

Alabama Archaeological Society

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

Editor

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Huntsville, Alabama 35803

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MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

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A.A.S. MEMBER RECOGNIZED

The photo below, from "The Tuscaloosa News", depicts Bill Adkison, President of the Tuscaloosa Chapter. The photograph accompanied an article on the Alabama Archaeological Society and its role in education and preservation. Bill is a frequent contributor to the Stones & Bones.

18A Sunday, October 2, 1988 THE TUSCALOOSA NEWS



News staff photo by Calvin Hannah
Bill Adkison, president of the Tuscaloosa Archaeological Society, displays some of his finds from various sites throughout West Alabama.

November 1988

ALABAMA STATE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY
CURATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS, 1988

One of the recent accomplishments of which we at the Office of Archaeological Research are most proud is the progress we have made in our curation of archaeological collections. In 1984, we initiated new uniform procedures for accessioning, inventory, and storage of collections and established computer inventories and indexes of all accessioned specimens, documents, and photographs. In 1985, the Erskine Ramsay Archaeological Repository was completely refurbished at a cost of over \$175,000. Erskine Ramsay is now a state of the art facility with climate control, fire, and security systems exceeding all Federal guidelines for archaeological curation.

All existing collections, estimated at 3,000 boxes, had to be removed from Erskine Ramsay for the renovation. These collections are now housed in the David L. DeJarnette Laboratory at OAR. We have taken the position that these collections will not be returned to Erskine Ramsay until they have been reaccessioned and repacked to meet our current procedures. Of course, this will be a tremendous task, and volunteers are more than welcome.

The following information is a summary of last year's progress in curation of collections, taken from our annual curation report.

Cataloging of Collections

During FY 1988, 43 archaeological collections were entered into the collections register of the Division of Archaeology. During the year we cataloged 8,934 lots of specimens, 235 folders of documents, 3,917 negatives, and 3,050 transparencies. All together, we have now registered a total of 150 collections and have cataloged 87,648 lots of specimens, 2,663 folders of documents, 7,690 negatives, and 5,054 transparencies.

New acquisitions accounted for 36 of the 43 collections registered this year. Museum projects comprised 25 of these including 18 small survey/testing projects and 7 larger projects. The larger projects were surveys of Nickajack Lake above pool lands, Pickwick Lake above pool lands, and Pickwick basin caves for TVA; the Huntsville Cemetery and Bay Oaks projects for the Alabama Highway Department; the initial testing at Cathedral Cavern for the Alabama Department of Conservation; and the 1987 Museum Expedition at the Hightower Village.

The other 11 new collections were obtained by several means. Four were fee curation projects: the Holt Lake historic resource survey, the Demopolis Lake fee owned lands survey, and excavations at the Eureka Landing site, Monroe County, all for the USCOE-Mobile; and surveys in several National Wildlife Refuges in Florida and Mississippi for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta. Four gifts and three transfers

complete the new collections, all except one being small collections. The one large collection resulted from Paul Welch's dissertation research at 1Ha7/8, an outlying Moundville mound and village, and was sent to us by the University of Michigan, Museum of Anthropology. Primary among the small collections are gifts of iron artifacts from the Hightower Village and a cache of chert blades from the Hightower Mound, along with a comparative collection of majolica from the Pensacola Naval Air Station site.

We have made some small progress on accessioning of older collections, with 7 collections accessioned. Three of these are relatively recent, the Triana DDT study corridor survey transferred to us by the USCOE-Mobile and two miscellaneous small collections. The four older collections include the 1932 acquisition of Southwestern U.S. pottery, and three sherd collections from the USDI sponsored investigations at Mound State Monument in 1939-1941.

Facilities and Procedures

Several changes in our procedures resulted from recommendations made during a conservation survey by Shelly R. Payne. We have ceased using rubber bands on bags of specimens in curation because of the acids released during the breakdown of the rubber during long term storage. Instead, we simply use a bag of sufficient size to permit folding down the top. When these bags are packed in boxes for storage, the contents are securely held in place. We are also placing all records in acid free folders. Even though the records themselves are seldom acid free, and the great majority have been microfilmed, the acid free folders will contribute to the life of the documents, and the folders themselves will have a much longer life. Finally, we are no longer sealing boxes with tape, due to the acidity of the tape. We are using plastic bands instead. These have the additional benefit of being more easily removed and replaced when boxes are opened.

We are not making any effort to apply these changes to all existing collections. However, when a box of specimens or documents is opened for any purpose, we do make these changes prior to returning the box to Erskine Ramsay.

Use of Collections

When any box of materials in the Repository is brought to the laboratory and opened, we record the box, when opened and resealed, by whom, and for what purpose. During FY 88, three visiting researchers made use of curated materials: 81 boxes of specimens and records from the Richard B. Russell collections for the Richard B. Russell technical synthesis project by David G. Anderson, National Park Service, Atlanta; 1 box of miscellaneous small collections for examination of the Site 1Tu493 collection by Vincas P. Steponaitis, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; and 11 boxes of specimens and records from the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway collections for preliminary dissertation research by John H. Blitz, Queens College, New York.

Thirteen loans of archaeological materials were executed in FY 1988. Five of these were for exhibit purposes, five for research or publication, two for replication, and one for material to illustrate a lecture. As an indication of the significance of these collections, we note that only six loans, two exhibit loans, two loans for analysis, and the two replication loans, were within the state of Alabama. The others were to individuals or institutions in Georgia (1), Mississippi (2), North Carolina (1), Tennessee (2), and Cambridge, England (1).


