Anthropological Society Publication 6, \$2.00. Order from Jerald T. Milanich, 111 SW 23rd Terrace, Gainesville, Florida 32604. Milanich can also provide you with a list of their other available publications.

(All the above from Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter, Standing Rock, Alabama)

### PRIVIES PROVIDE TREASURE OF RELICS FROM THE PAST

When bulldozers clearing a highway right-of-way shaved off the backyards of ten old houses in Paterson, New Jersey they struck an archaeological gold mine. To the delight of industrial archaeologists studying old factories nearby, the bulldozers uncovered a series of stone lined pits. At first thought to be cisterns, the pits upon excavation, proved to be the sites of old outhouses dating back to the early Irish immigrant workers that toiled in the nearby textile and locomotive factories. The archaeologists now have 10 carefully catalogued boxes crammed with glazed ceramic whiskey bottles, white clay pipes, little clay dolls and other everyday artifacts of workers' lives. The find has triggered an intensive study of the early workers who lived in the 10 houses and how their lives changed over the decades. One historian, a student of the Irish immigration, told industrial archaeologist Ed Rutsch that the find was the equivalent of finding a sheaf of letters written by George Washington. (Wall Street Journal, June 26, 1975, submitted by Justin Salyards, Pass Christian, Ms.)

## WHERE IS ARCHAEOLOGY?

Only in the Old World say some people. Real archaeology is in Egypt...Rome... Greece...they are wrong. Archaeology is everywhere people have been. People, not places, make archaeology. Archaeology is here in Alabama, from Huntsville to Elba, Sunflower to Guntersville. It is there and all you have to do is look. Wherever man has been he leaves remnants of his life (just look along the roadsides if you doubt) and man's lust for littering has not changed in millennia...and is not likely to change. Just as archaeologists today carefully study projectile points, mortars or shell beads; so the archaeologists of the future may study our shot gun shells, or blenders or finest jewels. We look upon their implements as primitive, and so will the future archaeologists determine of our finest microwave ovens or even the Concorde. We learn from our past and that is really what it is all about. But to be able to put the puzzle together, we must have all the pieces.

Since most of our land has been walked before by SOMEONE, they have left small signs of their presence. It isn't everyday that one stumbles upon a Moundville, or Cahokia, but many small, apparently insignificant sites to the untrained eye are passed over daily in quest of some great find which will change the course of history. Alas, such occurrences are rare.

Many archaeologists are hard at work trying to trace where which prehistoric group lived...and when. What appears to be only a couple of flakes, or maybe a few sherds, would perhaps be a whole village or a campsite to the trained archaeologist. Since they are trained to know what to look for, it is easier for them than it is for the rest of us. But since we outnumber the professionals, we can provide information even the most well trained archaeologist can't get. Because we are out looking at our land, walking our fields, fishing the river banks, and we are in a position to be able to report our findings (see page 6, March 1976 newsletter). We can say "I found so-and-so at such-and-such a spot" and the archaeologist can say "hmmm, just north of that spot is another of the same type of site, and just south is another. Maybe we have part of a trade route, or commonly used trail" or whatever the archaeologist determines from a closer look at the area. If this information is compiled for a whole geographic area, it can be very important and thus significant to the understanding of the archaeology of the area.

Each small bit of information, when pieced together with other bits, can prove to be momentous in the hands of the right researcher. So think about the small bits you know which you might consider unimportant...and pass this information on. We may all be different but we are all interested in the same thing...archaeology. And archaeology is where we find it.

(Judith Nielsen, Daphne, Alabama)

## BOOKS FOR SALE

The publications list provided in the March 1976 newsletter has produced very good results. We hope that others will take advantage of the opportunity presented and order the Journals which will help to complete your set of these society publications. Each sale serves a twofold purpose. Not only are you helping to clear our storage shelves for future publications, but you are also providing the funds for the printing of these publications. Many fine research works are currently on hand for additional printings in the Special Publications Series, but printing costs are so high that the money just isn't available yet to cover the expense of another book. So please recheck the list and send for the available back issues you need. Your order is filled the same day it is received so there is minimal delay in receiving your orders.

## THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Following are the objectives stated in our Constitution, slightly modified for emphasis: To promote informed interest in the study of Archaeology in Alabama and neighboring States; to encourage careful scientific archaeological research in such ways as surface scouting, mapping, marking, studying and especially reporting; to promote and support professionally directed excavations and discourage unsupervised "digging"; to promote the conservation of archaeological sites and to favor the passage of laws prescribing such; to oppose the sale of antiquities, and the manufacture and sale of fraudulent artifacts; to encourage and develop a better understanding of archaeology through providing Newsletters, Journals, Chapter and State meetings, helpful associates and good fellowship; to serve as a bond between individual archaeologists in the State, both non-professional and professional; and perhaps most importantly, to give everyone the opportunity to "do something about archaeology" through the accomplishment and enjoyment of these high aims.

The Society needs and welcomes as members, all persons whose ideals are in accord with the objectives set forth above. Active members receive the JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY, devoted to articles on the archaeology of Alabama and nearby States, and also receive the STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER, published monthly, containing news of members and their activities, also State, national and worldwide events of archaeological importance.



The coupon below may be used EITHER to APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP in the Society, or for the PAYMENT OF ANNUAL DUES. Please be sure that your name and address are CLEARLY entered, and that checkmarks appear in applicable blanks!

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## THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA, INC.

This Association, an affiliate of our State Society, is a non-profit corporation, whose aim and purpose is to finance archaeological advancement in Alabama, the FIRST State to provide such financial support through popular subscription. All contributions to this association are deductible in making your income tax return (if, of course, you itemize your deductions). Your check should be made payable to the association as shown above.

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