

Alabama Archaeological Society

Associate Editors
Bart Henson
Dorothy Luke

STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

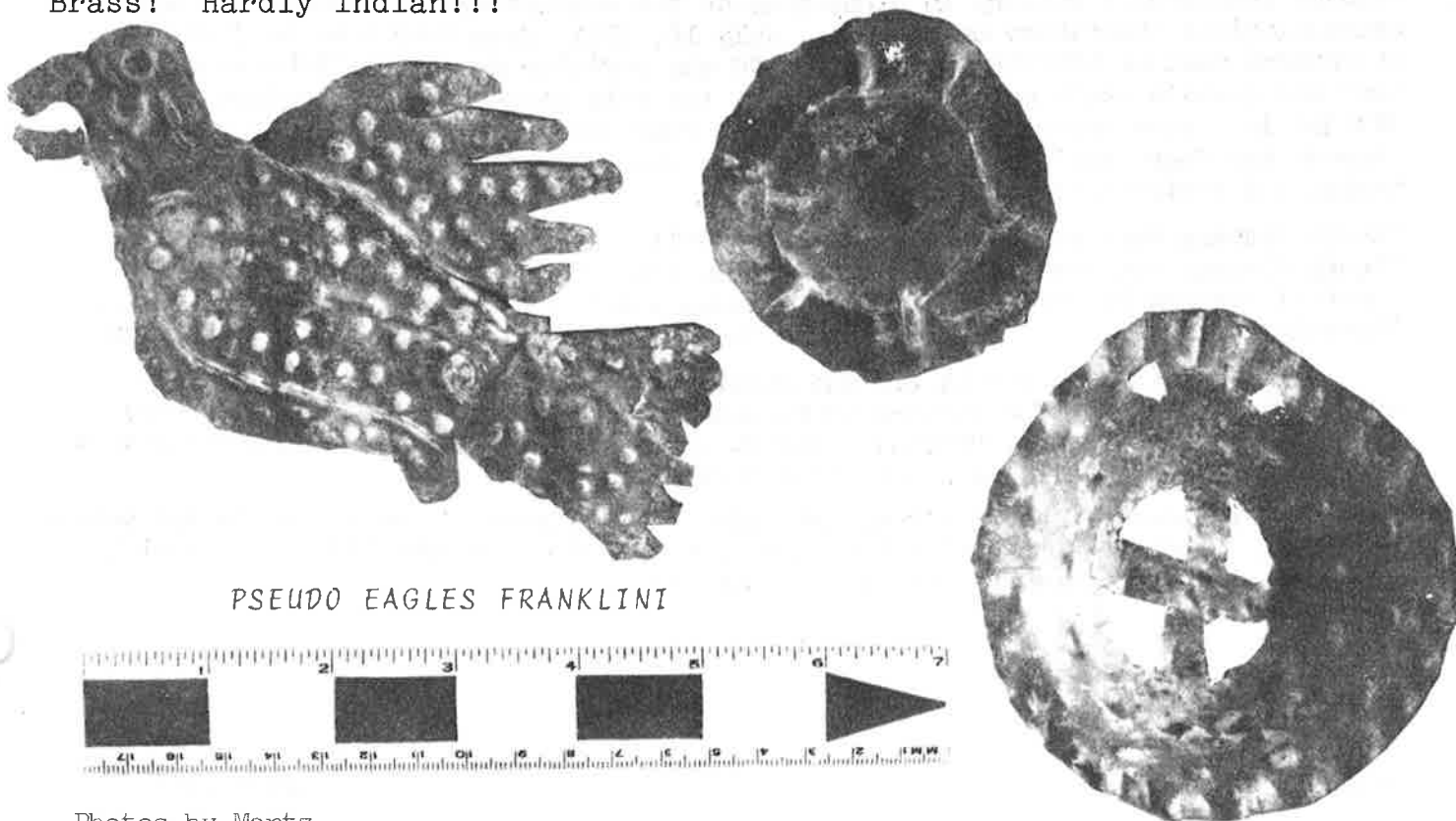
Editor
Amos J. Wright
2602 Green Mountain Rd.
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

OPTICAL EMISSION SPECTROMETRY DETECTS FRAUDULENT ARTIFACTS

Optical emission spectrometry is a technique for examining materials which involves the excitation of the outer electrons in the sample under analysis. The energy released when these electrons return to their unexcited state appears as light and consists of spectral lines which are characteristic of the particular element excited. Excitation is normally achieved by using a high voltage spark discharge between graphite electrodes for vaporizing the sample, usually 10 mg or less. The spectral lines characteristic of the sample are produced by refraction through a prism, and captured on film for study.

