

Alabama Archaeological Society

NADB DOC # - 4,056,890

Associate Editors

Bart Henson
Dorothy Luke

STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

Editor

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

Volume 31

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

Number 5

A CHINESE PI DISK?

The artifact appearing on the following page is reported to have been found in a plowed garden near the banks of the lower Black Warrior River. It is now in the possession of Harold Moore of Gadsden.

The Chinese Pi disk was revered by the Chinese some 2,500 years ago and was believed to be the path to heaven. They were made from jade and were adorned by bearded serpents or sea monsters.

The artifact pictured appears to be jade or some variation, and has a bearded serpent. It measures 4-1/2 inches in diameter and is 3/16 inch thick. The workmanship is modest and probably does not meet the standard of early Chinese work. It would come closer to the Mesoamerican standard of workmanship.

Jade appears in the mineral form all over the world - in varying hues and purity. In the world of gemology, only two types of stone are accepted as legal jade: nephrite and jadeite. Several other stones are passed off to unsuspecting tourists as jade, and they have become the primary stone in such artifact manufacture.

Mesoamericans used jade much like the Chinese and even developed comparable beliefs regarding the stones' influence on health; they honored dead chiefs with jade masks and ornaments. Mesoamerican source for this mineral was most likely from the deposits in Guatemala.

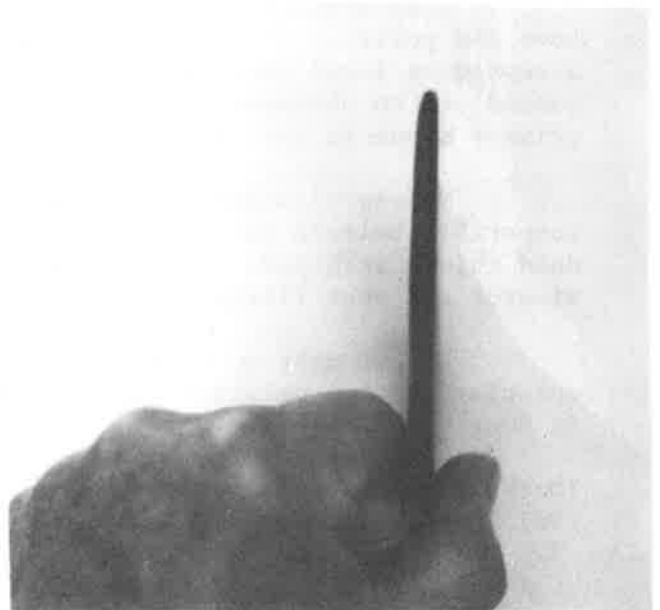
We can make no claims for this artifact, but it's exciting to speculate on its origin - Oriental, Mesoamerican, or from some sweatshop in Hong Kong?

(Much of the information above comes from an article in the September 1987 "National Geographic".

The Editors

May 1989

348.123.4. 9 200.000.



HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Alabama Archaeological Society met on Wednesday evening, April 19, in Birmingham. Following are some highlights of this meeting.

The June 1987 issue of the Journal of Alabama Archaeology is now at the printers. It contains an article on the survey and testing program on fish weirs on the Tallapoosa River. (Note: See separate article on Society plans to catch up on the publication of the Journal.)

Dr. Boyce Driskell presented the Program Committee report. The A.A.S. summer meeting will consist of a dig, in conjunction with the Florence Chapter, at the Smith Bottom site. This will take place Saturday and Sunday, June 17 and 18. A camping area will be available.

The A.A.S. winter meeting will be held at Mound State Park on Saturday, October 28. The Archaeological Society will co-sponsor a special program, along with the Alabama Museum of Natural History, celebrating the 50th anniversary of Mound State Park. Morning activities will take place on the campus of The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. The afternoon will be spent at Moundville. There will be an open house at the Division of Archaeology (formerly Office of Archaeological Research), and there will be a barbeque at the Conference Center that evening.

B. Bart Henson gave the Publications Committee report. A discussion ensued on the pottery handbook, which has been in the works for several years. Eugene Futato was authorized by the Board to commit the Society to provide a stipend for the authors of this handbook. We expect to have all material for editing within a year.

