

Alabama Archaeological Society

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA P.O. BOX 6126, UNIVERSITY, ALA. 35486

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am anticipating with pleasure the responsibilities that have been given me by being chosen President of the Alabama Archaeological Society. A "society" has been defined as "an organized group working together because of common interests". The "common interest" of our organization is the advancement of archaeology in the state of Alabama. The several chapters share interests sometimes dictated by local problems and sometimes dictated by more theoretical interests regarding problems of inter-regional nature.

We have executed very basic research regarding the pebble tool complex and it has been developed that this is not only a local problem but one concerning archaeology all over the Americas. Local problems studied include surface surveys and salvage archaeology in potential hydroelectric reservoir areas. These studies are of extreme importance in the Alabama archaeological picture, especially regarding the historic period. We must find ways to accelerate interest and activity in all areas of interest.

We are very fortunate in having the cooperation of the University of Alabama in guiding our research efforts and disseminating our information. Our cooperation in field efforts with the University has greatly enhanced our Society. We should continue to accelerate this program.

In the coming year, I am going to actively solicit the cooperation and advice of all segments of our Society, trying to accomplish the greatest possible good for archaeology. I hope to visit with most of the chapters and will cooperate in trying to funnel pertinent assistance to areas where requested.

T. Randolph Gray

*** BIG CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR, AND PROSPECTS FOR ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY ***

J. Andrew Douglas, of tall historic lineage & Mobile, Ala., who has so generously refuted a certain "Scotch reputation" in support of our fund drive, for the SECOND time in 1968 sent another of his wonderful checks with "MERRY CHRISTMAS FOR RESEARCH".

Tom W. Cornell, gentleman of many parts including outstanding amateur archaeologist, of Huntsville, Ala., 2 days later was filled to overflowing with the same Christmas spirit for archaeology - sending his SECOND 1968 check and a note urging us to "Keep up your work of boosting the fund drive".

After a rather "slow year", these encouragements, and substantially "backed up" - and coming from end to end of Alabama - well, they iced the archaeological Christmas cake. And then - BEFORE ANY MENTION OF A 1969 FUND DRIVE:

Crawford Badham (ATTIC INSULATION CO.) of Birmingham "got ahead of us". On January 8 he decided in favor of a 1969 fund drive. No, he didn't write us a letter saying we

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should have one - HE SENT HIS CHECK. And actions still speak louder than words!

Kitty A. (Mrs. W. D.) Thomason, Albertville, Ala., 2 days later sent a second-the-motion CHECK. And this "advance generosity" seconds the very nice things we hear about her & the impressive role of being an HONORARY MEMBER of the Marshall County Chapter.

Rodger & Credith Schaefer, January 15, also took the decision by the horns and said we should begin a 1969 fund drive - with their fine annual CHECK. And we do not have words, of course, to measure Rodger's donation of devotion and work as our perennial Secretary & Treasurer - and still urging that we keep at it! Nice people.

R. Preston Watts, of our fine Huntsville Chapter, got that hurry-up feeling too, and joined in pushing us into 1969 - sending his DONATION along with Rodger's! We had been looking forward to a bit of rest from fund drive matters, frankly, but we find this eager-beaverism contagious - and love it. Thanks indeed for such a promising beginning for the TENTH ANNIVERSARY of the fund drive widely predicted "impossible".

Philip H. Smith, Representative 20th District, Talladega, introduced PROSPECTS for Alabama archaeology in our October 1968 issue by offering to "support the effort" to get STATE FINANCE interested. We are most appreciative. His legal training has given him a very precise mind, and early ambitions to go into science have given him a depth and breadth that few acquire. He is most personable, knows the niceties of diplomacy, and we find that in his first term he has already acquired a reputation for ability. Perhaps the rarest thing one expects to find, he has a true appreciation of archaeology and its neglect, problems and potentials.

