

Alabama Archaeological Society

Associate Editors
Bart Henson
Dorothy Luke



STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

Editor
Amos J. Wright
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BOARD MEETING

President Charles Ochs has called a meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society Board of Directors:

Date: Wednesday, April 11, 1990; 6:00 p.m.
Location: Birmingham, Alabama
Western Sizzlin' Steak House at I-65 and
Oxmoor Road exit (same location as recent
board meeting).

This will be a full schedule dinner/business meeting. Members are invited to attend. No reservation required. The agenda will be sent to all Board members under separate cover.

Bettye T. Henson
Secretary-Treasurer

JOURNAL UPDATE

Both issues of the 1987 Journal have now been mailed. The December issue of the 1989 period is being printed and will be mailed by mid March. The 1988 Journal is presently being edited and will be mailed later in 1990. Editor Eugene Futato has announced that the June 1990 issue is nearing completion and should be in the membership's hands by June. At that time the Journal publication should be up to date, or possibly ahead of schedule.

Bettye T. Henson
Secretary-Treasurer

DUES NOTICE

Please check your mailing label. If the number "90" does not appear in your year/membership type identification on the upper right-hand portion of your label, your dues are not current (life members are of course excluded). Dues and questions concerning membership should be sent to the Secretary.

Bettye T. Henson
Secretary-Treasurer

March 1990

MUSEUM PLANS 1990 FALL FESTIVAL AT MOUND STATE MONUMENT

On Monday, October 8 through Sunday, October 14, 1990, the Alabama State Museum of Natural History will again sponsor a Fall Festival.

In addition to the park attractions - the large ceremonial mound with reconstructed temple, the reconstructed village and the exhibits on ancient Indian lifeways housed in the Museum - visitors may also observe experts trained in the traditional crafts.

A number of skilled artisans, many of whom are now affiliated with modern Alabama Indian tribes, will make Southeastern Indian pottery, baskets, beaded belts and ornaments, flint tools and weapons, as well as offering special foods cooked according to traditional Indian recipes.

Story tellers and tour guides will entertain school groups who come from all over Alabama and neighboring states.

Mound State Monument is located about 15 miles south of Tuscaloosa on Highway 69. For information about the Fall Indian Festival at Mound State Monument, call 205/371-2266 or 371-2572.

PREHISTORIC AXE WILL BE UNVEILED BY NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

"In April 1981, Carl and Timmy Green pulled up their trotline to find they had snared a prehistoric stone axe", recalled Dr. Boyce Driskell, Ph.D., senior research archaeologist with the Alabama State Museum of Natural History. The axe was a greenstone celt with a white oak handle.

"For centuries the axe had lain on the bottom of the Black Warrior River in Greene County", continued Dr. Driskell. "This was an extremely rare archaeological find, and to our knowledge no other axe of this type with an intact and preserved handle has been found in the mid South - or possibly in the country." The celt dates to prehistoric Mississippian period and is probably 800-900 years old.

The Museum plans to display the axe at its Indian Museum at Mound State Monument in the spring. Plans are being made to have a special unveiling during a demonstration of Indian crafts in early May.

11TH ANNUAL MID-SOUTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

The 11th Annual Mid-South Archaeological Conference will be held June 9-10, 1990 at Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Area - Pinson, Tennessee. The theme will be Mounds, Embankments, and Ceremonialism in the Mid-South. Organizers are Robert Mainfort and Richard Walling; Tennessee Division of Archaeology; 460 Ozler Road; Pinson, Tennessee 38366.

CHAPTER NEWS

Coosa Valley Chapter

The Coosa Valley Archaeology Club held its meeting on January 25, 1990 with 27 members present. It was announced that Dr. Harry Holstein was featured in the JSU Faculty News Letter concerning the Grant awarded to him by the Alabama De Soto Commission for a survey in Cherokee County, where the settlement of Coosa may have been located. Furthermore, Dr. Holstein, Chris Hill and Nel Ruffin-Bass have completed the 1989 Archaeological Pedestrian Survey of portions of Northeast Alabama. Don Frazier, Wyatt Amos and Bill Laminack are club members who participated in the completion of this survey. In addition Dr. Holstein received a grant of \$6,000 from the Alabama Historical Commission for the 1990 survey.

Dr. Holstein announced that there will be another dig on the 1Ce309 site, which is being tested at present, and that once the dig gets under way, volunteers are encouraged to participate.

Dr. Phillip Koerper, Chapter President, announced that the Alabama Historians would meet Friday, February 2, and Saturday, February 3, 1990, on the campus of Auburn University.

Guest speaker was Dr. Boyce Driskell, who gave our members an interesting slide and lecture presentation on the 1989 Smith Bottom Cave excavation.

The Coosa Valley Chapter meets on the last Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of Martin Hall on the campus of Jacksonville State University.

Brigitte Cole

Cullman County Chapter

Our program for February was given by Mr. Eugene Futato, archaeologist at the Mound State Park in Moundville, Alabama. Mr. Futato has worked in the Department of Archaeology for several years and has given several informative programs to our chapter in the past. This time he talked about his work with Bronze Age culture in Israel at Tel-Hafid.

