

Alabama Archaeological Society

NADB DOC # - 4,056,749

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

POTTERY WORKSHOP

The pottery conference at University of Alabama/Birmingham on July 16 was well attended and a resounding success. Individuals from Alabama, Florida and Georgia were present. There were four sessions on different aspects of Alabama archaeology, chaired by Dr. Roger Nance, Dr. John Walthall, and Messrs. Steve Wimberly and David Chase; plus the added attraction of a demonstration of pottery throwing by Mr. Tom Gunter of Birmingham, a professional potter. The Birmingham Chapter hosted the conference and provided refreshments; Society President Howard King made the introductory remarks.

BOARD MEETING

A short Board meeting was held after the pottery workshop to discuss the Winter Meeting and the merits of the workshop. The workshop was proclaimed a success, and plans are to be made for another one to be held next summer. The Board approved the Winter Meeting to be held on December 10 at Auburn.

NEW MEMBERS FOR 1977

Abrams, Mr. Russell S.	I	328 19th Court Circle, N. E. Birmingham, Alabama 35215
Baker, Ms. Mary	I	3720 Redmond Road Birmingham, Alabama 35213
Barrett, Mrs. Jeanette	I	805 Tuskeena Street Wetumpka, Alabama 36092
Bouldin, Mr. Delynn	A	507 Willow Road Boaz, Alabama 35957
Brackner, Jr., Mr. E. Joe	I	808 Fairfax Drive Fairfield, Alabama 35064
Carter, Mr. J. F.	I	Route Two, Box 152 Monroeville, Alabama 36460
Coley, Mr. Jerry W.	I	2212 Diana Avenue Tifton, Georgia 31794
Deloney, Mr. Michael	I	Route Two Ozark, Alabama 36360
Doss, Mr. Phillip M.	A	Route Three, Box 56-A, Skyline Drive Warrior, Alabama 35180

August 1977

Kennedy, Mr. Pete	I	P. O. Box 267 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821
Lambert, Mr. Glenn F.	I	200 Afton Brae Drive Anniston, Alabama 36201
Nash, Miss Karmon J.	A	1117 Hardwick Lane Birmingham, Alabama 35209
Nicolls, Mr. Joe	A	6712 Court North Birmingham, Alabama 35228
Prestwood, Mr. John B.	I	808 Linden Hall Chattanooga, Tennessee 37415
Price, Dr. Betty	I	3604 Lookout Drive Huntsville, Alabama 35801
Spicer, Mr. Simon	I	128 West Thomas Salisbury, North Carolina 28144
Tennessee Gas Pipe Line Company Division of Tenneco, Inc.		P. O. Box 2511 Houston, Texas 77001
Trowell, Mr. Chris	I	South Georgia College Douglas, Georgia 31533
Wagner, Miss Jennifer	I	1509-A Monclair Road Birmingham, Alabama 35210
Yamaguchi, Dr. and Mrs. Shogo	F	One Barnes Street Tuskegee Institute, Ala. 36088
Zeloboski, Mrs. Sophie	I	502 Louis Circle, S. E. Huntsville, Alabama 35803

CHAPTER NEWS

Cullman Chapter: Mr. Eulis King gave the July program on various groups of Indians in the U. S. The meeting was at the Cullman Museum.

East Alabama Chapter: Plans were made for two weekends of work at the site now being excavated by John Cottier and Dave Chase. On the weekends of July 23rd and 30th the members will have the opportunity to work. At the August meeting there will be reports about this work and the site. The meeting is Wednesday, August 10, in Thach Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Tuscaloosa Chapter: The August meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, the 11th, in the Anthropology Department, TenHoor Hall, University. Carey Oakley will present a program on the archaeological survey of Jones Bluff Lake.

Birmingham Chapter: Mr. Bud Richards spoke on the use of metal detecting devices on archaeological and historic sites at the July meeting. He exhibited a number of the metal artifacts he has found on historic sites and made a plea for museums interested in receiving such artifacts to get in touch with him. Mr. Steve Wimberly will speak August 3rd on the Bessemer Mound site, which he supervised the excavation of about 30 years ago. Mr. Warner Floyd will speak on September 7 concerning the archaeology of Fort Toulouse. 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.

Muscle Shoals Chapter: At the July meeting Judson Hawthorne narrated a slide presentation on archaeology in Italy. Meetings are held at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence.

