

Alabama Archaeological Society

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

Editor
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2602 Green Mountain Rd.
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

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MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

Number 5

SUMMER MEETING

Our Summer Meeting will be held Sunday, June 12, 1988 at the Birmingham Museum of Art. The agenda is:

- 2-3 p.m. - Business Meeting
- 3 p.m. - Presentation by Dr. Rita Freed entitled "New Look at Old Faces" (Middle Egyptian Kingdom)
- 4 p.m. - Dr. Whitman Cross will discuss "Contemporary Egypt and the Geology of the Nile River"
- 5 p.m. - Tour the Museum's special Egyptian exhibit "Through Ancient Eyes". (A discounted price of \$3 will be charged for the exhibit tour.)

The Museum will be open from 2 to 6 p.m.

Charles Ochs
Birmingham

INDIANS AND BIRDS OF PREY

Birds of prey were both revered and feared by Indian tribes of the Southeast. Eagles, hawks, falcons and owls were the most important birds of prey, and each held a different significance to the Indians. Indians believed that they would possess a bird's powers by wearing its feathers, feet, talons, skin and/or whole body. While they had many uses for birds of prey, Indians never ate them because that would have been considered sacrilegious.

Falcons, especially Peregrine Falcons, were the most important bird motif used in Southeastern Indian art. Falcons were admired because they kill unsuspecting prey with a powerful blow, a method much admired by Indians. The Cherokee bird, "Tlanuwa", is a huge, powerful bird based on the legend of the falcon. The characteristic falcon "forked-eye" design is frequently seen on faces in all art forms. This design, when painted around a hunter's eyes, imbued the man with the falcon's excellent eyesight.

May 1988

In contrast to the warlike falcon, the Bald Eagle was the symbol of peace for Southeastern Indians. Its feathers were status symbols, and only the men of highest social standing were allowed to have eagle feathers. The white feathers of a Bald Eagle were made into fans used in rituals and were also used to decorate peace pipes. Creek and Chickasaw tribes especially prized eagle feathers. These feathers were difficult to obtain. Often a village would engage the services of a professional eagle killer. It has been reported that a Creek town gave 200 deerskins to an eagle killer to obtain the bird on their behalf. Only an eagle killer knew the prayers necessary to keep the bird's spirit from seeking vengeance on the village that had it killed. An eagle could be killed only during the cold season - late fall or winter. A kill made any other time of year would bring on a frost that would destroy the corn crop. To kill an eagle was an honor; to dream of one could be dangerous. Several Southeastern tribes believed that if a person dreamed of an eagle or its feathers, that person had to sponsor an eagle dance or suffer the loss of a family member. During the eagle dance, 12 to 16 men sat in rows of four around spears stuck in the ground. The men carried eagle tails and wore a feather in their hair. The first row of men proceeded to jump in a squatting position from the front row to behind the last row. The remaining rows jumped in turn, and this movement was repeated numerous times.

Owls were mystical birds often feared by Southeastern Indians. The Chickasaw associated the Screech Owl with witchcraft, the Cherokees considered Long-Eared Owls to be evil, and many tribes believed the birds could foresee the future. Because Indians avoided owls, it was the tribe's medicine man and priest who valued the birds. Some medicine men and priests wore owl feathers and talons in their pierced ears. Often, the bird was stuffed with its wings extended and worn on the head or simply carried. A Creek medicine man carried an owl skin or Great Horned Owl feathers as a symbol that he had completed the extensive training necessary for his profession. Priests and medicine men frequently used pottery bottles and bowls fashioned in the shape of an owl. Owl-shaped pipes for smoking tobacco during religious ceremonies were carved out of sandstone, hematite or soapstone, or made out of clay.

Birds of prey served an unknown but apparently important function in burial customs. A number of embossed copper plates in the shape of an eagle have been found in the graves of Southeastern Indians. Pottery effigies were made in the shape of owls and often buried with the dead. In life, Indians of the Southeast held birds of prey in awe; in death, the birds were welcome companions.

Denny Gross
Anniston

SIX ARRESTED AT SHINHOLSER MOUND IN GEORGIA

Six men have been arrested while digging in the Shinholser Mound in two separate incidents during the past year. All six were arrested under criminal trespass statutes and received convictions and fines.

(From an article in "The Profile", newsletter of the Society for Georgia Archaeology; Number 59, March 1988.)