Phil outlined a very clear and impressive approach toward interesting State support of archaeology. Where taxpayers and budgets are involved, requests for funds are of course doubly "involved" and require a multiple and well-supported approach. We are working on this. (We need YOUR help, too!)

One of Phil's suggestions concerned the "repayment value" of "tourist archaeology" and the advisability of a folder concerning same for possible State publication and distribution. All 14 chapters are now assisting with this, sending in Chamber of Commerce publications and other information on archaeological, historical, geological and related places of interest for a tourist map. We plan also for each Chapter to be a center of local archaeological information. Tens of millions of people have been reading the hundreds of popular books on archaeology which have sold so astonishingly for the past 15 years. We think Phil is right - Alabama should be able to "capitalize" on that interest with some REAL archaeology, and EXCEPTIONAL archaeology!

John W. Bloomer, Managing Editor of the BIRMINGHAM NEWS, Alabama's largest newspaper, has expressed a very welcome personal interest in our ambitions. Informing the public, and the electorate, is surely one of the greatest and most neglected needs of archaeology everywhere. This reflects our failure to make a big effort to interest the great American Press, which has so successfully and generously supported many amateur movements, as the crusades against TB, Polio, Heart and Cancer problems.

We are beginning to feel, cautiously, that we MAY have a CHANCE to interest State support for archaeology - an immense improvement over our small fund drives, which we could then give an "honorable discharge" from very honorable service. So this TENTH fund drive could possibly be the last - though in showing what CAN be done, it would still deserve large credit for any future eventualities.

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHILANTHROPY

"I just had a conference with Dr. Leakey. He is well pleased with the material we are finding this season. I am not at all sure at the moment as to the date or even the existence of the symposium since we are totally without funds". This is our latest communication from Ruth D. Simpson, County Archaeologist, San Bernardino County, Calif.,

and Field Director of the Simpson-Leakey excavation in an ancient alluvial fan in the Mojave Desert.

Dr. Leakey has gone on unequivocal public record concerning this site: "I think there is no real doubt in the mind of any serious geologist that the age is well over 50,000 years. The site is the first at which positive proof has been obtained of the really early movement into America of early man, and is likely to represent the most important milestone in the whole history of the study of the prehistory of America."

We go on public record as saying that we do not know of anyone more competent to make this decision than Dr. Leakey. (He had been assured that there were no artifacts at Olduvai, remember!) And we go on public record as saying that we know of nothing in world archaeology that would have a more important impact than absolute proof of man in America over 50,000 years ago. Was sapiens here, earlier than he has been found in Europe 35,000 years ago? Or did Neanderthal, or other, reach America? The startling nature of these questions lends italics to their importance.

With considerable sums going into "archaeology as usual", we are unable to understand why a site with this potential must go begging. As for the "questioned" artifacts from the site, we have UNQUESTIONABLE artifacts in Alabama which are far more "crude". Our guess is that enduring fame awaits some unusually sapient philanthropist - write Ruth D. Simpson, San Bernardino County Museum, 18860 Orange Street, Bloomington, Calif. 92316.

"MAN THE HUNTER"

Richard B. Lee & Irven DeVore, Editors, Aldine Publishing Co., 320 W. Adams St., Chicago, Ill. 60606, or book store, 1968, 415 pp., \$6.95. In interpreting the unwritten record man has left, the ultimate and most difficult function of archaeology, ethnology must be heavily relied upon for studies of primitive hunting economies. But hunter-gathering people are almost as extinct as the mammoth, and deserve all the belated attention we can muster.

When Sol Tax suggested a symposium on this subject at the University of Chicago in 1965 there was an enthusiastic response from "17 younger anthropologists who had recently completed field work among hunting peoples", encouraging the contacting of "an additional 50 scientists in social anthropology, human biology, archaeology, demography and ecology". The Wenner-Gren Foundation sponsored the symposium, which fortunately Aldine published for the benefit of all.

