

Alabama Archaeological Society

Stones & Bones

Volume 39, Issue 12

NADB DOC # - 4061, 967

December 1997

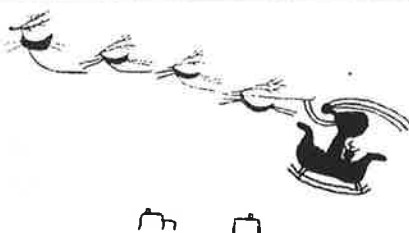
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Calendar

January 7-11, 1998

Society for Historical Archaeology

The annual meeting will be held at the Crown Plaza Ravennia Hotel in Atlanta, GA.

Contact:

Society for Historical Archaeology
PO Box 30446
Tucson, AZ 85751-0446

March 25-11, 1998

Society for American Archaeology

The 63rd annual meeting will be held in Seattle, WA.

Contact:

Society for American Archaeology
900 Second Street, NE. #12
Washington, DC. 20002-3557
telephone - (202) 789-8200
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E-mail - meetings@saa.org.

Chapter News

Cullman Chapter

The Cullman Chapter meets every third Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Cullman County Library.

Birmingham Chapter

The Birmingham Chapter meets every second Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the Alabama Outdoors in Homewood.

Huntsville Chapter

The Huntsville Chapter meets every first Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Huntsville Library.

Florence Chapter

The Florence Chapter meets every second Monday at 7:00 p.m. at the Mound Museum.

We would like to remind everyone that the Stones and Bones newsletter is interested in any information or archaeological endeavor that involves our members. Please send members news to our Troy State address.

What's Happening Around The State

The Alabama Museum of Natural History

This summer will mark the 20th anniversary of the Alabama of Natural History's Expedition program, begun in 1979. Nearly 1,500 participants, high school students, teachers, and other adults, have spent a week or more working in archaeological and fossil digs sponsored by the museum, helping to unravel the mysteries of Alabama's past.

On April 25 and 26, 1998, the Alabama Museum of Natural History invites all past participants to a reunion in Tuscaloosa. If you or someone you know was a member of the Museum Expedition in the past, please call (205) 348-0534 or write:

Alabama Museum of Natural History
Expedition Reunion
Box 870340
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0340

Submitted by Ken Gaddy, Chairman, Expedition Reunion Committee.

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Mississippi Archaeological Association Meeting

The annual meeting of the Mississippi Archaeological Association will be held in Columbus on February 28th and March 1st, 1998. The meeting will be held at the Landmark Hotel, at the junction of the US 82 Bypass and Highway 45 N. Registration will be on the morning of Saturday, Feb. 28th; the business meeting will also be that morning, from 9:00 to 9:30.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Paul Parmalee, Professor and Director Emeritus of the Frank H. McClung Museum, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The title of the presentation is "Zooarchaeology: Insight into Aboriginal Foods and Lifeways."

There will be an artifact display competition, a tour of local archaeological attractions (Herman Mound and the Cobb Institute of Archaeology at Mississippi State University).

Papers will also be accepted from professionals, students, and amateurs, and Alabama members are invited to share state news. Paper length will be twenty minutes, but shorter presentations are welcome.

Contact Evan Peacock if any questions or suggestions.

City Once Inhabited By People Who Greeted Columbus Found

In the remote jungle of the Dominican Republic, archaeologists have discovered a long-lost city once inhabited by the people who welcomed Christopher Columbus to the New World.

The Taino Indians were the first people Columbus encountered after landing on an island he called San Salvador in 1492. They numbered in the millions and had developed a network of small cities ruled by chieftains.

Last week archaeologists found one of those cities, in the easternmost part of the Dominican Republic. On March 20, researchers exploring around a sinkhole in the country's East National Park found three large ceremonial plazas and the remains of a substantial settlement that appears to have been home to thousands of people.

There is a strong possibility that the city is the same one whose brutal destruction in 1503 is described in an account by the missionary Bartolome de Las Casas. The incident was one of the first conflicts in what would become the conquest of a continent.

"This is going to give us more insight into the Taino then has ever been known before," said Charles Beeker, director of the underwater science program at Indiana University. The find was announced at a meeting in Rohnert Park, California, of the Society for California Archaeology.

Beeker and several colleagues traveled to the site by helicopter last week to investigate the area around a cenote, or natural well, that the

Indiana archaeologist has been studying for several months. Last fall scuba divers retrieved carved wooden axes, baskets, ornate pottery and other artifacts from the well that were probably dropped into the water as part of a sacrificial ceremony.

