

# Alabama Archaeological Society

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA P.O. BOX 6126, UNIVERSITY, ALA. 35486

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## STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

NADB DOC # - 4,056,646

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

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### CONDENSED MINUTES OF 1968 ANNUAL MEETING

The business session was called to order at 10:30 AM by President David W. Chase, in the Huntsville Utilities Building Auditorium on December 7, 1968. Huntsville Chapter President Amos J. Wright was introduced and State Society members and visitors were graciously welcomed, thanked for artifact exhibits brought in, and their attention called to the many attractions in the Huntsville Area. State Society Secretary Rodger L. Schaefer read the minutes of the year's activities and reported the 1968 membership as 619, and as Treasurer reported the December 1 balance on hand as \$967.10 with, in addition, the sum of \$1,969.55 in the Special Fund for Life Memberships. Nominating Committee Chairman Brittain Thompson presented the following slate of Officers for the year 1969:

President	- - - - -	T. Randolph Gray
1st Vice President	- - - - -	Mrs. J. E. Searcy
2nd Vice President	- - - - -	Amos J. Wright
Secretary-Treasurer	- - - - -	Rodger L. Schaefer
Assistant Treasurer	- - - - -	Brittain Thompson
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Editorial Assistant, Newsletter	- - - - -	E. M. Harris
Editorial Assistant, Newsletter	- - - - -	Mrs. Bea Harris
ESAF Representative	- - - - -	David L. DeJarnette
New Directors at Large for 3-year Term:		
		James H. McCary III (Birmingham)
		Dr. E. M. Lindsey (Noccalula) Gadsden
		Dr. Warren Johnson (East Ala.) Auburn
		Milo B. Howard Jr. (Montgomery)
		Clarence R. Heath (Choccolocco) Anniston
		Robert D. Wheat (Choctawhatchee) Dothan

There being no nominations from the floor, the slate was approved by acclamation. In place of reading individual reports of State Society Chapters, copies of the 10 Chapters which made reports were distributed to members present. The business meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM so members might view artifact exhibits and fraternize.

Some 100 members attended the luncheon at the Russell Erskine Hotel, and following the luncheon, David L. DeJarnette very entertainingly summarized 1968 archaeological activities throughout the State of Alabama, including both the State Society sponsored summer digs and others supervised by the University of Alabama.

JANUARY 1969

The afternoon session was convened at 1:00 PM by Huntsville Chapter Program Chairman B. Bart Henson, who introduced State Society 1st Vice President Mrs. Margaret Searcy to serve as Session Chairman due to the unavoidable absence of 1969 President T. R. Gray. Mrs. Searcy welcomed the 139 persons who registered for the speaker program and each person was supplied with a beautifully prepared booklet setting forth not only the program, but also an abstract of papers to be presented and a biography of the speakers making individual introductions unnecessary. Speakers were:

Nicholas H. Holmes Jr., Mobile, Ala., subject: "Maps, Drawings and Excavation of Fort Conde"

David W. Chase, Montgomery, Ala., subject: "Fort Toulouse, First Investigations, 1966"

O. Houston Wright, Huntsville, Ala., subject: "Flaking Techniques: Methods, Identification and Historical Significance"

Charles H. Faulkner, Knoxville, Tenn., subject: "Recent Archaeological Work in Tennessee - The Legacy and Liability of Hiwassee Island"

John W. Griffin, Macon, Ga., subject: "The Archaic Lifeway"

(We wish it were possible to briefly cover the highlights of each of the above papers, but space and reportorial ability are lacking. They were most enthusiastically received by the fortunate listeners. You should have been present - Ed.)

In addition to the fixed program, Steve Wimberly, Britt Thompson and Phil Smith were introduced and gave a brief talk on the project of obtaining State funds for Alabama archaeology. Also, Mrs. Houston Glover concisely covered the Traveling Exhibit of Alabama Indian Artifacts being prepared with State fund assistance.

Following adjournment, a special State Society Board of Directors meeting unanimously approved the effort to seek State funds for supporting archaeology in Alabama.

#### ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY

And what progress are we making in the field of important additional funds for archaeology and archaeologists in our State? Here are details:

1. A presentation of our hopes was made by the Honorable Philip H. Smith at the State Society Annual Meeting on December 7, 1968.

2. An ad hoc committee has been formed consisting of State Society members, and includes: Phil Smith, Talladega County Representative in our State Legislature; Steve Wimberly, former State Archaeologist, now in labor relations work with TCI; Dan Joselyn, former many things, now "Spark Plug" for Alabama archaeology; plus Milt Harris and Britt Thompson, interested amateurs.

3. Scientific and academic acceptance of our general aims has been approved by interested persons in the upper organizational structure of the University of Alabama.

4. Some few prominent business men have declared their willingness to be a part of our team.

5. A meeting has been held with one of Governor Albert Brewer's sincere and competent cabinet members, Martin Darity, Director of Publicity and Information. This meeting produced more questions than your committee had answers. Obviously, there is a fairly fantastic amount of homework to be done.

6. As planning progresses and more and more useful ideas are needed, you may be called upon to produce real help in time, work, money and sheer enthusiasm.

THIS GAME IS WORTH THE CANDLE - be willing and ready!

#### A MESSAGE FROM OUR 1968 PRESIDENT

(President David W. Chase, Director, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, made his period of tenure one to combine meeting members with constructive encouragement. Following is his message prepared for delivery at the Annual Meeting in Huntsville:)

"During the past year, I managed to meet many of you personally and to address your individual chapters. I would like to again thank you all for the fine hospitali-

ty which I was accorded during these visits. It was most enjoyable and, I might add, informative. In general, I spoke to you concerning your role as amateurs and where you could make contributions to archaeology. More specifically, I spoke of individual attitude, objectivity and the process of making yourself knowledgeable in the subject.

It was my earnest hope that some of what I had to say would be considered important. Many did think so and said as much after I finished. As I have said, I learned some things about the Society during these trips. Above all things, I saw that there were some very definite needs to be satisfied, such as:

A. There is the need for us to carefully examine our aims and purposes. If we are to be amateur archaeologists, then let us identify with the objective of archaeology which basically is the recovery of historical information pertaining to a time when human history was not being written.

B. There is a need for us to better understand the scope of professional activities in modern archaeology. How may we better comprehend what is involved in today's research procedures than to consult the work of those professionally trained in the discipline?

C. We need to depart from the self-gratifying practice of idle and aimless collecting for fun and to devote more time to attending to the dire need for data in a day when sites and their contained information are being destroyed by the thousands each year. How can we deal with the activities of an ancient people when we expend our energies in collecting as a means to an end or address ourselves to basically non-archaeological goals such as mounting and displaying all of the published southeastern projectile types? We must understand that we are dealing with PEOPLE - not just their stone objects.

D. I see a critical need for the Society to broaden its field activity toward the inclusion of ALL archaeological needs and problems. Why expend our entire energy, funds and time on one segment, time level or cultural manifestation year after year while at the same time we are losing vast amounts of data due to endless highway expansion, dam building, watershed development and urban expansion, processes which are erasing fantastic quantities of data which can never be replaced? Will future generations condemn us for such shortsightedness?

E. Finally, there is a need to revise, update and modernize our State Antiquity Laws. The present statute is frequently referred to as the "Anti-Smithsonian Act" because of its emphasis on keeping Alabama's Indian relics in the state and insistence that non-Alabamians be not allowed to come into the state to excavate regardless of qualifications or auspices. This self-defeating (archaeologically) law was promulgated in 1915 at the instigation of private collectors who did not want to see Smithsonian or other institution archaeologists entering into the state "to remove our Indian relics". Despite a revision in 1941 wherein the wording was not at all changed in the law, it still stands as a weak, ineffective and inappropriate law tailored to protect the integrity of private collections, not archaeological resources. Nowhere in the law is there a provision for institutional responsibility, qualification standards for participating personnel, repository for artifacts either in public view or in public domain or publication stipulation requirement. All of these elements typify other modern state antiquities laws.

I leave these thoughts with you, hoping they may encourage constructive thinking and action on our part. All of our chapters are working hard, many have made outstanding contributions to the understanding of the prehistory of our state. I salute those of you who are earnestly trying to understand and apply yourselves in the growing need for good archaeology - we need many more of you."