Even if our scholarship were equal to it, we could not find space for the many facets of this discussion. It contains much of interest which we had not seen elsewhere, and many items of special interest to us. For one example, the aboriginal Netsilik, Iglulik and Copper Eskimo in groups "averaging 100 members...lived part of each winter in villages established on the sea ice. These were the largest yearly aggregates..." - suggesting a richer ecology on ice than on land. We have teased at this thought in these pages by suggesting the possibility of an "ice bridge" entry into America. Seems possible!

MAN THE HUNTER brings together much which might otherwise be hopelessly scattered. All libraries and scholars will want this fine book.

"HEAVEN-SWORDS"

These may have more substance than the "heaven axes" which European stone hand axes were once supposed to be. The studies by Sprockhoff, Holste, Muller-Karpe, Cowen and Catling are among those stressing the importance of the sword in man's turbulent history - even in rather recent times. There is little archaeological evidence of bows and arrows in barbarian Europe, for example, between the early second millenium B.C. and the Oriental invasions from the Steppe in the Christian era. During the early part of that time the dagger (as carved at Stonehenge) was prominent, followed by the short-sword (such as the Romans made famous). The heavy "slashing sword" became popular about 1,200 B.C. True Damascene crucible-steel did not reach Europe, perhaps from India, until the 11th century, A.D. - and brittle iron makes a poor sword. Yet from very

early times, and in areas as scattered as China, Persia and Northern Europe, there were Excalibur-like legends of supreme swords of great warriors which were called "heaven-swords". It is thought that such swords may have been hammered out of tough meteoric nickel-iron which with some logic was also known as "heaven-metal". Possibly there is "survival value" in the fact that nickel was not identified until 1751 by Axel Cronstedt, and did not come into large use until this century because of the immensely complicated process of recovery from the ores. Today over 800 million pounds a year fail to supply the market for stainless steel, etc. One company, with already over 600 miles of mine shafts up to 7,000 feet deep, has a \$700 million expansion program. Prospecting is now by airplane with a magnetometer sensing head, then a few million dollars spent in drilling 100,000 feet or so of prospecting holes. Australia bids to be the new nickel bonanza, and the "heaven-metal" again shares primitive associations with such aboriginal names as Pilbara, Kalgoorlie, Widgiemooltha - where the industrial invasion seems likely to hasten the extinction of these "fossil men - the most primitive physical types on earth". Billions for nickel - how much for man?

EXCHANGE INFORMATION

ARKANSAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: The Jonesboro High School, the city in that 8th part of the state presided over by Dan Morse, has formed AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLUB. With envious gleam we are watching, in particular, such amateur repercussions of STATE SUPPORT in Arkansas. They will "snowball", and given time the prospects seem virtually limitless. Add to that the inspiration and "blueprint" the Arkansas experience affords 49 other states - weigh that for archaeological size. We'd like to see ALL amateurs join the Arkansas Society to get, and study, the monthly issues of this "primer of archaeology of the future". For we must follow this example - or there won't be any archaeology for the future. Checks payable to Arkansas Archaeological Society (\$4.00), Central Office, University of Arkansas Museum, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701 - best investment in archaeology, biggest dividends!

MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY, Colorado State College, Greeley, Colo. 80631. When you visit Mexico, and now you probably will, you can buy turtle oil cream in Acapulco; gaudy, multi-colored native pottery in Avandaro; famous lacquered gourds in Chiapa de Corzo; hand-blown glass in Guadalajara; armadillo shell guitars in Ixtapalapa; Zapotec style gold filigree jewelry in Oaxaca, and carved skull buttons, elaborate embroidered huipils and many other Indian handicrafts; fake Aztec and Toltec clay figurines suitably aged in manure in San Juan de Teotihuacan Pyramids; fascinating cambaya cloth in San Miguel de Allende; tequila, of course, in Tequila, from miniature kegs to barrels; in Zimapan quexquemittls and other strange handicrafts of the quite incredible Otomi Indians who until recent years lived in a desert area without water and only a maguey plant economy for food, drink, clothes, with hovels of sticks, stones and cactus - as fugitives from their fellow man frozen in an ancient marginal culture.