With Beeker were Geoff Conrad of Indiana University's Mathers Museum, California state archaeologist John Foster and three East National Park consulting archaeologists.

"Nobody's ever going to encounter a whole new world again, not on the face of this Earth," Conrad said. "And this is where it happened first."

Though the Taino are all but forgotten today, certain aspects of their culture live on. The English word barbecue comes from the Taino term for the rock slabs they used to cook bread. The hammock is also a Taino invention discovered by the Spanish upon their arrival in the New World.

Taken from the Associated Press, Saturday, March 29, 1997.

Artifacts Support Mound Theory

Archaeologists say that artifacts found in an American Indian mound support a theory that it was built perhaps 1,000 years earlier than previously thought.

The new evidence from the flat-topped mound on the banks of the Tennessee River indicates it may be several hundred years older than the famous mounds of Moundville in west Alabama.

Anthropology Professor Jim Knight said Monday that the sherds of pottery and flint points found in the mound indicate it was built during the Woodland period, from 200 to 1100 AD, by the Copena culture of Native Americans.

It previously was thought to have been built during the Mississippian period, between 1100 and 1600 AD.

"The Mississippians were more complex and socially organized. They had very powerful

chiefs," said Richard Fuller, a university archaeologist overseeing the mound's excavation.

He said the Woodland people were not thought to be as centralized as the Mississippians, but the mound may cause scholars to rethink that assumption.

"Someone powerful had to organize this project," Fuller said.

He said Woodland mounds had round tops and were used for burial.

The Florence mound, which once had a circular earthen wall surrounding it 300 yards from its base, appears to have been used as a site for ceremonies.

The new information indicates the 42-foot-high mound is 600 to 700 years older than the mounds at Moundville in West Alabama, said anthropology Professor Ian Brown.

It's believed to be the largest of the Copena culture in the state.

"This may have been the capital at the time," Brown said.

Knight said the mound probably came about as a result of ceremony, like a "world renewal" ceremony, held to mark time's passage, promote peace and encourage trade.

"In a world renewal ceremony, the old surface of the mound would have been covered with a new one to start the clock on the new year," he said.

Taken from the Associated Press.

Tomb of King Tut's wet nurse found near Cairo

French archaeologists announced Sunday they have found the tomb of the wet nurse of Tutankhamen, the boy pharaoh whose golden coffins and burial treasures have fascinated generations.

The 1330 B.C. memorial to the servant who suckled the boy king is an "extremely rare" instance of ancient Egyptians devoting an entire

tomb to a woman, said archaeologist team leader Alain Zivie.

Hieroglyphics and a relief showing a woman with breast and nipple exposed pay tribute to Maya, "who fed the body of a god."

Zivie found the tomb in Saqqara, an ancient necropolis 13 miles south of Cairo. The city was the burial site for the courtiers and high ranking officials of ancient Egypt's New Kingdom, which prevailed from about 1400 B.C. to 1100 B.C.

Most of the pharaohs, Tutankhamen included, were buried in the Valley of the Kings near Luxor, about 300 miles south of Cairo.

Zivie was drawn to explore the particular tomb when he saw a relief of Tutankhamen on the ante-chamber.

Six weeks of excavation have cleared two of the five known chambers; another is filled with rubble and two others are sealed off by masonry, he said.

Searchers have yet to find any gold or funerary objects, nor have they found Maya's coffin. The archaeologists are also looking for more clues about Maya, whose existence was previously unknown.

"This is the beginning of the story," Zivie said. "There may be discoveries inside the discovery."

Among key questions that Zivie hopes the tomb will answer: Who were the parents of Tutankhamen, who ruled and died when he was still a boy?

Tutankhamen's father is widely believed to have been the Pharaoh Akhenaten. As for his mother, "there are all sorts of theories, but she is not known," Zivie told a news conference.

Some experts believe Tut was the son of one of Akhenaten's secondary wives, Kiya. Others theorize he was a brother of Akhenaten, whose mother was Queen Tiye.

British archaeologist Howard Carter found the long-lost, riches-filled tomb of the boy king in 1922, sparking a worldwide craze for things Egyptian.

The discovery of Tut's nanny came almost exactly 75 years later, Zivie noted.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

- Vol. 20-31, each issue (two issues per volume).....\$3.50pp
Vol. 32 & up, each issue (two issues per volume).....\$6.00pp
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Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint.....\$7.50pp
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**Alabama State Artifact
"The Rattlesnake Disk"**



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