

Alabama Archaeological Society

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA P.O. BOX 6135, UNIVERSITY, ALA. 35486

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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MAY 2 - 1970

THE BORDES VISIT

Dr. Francois Bordes' visit to Alabama, though only a brief one week working period, is going to be remembered a long time. "Pebble tools", "crude tools", "simple tools" - no matter what we call them - we are now ASSURED that "they are tools". As Dan Josselyn so often said: "It is difficult for the BI-FACE EYE to see these SIMPLE TOOLS." Many have said that these tools are nothing but cores, the residue of projectile point manufacture. Others have said that they are rejects, thrown aside by the Indians after being tested to see if they would produce good flakes for manufacture of bi-face tools. Dr. Bordes says: "These are tools!" So we have a job ahead of us! This will involve:

(1) Making surface collections from sites where these "simple tools" occur, being sure not to make a "selective" collection, but to make a "representative" collection - that is, picking up some of everything, including worked flakes and unworked flakes. Of course, washing and cataloguing each piece are necessary responsibilities of the collecting, with cataloguing done in such a manner that there will be no confusion as to exactly what site the material came from, or exactly what PART of a site in those cases where collections are made from various parts of a site.

(2) Mapping the exact location of each site, either on a topographic map or aerial photograph, or both if available. If neither is available, determine the location from a county map and make an effort to find the elevation (above sea level) of the site.

(3) Classifying the finds from each site. This is the point where we need to make use of our JOURNALS, of the Cambron & Hulse HANDBOOK contributions, and the various archaeological publications describing sites and archaeological material from Alabama and surrounding states. These will guide us in classifying most of what we find in the way of projectile points, pottery, etc., but not the "simple tools". As yet, we have no published guide to the classifying of the "simple tools" from Alabama shown to Dr. Bordes during his visit in Birmingham. However, Dr. Don Dragoo of the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh was with Dr. Bordes here in Birmingham during the review of the Alabama "simple tools", accompanied Dr. Bordes to California where they together examined tools from that area, and then the 2 of them met in Pittsburgh to examine "simple tools" Dr. Dragoo has obtained, principally from Tennessee. From these studies, together with studies we shall make in Alabama, we shall have in the not too distant future some sort of tentative guide to classifying these "simple tools" so we at least communicate with each other as to what we are finding on our "simple tool" sites.

(4) Writing up our finds for publication.

MAY 1970

(5) All this will require the help of everyone. Contact Steve B. Wimberly, Old Looney Mill Road, Route 13 Box 826, Birmingham, Ala. 35216.

DIG SITE PROGRESS REPORT

The process of surveying, testing and evaluating sites to determine the location for the Summer Dig continues.

Several weeks ago, we visited an interesting site near Decatur, called to our attention by Jack Cambron. Near a spring on an old alluvial creek terrace, the site extends over an area at least 200 yards long. Hundreds of lithic tools, including fluted points, large stemmed forms and crude uniface and biface tools have been surface collected from the site, but much remains within the plow zone. Perhaps one or 2 weeks of excavation would provide a large enough sample for study. The site merits limited excavation, and may be included within the summer project. We will return to Decatur to test another Paleo-Indian site, also reported by Mr. Cambron.

On another weekend, A.J. & Elizabeth Mims, Joan Eich, Valli Nance, Charles Hubbert and I tested a site near Florence. Mr. Hubbert, who informed us of actually a series of Paleo-Indian sites in this area, is currently a graduate student in anthropology at the Tuscaloosa campus, and has been an active amateur in the Florence area for several years. He will be on our dig crew this summer.

The Florence sites have yielded Paleo-Indian surface components, which apparently do not contain Archaic material. The possibility exists that one or more of these sites may have part of its component buried in an undisturbed matrix. Our testing, of course, was directed toward this eventuality, but more testing, and testing during a drier time of year will be needed to evaluate the sites. Unfortunately, it may be that the artifact bearing deposits are permanently below the present water table.