Dr. George E. Fay astonishes us with both the number and variety of his publications, written, compiled or edited by himself. The above mentions are from his KATUNOB No. 3, Misc., which lists 148 places to buy unusual things in Mexico, including many hundreds of items. KATUNOB No. 1, Misc., is a list of the hundreds of FIESTA DAYS OF MEXICO, where and when - a maze of Indian and Latin local color. KATUNOB No. 2, Misc., is your guide to 70 archaeological sites in Mexico - where, description, etc. KATUNOB No. 4, Misc., RELIGIOUS SYNCRETISM IN SPANISH AMERICA, is a study of a religion being born as a strange fusion of other religions. Since all known religions were born this way, perhaps with roots going back to Neanderthal and his burials with flowers and red ochre, this is history interestingly brought to life where it can be observed and studied - adding to our understanding of ourselves. KATUNOB, Miscellaneous Series, can be had for 65¢ each, so no student, scholar, library or institution has any excuse for not shelving them.

The large KATUNOB Newsletter-Bulletin, subscription only \$2.00 yearly, enjoys a most scholarly membership of individuals and institutions. The amazing coverage defies

even token description - In Vol. VI, No. 2, one learns of aboriginal teeth very strangely worn by "pulling sand-covered fibrous plant material obliquely through the teeth to strip off the fleshy, more edible parts"; and a few pages later encounters a list of Mexican "SAINTS DAYS" - a saint for every day of the year!

Dr. Fay's ETHNOLOGY SERIES now offers 5 publications, at \$2.00 each, on the "Charters, Constitutions and By-Laws" of (1) Sioux Tribes of South Dakota, (2) Indian Tribes of Wisconsin, (3) The Northern Plains, (4) The Southwest Apache-Mojave, (5) The Southwest Navajo-Zuni - with 5 more planned. These are invaluable reference collections and no library should be without them.

You won't want to believe it, but Dr. Fay also publishes an "Archaeology Series"! You see why he astonishes us. Presently available: "An Archaeological Study of the Peralta Complex in Sonora, Mexico", \$3.00; and "A Preliminary Archaeological Survey of Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico", \$4.00. Three pages are devoted to each figure: drawings of the artifacts, drawings of the profiles in edge view, and photographs. And illustrations are not, for once, limited to nicely shaped and well known artifacts - all sorts of crude tools, flake tools, etc., are fortunately included.

There are many people who would like to discover Dr. George E. Fay and his publications, and all institutions would be happy to shelve them. It would be a fine project for our chapters to donate his publications to their local libraries - one of our greatest archaeological failures is our neglect of public education.

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the first Thursday of each month in Room 213, Reid Hall, Samford Univ. Dr. Kerin R. Joines, Samford Professor, at the January meeting, showed slides and artifacts, and discussed the "Excavation at Ai" in which he participated last summer. For February, Dr. Harold E. Simon will speak on "They Painted the Indians", showing slides of paintings by some of America's early artists.

Choccolocco Chapter meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at Regar Museum in Anniston. Dr. Frank Conary was the speaker at the December meeting, on the subject: "Archaic Man in America", covering projectile points and other artifacts associated with the Culture. Dr. Conary will also address the January meeting on "Transitional Archaic Woodland Culture". Officers elected for 1969: Dr. Jim Kirby, President; Dr. Frank Conary, Vice President; Philip Williamson, Secy-Treas; Judy Johnson, Newsletter Editor; Directors: Floyd Bennett, Judy Johnson, Bob Pace, Colon Atkinson, John Borden and Joe Abernathy. A member was appointed to keep a Chapter Scrapbook of news and notes.