Huntsville Chapter: Miss Janie Zopfi presented the July program, a film entitled "African Kalahari Bushmen". The Huntsville Chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Senior Center, 300 Church St., N. W.

ANCIENT ANIMAL FOSSIL IS FOUND

Archaeologists have unearthed the fossil of an extinct Ice Age animal amid the clutter of an ancient human dwelling site in southwestern Pennsylvania.

The lower tusk of a flat-nosed peccary, a pig-like animal which has been extinct for 10,000 years, was recovered at the University of Pittsburgh archaeological dig at Meadowcroft Rockshelter near Avella, Pa.

Researchers said the tusk was found near a fire pit containing the charred remains of other animal fossils and vegetable matter. They said tools were found nearby.

"Archaeologists have long been searching for the association of any extinct Ice Age animal with well-documented human occupation in the East. That's what we have here," said James Adovasio, Associate Professor of anthropology at Pitt, who directs the Meadowcroft project.

The rockshelter has been verified as the oldest known site of continuous human occupation in the western hemisphere. Radiocarbon tests at the Smithsonian Institute indicate the site was occupied by man at least 16,000 years ago.

The fossil is a broken lower tusk of a young adult peccary, which resembled a large, lanky pig reminiscent of the European wild boar. During the last ice age, it roamed throughout the United States in herds of 20 or more.

The level where it was found has been dated in excess of 14,000 years old.

Dr. Adovasio said there is no direct evidence that the animal was hunted and then brought back to the rockshelter for use. But he said this is the best assumption.

"Regardless of how it got to the rockshelter, this is the first such find in the eastern United States, and as such, is tremendously important to the advancement of our knowledge of these people."

Pitt scientists and students will continue to dig at the rockshelter this summer but it will then be sealed for many years.

The data will enable the scientists to virtually reconstruct the climate, geography, plant and animal life, food supply and human activities during the 16,000 to perhaps 19,000 years that the rockshelter has been used by man.

"We may return in about 10 years," Adovasio said. "By then technology may have advanced so much that each sample will yield an even greater wealth of knowledge."

(From ESAF Newsletter, May 1977)

BOOK REVIEWS

The Space Gods Revealed; a Close Look at the Theories of Erich von Daniken. By Ronald Story; Harper, New York, c. 1976. Price \$7.95.

This is an interesting and well written book. Many people have read many of von Daniken's books and have been fascinated by his theories about space gods having visited our land. Then there have been the astronauts supposedly coming down in the past that von Daniken relates so vividly.

Story refutes and tracks down numerous statements made by von Daniken. He has consulted professional archaeologists, theologians, scholars of all kinds and dug out the facts concerning the Piri Map, gold-filled caves, Nasca Lines. Even the true facts are presented about the Easter Island statues and the Great Pyramids, etc.

At the end of the book, Story presents a couple of pages showing why and how von Daniken's theories fascinate folks with his pseudo-scientific beliefs.

Europe's Finest Monumental Sculpture: New discoveries at Lepenski Vir. By Dragoslav Srejovic; Stein Pub., New York, c. 1972. Price \$20.

This is quite an interesting and informative book about a little-known area in Yugoslavia on the banks of the Danube River. A great many sites were excavated by professional Belgrade archaeologists. The great religious and artistic center in the Danube Valley was settled approximately 5350 B. C. It had become a permanent settlement for hunters and food gatherers. Later C-14 dates show that the settlement was used up into the fourth century A. D. This book is beautifully illustrated with 92 plates, many of them in fine color. Also there are maps, charts, drawings. The unusual types of sculpture found are of particular interest because of their fine workmanship.

Margaret Perryman Smith
Atlanta

EVOLUTION OF A VALDIVIAN TOWN

The Valdivian culture of South America, which existed from 3550 B. C. to 1500 B. C., has recently generated a great deal of interest as the possible predecessor of the Maya civilization. Much of the interest has been due to Donald Lathrap and his associates at the

University of Illinois who excavated an ancient Valdivian town near Real Alto, Ecuador, and found a surprisingly complex society with ritual and social organization similar to later pre-Columbian cultures.

