

Alabama Archaeological Society

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

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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SUMMER MEETING

JUNE 16 and 17, AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY, AUBURN, ALA., HEADQUARTERS THE ALL AMERICAN INN WHICH IS NEAR THE CAMPUS. MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW SO THAT YOU WILL SAVE THE DATES! THE PLANNING COMMITTEE WILL BE BUSY WITH THE LAST DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM. WATCH FOR YOUR JUNE NEWSLETTER WITH THE FINAL DETAILS! PLAN TO ATTEND AND INVITE INTERESTED FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!

TRIBOLOGY

(An interesting article titled "Tribology Before Columbus" is in the April 1973 issue of MECHANICAL ENGINEERING magazine. The author is Dr. D. Dowson of the University of Leeds, Leeds, England. He is Professor of engineering fluid mechanics and Tribology, and Director of the Institute of Tribology.)

Tribology is the science of lubrication, friction and wear and has a history extending back to the earliest civilizations. Archaeological and historical research confirms that various aspects of tribology have been of interest some 5 to 6 thousand years ago.

This article is written so that the average reader can understand the subject and it is well illustrated with examples of drills, wheels, lubricants, etc.

Mrs. Francis C. Smith, Atlanta)

(Editor's Note: Following are both excerpts from the article and suggested reading. Numbers in parentheses indicate one of the references.)

"There is a natural growing interest in the history of technology, but if it is felt necessary to justify or stimulate this interest further, we could well turn to Laplace, who in 1814 wrote 'We should regard the present state of the universe as the effect of its antecedent state and the cause of its subsequent state.'

This article is based on some years of research into the early history of tribology. Most of the evidence of tribological skills in these early times is archaeological in nature. Artifacts, wall paintings, and carvings have yielded valuable information, and from the long millennium of the Middle Ages important clues have emerged through an increasing collection of literature...

Mesopotamia and Egypt. In the early civilizations in the Near East, there were 5 developments having tribological interest.

Drills. Devices employing alternating rotary motion and simple bearings were developed for making fire and for drilling holes. The thong drill was equipped

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with hand- or mouth-held bearings of wood, bone, stone or coconut shell. The recorded use of this type of drill covers a period of almost 4,000 years...

Potter's Wheel. The oldest surviving portion of a potter's wheel was found at Ur in 1930 by Woolley. It has been dated at 3,250 ± 250 B.C...(A) polished-stone potter's wheel bearing from Jericho...is dated at 2,000 B.C.

Wheeled Vehicles. The development of the wheeled vehicle from the ski or sledge is shown pleasantly by the Urak pictographs (3,500 B.C.) presented by Childe (1)...

Lubricants. There can be little doubt that lubricants were appreciated at an early date, and although they were usually of animal and vegetable origin, it is worth noting that crude oil came to the surface naturally at a number of places...

Transportation of Heavy Stone. Sir A. H. Layard (5) discovered the means by which large stone building blocks and statuary were transported in Mesopotamia when he opened up the great mound of Kouyunjik at Nineveh in 1849 and 1853...

China. In China, porcelain was used for potter's wheel bearings; the wheeled vehicle itself appeared about 1,500 B.C...

Central and South America. Early civilizations in the Americas show little evidence of tribological skills, and certainly nothing to compare with the exciting progress in Sumer and Egypt some 3,000 years earlier. Perhaps we could encourage a few American tribologists to study the archaeological evidence from these early civilizations on their continent...

Greece and Rome. Developments of considerable significance emerged in the second wave of Mediterranean civilizations involving Greece and Rome. In Greece, Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) recognized the force of friction and further observed that it was the lowest for round objects.

The school at Alexandria was active in mechanics and hydraulics, with Hero developing a number of models and toys incorporating pivot bearings. His model temple with doors which opened and closed automatically with the expansion and contraction of air heated by a fire in a small altar would require good bearings for effective operation. Illustrations show that conical pivots were used. Likewise, the aeolipile, which has been described as the first attempt to make a reaction turbine, employed a pivot bearing on the rotating globe. Bronze was widely used as a bearing material at this time, together with iron and wood...

It is also worth noting that the horseshoes which emerged in Roman times can be considered as tribological devices used to reduce wear and damage to the hoof...

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- 10 Klindt-Jensen, O., "Foreign Influences in Denmark's Early Iron Age", ACTA ARCHAEOLOGICA, Vol. 20, 1949, pp. 86-108.
- 11 Steensberg, A., "North West European Plough Types of Prehistoric Times and the Middle Ages", ACTA ARCHAEOLOGICA, Vol. 7, 1936, pp. 244-280.

12 Lerche, G., "The Ploughs of Medieval Denmark", TOOLS AND TILLAGE, Vol. 1, No. 3, 1970, pp. 131-149."

(Editor's Note: This article, with illustrations, covered 9 magazine pages.)

POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN THE SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES?