The three "artifacts" shown were allegedly found in a Franklin County, Alabama, bluff shelter and were represented as authentic copper. They have been examined at the request of a museum. Microscopic examination by Bart Henson revealed that the two disc shaped objects were made from a material similar to "shim stock" (brass) and had shear marks similar to those left by hand shears when cutting brass of the same thickness. The bird object, due to the nature of its manufacture, apparently involving heat and chemical treatment, required further examination. Dr. George Tanton conducted optical emission spectrographic tests on all three "artifacts" and found that they were composed of approximately 80% copper and 20% zinc, that is—Brass! Hardly Indian!!!



Photos by Martz

June 1977

Dr. John Walthall, University of Alabama, also examined and photographed these objects prior to the spectrographic analysis and obtained some interesting information. He sent a photograph of the bird to Dr. James Griffin at the University of Michigan Museum, who responded by labeling the object "pseudo eagles franklini" or "phony bird of Franklin County" for two reasons:

- (1) Copper repousse bird effigies are extremely rare and have never been reported outside of the Ohio Valley core area.
- (2) The context of such specimens in Ohio suggests an early Middle Hopewell temporal placement (100 BC-AD 100). Copena, on the other hand, corresponds temporally to Late or Terminal Hopewell, some two to three centuries later, when copper effigy cutouts were no longer being made.

While conducting some background research on the provenience of such bird effigies in Ohio Hopewell, Dr. Walthall notices that of the four known specimens all were at least twice as large as the Franklin County "artifact", and all were characteristically finely finished, not left with jagged edges. He also noted that the two specimens illustrated in W. C. Mills, Exploration of the Mound City Group, Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Quarterly, No. 31:423-584 (1922) were reduced by half and were therefore of a similar size to the Franklin County "artifact".

Mr. V. Keith Fleming, a former graduate student at Alabama and now a doctorate candidate in Anthropology at the Ohio State University, informed Dr. Walthall last year that crude replicas of the Mound City bird effigy plates had been sold as souvenirs at the Ohio State Museum in Columbus. Although they are no longer sold there, Mr. Fleming, who possesses photographs of the Franklin County specimen, was able to inspect one of the replica birds. They proved to be identical!

This account, and the quantitative analysis, lay to rest the question of these particular pseudo copper artifacts and properly dispose of yet another attempted archaeological fraud.

SPECIAL NOTICE

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The Alabama Archaeological Society is sponsoring a conference/seminar on Alabama Prehistoric Pottery in Birmingham at the University of Alabama-Birmingham Archaeological Laboratory on Saturday, July 16, 1977, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Attendance must be LIMITED to the first 40 who register due to the laboratory equipment and ceramic study materials necessary for this conference. Attendees will be divided into four groups of ten or less for four concurrent sessions and rotate through the four sections of the lab for the general topics of the conference. These topics and chairmen are as follows:

"North Alabama Pottery"	Dr. John Walthall - AAS - University of Alabama
"South Alabama Pottery"	Mr. Steve Wimberly - AAS - Birmingham
"Central Alabama Pottery"	Mr. David Chase - AAS - Auburn University-Montgomery
"Ceramic Types"	Dr. Roger Nance - AAS - University of Alabama-B'ham

The registration fee is \$10 and should be made payable to the Alabama Archaeological Society (for Pottery Conference) and sent directly to the Secretary-Treasurer (Mrs. Bettye T. Henson). Registrants will be mailed a receipt for attendance, a map, and details of nearby food service.

Non-AAS members are invited. Attendees should arrange for all meals and transportation. Refreshments during breaks will be furnished by the AAS. The special insert in this issue may be used for registration.

ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
CONFERENCE ON PREHISTORIC POTTERY

University of Alabama in Birmingham

Saturday - July 16, 1977

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Alabama Archaeological Society is conducting a one-day conference/seminar on ALABAMA PREHISTORIC POTTERY as the initial conference of a planned series on specific archaeological topics. This conference will utilize the UAB Archaeological Laboratory facilities and equipment, and will draw from the laboratory's pottery inventory for study - plus selected examples from individuals and other institutions

The conference will treat fiber-tempered, sand-tempered, limestone-tempered, and shell-tempered pottery types and their variations in considerable detail, devoting particular attention to descriptions and diagnostic features, ceramic groups, chronological relationships, manufacturing techniques, and distributions. Study examples will be provided participants for microscopic examination, identification, and typing. Lab notes and visual aids as appropriate for the topics will be utilized.

Attendance is limited to 40 and non-Alabama Archaeological Society members are invited. To cover the four general conference topics, four concurrent sessions will be conducted, and attendees will be divided into groups of 10 and rotate to different areas of the lab for the individual sessions. Individual sessions and chairmen are:

"North Alabama Pottery"	Dr. John Walthall (AAS - University of Ala.)
"South Alabama Pottery"	Mr. Steve Wimberly (AAS - Birmingham)
"Central Alabama Pottery"	Mr. David Chase (AAS - Auburn Univ.-Mont.)
"Ceramic Types"	Dr. Roger Nance (AAS - Univ. of Ala.-B'ham)

* * * * *

NAME:

Telephone:

ADDRESS:

Rural Route or Street

City

State

Zip Code

Please include your \$10 check to cover expenses of this conference/seminar and send to the Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Bettye T. Henson; 7608 Teal Drive, S. W.; Huntsville, Alabama 35802

Registration will be acknowledged by receipt, map and other pertinent details.

DR. WALTER B. JONES

We feel that the editorial that appeared in "The Huntsville Times" on the recent death of Dr. Jones very appropriately describes this man that we will all miss and who did so much for Alabama:

"Geology was his chosen profession, and Dr. Walter B. Jones pursued it over a lifetime that was as rewarding to him as it was beneficial to his native state. But from that base he ventured far and wide, going wherever his varied interests took him. We are all richer for it; thus, it is with great sorrow that we mark his passing at age 82.

"For 34 years, Dr. Jones was the state geologist. The expertise and competence he brought to that job is reflected in the many professional accomplishments that bear his name. Alabama was only beginning to tap its vast mineral resources when Dr. Jones came back to work here in 1924. He was a pioneer in charting these vast expanses of wealth beneath the state's surface, and making them available for constructive use.

"But other things he did stand out just as prominently. Perhaps he will be most fondly remembered as the man who practically singlehandedly saved the historic and priceless Indian burial mounds at Moundville. Had Dr. Jones not cared so much, these archaeological treasures would have been leveled into pasture land and lost to future generations. Three times the Jones family had to mortgage its home to buy the site of the old Indian village. But the destruction was warded off, and in the 1940's the state had at last the foresight to turn the land into a public park.

"Love for his native state grew out of his background. Dr. Jones' ancestors were the earliest settlers of Madison County. This gave him a stake in Alabama that went far beyond his official title.

"In combining high scholarship with abundant practical sense, Dr. Jones made an ideal state geologist. It was this state's good fortune to have enjoyed his services for three and a half decades."

WALTER B. JONES SCHOLARSHIP FUND

On May 3, 1977, Dr. Walter B. Jones passed away, leaving a legacy of outstanding multidisciplinary contributions made over a period of some 50 years. I feel that it our honor to take this opportunity to reflect on some of "Walter B.'s" contributions to our beloved field of archaeology. In doing so we must be mindful of the fact that Dr. Jones was not a trained archaeologist, but in his official capacity as State Geologist he enthusiastically accepted the opportunity to contribute both his time and money for the betterment of our state's archaeological sites. Literally hundreds of the recorded sites currently on file at Mound State Monument carry his signature.

But perhaps his most important contribution is the purchase and development of Mound State Monument. Let us consider two excerpts from the correspondence file that exemplifies both his generosity and his commitment to Alabama archaeology.

On July 15, 1959 he writes to Mr. Robert Jemison, Jr., justifying the expenditure of his own money,

"The reason I borrowed money for the purchase of the Allen estate land is that cash was required and the only way I knew how to get it was to borrow it at the bank. The reason why I put several hundred dollars in the Museum program each year is that items are needed which cannot be fitted into the money appropriated by the state. I am very happy to have what money I can spare go into such a cause. The Museum is very close to my heart and I can think of no better road for my money to travel. It is entirely voluntary."

Finally within a cover letter to a manuscript that contains all of his correspondence pertaining to the development of Mound State Monument he writes,

"The early days of acquiring and developing the property were indeed hard and troublesome, most purchases being made during the height of the great Depression. To keep the land intact, I begged from influential people in this State, borrowed on my own life insurance, and mortgaged my home. Many of the members of the Board of Regents of the Alabama Museum of Natural History, which incidentally has not been dissolved as of this date, shared my faith that we could raise the money, accomplish the work and make Mound State Monument what it is today - a fine tourist attraction for the State of Alabama and at the same time an excellent archaeological research and teaching facility for the University of Alabama.

"To many, many people, and especially my understanding wife, Hazel Phelps Jones, I owe a great deal. All of the work was a labor of love, and I wish I were young enough to start all over again."

A WALTER B. JONES SCHOLARSHIP FUND has been established within the Department of Geology to commemorate in perpetuity the memory of and the work accomplished by Dr. Jones within his chosen field of Geology.

I heartily endorse this project and urge each of you to seriously consider giving it your financial support. I think the Walter B. Jones Scholarship Fund a very appropriate way to say "Thank you Walter B. Jones for your numerous contributions to Alabama archaeology."

Contributions can be made to the Development Office, Box 1436, University, Alabama 35486.

Richard A. Krause, Chairman
Department of Anthropology
The University of Alabama

JAMES H. CHAPMAN

The Archaeological community was saddened to learn of the untimely death of James H. Chapman, who was killed in an automobile accident on April 17. Jim had contributed in many ways to the archaeology of Georgia and of the Southeast in general. Most notable were his detailed surveys in the Etowah Valley, where he had recorded over 200 sites. It was during these surveys that he brought an important early Woodland site, the Garfield Site, to the attention of Smithsonian archaeologists. It was also in his Etowah Valley work that he located, mapped and photographed over 30 aboriginal and historic fish dams.

Before and since his retirement in 1975, Jim had assisted Georgia State University in various projects. He participated in the work at Horseshoe Bend, Alabama, and in Georgia at Soapstone Ridge, on the MARTA surveys and excavations, and at the Pine Creek Site. He was field supervisor of important work at the Middle Woodland site of Miners Creek near Atlanta.

We shall all miss Jim Chapman, a friend and colleague of the highest order.

*Roy Dickens
Atlanta*

IN MEMORIUM

The Huntsville Chapter is saddened by the news of the recent death of Mrs. Thelma E. Bjork of Fackler, Alabama. Mrs. Bjork has been an enthusiastic member and supporter of the Chapter and the State Society for many years and, although residing outside Madison County, she and Dr. Bjork have regularly attended Chapter meetings.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MAY 1977 BOARD MEETING

The Society's Board of Directors convened in Cullman on May 18, 1977, and agreed to:

- (1) Hold special one-day seminars on selected subjects in lieu of the usual summer meetings. The first seminar will be on the subject of Prehistoric Alabama Pottery and will be held at UAB on July 16, 1977.
- (2) Accepted the East Alabama Chapter invitation to host the annual winter meeting in Auburn.
- (3) Approved purchase of an addressing machine for the Newsletter and Journal.
- (4) Approved funds for typing the June issue of the Journal.

CHAPTER NEWS

Muscle Shoals Chapter: On Saturday, May 14, fourteen members of the Muscle Shoals Chapter and guests went on a field trip. The chapter

visited four plowed field sites during the day and found several projectile points and tools. Proper surface-hunting policies were emphasized, beginning with getting permission from the landowners. All four sites were multicomponent sites, with the main occupation being during the late Archaic and early Woodland periods. This was the second Chapter field trip, and the newer members and some guests especially liked getting out in the field.