Cullman County Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 3rd Monday of each month at City Hall Auditorium, Cullman. At the December meeting, A. W. Beinlich Jr., Muscle Shoals Chapter, spoke on "Uniface Tools", showing a good collection of such artifacts and giving a well-informed and interesting discussion with a very beneficial question session. John Gustafson, Decatur Chapter, will speak to the January meeting on "Archaeological Dating Methods", a subject many Chapter members have requested be discussed.

East Alabama Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 1st Thursday of each month in Comer Hall, Auburn Univ. At the October meeting, Dr. Helen Douty of Auburn lectured on "Peru" with slides of interesting ruins. At the November meeting, Hank Barwood talked on the subject: "Rocks and other Materials the Indians Used in Alabama, and Whence They Came". Dr. & Mrs. E. D. Donnelly spoke to the December meeting on "Mound Building by Indians in our Area of the Southeast", showing Kodachrome slides of mounds in Alabama & Georgia, with 34 members present. Mrs. John W. "Randy" Cottier will address the January meeting on "Chronological History of Archaeology in Alabama". The Chapter will visit Dave Chase at Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts on January 19th to learn how archaeological remains are processed after leaving the field. Chapter Officers elected for 1969: Dr. Albert C. Trowse Jr., President; Ernest H. Williams, 2nd Vice President; Dr. William E. Goslin, Secy-Treas; Directors: Dr. William Ivey, Mrs. L. Warren Johnson, Roy Owen, Mrs. John D. French, Dr. Wayne McLaughlin.

Montgomery Chapter meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. The January meeting comprised a workshop on washing and typing of artifacts. At February meeting, Dave Chase, Museum Director, will discuss "Pottery Processing".

Morgan-Limestone Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 1st Tuesday of each month at Decatur City Hall. Jack Cambron spoke to the January meeting on "Paleo and Transitional-Paleo Points", reviewing the entrance of man into North America and the artifacts associated with Paleo Man. The speaker at the February meeting will be Horace J. Holland, Muscle Shoals Chapter. Officers elected for 1969: John Gustafson, President; Jack Cambron, Vice President; David P. Floyd, Secy-Treas.

Muscle Shoals Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 4th Monday of each month in Room W-3, Wesleyan Hall, Florence State Univ. President Fletcher Jolly will address the January meeting in the first of a series of talks on "Tools of the Archaeologist", covering excavation and study of human skeletal remains. The February meeting will feature Jack Cambron, Decatur Chapter, on "Savage Cave", with slides and artifacts from early (lower) levels including crude nodular or pebble tools which apparently are not products of the uniface culture.

Noccalula Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 1st Thursday of each month at Etowah County Court House, Gadsden. At the January meeting, Mr. Warner Floyd, Executive Director of the Alabama Historic Commission, spoke on "Preservation of Historic and Pre-Historic Sites", enlisting the aid of everyone in locating and saving such sites. Huntsville Chapter member Houston Wright, a NASA engineer who has pursued study of early man, geology and paleontology, will discuss "Flaking Techniques" at the February meeting. Work on the Horsepens 40 project is continuing as weather permits.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - STATE NEWS

NEW MEMBERS FOR JANUARY: (It is a real pleasure to welcome you, each & every one!)

Billy Marvin Buckner, 3317 Crescent Drive, Hueytown, Ala. 35020
Mrs. M. S. Daigre Jr., 1111 Berry St., Grenada, Miss. 38901
David P. Floyd, 1521 - 15th Ave. S.W., Decatur, Ala. 35601
William E. Garner, P O Box 157, Hollywood, Ala. 35768 (Family)
Hollis E. Long, P O Box 76, Golden, Miss. 38847 (Family)
H. S. Ray Jr., 658 S. Main, Russellville, Ky. 42276
Larry V. Shoemaker II, P O Box 2363, University, Ala. 35486
Eugene W. Stewart Jr., P O Box 174, Belle Mina, Ala. 35615
William Joseph Van Ells, 156 Moody St. N., Montevallo, Ala. 35115

BAD ADDRESS: (We need help from someone in Anniston!)