Does it have a place? Personally, I do not feel it has. Today, I think the fact is recognized that it is becoming present in more and more groups and though minor, is causing disruption and poses a greater and greater threat for the future. I do not have a solution, but perhaps these remarks will stimulate thinking and emphasize the fact that what is a small, obscure minority today can turn into the "ruling minority" tomorrow.

As at many other Annual Meetings, those of the American Association for the Advancement of Science have been the scene of well-publicized incidents brought on by the minority activist groups. Each year, attempts have been made to pass resolutions or statements of concern about U.S. involvements overseas. At the December 1971 meeting, it was reported, the AAAS Council has asked the Board of Directors to express concern about U.S. air action in Southeast Asia. (SCIENCE, 7 Jan. 1972). Another war-related motion was approval of the discontinued use of herbicides in the area. But in SCIENCE 5 May 1972, in tiny print at the bottom of page 501, appears a CORRECTION, under "Appointments" and "Recent Deaths". The concern about the intensified air action was defeated on the final vote 67 to 59. The minority had not quite made it. Dec. 30, 1972, another Council meeting! The report of this meeting (SCIENCE 19 Jan. 1973, page 258) contains the full text of the anti-war resolution passed by the council. This is the first time the group has "...taken an unqualified stand in opposition to U.S. military involvement in Vietnam. Past councils have limited themselves to expressions of 'concern', particularly about the adverse effects of defoliants." This time the vote is reported 80 to 41 - a large but uncertain number of abstentions - only about 170 of the council's approximately 530 members present. The point has been made about these small attendances, that possibly many people do not care to become involved in the conflicts?

This council also passed the by-laws which greatly reduces its size and allows the membership to elect the AAAS president and board of directors. Initially the by-laws just passed proposed to place the 21 scientific sections into 5 to 10 electorates for voting purposes only. Through the cooperation of the smaller sections, of which Anthropology (Section H) is one, this plan was defeated and AAAS will remain divided by sectional lines for both scientific and voting purposes. Each section is an electorate, each electorate having one council seat for each 3,000 members with a minimum of one. This will trim the council to about 100 members. What will the result of this change in the electoral system bring to the next meeting of the council in February 1974?

Undoubtedly, it is now up to the membership as a whole, to take an interest in the affairs of their association. Did I say that I have no solution? It most certainly is up to ALL of us who are members of any group thus threatened to take an interest and become involved!

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

BOOK REVIEW

THE ICE AGE, by Bjorn Kurten, Putnam, N.Y., 1972, size $9\frac{1}{2}$ by $10\frac{1}{2}$, 178 pages, price \$16.95. This very informative and interesting book is for the student of geology and anthropology. It shows evidences of the formation of the ice age and its effect on early man and his development. Beautifully illustrated in color and in black and white, maps, drawings, charts and photographs. Good basic reading, and we all should thank Dr. Kurten for this sound book. Professor of Paleontology at the University of Helsinki and noted lecturer at Harvard and the University of Florida, has received grants from the Rockefeller Foundation, National Science Foundation, and many others.

(Mrs. Francis C. Smith, Atlanta)

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL FUND DRIVE

Our readers will remember that last year Charles Hubbert, Florence State University, partially excavated LaGrange Bluff Shelter in north Alabama. His findings indicate this shelter may contain some important stratigraphic information in its lower levels. Funds are needed to complete this excavation. Right now, we do not have a particular time set up for continuing this excavation, but we want to be ready financially when the time comes.

Another project that needs to be funded is a surface survey for archaeological sites in the Clarke County area of south Alabama. There has been some survey work and some published excavating conducted in that area along the Tombigbee River near Jackson. However, the excavations have brought forth more questions than answers. Also, much of the surface survey work in Clarke County has been carried out in an effort to locate the historic site of Maubila where DeSoto fought a sizeable battle with Chief Tuscaloosa's Choctaw warriors in 1540 A.D. This search needs to be continued along with search for more Marksville (Southern Hopewell) sites, a few of which have been found and excavated in Clarke County. The study of Southern Hopewell sites in South Alabama is critical to the understanding of the relationship between the Marksville Culture of Louisiana-Mississippi and the Santa Rosa Swift Creek Culture of the Florida northwest coast. This is a worthwhile project, and we need your financial support.

Your tax deductible donation to our fund for this year will be greatly appreciated. Simply make use of the coupon on the inside back cover of this Newsletter! We are frankly very much disturbed at our inability to acknowledge any donations on the part of our membership during the past month, and want to express the sincere hope that next month's report will more than make up for this month's blank.