#### NEW YEAR - NEW THOUGHTS - NEW OBSERVATIONS - NEW TECHNIQUES - NEW DISCOVERIES

If you have not followed the misfortunes (advisedly!) of archaeology for some 50 years, you probably are not aware of how much ground it has lost. At that time we knew far more than we do now - or thought we did. How absurdly wrong we were can be discovered in any of the old books. The scholarly Henry Fairfield Osborne of the American Museum



of Natural History, in the 1916 second edition of his MEN OF THE OLD STONE AGE, dated "the oldest implements shaped by the human hand...about 125,000 years ago". Today we have a reasonably secure potassium-argon date some 15 times as old. In short: IGNORANCE-X-15 was the archaeological equation.

We have progressed since then - especially toward knowing we do not have "all the answers". But this progress has been largely by fits and starts, and by happy accident. And perhaps all of the major advances have aroused the indignation and opposition of the "old school". We have no reason to expect that the traditional course of history will reverse itself - that history, for once, will not repeat.

The historic moral is brought to attention here because of the increasing evidence that American archaeology might experience another of its seizures of progress; and that the usual opposition will try to obstruct rather than hasten this progress. This is particularly pertinent in Alabama, where we have noted a vast abundance of large, "crude" lithic tools of simple technology which HAVE NOT been studied in the American literature nor placed in the American cultural sequence. They mean SOMETHING - and necessarily something NEW.

Amateurs in Alabama, and in 29 assisting states, provide the only funds for PROBLEM-ORIENTED archaeology in Alabama (not salvage archaeology dictated by emergency). We appear to have an excellent chance to make a major contribution to American archaeology. Our major problem is to achieve NEW THINKING - which opens the mind for progress. There is obvious need to add NEW OBSERVATIONS - to see and recognize artifacts which are not "familiar", and to see site possibilities where they have not come to be "expected". Some NEW TECHNIQUES should be borrowed from Old World archaeology.

As recently as the February 1951 SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN the late Dr. Frank H. H. Roberts of the Smithsonian Institution, on the new evidence of radiocarbon dating, was willing to go cautiously on public record that "it seems safe to conclude that man must have come to the New World at least 10,000 years ago". There is increasing tentative, and frustrating, evidence that "the first American" might be far older than that. This question has become one of the major archaeological problems. Our best guess is that Alabama might be able to turn up some valuable evidence. Certainly we have something NEW worthy of vigorous exploration during this NEW YEAR.

#### 1968 FUND DRIVE TERMINUS AND REPORT

Mr. & Mrs. John C. Buhur, of far Sienaville, Cal., we owe belated apology. Among the many visitors at our fabulous Mound State Monument last summer, they were so pleased that they offered guide Boyce Driskell a handsome gratuity - which he explained it was not their policy to accept but mentioned our fund drive. This met with the Buhur's approval - and certainly with ours! Dave DeJarnette mailed this October 16 and our deposit slip shows it was banked to the Research Association account October 22. As it was cash, we are particularly anxious to clear the matter, and offer apologies and thanks to all. In compiling the Newsletter each month, we excavate a pretty deep midden of mail, notes, publications, etc. - if we may explain.

Mr. & Mrs. Brittain Thompson require no introduction nor eulogium to our members - and to a host of other people their active, civic-minded lives have touched. But we depend upon Britt so often in rather extracurricular ways that we do want to share our new name for him - "the old leaning post" - and mighty comfortable and comforting.

1968 FINANCIAL REPORT: Donations received - - - - - \$3,831.50

Free student, membership and friends labor furnished (thanks to all) - - +,+++.++

TOTAL: Including pebble tools BELOW Dalton points - - - - - \$!,!!!.!!

As a DEFICIT we could ask what we could do with 56 TIMES THIS AMOUNT - the Arkansas miracle. But as a SURPLUS we have our interest, organization, determination.

ADDITIONS TO DONOR LIST FOR 1968 IN NOVEMBER ISSUE:

(Years Donating)

Rucker & Margaret Agee CHARITABLE TRUST, Birmingham, Ala.

1

Mr. & Mrs. John C. Buhur, Sienaville, Cal.

1

Mr. & Mrs. David L. DeJarnette, Moundville, Ala.  
Mrs. Houston Glover, Huntsville, Ala.  
THE PASTFINDERS, Birmingham, Ala.  
Mr. & Mrs. Brittain Thompson, Birmingham, Ala.

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#### THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION 1968 ANNUAL MEETING

Viewing the mounds through Ohio was just one of the special treats we had when we drive to the ESAF at Ann Arbor, Michigan on November 1-3. The session started Friday afternoon, with everyone sharing their artifact displays. Alabama was represented by some of the Gay's projectile points.

The business meeting was moved to Friday evening, so that more time could be devoted to the program on Sunday. The Anthropological Bibliographies of the Eastern Seaboard, Volume I and II are still available, the price now being \$3.00 per copy. Also of interest was the retirement of Dorothy Cross as Recording Secretary of ESAF. At the banquet Saturday evening, she received the proper and appreciative recognition for her many years of faithful service.

Papers on eastern U.S. archaeology were presented Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon. From "Shell Midden Sites on the Lower Hudson" by Louis Brennan to "A Projectile Point Classification System for Florida" by Ripley Bullen and Howard MacCord's "John Green Site" in Virginia to "1968 Field Work in Kentucky" by Joseph Granger, the area was covered. Saturday afternoon was a very appropriate "Symposium on the Adena", covering the culture in the Ohio River Valley, the East and the South. The context of all the papers will be published in the Bulletin of the 1968 meeting. Incidentally, Col. MacCord, the new ESAF President, said that last year's Bulletin had been unavoidably delayed, but would be sent out very soon, he hoped.

Following the Mound Builder's theme, the speaker at the banquet was Dr. Melvin Fowler, with exceptional slides on the Cahokia Site.

Sunday morning was a very informative session: A Symposium by State Society Publication Editors, with Betty Broyles as Chairman. We wish all our members could have heard the problems and ingenious solutions presented. You would appreciate much more the work which is involved in getting to us our JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY, as well as our STONES & BONES Newsletter.

Marjorie Gay, Alabama Representative

#### ARTIFACT REPLICATION

Since we all have artifacts that possess some extra special meaning for us and, therefore, we are somewhat hesitant about letting them go out of sight or even out of our hands, then a method of faithful artifact replication becomes very attractive. The technique to be described makes a good physical replica of the original artifact and the artifact is recovered undamaged. Remember, however, this is just one method among many variations. The technique consists of several stages, as follows:

A. MAKING THE MOLD. A mold with inherent cast release properties can be readily made from General Electric RTV 630 Liquid Silicone Rubber and the procedure for doing this is described in the literature provided by G.E. (General Electric Co., Silicone Products Dept., Waterford, N.Y. 12188).

B. SLITTING THE MOLD AND RELEASING THE ORIGINAL ARTIFACT. After the silicone rubber has set and depending upon the shape of the artifact, the mold is slit with a very sharp knife, scalpel, modeling knife or single edged razor blade; for example, if casting a point or blade tool, then slits coincident with the edges would be best since this will not leave mold marks on the flaked faces of the replica. Upon separating the 2 halves, the artifact will be readily removed from the prepared mold by gently applied pressure.

C. RECOMBINING THE MOLD. In order to use the mold, decide what part of the artifact's shape will best allow one to whittle or file away the tail of plastic that will be present on the replica caused by casting compound being retained in the filler hole, such as distal or basal ends, etc. When this preliminary decision has been made, cut

a channel from that point of the mold to the outer sides on matching faces of the mold, thereby making a filler channel for introducing the casting compound when the 2 halves are brought together. Match the 2 pieces of the mold and lock together with twine or rubber bands.