Cullman Chapter: At the May meeting, Mrs. E. A. Marshall from Huntsville presented a slide program on "Pre-Columbian Ruins of Southwest United States". Eulis King recently gave a program to the Oneonta Historical Society and Howard King presented a slide program in Decatur.

Birmingham Chapter: The Chapter meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Red Mountain Museum - 1425 22nd Street South. Call Tom Hutto for further information at 956-1895.

East Alabama Chapter: B. Bart Henson presented a program on Aboriginal Rock Art in Alabama to a large group of interested students and Chapter members at the May 11 meeting of the Chapter. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 8, 1977, in Thach Auditorium at 7:30. Reports will be given on some of the proposed summer field work in which members will have the opportunity to participate.

Tuscaloosa Chapter: The chapter will continue to meet during the summer term. The June meeting will be on June 9 at 7 p.m. in the Anthropology Seminar Room, MenHoor Hall, University of Alabama. The program will be presented by Ben Coblentz, graduate student in the Anthropology Department and interim curator at Mound State Monument. Ben is currently doing his Master's Thesis on the excavations at 1Ba81, and will speak on archaeology of the Mobile Bay region.

Huntsville Chapter: The Huntsville Chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center on Big Spring. The May program was given by Howard King, Society President, who narrated a very interesting slide presentation on the Ryan Creek Drainage Area of Cullman County. Howard also brought along a representative sampling of the artifacts he has found in that and other areas of Alabama over the past ten years. The June program will be presented by Mr. James Farrior and will be entitled "A Visit to Some Mayan Sites in Yucatan", based on Mr. Farrior's research and travels in Central America.

1977 DIG DONATIONS

Your Research Association is glad to be able to report that more of those who have contributed to our past excavation expenses are happy to keep up their good work. Checks received up to May 15 are:

Harold S. Biggs, Huntsville, his 9th over the years.

Dr. John E. Wood, Haleyville, now brings to 22 the total number of his donations.

Lively-Long-Josselyn Pebble Tool Papers - their 4th addition this year to the Dan Josselyn Memorial Fund.

Milt Harris
Birmingham

ARKANSAS FIELD SCHOOL

The University of Arkansas plans a field school from July 5 to July 12, 1977, at the Toltec site near Little Rock. At one time the site included earthworks that enclosed 85 acres and 17 mounds including the highest mound in Arkansas - 48 feet. The site was a major ceremonial center of the Coles Creek people who lived there from 700 to 1000 AD. The site was recently acquired by the state for development into a park.

(From the Arkansas Amateur, May 1977)

ARKANSAS TRAINING PROGRAM

The 1977 training program gets underway June 11 and lasts for 20 days and will be held 15 miles west of Fayetteville with the excavation of at least two bluff shelters. Persons must be a member of the Arkansas Archaeological Society and field camp costs are \$91.50 per person. Contact Arkansas Archaeological Society; University of Arkansas Museum; Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701.

(From Arkansas Amateur, May 1977)

TOMBIGBEE PROJECT

Sonny Curren will be going back to the Tombigbee Basin this summer to continue his work and research in that area. His manuscript on this project is finished and should soon be in the press.

FORT TOULOUSE

This summer on Friday and Saturday starting June 15 and continuing for 10 weeks, a course in historical field archaeology will be held at Ft. Toulouse. The course is sponsored by Auburn, Montgomery and will be under the instruction of Mack Brooms and Dave Chase.

FLORIDA

The State of Florida proudly dedicates the new R. A. Gray Archives, Library and Museum building on May 20 at Tallahassee. It houses a museum on early Florida (including prehistoric), the Library of 1,000,000 volumes, the archives and state records.