Howard King

East Alabama Chapter

The program for our February meeting was presented by Dr. James M. Dawsey, Department of Religion, Auburn University. Dr. Dawsey discussed popular misconceptions which many people have about the first Christians and the time in which they lived. He explained how we know they are misconceptions based on recent archaeological discoveries.

The speaker for our March 14th meeting will be Dr. Jerry E. Brown, Professor of Journalism and Humanities Scholar-in-Residence at Auburn University. Dr. Brown and Henry deLeon Southerland, Jr. have just written a book, published by The University of Alabama Press, entitled THE FEDERAL ROAD THROUGH GEORGIA, THE CREEK NATION AND ALABAMA, 1806-1836. Dr. Brown will discuss this book at our meeting.

This chapter meets the second Wednesday of each month in the Alabama Power Company meeting room (230 N. Gay Street), Auburn. Visitors are welcome.

Caroline R. Dean

Huntsville Chapter

The speaker at the February 27 meeting was Charles Hubbert, professional archaeologist and member of the Huntsville Chapter. Charles' topic was the Wheeler Reservoir, Guntersville to Pickwick.

The next chapter meeting will be Tuesday, March 27. Larry Bean, Ranger at Russell Cave, will present the program at that time.

The Huntsville Chapter meets once a month at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Public Library on St. Clair Avenue. The public is welcome.

Dorothy Luke

Muscle Shoals Chapter

The Muscle Shoals Chapter held its January meeting on the 8th at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. Fifteen members and guests attended. Mary-Eliza Moore gave a slide/tape presentation on Cahokia.

Howard King of Cullman was the speaker for the February meeting, held on the 5th. Howard's subject was the archaeological aspects of the Ryan Creek drainage area in Cullman County. He showed a number of slides relating to this interesting area. Twenty-nine members and guests attended this meeting.

Bart Henson is scheduled to present the program at our March 5th meeting.

Charles Moore

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR ETHNOHISTORY 1990 ANNUAL MEETING

Preliminary call for papers/Notice of meeting date: The American Society for Ethnohistory will hold its 1990 Annual Meeting at the Westbury Hotel; Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on November 1-4. Papers, organized sessions, special events, and speakers that treat any world area are encouraged. Abstracts of 100-200 words, affiliation, and preregistration fees are due by June 1, 1990. Send to Dr. Trudy Nicks, Department of Ethnology; Royal Ontario Museum; 100 Queen's Park; Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2C6.

ALABAMA STATE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
ARCHAEOLOGY DIVISION
CURATION ACTIVITY REPORT, 1989

Archaeological resources in the repository are as significant as those still in the ground. The specimens and their associated records stand as the documentation of past research and serve as a resource for future research. These collections are the only potential source of new knowledge on hundreds, if not thousands, of significant sites which have been destroyed, inundated, or otherwise made unavailable for additional excavation. Moreover, excavation is a destructive process and when questions can be answered by collections research rather than excavation, sites can be conserved. And given the cost of excavation, financial resources can be conserved as well. In recognition of the importance of these collections, curation continues to be an significant part of our archaeological program. It's been a busy year.

During 1989, 44 collections were entered into the collections register of the Archaeology Division. Most of the collections are small, and in 1989 we only cataloged 3,387 lots of specimens, 83 folders of records, 596 negatives, and 90 slides. Altogether now, we have now registered 200 collections and cataloged 91,079 lots of specimens, 2,817 folders of records, 8,286 negatives, and 5,144 slides.

New acquisitions accounted for 40 of the 44 registered collections. Museum projects comprised 34 of these, all being small survey and testing project collections. Three collections were donated to us. These were the Elisha K. Bartlett collection, the Oliver C. Forehand collection, and Alabama portion of the Dan Morse collection. Part of the Morse collection was sent by Dan and Phyllis Morse and the rest was transferred to us by the Foundation for Illinois Archaeology. The other two new collections were fee curation projects, materials from the documentation and historical research project for Youngs Mill in Troup County, Georgia, for the Mobile Corps of Engineers; and the South Alabama Pipeline Project for EMANCO. The latter collection is, scientifically, the most important acquisition of the year, being the second largest collection ever obtained from this region of the state, and the only significant collection from upland sites here.

We are continuing to reprocess our existing collections, and four existing collections were accessioned this year. Our primary focus for this remains the Moundville collections. The pottery sherd collection from excavation in Mound W was completed and this completed the cataloging of all of the four large pottery sherd collections, which total approximately half a million sherds. These collections are now bagged and inventoried by pottery type and provenience. Now we are sorting and organizing all of the Moundville artifact collections in preparation for their accessioning and cataloging. The other existing collections accessioned in 1989 were a small survey collection from 1988, and two east Alabama collections from which Spanish metal artifacts were cataloged prior to loan to the Florida Museum of Natural History.