D. CASTING THE REPLICA. Then carefully introduce, through the filler hole, the mixture of epoxy casting compound and catalyst. A conical filler hole of minimum internal diameter of  $1/8"$ , outer diameter of  $1/4"$ , is satisfactory. A typical casting compound can be U.S. Gypsum Company's Epoxical Laminating Resin (U.S. Gypsum Co., Chicago, Ill.) Details of use can be obtained from the manufacturer. Coloration can be done by using pigments (Sources: Interchemical Corp., Hawthorne, N.J. 07506; E. I. duPont de Nemours & Co., Pigments Dept., Wilmington, Del. 19898; or your local artist supply shop) and blending them in the casting compound. Should air bubbles create a problem, then swinging the freshly filled mold in a "bucket" on the end of a piece of string will help. Also, when filling the mold, apply slight pressure, then as the casting compound is introduced, gradually release the pressure, thus creating a slight vacuum which will draw in the mixture. Allow to set undisturbed for 24 hours.

E. FINAL RETOUCHING AND TRIMMING THE REPLICA. Upon opening the mold, the artifact should be easily removed by gently "peeling" back the mold. Final trimming of the edge fins, etc., can be best accomplished by "flaking" with a blunt instrument such as a nail. It is easier to flake thin "epoxy" than to try and cut it. Wire cutters also are helpful in dealing with the larger flakes. The "mold filler tail" is best removed with a file.

Anyone who wishes to try this technique should also read Jack Cambron's paper (entitled "Making Plastic Casts of Flint Artifacts" on page 94, Vol. 13, No. 2, 1957 issue of TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGIST, Department of Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn. 37916) describing the use of acrylic casting compounds. We did and it helps!

Brian Pilling, Morgan-Limestone Chapter

#### CHAPTER NEWS

Choccolocco Chapter meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at Regar Museum in Anniston. Mr. Jay Johnson addressed the November meeting on "Paleo Man in America", with explanations of the paleolithic period, external and internal forces within the culture. At the December meeting, Dr. Frank Conary of the city Board of Education and Auburn University spoke on "Archaic Man in America". Further speakers will continue the basic education of the Chapter through the Woodland and Mississippian periods. The Chapter is still surveying and recording sites in the Choccolocco Creek Watershed.

Cullman County Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 3rd Monday of each month at City Hall Auditorium, Cullman. A. B. Hooper III, Marshall County Chapter, at the November meeting, discussed "Pebble Tools", presenting a good collection along with an informative talk to 60 members present. At the December meeting, A. W. Beinlich Jr., Muscle Shoals Chapter, will speak on "Uniface Tools", and 1969 officers will be elected. The Chapter had 12 members at the State Meeting, and a total of 85 for 1968!

Montgomery Chapter meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. The December meeting was a workshop with members participating in pottery washing, typing, etc. Future Saturday field trips are being planned.

Morgan-Limestone Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 1st Tuesday of each month at Decatur City Hall. Chapter Vice President John Gustafson spoke to the December meeting on "Moundville, Ala.", giving an interesting talk covering history of the area, its people and their artifacts, using colored slides. At the January meeting, Chapter Member Jack Cambron will lecture on "Paleo and Transitional Paleo Points".

Muscle Shoals Chapter meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:30 PM in Room W-3, Wesleyan Hall, Florence State University. A film from University of Nebraska entitled "The Foragers" was shown at the November meeting in the Audio Vision Building, these



being the early inhabitants of the Plains and their artifacts and habitations were displayed. Chapter Officers for 1969: Fletcher Jolly, President; A. W. Beinlich Jr., Secy-Treas. The January meeting will be held January 27 in Room 100 of the Science Building, FSU, and is the first in an educational series on "Tools of the Archaeologist". The specific topic for January will be "Excavation and Study of Human Skeletal Remains" by Fletcher Jolly, illustrated with both slides and articulated laboratory skeletons, with emphasis on teaching the membership the basics of skeletal excavation techniques and determination of age, sex and stature. All are urged to attend and bring visitors and recent surface finds for others to see.

Noccalula Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Etowah County Court House, Gadsden. At the December dinner meeting, Dr. E. M. Lindsey reviewed the year's work and introduced the 1969 Chapter Officers: Bill Ashley, President; Mrs. E. M. (Gennie) Lindsey, Vice President; Mrs. Bill (Marjorie) Ashley, Secretary; Mrs. Richard (Juanita) Battles, Treasurer. The Chapter had 9 members at the Annual Meeting and an artifact display; and were favorably impressed with the facilities and well-planned program presented by the Huntsville Chapter.