(From the Florida Archives and History News, May 1977)

BOOK REVIEWS

THE AIRLIE HOUSE REPORT: THE MANAGEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
edited by Charles R. McGimsey III and Hester A. Davis

Special Publication of the Society for American Archaeology 1977

This is the report of the Airlie House "Six Seminars on the Future Direction of Archaeology" conducted in 1974 by the Society for

American Archaeology under contract with the National Park Service Division of Interagency Archaeological Services. Price \$3.00 from the Society for American Archaeology, 1703 New Hampshire Avenue, N. W.; Washington, D. C. 20009

PRESERVATION LAW AND THE CONTRACT ARCHAEOLOGIST: METHODS OF EVALUATION AND REPORTING (Title of previous edition: "Cultural Resource Law and Contract Archaeologist")

by Thomas F. King, this edition is fully revised and expanded to present and explain federal policies and procedures affecting the practice of archaeological survey and evaluation under contract, as of early 1977.

Price \$1.50 each for more than 10 copies
\$1.75 each for fewer than 10 copies

New York Archaeological Council, c/o Cultural Resource Management Services; Anthropology Building H, Room B107; 1300 Elmwood Avenue; Buffalo, New York 14222

Proceeds go to the Marian E. White Archaeological Defense Fund.

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

AUBURN MINOR

Auburn students in the School of Arts and Sciences can now minor in anthropology, and if the current campaign for more students succeeds, a major may not be in the distant future. Dr. B. Eugene Griessman, head of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, says "Anthropology is the science of people. Although we do not yet have an official major, we have a full range of courses, including linguistics, archaeology, physical anthropology, and cultural and social anthropology." A long established discipline in most of the United States, anthropology is emerging in the South. Dr. Ruth C. Busch, assistant professor, believes its growth was slow in this region because anthropologists who studied human biology were among the first scientists to show the falsehoods involved in racism.

(From May 1977 Auburn Alumni News)

MEETINGS

June 14-17, 1977: SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION 6TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on "Kin and Communities: The Peopling of America", Washington, C. D. Special colloquium celebrating centennial of publication of Lewis Henry Morgan's "Ancient Society", organized in cooperation with Department of Anthropology, Columbia University. Chair: Margaret Mead. Write to: Wilton S. Dillon, Director of Smithsonian Symposium and Seminars, SI 507, Smithsonian Institution; Washington, D. C. 20560

June 25-July 2: INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON MAYA ART, ARCHITECTURE, ARCHAEOLOGY AND HIEROGLYPHIC WRITING, Guatemala City. If interested, contact Mary Wise, Apartado Postal 1838, Guatemala City, Guatemala, Central America.

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

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 Society is a non-profit corporation and all contributions are deductible when making your income tax return.

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.

MAIL TO:

Mr. Wm. M. Spencer, Suite 1510, First National - Southern Natural Bldg., 1900 - 5th Ave., No., Birmingham, AL. 35203

Journals and Special Publications

Available back issues of the Society's Journal *THE JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY*, and all Special Publications are available from the Journal Editor. Please see back of this page for listing.

Stones and Bones Newsletter

Comments, news items, reviews and other material for inclusion in the Newsletter should be addressed to:

Stones and Bones Editor / Amos J. Wright
2602 Green Mountain Road • Huntsville, Alabama 35803

— CUT HERE —

MEMBERSHIP

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 appropriate boxes are checked.

TO: THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, for

☐ NEW MEMBERSHIP ☐ PAYMENT OF ANNUAL DUES ☐ REPORTING OF NEW ADDRESS

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MRS. BETTYE T. HENSON
SECRETARY AND TREASURER
7608 Teal Drive, S.W.
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

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BOX 307 • ORANGE BEACH, ALABAMA 36561

MR. DAVID L. DEJARNETTE

JOURNAL EDITOR

MAIL CHECKS TO:

ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

CHECKS FOR JOURNALS AND SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO:

Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology* (each) \$4.00 pp
Special Publication 1 — *Fort Mitchell* 2.00 pp
Special Publication 2 — *The Archaeological Sequence*
at Durant Bend, Dallas County, Alabama 4.50 pp

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA, INC.

CHECKS FOR ABOVE TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO:

Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types \$7.35 pp
Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part II, Uniface Blade and Flake Tools 2.25 pp
Lively, Long, Josselyn - Pebble Tool Papers 3.00 pp

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Alabama Archaeological Society

Mr. Amos J. Wright
2602 Green Mountain Road SE
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

STONES & BONES
NEWSLETTER

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