Now, Lathrap, Jorge Marcos and James Zeidler have reconstructed the evolution of the Valdivian town from its earliest, simple society to its later, more stratified stages, providing a clue to the development of the ceremonial cult which characterized Maya life. Reporting in the January ARCHAEOLOGY, the researchers found that in the earlier stages (3400 to 3300 B. C.), all the inhabitants lived around a central ceremonial plaza, resembling the "Gê" villages of northern Brazil. In this society, all members lived in roughly equivalent status, each sharing equal access to the village's center. Around 3100 B. C., however, the layout of the town changed markedly. The two large ceremonial mounds overlooking the plaza underwent increased rebuilding, and human sacrifice was practiced. The number of dwellings in the town decreased while a number of satellite farming communities developed in the vicinity. This was the period, the researchers believe, that a priestly elite formed and assumed ceremonial duties, while a laboring, rural class was moved out near the fields to grow the necessary food for the town's support. Maya cities 2,500 years later took the same form of city and social organization.

Although the village at Real Alto is the oldest known center in the New World, it is not necessarily the oldest. The researchers posit that older centers probably exist in Colombia.

(From Science News, February 12, 1977. Vol. III, No. 7, 97-112)

JOIN THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION ARCHAEOLOGY

American Society for Conservation Archaeology (ASCA) annual membership dues \$10 (fiscal year July 1 to June 30). The Newsletter is published bi-monthly: February, April, June, August, October and December. Some back issues are available, at \$1 per issue, \$6 per volume. For membership, send \$10 payable to ASCA to Alexander J. Lindsay, Jr.; Treasurer, ASCA; Museum of Northern Arizona; Route 4, Box 720; Flagstaff, Arizona 86001.

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

CHINESE SCIENTISTS BELIEVE THEY, ESQUIMOS, U. S. INDIANS LINKED

A theory put forward recently in an article in the Chinese official "New China News Agency" on paleoanthropological research in China during the last 25 years, suggests that American Indians, Esquimos and Chinese may all be descendants of Cave Men who lived near Peking. Numerous discoveries made during this period including the Yuanmou Ape man, who lived 1.7 million years ago, are reviewed. This ape man lived more than a million years before the Peking Man.

The NCNA article said that the "vast amount of data and wide dispersal" has made it possible to correct fallacies of "foreign appraisals" in a new "periodization" of man's evolution in China.

Through the study of a limited number of fossils of Upper Cave Man that were found in China before the "liberation in 1949", foreign scholars concluded that these people belonged to three racial types: Eskimoids, Melanesoids and Mongoloids.

Upper Cave Man lived farther up the mountains in the region where the Peking Man lived about 31 miles southwest of Peking. The fossils of Peking Man indicate that they lived about 500,000 years ago. Foreign scholars claimed that these people came from somewhere else, had been attacked by natives of the area and became extinct. Chinese scientists maintain that there is no factual basis for this conclusion.

After careful restudy of this question since 1949, Chinese scientists have "set forth the thesis" that fossils of all three of these humans are of Protomongoloid type. As a result they suggest that Esquimos, Chinese and American Indians may be descendents of Upper Cave Man.

There is a gap of several thousand years between Peking Man and the Upper Cave Man due to the fact that before the "liberation" very few human fossils and stone tools had been found. Any link between modern Chinese and the Peking Man has been rejected by some people. Chinese scientists believe that they have filled the gap.

According to this article, the study of artifacts found in various excavations indicates that there is nothing in common with artifacts made in the same period by Europeans. Both positive and negative evidence indicate "continuity of cultural tradition in China's early period."

(From the Arkansas Amateur, May 1977)

VINDOLANDA, A FRONTIER POST IN ROMAN BRITAIN

For most of the first five centuries of the Christian Era, the northern frontier of the Roman Empire lay where the boundary of Scotland and England runs today. Tradition has characterized the border as a savage territory kept under control only by the iron discipline of the Roman troops who garrisoned a chain of lonely outposts along Hadrian's Wall. Six years of excavations at one outpost have yielded some revealing details of frontier life. It is now known that the outposts were close to a lively civilian community. Forts were built 7 miles apart coast to coast along the line - Vindolanda being one of them. From A. D. 90 to 125 a succession of wood buildings housed the garrison. Trouble to the south caused Hadrian, the second emperor, to cross the channel, strengthen the frontier, and set his engineers to building Hadrian's Wall. The Wall passed about a mile north of Vindolanda and the garrison was moved forward about A. D. 130 to man

one of the forts. Aerial photographs taken in World War II for the first time revealed that substantial ruins surrounded the forts - indicating a possible civilian activity. In 1970 a 20-acre site, including the fort and surrounding area, was given to an archaeological trust - thus providing a rare opportunity for extensive controlled excavations. After seven years work it is now known that under the surface at least seven forts lie one above the other, and in some places the debris goes down more than 5 meters. Also, in the adjacent areas the remains of two frontier towns have been found. The archaeologist in charge, Robin Birley, estimates it will take a team of 10 to 15 working six-month seasons over 100 years to give the site a complete examination.