Finding and properly excavating a buried, undisturbed Paleo-Indian component is a worthy goal for any archaeological field project. However, a careful testing program coupled with ample communications from individuals who know of sites with this potential (and who are willing to share this information), will be required to reach this goal.

All of this is not to say that we are wholly preoccupied with this problem. Other prehistoric periods and other areas of the State pose problems perhaps even more difficult and certainly of equal interest. A case in point: Ned Jenkins described the importance of the Durantes Bend site on the Alabama River near Selma in the April 1970 issue of STONES & BONES. This Woodland and Mississippian site is being carefully considered for the summer dig, and we plan at least 2 days of testing there within the next month.

Our crew for the summer is taking form and will include experienced archaeologists. Besides Charles Hubbert, William Wesley of Huntsville and Polly Stubbs of Morris will be on the crew. All have course work in anthropology and/or experience in controlled excavations. The Assistant this summer will be Ernest Chandonet, who is an artist-architect-anthropologist with field experience in California, Utah and the Sudan. In the Sudan, he directed excavation of a 5th century Christian fortress on the Upper Nile. Also with us will be A.J. & Elizabeth Mims and Leslie Brittain, who excavated with me at 1 STC 100, a large Woodland site near Ragland. The Mimses also have been active in our testing program. (Roger Nance)

1970 - OUR ELEVENTH ANNUAL DIG FUND - 1970

From the foregoing report by Roger Nance, who is Archaeologist-in-Charge of our dig this summer, you will understand that testing and evaluating sites is progressing, and that announcement regarding the site or sites determined to be our best bets for this year might possibly appear in next month's Newsletter. We would be most happy for this to take place, but are a bit concerned, frankly, that more of our dependable donors for these summer excavations haven't yet "checked" in. It's still early, but we believe sincerely in the old "Now is the time..." admonition.

Our face is slightly crimson regarding the unintentional delay in acknowledging the donations of the first 2 good folks on the list this month, since their contributions were made during February, and somehow they failed to get listed in either the March or April Newsletters. Please forgive us! Here are this month's donors:

Mrs. Houston Glover, our good Huntsville friend, made her FIFTH consecutive donation, sharing her interest in her "Traveling Archaeological Exhibit" with our dig.

Walter T. Bishop, a State Society member who makes his home in Bolivar, Tennessee, makes his SECOND donation to finance our excavations, and we appreciate it.

NOCCALULA CHAPTER of our State Society in Gadsden, for the SIXTH consecutive year, contributes to our dig fund, specifying it is "In loving memory of Dan Josselyn".

R. A. "Dick" Humbard, a Charter Donor from Birmingham, increases to NINE the number of donations he has made toward financing our ambitious summer programs.

John A. Stellmack, University Park, Pennsylvania, sends in his THIRD fine check and thus continues as one of our much appreciated out-of-state summer dig donors.

William Truman Ryan reflects the continuing activity of our Huntsville Chapter by sending in his donation for the FOURTH time he has supported us this way.

V. M. Scott of Talladega, Alabama, becomes our SIXTH new donor this year, and we want him to know of our appreciation for his generous check and his obvious interest.

The above listed contributions toward making possible a properly supervised excavation this summer brings total donations to THIRTY, of which EIGHT are Dan Josselyn memorial gifts. In coin of the realm, we have thus far received \$442.65 regular dig donations, and \$180.00 in memory of dear Dan! So maybe you can understand our concern that (heaven forbid!) for the very first time in our ELEVEN years of dig funds, we might not get in a sufficient total fund to take care of expenses. We have faith in our membership and friends, though, and remain cautiously optimistic!

DIFFUSION BY RAPE

The few remaining isolated tribes with cultural levels much as they were 10,000 years ago, remind how important "diffusion" must have been in making cultures at least more complicated - one might debate how much of this represents actual "progress". Methods of diffusion become important in this respect. The most abrupt and wholesale diffusions historically recorded have resulted from the rape of armies gathering the loot (and other wholesale rapes must have done much toward mixing ethnic groups). Napoleon's rape of Egyptian antiquities and art is perhaps the most familiar example in archaeological circles. In the Sumerian world 5,000 years ago, the city states had made a fine art of it - especially collecting the gods of other city states for what doubtful value other gods might have. The "Christian" crusaders sacked Constantinople in 1204, and Rome in 1527, perhaps primarily because art treasures could be turned into gold. Rome, with some value of art and more for gold, was the master of the sackers - mostly from the far superior centers of Greek culture. (Though the European nations in modern times did a pretty good job of looting Peking in 1860 and again in 1900-1901.) Major Roman rapes began in 212 B.C. when Claudius Marcellus plundered Syracuse - and fabulous Archimedes was killed! Somewhere between the year 1 and 5 of Roman history, per Titus Livius, an honorable historian, there was a far more famous and obviously earlier rape by Romans - that of the Sabines, which also caused diffusion. Quintus Maximus Fabius plundered Tarentum in 209 B.C. - the growing popularity of Greek cultural objects had begun to make this sort of plunder a major aim of war. It lavishly graced the great estates, and religious piety inspired

the desire to embellish the temples. In 187 B.C., Gnaeus Manlius returned from a long Syrian expedition with enough booty (despite heavy losses crossing Thrace) to excite repulsion (or envy?) among the Romans. Aemilius Paulus Macedonicus sacked the remarkable library and art collection of Perseus in 168 B.C. Corinth was "utterly" sacked by L. Mummius in 146 B.C. When Felix Sulla took the ripe and wonderful plum of Athens in 86 B.C., the Greek treasures of centuries fell to plundering and inept hands. The tide of revulsion (or envy?) seems to have developed a bit in 75 B.C. when Verres returned from Sicily with outrageous treasures - he was prosecuted (by no less than Cicero) and in spite of the support of the entire aristocracy, condemned in absentia. Verres had taken refuge in Marseilles. The sack of Rhodes in 43 by Cassius Longinus destroyed the last, and glorious, school of Greek art and dried up the fountain of loot.

Perhaps there are 2 morals in this for us. First, people were becoming dimly aware of the fact that THE PAST has much to offer us - sometimes even putting to shame our modern equivalents. Second, this past has been preserved most clumsily and destructively - guided by little more than the greed of loot - heaven help us! Quite recently, in fact tragically so, a systematic method of recovery, understanding and preservation of the past has begun to develop. We call it archae-ology (from the Greek "ancient - study of"). It tells us much that only as late as December 28, 1913 was the "Aphrodite of Cyrene" again added to the art treasures of the world (somewhat mutilated). We have only begun to tap the cultural treasure-chest of the past - and it is being destroyed as rapidly as our clean waters and air, our wildlife and forests. And, incredibly, LOOTING still dominates the attitude toward the unwritten, and once destroyed unrecoverable, history of man. The little broken pieces diffused by this modern rape are meaningless, and will not enrich as diffusion has and should - archaeologically, we'll be isolated Australoids! (Much used in this summary of evidence was the late George Sarton's A HISTORY OF SCIENCE, Hellenistic Science and Culture in the Last Three Centuries B.C., John Wiley and Sons, paperback \$2.65, one of our very favorites.) (DWJ)

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 1st Thursday of each month in Room 213, Reid Chapel, Samford University. At the May meeting, the Rev. Leon W. Gillespie, Executive Vice President, Southeastern Bible College of Birmingham, who holds an MA degree from the University of Alabama in anthropology, will speak on "What Missionaries Think of Anthropologists".

Choctawhatchee Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 1st Monday of each month at Houston Memorial Library, Dothan. The April meeting was called to order by President Gordon Willis and after a business discussion, Mr. William Norbam showed a very interesting film on "The Yucatan", followed by a brief question and answer period.

Cullman County Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 3rd Monday of each month at Cullman City Hall. The April program will be given by a group of Tennessee State Society members from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, led by Dr. M. L. Myhan. They will show and discuss some 40 odd boards of artifacts found in the Lawrenceburg and surrounding area of the Tennessee River Valley.

Morgan-Limestone Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 1st Tuesday of each month in Decatur City Hall. At the May meeting, Mr. A. W. Beinlich Jr., Muscle Shoals Chapter, will speak on "Head and Scalp Trophies", discussing skull cults and scalping practices in America and throughout the world. Analysis of the material collected at the Cave Spring excavation is approximately half completed and several more weeks will be required to completely classify the material, and it will then be reported.

(Our "Secretary" apologizes for possibly not mailing Chapter Report Forms this month)

ANNOUNCEMENTS - STATE NEWS

NEW MEMBERS DURING APRIL: (We're so happy to have you with us for 1970)

Edwin C. Bearss, 1126 - 17th St. S., Arlington, Va. 22202 (Family)
Jack E. Fuller, 508 East St., Moulton, Ala. 35650 (Family)
Dr. Richard Hutson, 335 Crowell Circle, Redstone Arsenal, Ala. 35809
Jerry D. Jackson, 521 Lupton Drive, Chattanooga, Tenn. 37415
Horst Klein, East Park Apts. #48, Auburn, Ala. 36830 (Family)
Hardee Mahoney, 4132 Robin Hood Road, Jacksonville, Fla. 32210
Jerald T. Milanich, Dept. Anthropol., 115 ASB, Univ. of Fla., Gainesville, Fla. 32601
Mrs. Josephine Payne, 2713 Biscayne St., Huntsville, Ala. 35805
Larry D. Phillips, Rt. 1, Kimberly Court, Lot 65, Decatur, Ala. 35601 (Family)

BAD ADDRESS: Mrs. Henry Gary Jr., formerly 1901 Sanford Road, Phenix City, Ala.

STATE SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS: By special arrangement, it will henceforth be possible to obtain a copy of HANDBOOK OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY, PART II, UNIFACE BLADE & FLAKE TOOLS, by Cambron & Hulse, privately published by Jack Cambron, by mailing your \$2.25 check payable to The Archaeological Research Association of Alabama Inc., to Mr. David L. DeJarnette, Curator, University of Alabama Museums, Moundville, Ala. 35474. This is the same source for obtaining our HANDBOOK OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY, PART I, POINT TYPES (\$7.35 postpaid) and inserts for first and second editions of the Point Book (75¢ postpaid) adding 6 points on 3 pages.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING: Secretary Schaefer has mailed notices of the meeting to be held Friday, May 8th, 7:00 PM, at Ed Salem's Restaurant & Drive-In #2, 3201 Third Avenue South (on U.S. Highway 78 to Atlanta) in Birmingham.

One of the subjects to be discussed is the submission of a list of 3 qualified archaeologists representing our State Society to the Alabama Historical Commission, set up by Act #168 (H270) in 1966 for the purpose of acquiring by purchase, devise, gift, bequest, assignment, or transfer of buildings, objects, or site of historical, archaeological or architectural significance. Current House Bill 728 would amend the previous Act, increasing the Commission to 15 members, and establishing a board of advisors to the Commission consisting of not less than 15 persons to be nominated by 40 different associations or historical societies throughout the State. One of the 3 archaeologists whose names are to be submitted, will be named to the Commission.

REPRINTS: On Page 10 of last month's Newsletter, 3rd item, announcement was made of the possible reprinting of EXPLORATIONS OF THE ABORIGINAL REMAINS OF TENNESSEE, by Joseph Jones, M.D., originally published in 1876 as "Smithsonian Contribution to Knowledge #259" and has been out of print for years. The Tennessee Archaeological Society Newsletter for January-February 1970, Vol. XV, No. 1, states that the volume will also include CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF MISSOURI, PART I, POTTERY, published in 1880 by the St. Louis Academy of Science. Further information can be obtained, or your order placed at the Tenase Co., P O Box 2284, Knoxville, Tenn. 37901, at a special pre-publication price of \$12.00 (List Price will be \$15.95.)

INDIAN ARTIFACTS TRAVELING EXHIBIT, about which items have appeared from time to time in our Newsletter, and which has been promulgated by our good member, Mrs. Houston Glover, is now ready. It will be displayed first by the Huntsville Art League and Museum Association, 311 Clinton Ave. W., Huntsville, from April 20th through May 15th and will then travel to about 10 other cities and towns in North Alabama. We shall try and find out the places and dates, and publish the information subsequently so that still other places may try and make arrangements for the exhibit locally. The publicity indicates the exhibit to be most complete and worthwhile, involving most Alabama cultures, in 9 display panels and several glass display cases.

THE BATON OF MONTGAUDIER (or, HOW WELL DO YOU LOOK?): Our friend, Dr. Bill Clench, until recently Curator of Mollusks at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard - and only a little busier in his retirement - finds time to clip and send us Alexander Marshack's delightful article from NATURAL HISTORY, Vol. 79, No. 3, March 1970, raising ghosts of Dan Josselyn and his countless exhortations to "look better" - through a microscope! The Baton de Commandement, made of the antler of reindeer more than 12,000 years extinct, "about 14½ inches long...superbly engraved on both faces with many different kinds of animals", is a product of the late Magdalenians of Ice Age France. Excavated in 1885, coated with protective wax, and "laid to rest" under Museum glass, it seemed destined for another millenium of inhumation. Then, in 1967, M. Marshack "looked like Dan" - through a modern binocular zoom microscope - and strange things began happening. "Barbed weapons" turned into plants in full leaf, a spring or summer phenomenon; mackerel became salmon, "not a generalized fish, or even a fish of a particular species, but a fish with differentiated sex and seasonal attributes" - all that, and more. The result? Some insight into the late Magdalenians and how they looked - perhaps not through a microscope, but with a critical and discerning eye, and a mind bent upon understanding and recording the facts of their environment. Surely, we could all try to "look as good"!

(Editor's note: Those reading M. Marshack's article will want to check page 78 of the APRIL 1970 issue of NATURAL HISTORY for corrections in several areas, and for the author's expressed: "hope that the general reader as well as the specialist will also avoid making too hasty interpretations or reinterpretations from the data, for this is a new field and it will be years before the full significance of the research is realized.")

BACK IN NOVEMBER 1969, we were advised: "Know your Bordes", and his book THE OLD STONE AGE was recommended. An Article in the July 18, 1969, SCIENCE, "Mousterian Cultures in European Russia" is very informative reading, and includes a chart applying Bordes' tool type classification - 63 types are named and pictured. Know your Bordes! Check on this article. (William H. Wesley, Huntsville)

J. Birney Work, our State Society member in Chicago, has dropped us a letter with a few comments on a couple of archaeological sites in another part of the world. He visited 2 near Nairobi which were excavated by Dr. Leakey, in the Great Rift Valley, a geological fault that extends nearly the full length of eastern Africa.

The Kariandusi site is high up on a cliff which in ages past had been a lake beach. It is an open excavation, 5 x 20 yards, covered with a corrugated iron shelter to protect it from erosion. Artifacts and animal bones and teeth were left in situ and were dated at 130,000 years ago. The implements were all hand-axes similar to the Acheulean culture of Western Europe, and were mostly obsidian. There was no evidence that the occupants had the use of fire.

The other was the Hyrex Hill site, so called from a small rodent that lives in the area. The items of interest are a small museum and some very good artifacts from more recent cultures, 25,000 years B.P., including bifacially worked points, blades, arrow barbs, scrapers, etc. The out-of-door sites were the remains of pit dwellings, being walls of loosely stacked stones in a roughly circular arrangement. The excavations revealed many sherds and obsidian artifacts. An older Neolithic burial area was found nearby and was excavated and is now an open pit covered by a corrugated roof that shelters the skeletal remains.

The Museum in Nairobi also has very good exhibits and dioramas.

(Editor's Note: Many thanks, Birney, for the interesting information furnished.)

John B. Cotton of Birmingham brings to our attention an article on Page 48 of the May 1970 Issue of TRUE Magazine by Douglas Matthews, entitled "The Summer Vacation you'll Really Dig". The article has to do with the wide use of volunteer labor on archaeological digs throughout the world. The concluding portion of the article quotes our late Dan Josselyn as follows: "We really haven't explored or understood more than a

fraction of our amazing archaeology. This is the generation of decision. If we do not do something about it right now, American archaeology will be 90% destroyed in 25 to 50 years. A really major tragedy is in the making." Incidentally, the March 30, 1970 issue of NEWSWEEK included on page 97 a quite comprehensive archaeological article entitled "Digging It", mentioning several states where archaeological activity was outstanding, but omitting any reference to Alabama - or Arkansas!

THE BARTRAM TRAIL across Alabama may become a reality by 1976, the 200th anniversary of this journey. It enters the State from Georgia, just south of Columbus. William Bartram kept a very accurate Journal of his route and all the "sights". At the first Annual Meeting of the Alabama Conservancy on March 13 & 14, at Samford Univ. in B'ham the Chairman, Mrs. Verda Horne of Fairhope reported that much progress had been made in determining availability of land involved. Many landowners will gladly donate the land over which the trail would pass, and others will gladly sell needed acres. Part of the journey was by water and this may also become a reality for those following the historic route. (Marjorie Gay, East Alabama)

1967 MYSTERY RECALLED: A "nearly spherical ball, 2 inches in diameter, very smooth and slightly flattened at one little area, very light gray in color (possibly clay), weight of 6 ounces", reported by our indefatigable friend, Dr. Bill Clench, evokes memories of the "Stone Ball Mystery" discussed in our May, August and November, 1967, Newsletters. Whatever else it is, it's one of about 2 bucketsfull dredged from a depth of about 25 feet at Moccasin Bend, Tennessee River in 1958 by engineer Arthur W. Buermann of Chattanooga; a perfectly preserved tree stump close by and at nearly the same depth - possibly an old slough. Indian artifacts - game stones, maybe? A craftsman's ware, inadvertently dumped from an overturned canoe? YOU tell us what you know on the subject, and we'll tell everyone! (Tennessee folks, you might get in touch with Mr. Buermann and take a look for yourself - 2319 Marco Circle.)

SECOND ANNUAL SPRING WORKSHOP of the Tennessee State Society was held at Murfreesboro on April 11th. In attendance, from Huntsville, were Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Wright Jr., and from Decatur, Jack Cambron & Tom Moebes. Of a number of fine sounding papers on the program, Jack Cambron delivered one on "Excavations at Cave Spring", but the program was pronounced as "Good" by everyone. (A. J. Wright Jr., Huntsville)

A SURPRISING ANTHROPOLOGICAL DISCOVERY has been made in South America. This time it isn't a fossil skeleton, however, molded into the side of a deep gorge and encrusted with mineral deposits. No, and strange though it may seem, with all of the current discussion on the population explosion, pollution and the ocean floor as earth's last frontier, one would hardly expect such a discovery; but nonetheless, not one, but 2 honest-to-goodness, hitherto unknown aboriginal tribes have been found in an isolated corner of Columbia. Attempts were made to talk to one of the groups, using a total of 15 different local languages - no success. The report is in the COLLIER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA 1970 YEARBOOK. Study of the other tribe, the report states: "has been made difficult by their accuracy with bow and arrow." Now how about that for a space age event? (William H. Wesley, Huntsville)

HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MEMBERS are active in passing along their knowledge of archaeology to others; that is, 3 ex-presidents of the Chapter are. Hopefully and quite likely, others are unobtrusively and modestly going about spreading knowhow on the subject, but in particular, favorable comments are heard to the effect that Houston Wright, Tom Cornell and A. J. Wright have been on the go, giving outstanding talks to other chapters, churches, schools, Boy Scouts - the list is probably pretty long because the word is that they need some help to fill requests. We hope the necessary reinforcements are readying themselves for volunteer services wherever such situations exist. (William H. Wesley, Huntsville)

EDUCATIONAL PAGE

A HUMANIZING PROCESS

HOW DID HOMO SAPIENS BECOME HUMAN?

A hundred million years of evolution is compressed in the word "comprehend". It stems from the expression "to grasp with the forehand". The ability to grasp with the hand and with the mind literally developed hand-in-hand.

Life in damp, tropical forests freed the forearms of a certain group of primates from the burden of carrying the body, and made them into hands - strong, sure and delicate instruments. Exceptionally deft manipulations required an exceptionally large and complex control system - the "human" brain. The needs of hand-brain capacity necessary for holding an image long enough to reflect on it, store it and retrieve it. This capacity is the prerequisite for the production and use of messages, and thus for all human communications.

The freedom of the forearms required the support of the body upon the hind legs. And as the primates gradually assumed an upright position, a new outlook upon their surroundings was acquired. Instead of a downward inclination of the head, an upright position enabled the primates to scan the horizon for a long period of time, thus enabling them to extend the scope of consciousness beyond the reach of the senses, and to create a vision of human potentialities and requirements beyond that of any living species.

The invasion of glaciers robbed hominoids of their arboreal paradise and forced them to taste the fruits of a new type of knowledge. Responsibility was thrust upon them for the lives of their communes and for the welfare of their species. They became wandering nomads seeking food and shelter. Huddled in cold valleys, flooded even during the warm spells, hard-pressed to develop resources of collaboration, community and communication, Homo sapiens transferred themselves into what we could recognize as human. They emerged from the Ice Ages rather accomplished artists, scientists, organizers, and, most important, users of reason.

The original "wisdom" of Homo the "sapiens" stems from their symbolizing ability which arose, along with their tool-making talents, from marvelous hand-brain coordination and development put to communal uses. The shaping of sounds, forms, images and stories into language, magic, legend and ritual arose from the needs of survival through living and working together. These activities were to make work easier, life meaningful, ways of looking at life and the world convincing to those born into a culture. Through the use of art, man informed and inspired, frightened and entertained as he helped all to bear the hardships, share the joys, avoid the dangers and celebrate the accomplishments of communal life. They made the truths of the tribe - or of the culture - believable and compelling.

From the taming of fire to the sowing of seeds, man learned not only the arts of making truths believable, but also the importance of making beliefs truer. Man reached out, got burned and fled in panic, but not always; for he could also reflect and so he could contemplate an abstract proposition. Which end of the burning stick could be seized with impunity? He undertook to assess the validity of propositions; consequently, to make beliefs truer.

This intricate process of humanizing has resulted in man as we know him now: a rational creature that continues to change and grow. Although we cannot determine our future, we have to live today upon the fundamentals of this hundred million years humanizing process. This is what makes me study and admire Homo sapiens.

Howard King, Cullman County Chapter

THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Following are the objectives stated in our Constitution, slightly modified for emphasis: To promote informed interest in the study of Archaeology in Alabama and neighboring States; to encourage careful scientific archaeological research in such ways as surface scouting, mapping, marking, studying and especially reporting; to promote and support professionally directed excavations and discourage unsupervised "digging"; to promote the conservation of archaeological sites and to favor the passage of laws prescribing such; to oppose the sale of antiquities, and the manufacture and sale of fraudulent artifacts; to encourage and develop a better understanding of archaeology through providing Newsletters, Journals, Chapter and State meetings, helpful associates and good fellowship; to serve as a bond between individual archaeologists in the State, both non-professional and professional; and perhaps most importantly, to give everyone the opportunity to "do something about archaeology" through the accomplishment and enjoyment of these high aims.

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.



The coupon below may be used EITHER to APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP in the Society, or for the PAYMENT OF ANNUAL DUES. Please be sure that your name and address are CLEARLY entered, and that checkmarks appear in applicable blanks!

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