Tuscaloosa Chapter held a re-organizational meeting December 11 in Room 20, ten Hoor Building, University of Alabama, with a program consisting of slides and a review of excavations at Fort Conde, Russellville and Hodges, with refreshments. Any members who did not attend, or others interested in a more active chapter, should get in touch with President N. Read Stowe, Dept. of Anthropology, Box 6135, University, Ala.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS - STATE NEWS

##### NEW MEMBERS FOR DECEMBER: (Welcome aboard for 1969!)

Earl F. Evans, 911 Dearborn Ave., Muscle Shoals, Ala. 35660  
John Saunders, H & HD Micom, Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Ala. 35809  
Rodney South, Route 1, Paden, Miss. 38861  
Kitty L. Wallace, 4212 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, Ala. 36109  
Don F. Wiginton, 857 William Drive, Birmingham, Ala. 35235  
A. R. Young, Route 3 Box 67, Centre, Ala. 35960 (Family)  
Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Serials Dept., Auburn University, Auburn, Ala. 36830  
Kansas State University, Library Serials Dept., Manhattan, Kans. 66504  
University of Georgia Libraries, Serials Section, Athens, Ga. 30601  
University of Toronto Library, Serials Dept., Toronto 5, Ontario, Canada

1969 STATE SOCIETY DUES: If your dues for 1969 are not already paid, be reminded by this (or by the personal notice you may have already received) that we are most eager to number you among our membership for the coming year, which might well be momentous for Alabama archaeology and individual interested amateurs. Perhaps more than any other previous year, YOU will have an opportunity to do something personally to promote your hobby and help reveal the antiquity YOUR State contains. Your assistance and the help your friends can provide might make it all possible!

THAT 1968 ANNUAL MEETING: The Huntsville Chapter deserves all the kudos anyone can bestow for the outstanding State Meeting they engineered, from such standpoints as advance arrangements, programs, meeting location, display provisions, luncheon plans, refreshments at coffee break, registration and hospitality in general. We only hope their example will not deter emulation from other Chapters in future years. Members should make every effort to attend January Chapter meetings (especially those who did not attend the Annual State Society Meeting) to hear the full Minutes your Officers will receive from the State Secretary, also hear read the abstracts of papers and the biography of the speakers, the report on the year's activities of the State Society, the detailed Treasurer's report, and most especially the Chapter reports which included programs used during 1968 for Chapter meetings, which will provide ideas for programs in your own Chapter. And the displays at the meeting - collections of artifacts

you probably would not see in any museum you might visit anywhere - and let us express our appreciation to all who were so cooperative in sharing their possessions with the rest of us. Included in this Newsletter is the full text of 1968 President David W. Chase's words of wisdom gleaned from his term in office, which we hope will prove of general interest. Also, an article in this issue explains in detail the display by the Morgan-Limestone (Decatur) Chapter on artifact replicas which attracted considerable interest. All the papers presented at the meeting were outstanding and deserve individual reporting - but we especially want to state regarding John W. Griffin's "The Archaic Lifeway" - it obviously represented the accumulation of many years' research, excavation and recording of facts, artifacts and observations which will be a true masterwork when published. Altogether, as our beloved Dan Josselyn put it in the December 1968 STONES & BONES: "You never forget an Annual Meeting", and those who attended will certainly agree fully! To all those in the Huntsville Chapter who worked together on this project, our sincere thanks!

Dr. H. M. Wormington honored us with the Christmas "1968 REPORT FROM THE VOLKS, Marie and Pete", again this year. It is always entrancing reading, but this year there was a sad note too. Dr. Wormington had asked, and been granted, a year of absence from the Denver Museum of Natural history - where she began at 17 as a volunteer in Paleontology and had been Curator of Archaeology since 1937. Several months later the Director informed her that he was closing the Department of Archaeology - and her job.

We are proud of the consideration, kindness and friendship of Dr. Wormington and cannot refrain from observing that she appears to have received somewhat shabby treatment after some 30 years of work. However, there is much to be said for escaping from unpleasant administrative patterns.