Clarence R. Heath, formerly of 5210 Saks Road, Anniston, Ala. 36201

Wilfred R. Van Valkenburg, longtime active member of our Huntsville Chapter, passed away in early December, 1968, and we wish to express our sincere sympathy to the family of this ardent amateur archaeologist who never failed to be present at statewide summer and winter meetings as well as summer digs, and was a Charter Donor to our Fund Drive. His constant presence and support will be sorely missed.

PEBBLE TOOLS ON SANTA ROSA ISLAND! First class air mail - a BOOK - of course from none other than our urgent archaeological communicator, Leon J. Salter: PREHISTORY OF SANTA ROSA ISLAND, Phil C. Orr, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Calif. The Museum is to be congratulated for presenting this long-kicked-around subject in an impressive volume; and Phil Orr for making an impressive case for Early Man on Santa Rosa some 50,000 or more years ago. And there seems a useful moral in his reminder that when they began investigating Santa Rosa "the 'accepted' date (for man in America) was a maximum of about 5,000" years. Fire hearths as much as 80 feet deep, with charred bones of the dwarf mammoth, and coming along with the Simpson-Leakey Mojave evidence of similar antiquity, supply further and welcome evidence that American archaeology

may be "inching" toward a new era. The Santa Rosa pebble tools of course particularly interested us. The "denticulate chopper" on p. 62 definitely "types" with many we have seen. We of course congratulated Dr. Orr and the Museum on this book, which all those interested in Early Man will want, and sent our literature on pebble tools - and thanks again to Leon.

Bill & Irene Emanuel write from Anchorage that "transformation from Alabamians to Alaskans was a bit more difficult than we had anticipated" - items such as 35 below zero! Housing costs "3 times as high as in the Dothan area", but they are comfortably situated several miles from Anchorage "at the foot of picturesque mountains...scenery is particularly beautiful...the frost-covered trees and icicles seem to glow from the sun traveling along the horizon." Thick woods and few roads offer little surface archaeology - which of course goes into "deep freeze" in winter. They have met a geologist who worked with the late famous Giddings. Rather than torment our appetites with a list of exotic Alaskan "ice-age" delicacies, they sent us "Smokey Joe's TOTEM of Selected Alaskan Delicacies", a cylinder with colorful totem poles all around and containing: Alaskan minced buttered clams, reindeer sausage in northland sauce, choice smoked salmon, and lingonberry jelly - yum-yum! The "sourdoughs" have it better these days. We hope Bill and Irene can find time to share with all of us more about their "Alaskan adventure", quite another world. They send "our best to everyone" and if "everyone" will write them our chance of news will be improved (7701 Anne Circle, Anchorage, AK 99504).

NEWSLETTER ANNUAL REPORT: Our best 1968 report is that more members have been contributing to these pages, and that the Educational Pages supplied in rotation by members of the Chapters have been of high quality. YOUR interest in YOUR Newsletter is good. Our circulation continues to widen - out-of-state mailings now in close competition with state mailings. Institutions in flattering numbers continue to join, and we enjoy considerable mention in other Newsletters. Proudly "being our own publishers" has added to the work, but we have "mastered the trade" satisfactorily. In our years of publication we have recorded much progress in Alabama archaeology, and hope we may have been of some assistance - and can be in 1969.