The residents probably had a higher standard of living than the surrounding native population - an example being glass windows for the houses. The household utensils were of bronze and iron and of quality workmanship.

Rains hampered the work in 1973 and a drain pipe had to be placed. Care was taken to avoid any area of ruins, so a "sterile" area was selected for the drain pipe. When digging commenced in the clay and cuts were made to 70 cm., they broke through to a deposit two meters deep, packed with the best preserved organic material from Roman times seen by modern man. This contained the remains of five successive wood forts dating from A. D. 85 to 125-130. The lack of oxygen had virtually preserved everything in its natural state. Mosses were still green and leaves were yellow and brown. Ferns looked freshly cut; however, within minutes of exposure the colors disappeared and everything turned a uniform black. Based on flora analysis, weather was much like it is today. Objects of iron and bronze were uncorroded. Some combs recovered still contained strands of hair. Bones in descending order were beef, pork, venison and mutton. Chicken bones were present but no fish bones; however, oyster and mussel shells were found. Thousands of well-preserved leather works were found - fine Persian design slippers, men's boots, children's shoes. Many of the boots and shoes were heavily studded with iron nails. Fragments of woven wool were found in quantity.

Probably the most significant find - which is rare for Roman ruins - was written documents. Some stylus tablets were found, but the bulk of the writings were on smooth wafer-thin slats of wood, some 6 x 10 cm. and written on with a quill pen dipped in carbon ink. More than 200 inscribed slats have been found. The handwriting has been in cursive script, making interpretation slow as it was not the orthodox Roman language. It appears to be a combination of dialect and army slang. From the official correspondence, it has been determined that the name was in fact Vindolanda, and dates have been obtained.

The outpost life indeed must have been somewhat lonely for the soldier - longing perhaps to return to his homeland, as all soldiers have longed for. Evidence indicates he may have spent the better part of his life at these outposts, as their sons were recruited into

the legions - perhaps to replace their aging fathers. However, one of the most revealing documents was a letter from home accompanying a gift package - where 1900 years ago someone at home had sent socks to the "lad in the service." As work continues other dramatic events will be unveiled of what life was about on this northernmost frontier post of the Roman Empire.

(Extracted from Scientific American, February 1977)

MEETINGS

National Trust for Historic Preservation - 31st Annual Meeting and Preservation Conference, October 13-16, 1977, Mobile, Alabama. For information and registration forms write to: The National Trust for Historic Preservation, 740-748 Jackson Place, N. W.; Washington, D. C. 20006.

The Society for Georgia Archaeology - The annual meeting will be held at South Georgia College, Douglas, Georgia, on October 15, 1977. More information on this meeting will appear in a later Newsletter.

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

BOOK REVIEW

The Stone Circles of the British Isles, by Aubrey Burl. Yale University Press, c. 1976, Price \$20.

This is an interesting book even though it takes most careful study. It contains a great bit of data on the over 900 known stone circles in Britain. Perhaps many more circles were destroyed down through the ages by civilization, road building, agriculture, etc.

The author has made a list of the circles he found, analyzed their structure, types, artifacts found and given possible dating. Also, he discusses the probable uses of these circles. The author was handicapped by the changes in names of the counties in which he worked, after he had gathered his material together.

The photos could have been better and more numerous. There are many charts and maps.

Margaret Perryman Smith
Atlanta

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

MAIL TO:

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Residents of Foreign Countries, including Canada & Mexico: \$1.00 additional for Regular, Associate or Institutional Membership, \$10.00 additional for Individual Life and \$15.00 additional for Joint Life Membership)

- | | | | |
|--|----------|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life (Individual) | \$120.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (Students under age 22) | \$ 4.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Life (husband & wife) | 150.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (Individual) | 10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual (Individual) | 7.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (husband & wife) | 12.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual, Family (husband, wife
and children under age 18) | 8.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual (Institutional) | 7.00 |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Contribution (tax deductible) | |

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* June 1974 Forward (each) \$4.00 pp
Available issues *Journal of Alabama Archaeology* prior to June 1974 (each) 1.00 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

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

MR. VERNON J. KNIGHT
3296 PIMLICO PARKWAY
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40502

C