1988 COMMITTEES OF THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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FIRST ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT CONVICTION

On November 18, 1987, Ralph Cotiana of Punkin Center, Arizona was convicted in U.S. District Court, Phoenix, of a felony violation of the Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979, which concerns illicit artifact trafficking. He was also found guilty of a felony violation of possession of stolen federal property. These convictions represent the first time a pothunter has been found guilty of felony ARPA and related violations in a jury trial anywhere in the United States.

Cotiana was charged with the unlawful removal, possession, and sale of a naturally mummified infant girl with extensive trade goods from a cave site in the Tonto National Forest.

(From an article in "The Profile", newsletter of the Society for Georgia Archaeology; Number 59, March 1988.)

CHAPTER NEWS

Coosa Valley Chapter

Our guest speaker for February was Dr. John Hall from the Alabama State Museum of Natural History, who gave a presentation on the DeSoto expedition into Alabama. At our March 25th meeting, it was announced that a trip to Russell Cave was planned for April 16th. Dr. Harry Holstein announced that there will be an excavation at Cathedral Caverns this summer from June 12 to July 12.

Our guest speaker for March was Mr. Bob Pasquill, Archaeologist, USDA, Forest Service, whose presentation was on 18th Century French Marines at Fort Toulouse. This presentation gave our members more insight into a fort that is located virtually in our own back yard.

The Coosa Valley Chapter meets on the last Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Brewer Hall, Jacksonville State University Campus; Jacksonville, Alabama.

Brigitte Cole

Cullman Chapter

Our March meeting was very good. We enjoyed hearing Carey Oakley (Archaeologist at University of Alabama) talk about Smith Bottom Cave on the Tennessee River near Florence, Alabama. This cave promises to show good data on the Early Archaic and possibly on Paleo-Indian. Carey gave several good suggestions as projects for the chapter: 1) help as volunteers this summer for one day, two days, or a week on the dig at Smith Bottom Cave; 2) help sort artifacts from past dig(s); these artifacts are being analyzed at the Office of Archaeological Research in Moundville.

Howard King

Huntsville Chapter

The speaker for the April 26 meeting was Nancy Rohr. Nancy is Secretary/Treasurer of the Huntsville Chapter and Associate Treasurer of the state society. She was in charge of last spring's chapter trip to Memphis to see the Egyptian exhibit there and was the program chairman for last December's state meeting in Huntsville. This year Nancy is head of the Publicity Committee for the state society.

Nancy's interests lie in the realm of history and historical archaeology. Her talk focussed on her original research in and around Huntsville and Madison County. She also took us farther afield, with slides depicting early maps of Alabama and the Southeast.

There is a possibility that the chapter will be able to participate in some archaeological investigations at the site of the old cottonseed oil plant near the Huntsville Depot. (This was the original location of the depot's roundtable.) A new chapter "calling list" has been put together; chapter members will be contacted regarding their interest in taking part in this and other activities.

The Huntsville Chapter meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Huntsville Public Library on St. Clair Avenue.

Dorothy Luke

THE PALEOINDIAN DEBATE

The controversy over the age of the first human colonization of the Americas continues; at the latest meeting on the subject (Smithsonian Institution, September 1987), it became clear that there is still no consensus. Many do not believe humans lived in the Americas until 11,500 years ago, when sites with fluted spear points are abundant and widespread from Alaska to Patagonia. Others argue - in decreasing order of plausibility - for man's arrival somewhere between 30,000 and 40,000 years ago; 200,000 years ago (the notorious Calico Hills site); or even 3,000,000 years ago (at Toca de Esperança in Brazil). The more extreme claims are generally discounted, and the serious debate concerns just a few sites between 20,000 and 40,000 years ago.

(From an article by Warwick Bray in "Nature"; Vol. 332, March 10, 1988.)