The Archaeological Resources Committee report was presented by Carey Oakley. Mr. Oakley reported that the Hightower Site has been vandalized commercially. He is working with the land owner and the Alabama Historical Commission to follow up to see if any action can be taken by the State.

A.A.S. SUMMER MEETING

The summer meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society will be held at the Smith Bottom Cave excavation site on Saturday, June 17 and Sunday, June 18. To find the way there, please assemble at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot by the front entrance of the Best Western Executive Inn (on South Court Street) in Florence. We will drive down in a convoy to the site. For late arrivals, a second group will begin there at 9:30; and the last group, at 10:30.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Saturday

9:00 a.m. - excavation begins

12:00 noon - lunch break (bring your own lunch; drinks will be furnished)

1:00 p.m. - Board of Directors meeting

4:15 p.m. - excavation ends

5:30 p.m. - fish fry hosted by the Muscle Shoals Chapter

7:30 p.m. - talk and slide show on the Smith Bottom site - by Dr. Boyce Driskell

Sunday

10:00 a.m. - tour of the Indian Mound and Indian Mound Museum in Florence - by Charles Moore

11:00 a.m. (optional) - excavation resumes

JSU FIELD SCHOOL

Jacksonville State University Archaeological Resource Laboratory will be conducting its annual summer field school in conjunction with the City of Anniston and the Anniston Museum of Natural History at the Holly Farms Blue Hole archaeological complex. This 300-acre dairy farm has been recently purchased by the City of Anniston with the intention of developing it into a softball/golf complex. Upon this proposed development area is a large natural sinkhole, in which a large spring produces nearly 5,000 gallons of water per minute. Due to the large, flowing spring and other natural features, it is not surprising that this locale is an extremely sensitive area archaeologically.

Initial archaeological survey by JSU survey crews indicate the presence of large Woodland/Mississippian Indian villages. We would like to invite Society members to participate as volunteers in the excavation of this important complex. Construction of the softball complex segment of development is scheduled for July 1989. The field school is scheduled to begin on June 13 and end on July 12. The class runs from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Campers are welcome. Campsites will be provided near the big spring. Motel accommodations are available within one-half mile, near Fort McClellan, Alabama. Please contact Harry O. Holstein - 205/231-5656 or 205/435-1940 - for more information. (Access to the site is through controlled property and must be coordinated with Dr. Holstein).

Harry O. Holstein



STATE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

SUMMER FIELD SCHOOL ARCHAEOLOGY AT SMITH BOTTOM



Archaeology Division

The **Alabama State Museum of Natural History** at the University of Alabama, in conjunction with the **University of North Alabama** and the **Tennessee Valley Authority**, will sponsor a summer archaeological field school near Florence, Alabama, between June 6 and August 12, 1989.

The archaeological deposits found at Smith Bottom cave and several other cave sites in the area have proved to be up to 9,000 years old. While many of these cave sites have been looted for the archaeological materials or otherwise heavily vandalized, much information of scientific value remains. The summer field school will continue to explore these sites and attempt to extract this information.

University students can participate for college credit through either the University of Alabama or the University of North Alabama.

Adults in the community, and children accompanied by a parent or guardian, can also participate as continuing education students through the Continuing Education Office at the University of North Alabama. Several plans ranging from a single day to the full term are offered.

Teachers can gain valuable on-hands experience and direction in development of study units as well as accumulate CEU credits by participation through the Kilby School teacher inservice program at the University of North Alabama.

Research staff from the Museum's Archaeology Division have worked in the locality for three summer seasons. Dr. Boyce Driskell, Senior Research Archeologist in the Museum, will serve as field school director. Other field school staff will include Dr. Richard Cobb of Florence, who will serve as Speleologist and Ms. Nancy Barnes, a University of Alabama student, who will assist with the archaeological excavations.