Nationally and internationally, the Denver Museum has been WORMINGTON - it is the loser. For several reasons beside that "escape", we think Dr. Wormington will be the gainer. She mentions "picking fresh oranges or grapefruit" from her own garden, and the chance to "pick" her own royalties on her book now nearing completion - and which 50,000 amateurs should buy. Her visiting professorship at the Arizona State University is for one year - if our "great educational institutions" have even half the "archaeological sense" that they manifest toward football - well, there'll be the dangedest bidding you ever heard of for Dr. Wormington's services.

In 1965 we wrote upward of 520,000 words in letters - chiefly trying to get our Alabama pebble tools into the stream of archaeological thought. We encountered enormous barriers, but fortunately one of those letters was to Dr. Wormington, offering to send samples. She suggested that others would be better acquainted with pebble tools - but it was not a brush-off, and she did not forget. Months later she wrote us about an impending visit by "Professor Francois Bordes, of the University of Bordeaux, who is perhaps the outstanding authority on the Paleolithic of Western Europe...Would you like to send some samples of your pebble tools for him to examine?" She then sent them on to Dr. Desmond Clark, Berkeley, who has done so much work in Africa - and he and Bordes examined them together. Dr. Wormington then held the pebble tools over for Dr. Laszlo Vertes to see - he had been involved in a recent discovery of pebble tools in Hungary. Needless to say, the pebble tools were obvious to Dr. Wormington and her eminent co-judges. But for that, our pebble tools might be still floundering. And we want to attest that that is the kind of archaeologist, and person, and lady behind the imposing facade of Dr. H. M. Wormington's well-merited fame.

Willie Wesley, Huntsville, sends us more sketches of the "slab tools" on which he has reported and we hope will continue to report. These are tool edges worked on otherwise unmodified slabs. The slabs may be either natural or the products of hammering larger pieces with natural fracture planes. Alice Burns discovered a huge site where there was nothing but slab tools, both large and small (up to nearly 4 lbs.!), so we are inclined to think the slab industry may be as specific as the pebble industry - and much simpler to work. As we learn to "see" the tools worked on these otherwise unworked slabs, a descriptive and illustrated typology should proceed as rapidly as



possible. We are much concerned over what we personally had not "learned to see" until recently, and think everyone should be. Some of the "stuff" Alice has surface collected, lichen-covered, grayly smudged with time, dirty and "horribly hunky", we would not have kicked with a curious toe. Our widening observations agree with Dr. Krieger's wider observation of what appear to be numerous "crude tool" complexes in America - suggesting exciting possibilities. But all of these must be studied, illustrated, reported, over and over, in order to educate what a professional friend calls "the anti-crude tool faction" - if you can imagine factions in science!

Sigfus Olafson sends us perhaps a "case in point", a Xerox from DESERT MAGAZINE with 6 illustrations of the artifacts Ruth Simpson and Leakey are getting from their Mojave site - these contested pieces being roughly hand-axe types some  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " long. Leakey dates them at "well over 50,000 years. The site is the first at which positive proof has been obtained of the really early movement into America of early man, and is likely to represent the most important milestone". But the National Geographic has withdrawn support on the basis of "inconclusive". Some conclusion seems most desirable, and the crudely hand-axe type of artifact is certainly abundant and undoubtable.

Dr. Don W. Dragoo, our several-times visitor from Carnegie Museum, wrote us a good letter: "...checked several sites and collections of early materials in the East, North-east and Canada...went to Japan to attend an International Congress and to check sites and collections of Early Lithic materials...saw many items from new sites in Japan that have been dated on the 35,000 to 40,000 years level which look much like our materials from Alabama and Tennessee...I gave a paper on our early materials at the Congress. This paper was well received by our Old World colleagues...Had many long discussions with Wormington, Charles Borden, etc...Last week Dr. Raymond A. Dart of South Africa visited with me and saw our materials from Wells Creek, Tenn. and the sample of Alabama pebble tools...was extremely interested and excited. He feels we are on the right track and that there are many important discoveries to be made in the New World."