THERMOLUMINESCENCE DATING OF MOUSTERIAN "PROTO-CRO-MAGNON" REMAINS FROM ISRAEL AND THE ORIGIN OF MODERN MAN

The Qafzeh and Skhul caves in Israel have yielded the remains of over 30 hominids. Despite their association with Mousterian deposits, these have been recognized as forerunners of other Homo sapiens sapiens on morphological grounds and have been called "Proto-Cro-Magnons". Other west Asian

caves (Amud, Tabun, Kebara and Shanidar) have yielded skeletal remains of Neanderthals associated with similar Middle Palaeolithic deposits. The lack of precise dates for these deposits has made it difficult to ascertain which of the two hominids was present first in the area. Recently we reported an age of 60,000 B.P. for the Neanderthal burial at Kebara (Israel). Here we report thermoluminescence dates for 20 specimens of burnt flints recovered from the hominid-bearing layers of Qafzeh. The dates, which range from 90,000 to 100,000 B.P., provide an independent measure for the great antiquity of southwest Asian modern humans which have previously been dated to 40,000 B.P. on the basis of European models. Our results also exclude a close phylogenetic relationship between the Cro-Magnons and Neanderthals.

(From an article by H. Valladas et al in "Nature"; Vol. 331, February 18, 1988.)

IN SEARCH OF ALABAMA DINOSAURS

Museum Expedition #10 for high school students, teachers and parents - a paleontological expedition in search of Alabama dinosaurs - will take place in Dallas County, Alabama from June 19 to July 16, 1988. For more information contact the State Museum of Natural History; P.O. Box 5897; The University of Alabama; Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-5897; or call 205/348-7550.

EARLY CULTURAL EVIDENCE FROM MONTE VERDE IN CHILE

The entry of the first Asians into the New World is generally thought to have occurred no earlier than 12,000 years ago. Recent archaeological evidence from South America suggests that the migration from Asia to North America might have taken place much earlier. This evidence comes from the Brazilian site of Boqueirao do Sitio da Pedra Furada, with a long cultural sequence possibly extending as far back as 32,000 years B.P., and the Chilean site of Monte Verde. This latter site has one well-documented cultural episode radiocarbon dated at 13,000 years B.P. and another possible one at 33,000 years B.P. We report here two carbon-14 dates from charcoal taken from cultural features associated with the older materials of c. 33,000 years B.P. These findings provide additional evidence that people colonized the Americas much earlier than was previously thought.

(From an article by Tom D. Dillehay et al in "Nature"; Vol. 332, March 10, 1988.)

GENETIC AND FOSSIL EVIDENCE FOR THE ORIGIN OF MODERN HUMANS

The origin of living Homo sapiens has once again been the subject of much debate. Genetic data on present human population relationships and data from the Pleistocene fossil hominid record are used to compare two contrasting models for the origin of modern humans. Both genetics and paleontology support a recent African origin for modern humans rather than a long period of multi-regional evolution accompanied by gene flow.

(From an article by C. B. Stringer et al in "Science"; March 11, 1988.)

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

THE EVOLUTION OF THE CALUSA: A Nonagricultural Chiefdom on the Southwest Florida Coast - by Randolph J. Widmer.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE CALUSA discusses how, why, and under what circumstances a complex chiefdom evolved on the southwest Florida coast, apparently without an agricultural subsistence base, and how far back in time it developed.

Available from The University of Alabama Press; Box 2877; Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-2877. 360 pages, \$18.95 plus 4% sales tax and \$1.50 per order for postage and handling.

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ANTIQUÉ MAPS, SEA CHARTS, CITY VIEWS, CELESTIAL CHARTS & BATTLE PLANS - Price Record and Handbook for 1988.

Used by collectors, dealers and libraries around the world, the Price Record is compiled annually from catalogs issued by dealers in the U.S., Canada and Europe during the previous year. Information is given for over 5,000 maps and views by hundreds of different authors printed from the 1400's to 1899. Descriptions include the maker, title, date, dimensions, condition, catalog, and price. Prices are given both in dollars and pounds sterling, and all dimensions are given in both centimeters and inches. Other features include a directory of over 600 dealers, a glossary of map- and view-related terms, a quick reference dictionary of map and view makers, etc. Attractively bound in rugged, gold-stamped buckram. 320 pages, \$34.50 book post. Available from David C. Jolly, Publishers; Post Office Box 931; Brookline, Massachusetts 02146.

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STONE AGE SPEAR AND ARROW POINTS OF THE MIDCONTINENTAL AND EASTERN UNITED STATES: A Modern Survey and Reference - by Noel D. Justice. Available from Indiana University Press; Tenth and Morton Streets; Bloomington, Indiana 47405. \$27.50 plus \$1.50 shipping (4th class).

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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
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