As in past seasons, the Museum will establish a summer field camp in the work locality. Participants in the program are encouraged to stay with the staff at the field camp in order to fully experience the field work situation. The Museum has some extra camping equipment; depending upon demand, participants wishing to camp with the field party may be required to provide some of their own camping equipment. Those wishing to commute on a daily basis are welcome to do so; a shuttle van from the Indian Mound Museum in Florence to the site will operate daily, leaving from the Museum at 8:00 a.m. with return to the Museum at about 4:30 p.m.

SOCIETY CATCHES UP ON BACK JOURNALS

Society Journal Editor Eugene Futato proposes the following schedule for publishing the Journal of Alabama Archaeology. The schedule proposes interspersing current issues with back issues, and catching up with all publications by fall 1990.

According to Eugene, "This schedule will accomplish two things. First, it will immediately get our current issues back on schedule." ... "That way our normal schedule is resumed and members will receive their current issues as scheduled. I believe this will help a lot with matters regarding members' questions and concerns about publications. In between current issues, we will get out one back issue. Then by the end of next year these will be caught up."

<u>Journal Issue</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>
June 1987	Winter 1989
June 1989	Spring 1989
December 1987	Summer 1989
December 1989	Fall 1989
June 1988	Winter 1990
June 1990	Spring 1990
December 1988	Summer 1990
December 1990	Fall 1990

CHAPTER NEWS

Cullman County

Our meeting for April was held at the Hartselle Civic Center in Hartselle, Alabama. Since a good number of our chapter members are from Hartselle, it was decided to hold a meeting there.

Howard King

Fayette Chapter

The Fayette Chapter held an artifact show in conjunction with the Alabama Reunion on Sunday, April 16.

A \$200 archaeological scholarship was awarded to Linda Knight of Guin, Alabama, who is attending Brewer State Jr. College in Fayette. Bill Adkison of the Fayette Chapter made the award.

Mr. Joe Sanford has been named President of the Fayette Chapter for 1989.

Bill Adkison

Huntsville Chapter

The Huntsville Chapter meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Public Library. The public is welcome.

Van King was guest speaker at the March 28 meeting. His topic was steatite pots. Harry Holstein of JSU is scheduled to speak at the April 25 meeting. Dr. Holstein will talk about the excavations at Cathedral Caverns and his research on the Battle of Tallassee hatchee.

The Chapter sponsored a field trip April 15 to Indian Day at Russell Cave. Members of the Chapter, their families and guests enjoyed the lectures and displays and a picnic lunch on the grounds of this most interesting site.

Dorothy Luke

Tuscaloosa Chapter

The Tuscaloosa Chapter's March meeting was held at the town library. Our speakers were chapter members Bill Adkison and Robby Hall. Both members spoke and identified artifacts of other chapter members.

Bill Adkison

PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

"The Archaeological Fieldwork Opportunities Bulletin" - published annually.

More than 100 entries on sites throughout the world. Contains detailed information, including field work, field schools, special programs. Describes cost, age limits, etc. In most cases, archaeological experience is not necessary.

To obtain a copy, send \$8 (\$6 for AIA members), plus \$2.50 for first-class delivery, to:

Archaeological Institute of America
675 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

Jody Perroni
Huntsville

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MAIL TO:

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

(Residents of Foreign Countries, including Canada & Mexico \$2.00 additional for Regular, Associate or Institutional Membership, \$20.00 additional for Individual Life and \$25.00 additional for Joint Life Membership)

- ☐ Life (Individual) \$180.00
- ☐ Joint Life (husband & wife) \$250.00
- ☐ Annual (Individual) \$9.00
- ☐ Annual, Family (husband, wife
and children under age 18) \$12.00
- ☐ Associate (Students under age 18) \$7.00

- ☐ Sustaining (Individual) \$15.00
- ☐ Sustaining (husband & wife) \$20.00
- ☐ Annual (Institutional) \$13.00
- ☐ *Steven B. Wimberley Scholarship Fund \$_____
- ☐ *Edward C. Mahan Research Fund \$_____

*** Contributions are Tax Deductible**

Alabama Archaeological Society

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



Non Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
 PERMIT NO. 197
 HUNTSVILLE, ALA.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED