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Alabama Archaeological Society

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2602 Green Mountain Rd.
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

Volume 30

Number 1

DR. CLAUDE EARLE SMITH, JR.

Earle Smith was killed in an automobile accident October 19, 1987 on his way to teach a class at The University of Alabama. His contributions in Paleobotany over the many years have benefited archaeology in Alabama and elsewhere. Dr. Smith will be and is missed because of his contributions and because, perhaps more importantly, his friendly and personable approach to all people.

The Editors

INDIAN ART EXHIBIT TO OPEN ON JANUARY 31ST AT THE ANNISTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

"Keepers of Culture: Contemporary Southeastern Indian Artists" will open in the Museum's Changing Exhibit Gallery on Sunday, January 31, 1988. The dramatic exhibition will feature the artistic works of 15 Native American artists, all of whom trace their ancestry to Creek, Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, or Seminole heritage.

The exhibition features paintings and sculptures by outstanding Indian artists from throughout the country. A four-color catalogue is currently being produced to document the show and special programs are currently in the planning stages. Tentative plans include an evening members' reception and program on Thursday, February 18th, as well as an afternoon of Native American experiences planned for Saturday, February 20th, from 1 to 4 p.m. The exhibit will continue in the gallery through March 13, 1988.

"Keepers of Culture" is intended to honor outstanding Indian artists and to increase the public's awareness and understanding of contemporary Indian art. This project has been made possible by a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

The Editors

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 65th Annual Meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science will be held at Auburn University March 23-26, 1988. For more information write the Alabama Academy of Science Administrative Officer; 94 Lucerne Boulevard; Birmingham, Alabama 35209.

JANUARY 1988

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January 1988

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^{*-} mediate past president of the Alabama Archaeological Society.

SOUTH ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY

The city of Mobile Archaeological Preservation Committee holds its meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at the University of South Alabama Archaeology Lab. The Committee, created by city ordinance, has 15 members who are appointed by the city commissioners. Mr. Jack Friend, a long-time advocate of site preservation, has served a chairman for the last two years. While the committee has worked on a number of projects, emphasis during the last year has been the development of a city archaeological preservation ordinance. The initial drafts, based on the award-winning Pensacola law, have been written and hopefully the legislation will be submitted to the Mobile Commission before the years end.

University of South Alabama Archaeologist Diane Sylvia has completed the analysis of artifacts from the Bienville Square project. The site has aboriginal and early 18th century French components. Diane is submitting, for publication, a report based

on those investigations.

During October we were honored with a visit by Baker Caroline Dean from Opelika. As you probably know, president elect of the Alabama Archaeological Society Caroline is an advanced amateur botanist. On October 11th we visited the large Mississippian Center at Bottle Creek. Later in the week Don Bland, a biologist with the Alabama Department Conservation, took us on a tour of the Dauphin Island Midden. Don, who was raised on the Shawnee Reservation Oklahoma, has helped U.S.A. with a number of projects. good at identifying mollusk and fish remains archaeological middens. Don is currently creating an ethnobotanical garden near the shell mound. If you are down on the Island check with Don and see if he will give you the 25 cent tour of the park.

During the fall quarter U.S.A. has seven anthropologists teaching thirteen courses. Also, several major research projects

are underway at the insitution.

On the 3rd of November Dr. Richard Diel, Chair of the Anthropology Department at the University of Alabama, gave a lecture at U.S.A. on the Toltec site of Tula. The talk was

sponsored by the John Ledyard Anthropology Club.

In addition to the usual cultural resources assessments U.S.A.'s Archaeology Lab is testing three stratified Middle and Late Gulf Formational sites in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. We have developed two fiber tempered Middle Gulf Formational complexes and are working on the Bayou La Batre problem. One thing for certain-Bayou La Batre doesn't date to 1500 B.C.

Read Stowe Archaeology Lab University of South Alabama

EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

The Eastern States Archeological Federation met with SEAC recently. Because of SEAC, there was a good delegation from Alabama - total registration was over 430. The 1988 meeting will be in Toronto at the Westbury Hotel.

Marjorie Gay Standing Rock

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter

Dr. Boyce Driscoll and six-year-old Nathan Driscoll, his father's field assistant, came to Birmingham with excellent slides and an illuminating lecture on "Egypt, South of the Aswan Dam". Most of us remember the dramatic removal of the temples and the colossal statues at Abu Simbel but are not familiar with the removal of towns and villages required by the flooding of Lake Aswan. Dr. Driscoll has worked for three years as part of an international team excavating the town of Basr Ibrim while based on a large three-decker boat in the lake.

The towns and villages, inhabited and active a few years ago, were part of Old Nubia before becoming Egypt and Sudan. The archaeologists found evidence of habitation back to the second century B.C. Many invasions in the area from Ptolemaic armies through the Ottoman Turks have left their artifacts and language. Our group saw slides of pottery, baskets, even fabric and paper! Our members learned about a place and time little known to us.

Helen Mabry Birmingham

Coosa Valley Chapter

The Coosa Valley Chapter held its October meeting on the 29th at Brewer Hall on the Jacksonville State University campus. Thirty-six members and guests were present to hear Mr. Eugene Futato present a slide-lecture program on the Tel Halil excavations in Israel. Mr. Futato outlined the copper, iron, and historical ages discovered in the excavations and exhibited several artifacts on loan from the Tel Halil project.

The November 17 program was a slide-lecture presentation on petroglyphs in the Tennessee River Valley by Mr. Bart Henson of Huntsville. Thirty members and guests attended the presentation and viewed the plaster casts of petroglyphs exhibited by Mr. Henson.

Club business was conducted at both meetings and field trips were discussed. Several club members enjoyed field trips in October to Etowah Mounds and Kennesaw Battlefield and in November to Chickamauga Battlefield.

Dr. Phillip E. Koerper, Chapter President, announced that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, January 28, 1988 at 7:00 in Brewer Hall on the Jacksonville State University campus. The speaker will be Mr. Carey Oakley, Office of Archaeological Research, who will present a lecture on the recent archaeological investigations in North Alabama. The annual club party will follow the meeting at the home of Dr. Harry O. Holstein.

Brigitte Cole

Muscle Shoals Chapter

The Muscle Shoals Chapter held its November meeting on the 9th. Twenty-four members and guests attended. Sue Ellison of Florence gave an interesting lecture on Southwestern Indian Life. She then showed and told the history of several pieces of Southwestern jewelry and other items from that part of the country.

Houston Wright of Huntsville presented our program on December 14 at the Indian Mound Museum.

Charles Moore Florence

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Two tours of Mayan archaeological sites and contemporary villages and towns in Yucatan will be offered by Dr. Patrick Morris and Dr. Anne Rogers, professional anthropologists.

From March 5-12, visit the Caribbean coastal sites of Yucatan. Plan to see Tulum, Xel Ha and others in that area as well as the sites of Kohunlich, Xpujil, Becan and Chicanna.

From May 10-19, 1988, visit Merida, Dzibilchaltun, Oxkintok, Uxmal, Kabah, Sayil, Labna, Xlapak, Chichen Itza and more.

For more information contact Dr. Patrick Morris; P. O. Box 1086; Cullohwee, North Carolina 28723, or call him at 704/293-3439 in the evening.

The Editors

OHIO VALLEY SYMPOSIUM

The 6th Annual Symposium on Ohio Valley Urban and Historic Archaeology will convene at the Cultural Center/Capitol Complex, Charleston, West Virginia 25305 on March 18-19, 1988. This meeting is being hosted by the West Virginia Department of Culture History. The program will be formatted by

topic, and papers dealing with the Upper and Central reaches of the Ohio Valley region are encouraged. For more information write to Philip J. DiBlasi; ARCHAEOLOGY; University of Louisville; Louisville, Kentucky 40292; or call him at 502/588-6724.

The Editors

GETTING BLOOD FROM STONE TOOLS

New techniques developed by the Canadian scientist Thomas Loy have led to the discovery of Neanderthal blood on a stone tool from a site in Iraq, and to the accurate identification of the animal species on which other stone tools were used. Extracting blood from stones is likely to be of great importance in terms of new archaeological knowledge, and a massive amount of work remains to be done on the millions of stone tools lying in the museums of the world. These tools may hold the kind of information which early archaeologists could only dream of obtaining.

After use of a tool, blood dries and fixes quickly, although some seeps into the surrounding soil when the object lies buried. Providing that the right combination of temperature, moisture and acidity is present, the haemoglobin survives intact, and can therefore be crystallized out and analyzed, assuming that the tool is not cleaned too well after excavation. The shape of the crystals of haemoglobin varies between animal species, and provides a means of identifying on which animal a tool was used.

Loy now has extended and improved the technique. He finds that blood residues can survive on tools for at least 100,000 years; three tools from Barda Balka, northeast Iraq, had deposite of mammalian (probably ruminant) blood, and this open-air site has been dated geologically to between 75,000 and 125,000 years ago.

(From an article by Paul G. Bahn in "Nature", November 5, 1987)

The Editors

A.A.S. ANNUAL MEETING

We would like to offer our thanks and congratulations to Nancy Rohr, Program Chairman of the December 5 A.A.S. Annual Meeting. Nancy planned and organized an outstanding agenda and saw to the myriad details and local arrangements associated with the meeting. The Huntsville Chapter was pleased to have the opportunity to host this meeting.

The Editors

PUBLICATION	S AVAILABLE							
Available issues of Journal of Alabama Archaeology Vol. 20-29 ear								
Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations (Journal of Alabama Arc								
Special Publication 1 — Fort Mitchell								
Special Publication 2 — The Archaeological Sequence at Durant B								
Special Publication 3 — Archaeological Investigations at Horsesho	\$6.50 pp							
Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part 1, Point Types	\$10.00 pp							
Lively, Long, Josselyn - Pebble Tool Paper								
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Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology (Juvenile) \$7.00 pp								
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