Eugene M. Futato

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter

Jack Bergstresser, doctoral candidate from Auburn University, well known from his Red Mountain Museum days, gave an interesting and different program in September. He introduced Industrial Archaeology, giving us three sites he had worked on as examples: Alabama Coal Mining Co., an ante-bellum steam-powered operation in Shelby County; Kay Moor Nos. 1 and 2, high-grade bituminous coal mines in Fayette County, West Virginia; and Sloss Furnace cook ovens on the City Furnaces site in Birmingham. Jack had begun his career as a prehistoric archaeologist and pointed out similarities. He still goes into the woods, uses transit and level, deals with snakes and rats on some sites, but his artifacts are larger and he does less digging. We saw slides from all three sites and learned of both technical and social aspects of the work at all three places.

Jack plans to survey Jefferson County for captive coal mines of the iron manufacturers for the Alabama Historical Commission and the Historic American Engineering Record. He called for volunteers in surveying, mapping, photography and bibliographical research. If you would like to be involved in what promises to be an exciting project, call him in Birmingham at 836-6709, or write Bergstresser; Red Mountain Museum; 1425 22nd Street, So.; Birmingham, Alabama 35205.

Our meeting this month was October 13 at the Birmingham Museum of Art Auditorium. The guest speaker, Dr. Christopher Donnan, Director of the Museum of Cultural History, UCLA, presented a slide lecture on the newly discovered tomb of a Moche noble buried in Peru over 13 centuries ago. The undisturbed tomb, "rich with exquisite gold, copper, beaded and woven objects", is featured in the October issue of "National Geographic".

Bobby Hawkins

Coosa Valley Chapter

The Coosa Valley Archaeology Club held its September meeting on the 29th. A short business meeting was held, at which it was announced that the Jacksonville State and Coosa Valley Chapter will host the A.A.S. Winter Meeting on Saturday, November 12, 1988, on the campus of Jacksonville State University.

Our speakers for the evening were Dr. Phillip Koerper and Dr. Harry Holstein, who spoke on the findings of the Battle of Tallasseehatchee. Dr. Koerper gave an interesting talk on the historical aspects of the Battle, how it came about, what happened and how it ended. Dr. Holstein then presented through a slide show the actual excavation that JSU did this summer, from beginning to end. All who attended were treated to an interesting and informative presentation by both speakers.

The Coosa Valley Chapter meets on the last Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd floor in Brewer Hall, Jacksonville State University.

Brigitte Cole

Cullman County

We've finally got our library exhibit put in place for the next few months. Take your family (and your friends) by to see it. Support us and support your county library!

Howard King

Huntsville Chapter

The Huntsville Chapter meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium of the public library on St. Clair Avenue. The public is welcome.

The chapter met October 25. Scheduled guest speaker was Dorothy Scott Johnson, a noted local genealogist. Mrs. Johnson has published several books on cemetery preservation. Recently she has been doing research on Col. Meiggs, who was in charge of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Mississippi Territory in the 1830's; and on a cache of Civil War weapons allegedly buried in the Madison area.

Several members of the Huntsville Chapter attended the lecture by Dr. Christopher Donnan at the Birmingham Museum of Art on October 13. (See Birmingham Chapter announcement.) Autographed copies of Dr. Donnan's book *MOCHE ART OF PERU* were available for sale in the Museum's shop after the lecture.

Residents of the Huntsville area may be interested in a program coming up in November at UAH. The North Alabama Section of the American Chemical Society will present a speaker who should be of equal interest to both the scientific and artistic communities. The speaker, Sister Dr. Mary Virginia Orna, O.S.U., has lectured and published widely in the area of color and chemistry and archaeological chemistry. She is a recognized authority on medieval pigments and pigment analysis of medieval manuscripts. She also received the 1984 Chemical Manufacturers Association Catalyst Award for excellence in college chemistry teaching. She is Professor of Chemistry at the College of New Rochelle and formerly chaired the Division of History of Chemistry.

The presentation will be on Monday, November 14 at 8 p.m. at Roberts Hall, UAH, Room 419, and will be entitled "Uncovering the Secrets of Medieval Artists through Chemistry". The public is invited, and admission is free. For information call 882-8412 or 881-6386.

Dorothy Luke

Muscle Shoals

The Muscle Shoals Chapter held its October meeting on the 10th at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. Sixteen members and guests were present. Eugene Futato gave an interesting slide presentation on his archaeological work in Israel. This was the first Chapter meeting after the summer break.

Charles Moore

Tuscaloosa Chapter

The Tuscaloosa Chapter meeting was held on the fourth Monday in September at the public library. Our guest speaker was Eugene Futato. Mr. Futato showed slides on the Bear and Cedar Creek sites in Franklin County, Alabama. Ms. Joan Ladd from the Tuscaloosa News also attended our meeting (see Page 1).

John Wm. (Bill) Adkison

A.A.S. ANNUAL MEETING

Please remember that the A.A.S. Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, November 12, at Jacksonville State University. See the October Stones & Bones for details and a preliminary agenda.

1989 NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
OF THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The following slate of nominees will be presented to the membership of the Alabama Archaeological Society at the Annual Meeting on November 12, 1988.

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
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Director	Ms. Mary-Eliza Moore	Florence
Director	Mr. Brittain Thompson	Birmingham
Director	Mr. Joe Watkins	Orange Beach
Director	Mr. N. Reed Stowe	Mobile

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> (<i>Journal of Alabama Archaeology</i>) 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

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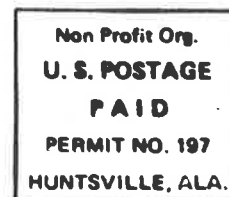
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