Dr. Don's vigorous interest in America's unanswered archaeological questions gives us a secure feeling that they WILL BE ANSWERED - despite a general negativity, and the consuming archaeology-as-usual. He deserves every cooperation.

ANNUAL MEETING COMPLIMENTED by Charles H. Faulkner, one of our speakers. His letter mentions particularly our gang's friendliness, enthusiasm and interest in scientific archaeology. We can say that Don Dragoo speaks highly of Charlie, that he has been most cooperative with Alabama amateurs when called upon, and that he is turning out good reports on Tennessee Archaeology - which are important to Alabama students too, as those dumb Indians didn't know about "state lines". And he and his paper were very definitely enjoyed by everyone at the meeting.

"PROJECTILE POINTS: Special Bulletin III of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society series Guide to the Identification of Certain American Indian Projectile Points is now ready. Author Gregory Perino describes and illustrates 50 additional points. These are by no means limited to Oklahoma or environs as we know people throughout the U.S. who have aided Perino in this project. Send check or money order to the OAS, William H. Harwood, Secy-Treas, Box 531, Ponca City, Okla. 74601. \$4.00. We are sure that this will be an excellent volume and it is another long step toward the goal of a projectile point encyclopedia for the entire U.S. After that all North America?" This was culled from Dr. Carl B. Compton's INTERAMERICAN Newsletter, December 1968.

STABLE ISOTOPE RATIO ANALYSES, with wide applications, a new service of GEOCHRON LABORATORIES, inquiries invited (24 Blackstone St., Cambridge, Mass. 02139). THE GEOCHRONICLE also explains their method of determining error limits for potassium-argon dating continues the bibliography of geochronology with over 100 entries, lists available reprints - and continues the readable flavor.

!!!!!! H A P P Y   N E W   Y E A R   !!!!!

## EDUCATIONAL PAGE

### KEEP THEM TOGETHER

In the Tennessee Archaeological Society's NEWSLETTER, September-October 1968, I recently re-read Dan Josselyn's educational item "How To Be A Useful Amateur" which originally had been printed in our own STONES & BONES Newsletter. I want to elaborate on what Dan said: "Keep the artifacts from each site together", "Keeping them together all 'in the same book'".

Each archaeological site has a story to tell and each artifact is a word, a paragraph or a page of that story. Let's not rip words, paragraphs and pages out of our history.

Imagine this, if you will. Someone stumbles on a site in Alabama visited by deSoto in 1540, perhaps Maubila. He collects some projectile points, his specialty. He collects some pottery sherds and a couple of greenstone celts. He finds some scraps of iron, and a twisted piece of brass. Just as he is leaving the site, he sees a small, round object. He picks it up. It is a glass bead. Interesting. He walks back over the site and looking carefully, he finds 3 more beads.

Back home as he scrubs his finds, he recalls a friend in another town who collects beads. He also remembers that this friend has a number of Dalton points, a point type missing from his own collection.

By the end of the following week, he has swapped the beads for 2 Dalton points, given the pottery sherds to another friend, since he himself was never much interested in potsherds, and, as for the scraps of iron and the piece of twisted brass, he kept them around the house for a few months and on clean-up day discarded them. They, respectively, were bits of armor and a fragment of a musket butt plate.

He had located a deSoto contact site, with all that would be needed to identify it as such. He had in his hands for a few days the key as to what type of projectile points, celts and pottery sherds would identify other sites of the deSoto period.

The glass beads, the bits of armor and the musket butt plate fragment could ultimately have been, through correspondence with European museums, identified with the deSoto period. A tremendous step would have been taken to prove the exact route of deSoto's journey through the southeast.

Had this collection been kept intact, been coordinated with other intact collections from the same site, and had the site collections been brought to the attention of either a conscientious amateur collector or a professional, a great service to our goal of reconstructing and preserving history could have been rendered.

Along with site locating and proper marking, always remember how little we know, how fascinating the effort to learn more can be, and how satisfying it would be to have been a part of presenting to your fellow enthusiasts and the world, a bit of yesterday.

\* \* \* \* \*

When you collect artifacts, please, PLEASE, K E E P T H E M T O G E T H E R!!!!

Anonymous, Birmingham Chapter

## 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.



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