Work also continues on sorting and counting the Leigh M. Pearsall collection. Pearsall was a cotton broker from New Jersey who traveled

extensively from about 1900-1930. During this time he purchased archaeological and ethnographic materials from a wide area. His collection was donated to the Florida Museum of Natural History upon his death in the late 1960s, and the archaeological materials from Alabama were transferred to us in 1981. Volunteers and survey crew members, the latter working on rainy days, have sorted and counted approximately 90-95 percent of the points in this collection, estimated to total somewhere in the range of 100,000. The great majority of these artifacts are from the Fall Line Hills of northwestern Alabama, and date from the Middle Archaic through the Mississippian.

We will be ready to complete cataloging of this collection in a very short time. The lack of specific provenience for this material limits its research value. But Pearsall carefully marked each specimen with a code number representing its source, usually a town, but in some cases a specific individual. A major use of the Pearsall collection will be in teaching collections and for displays at local and regional museums. Whenever possible, we use materials from the local area for these purposes, and have a need for collections representing all areas of the state.

Facilities and Procedures

During 1989 we implemented new procedures for our accession files. These files include correspondence and other relevant material regarding the administrative history of each collection. Each file also contains a collection report. The collection report includes a brief description of the collection, an account of how it was obtained, and a summary of its organization and contents. The size of the collection and the cataloging status is also given. The collection report ends with a bibliography of all primary works pertaining to the collection. Collection reports have been completed for 35 of the 200 accessioned collections. Each month, collection reports are completed for the number of new collections accessioned, plus three or four more. Thus, we will slowly eliminate the backlog.

Exhibits

Archaeology Division collections were used in seven exhibits during 1989. Betsy Jones developed a temporary exhibit "Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Archaeology" at Smith Hall, the museum on the University of Alabama campus; and long term exhibits "Black Warrior River Valley Archaeology" at the Holt Lock and Dam Visitor's Center, and "Guntersville Basin Archaeology" at the Scottsboro Heritage Center. Joy Backlanoff and Arthur Howington developed "The Mounds Awaken: Mound State Monument and the Civilian Conservation Corps". This exhibit was created with the assistance of the Alabama Humanities Foundation as part of the 50th Anniversary of the opening Mound State Monument. The exhibit will travel to several museums in Alabama after being shown at Smith Hall.

Artifacts were loaned to Troy State University for an exhibit on the Moundville site, and to Mississippi State University for an exhibit

of ceramics from the Nodena site, in northeast Arkansas. Spanish metal artifacts from east Alabama were loaned to the Florida Museum of Natural History for use in a major travelling exhibit, "First Encounters". First Encounters concerns Spanish exploration of the Southeast and the Caribbean and its effects on the aboriginal inhabitants. The exhibit will be shown in 11 cities, nationwide, from 1990 to 1993 in commemoration of the Columbian Quincentennial.

Collections Research

Research on curated collections resulted in a number of publications and presented papers in 1989. Two of our Reports of Investigations made use of curated materials: "Excavation of the Truncated Mound at the Walling Site: Middle Woodland Culture and Copena in the Tennessee Valley", by Vernon J. Knight, Jr., and "An Archaeological Overview of the Tombigbee River Basin, Alabama and Mississippi", by Eugene M. Futato. Museum Special Publication 3, "The Mounds Awaken: Mound State Monument and the Civilian Conservation Corps", was written by Joy D. Baklanoff and Arthur F. Howington to accompany the exhibit and made extensive use of historical documents in the Moundville collections.

Marvin T. Smith, University of Georgia, analysed selected Coosa River Project collections for his report to the Alabama DeSoto Commission, "In the Wake of DeSoto: Alabama's Seventeenth Century Indians on the Coosa River". Items from our collections were included in the article "Engraved Shell Masks in North America" by Marvin and Julie B. Smith, published in Southeastern Archaeology. Caryn Y. Hollingsworth completed her M.A. thesis at the University of Alabama, "The Archaeology of Sheeps Bluff Shelter (1Fr324), Franklin County, Alabama". The Site 1Fr324 collection resulted from excavations cosponsored by the University and the Alabama Archaeological Society in 1968-69.

At the Southeastern Archaeological Conference in Tampa, individuals from six different institutions gave papers which were based at least in part on research on our collections. The papers were:

1. "Certain Aboriginal Mounds at Moundville: 1937 Excavations in Mounds H-L" by Vernon J. Knight, Jr., University of Alabama,
2. "Chronological Markers and Imported Items from the Roadway Excavations at Moundville" by Paul D. Welch, Oberlin College, Ohio,
3. "Coosa After DeSoto" by Marvin T. Smith, University of Georgia,
4. "Economic and Social Contexts of Early Ceramic Vessel Technology in the Southeast" by Kenneth E. Sassaman, University of Massachusetts,
5. "The Hunchback Effigy Ceramics of the Prehistoric Southeastern United States" by Susan Lee, University of Arkansas, and
6. "Vessel Size as a Measure of Mississippian Mound Activities" by John H. Blitz, Queens College of New York.

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> (Journal of Alabama Archaeology) 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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Mr. Amos J. Wright
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