BURIED ARCHAEOLOGY: We owe so much to the "burying agents" which have preserved the archaeological record as man left it, and where scientific excavators can "read it" - the midden accumulations, the wind-blown loess, the sediments of lakes and streams. Today man has become the great burying agent, for which future generations will thank us. But we could help them! The magnificent ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT JAMESTOWN had to proceed without city maps or other documents! In Rome, in London, in Mexico City foundation excavations discover archaeological remains by accident - there are no records! Is there a topographical map of the original survey of Birmingham to guide archaeologists to where aboriginal sites should be buried? Silted lakes are wonderful preservatives - Leakey's "oldest stone tool maker" was deeply buried under lacustrine deposits. We are "making lakes" with impounded waters as never before - have we a PERMANENT way to preserve the excellent reservoir topographical maps which would be so valuable as indicators of where sites might be - for archaeologists 5 and 10 and 20 thousand years from now? Shouldn't archaeology begin to look as far ahead as it does behind, and leave appropriate and PERMANENT records as guides to the archaeology we bury and bequeath to a more competent future?

PROJECTILE POINTS: On page 9 of the January 1969 Newsletter, we quoted the announcement of the Special Bulletin 3 of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society describing 50 additional points. Enclosed this month is a "flyer" from that Society which will enable you to order the new publication, as well as the previous Bulletins.

HANDBOOK OF TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGY, the first of the projectile point type books, and long out of print, we learn is now available again from University Microfilms, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106, at \$9.60 per copy.

EDUCATIONAL PAGE

A CHOICE: POT HOUND, VANDAL OR ARCHAEOLOGIST?

The people who delight in finding a rare artifact, who collect points or celts for pleasure, are affectionately known as "pot hounds". Another group of people who search for and dig out graves for personal profit (hopefully) is called grave robbers or vandals. Archaeologists delight in both finding rare artifacts and digging out graves for personal profit (professional recognition, at least). What then makes the archaeologist different? Why is he not a "pot hound" or a vandal?

The distinction between the archaeologist (amateur or professional) and the "pot hound" or the vandal is in the purpose being served. In simple terms, the archaeologist is dedicated to finding out HOW PEOPLE LIVED IN THE PAST. To name a few, he seeks to answer such questions as: How many persons lived together as a unit? Were the people basically farmers? What burial customs were used? What constituted the main diet? What contacts existed with other groups? What tools were commonly used? How long was the living site occupied? What was the life span of the people? What were the physical characteristics of the people? What kinds of dwellings were used? How advanced was the group's culture? What were the social aspects of the people's lives?

Answers to these and other questions are arrived at through the use of archaeological processes. These processes depend on the finding and classifying of the handiwork of the group being studied. The steps employed are, of course, the methods of digging, the techniques for preserving remains for later detailed study, and the procedures for classifying artifacts. EACH of these steps MUST be performed in carefully stipulated ways under the guidance of a professional if the results are to be of any real use. One needs to always bear in mind that the data developed by an archaeologist is made public; therefore, others can and will be using the results. Obviously, then, it is a professional obligation to provide reliable data.

Let's assume that we have at hand a reasonable amount of archaeological data. How does one go about the task of finding out how people lived in the past? In other words, how does one interpret the archaeological data? The basic theme that is used in interpretation is association. In simple terms, what is the relationship between the various items? The first question of interest is that of the horizontal association between the items. How far apart were these items on the site? This question is usually answered by laying the site out into grids. Once such a grid system is constructed it becomes an easy task to designate the particular grid as well as the location within a given grid at which various items are found. In short, horizontal association has been established for each item to every other item.

Some of the obvious horizontal associations to be investigated are those of fire pits to refuse pits, post holes of dwellings to pits and burials, dwellings to streams, dwellings to dwellings. Every reader can easily add other associations of equal interest. Obviously, the questions that are of an issue in horizontal association can only be dealt with IF site excavation is conducted systematically and completely. An excavation that is concerned only with digging out prominent features cannot provide useful data from which to deal with such questions. Instead, once a feature is located, the immediate area needs to be uncovered so that all related features can be found. Thus, family unit data becomes available.

The second question is that of vertical association. It is common knowledge that one records the depth at which an item is found, using arbitrary levels for excavation when it is impossible to identify the various layers of soil that are being dug thru, since horizontal associations are dependent upon vertical associations. Only those features located in the same strata can be presumed to be horizontally associated. So, if the value of establishing associations is recognized by the professional archaeologist, then the value of a careful and consistent method of laying out a site and recording the finds will be appreciated.

After all, we really don't want to be "pot hounds" or vandals, do we?

Dr. Franklin M. Conary, Choccolocco Chapter

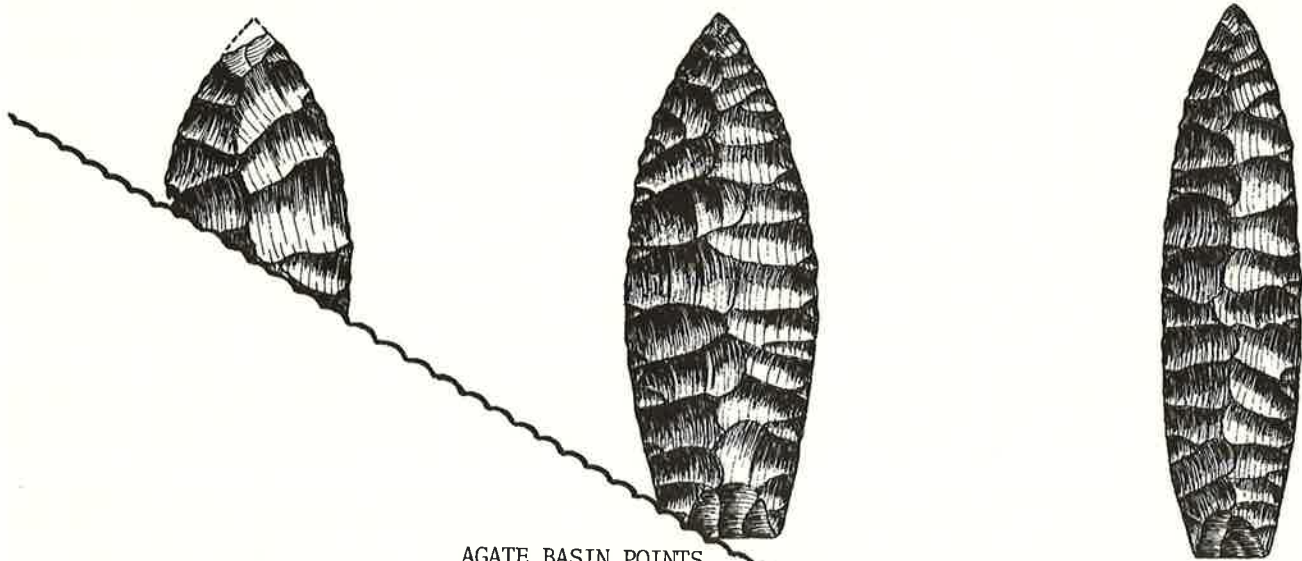
THE THIRD GUIDE IS READY

GUIDE TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF CERTAIN AMERICAN INDIAN PROJECTILE POINTS

Special Bulletin 3 of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society is JUST OFF THE PRESS!

50 American Indian Projectile Points are amply illustrated, thoroughly described and discussed – see actual pages:

AGATE BASIN



AGATE BASIN POINTS

Agate Basin points were reported by Frank H. H. Roberts and others at an interesting site in Agate Basin which drains into the North Platte River in Wyoming. Their first description was by H. M. Wormington (1915).

Description

Thirty-two points were found by Roberts and over thirty-eight by others. The points are long and slender with parallel or slightly convex edges. They are late points with basal grinding and horizontal flaking. There is a fine marginal retouch, but basal thinning is usually absent.

Distribution

There is little in the literature regarding distribution of the Agate Basin point. A study of collections indicates they are well represented in most of the following states: Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and much of Montana and southwestern Canada.

ORDER FORM

William H. Harwood, Secretary-Treasurer
Oklahoma Anthropological Society
P. O. Box 531
Ponca City, Oklahoma 74601

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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.



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