A WHITE MAN'S FORTIFICATION AROUND AN INDIAN SETTLEMENT

A palisade trench is uncovered around an Indian village of which the archaeologist notes: "the plan and construction of the enclosure is clearly non-native in character". How would you interpret this? Because G. Hubert Smith had made extensive use and study of the written records about this village, he was able to explain the unusual situation. Rudolph Friederich Kurz, while serving as a clerk at Fort Berthold I, during the late 1840's and early 1850's, kept a personal journal. In this he recorded that a James Kipp, in return for 100 buffalo hides "had enclosed the town in order that its inhabitants might be secure...". Kipp was the manager of the trading post adjacent to Like-A-Fishhook Village. He certainly did not have the manpower to build as large a fortification as the archaeological evidence proved it was. As Smith surmises from this record "it is logical to suppose that he laid out the enclosure, possibly furnished the necessary tools and even carts and oxen to the villagers and perhaps assisted in installing the timbers."

LIKE-A-FISHHOOK VILLAGE AND FORT BERTHOLD, GARRISON RESERVOIR, NORTH DAKOTA, by G. Hubert Smith (Anthropological Papers #2, National Park Service, from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, Price \$3.75) was published in 1972. This is a report on a salvage project necessitated by the building of the Garrison Reservoir on the Missouri River in central North Dakota. The author makes good use of the historical and ethnological records about this important settlement and its tribes in his interpretation of the archaeological data. Though the settlement had been long abandoned, the Indians having been removed by the government to a nearby reservation about 1885 in an attempt to improve their lot, the tribes of the Mandan, the Hidatsa and the Arikara who had inhabited this "composite village" would not allow any disturbance in the area. They still considered it sacred ground, perhaps because of the legend that in prehistoric times this area with several hills, flattened on top, had been called "L'Ours qui danse", where the ceremonial Bear Dance, necessary for the success in the hunt, was held. This story is further substantiated by the name, Dancing Bear Creek, a creek which empties into

the Missouri River opposite the hills. At a later date, about 1853, after a raid by the Dakota tribe, a trail of hoof marks made by removal of the sod, ran through one section of the village and became a memorial. It was said that the marks were "renewed whenever they tend to become obliterated by weathering and by advancing vegetation". In 1950, when the archaeological investigations were being conducted, only a portion of the memorial remained visible. Prairie boulders now outline the hoof marks, something not mentioned earlier and possibly added at a later time. This memorial seems to belong to the group of rock figures and outlines which have been reported from many areas and are not yet understood.

Careful excavation of the site has been well recorded with detailed drawings and descriptions of the features. Photographs and descriptions of artifacts, especially the analysis of fire arms and related items by Carlyle S. Smith, make this report a valuable reference for identification of trade items and many of the necessities for daily living. The author has done extensive research and takes special note of items which the Indians made use of in other ways than originally intended.

Though not as much is recorded of the last years of the settlement, a cultural change may be observed and those factors which led to it. Primarily, it was the increased trading with the white man and under his dominance which soon depleted natural resources and made the Indian dependent upon the white man's goods and culture and then dependent upon the government for his very existence. The attempts of the BIA to Americanize finally forced him to give up most of his traditions and customs.

This publication is enjoyable reading with a wealth of information, valuable to anyone who wishes better to understand these early years of our country.

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

NEW PUBLICATION AND ORGANIZATION

The Kentucky Archaeological Association announces the publication of Bulletin 2, "A Bibliography of Kentucky Archaeology", by Mary L. Bowman, 1973. The publication may be purchased for \$3.00 from Vernon White, Secy-Treas, Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101.

The Association is a fairly new organization composed of professionals and non-professionals who are interested in promoting a more scientific study of the archaeology of Kentucky. Normally, 2 archaeological bulletins and some newsletters will be published pertaining to Kentucky archaeology. Membership annual dues should be sent to the Secy-Treas, as follows: Individual, \$5.00; Family, \$7.00; Contributing, \$15.00; Institutional, \$6.00.

INTERESTING ITEMS

(Editor's Note: The following newsy bits came from The Society for Historical Archaeology Newsletter, Vol. 6, No. 1, March 1973; and reported to us by our ever faithful Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter.)

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NAUTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND UNDERWATER EXPLORATION, Vol. 1, edited by Joan DuPlat Taylor, Council for Nautical Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, London, England, was published in 1972. (Available for \$8.50 in the Western Hemisphere, \$7.50 elsewhere, from Seminar Press, 111 Fifth Ave., New York, 10003) This is the first publication in the world devoted to nautical archaeology and underwater exploration. Besides articles and reports, there are also short and technical communications, a news section, book reviews, a list of books received, selected articles referring to nautical archaeology, expedition reports, letters to the Editor, and small notices and requests.

OLD MILLS, ANYONE? If you are interested in old mills and the lore surrounding them, you are invited to become a member of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills. The purpose of this non-profit organization is to promote interest, both publicly

and privately, in old mills and other Americana now passing from the present scene. This Society will help in any way it can in the preservation or rebuilding of such structures; will honor those individuals whose work and ideas made these mills possible; will report to its membership, and to the public, through a periodical with pictures and comment; will keep files and maintain a library on mills and related subjects and will try to keep abreast of changes and happenings; will act as a clearing house on this mill information among those interested; and will sponsor meetings and correspondence among its members and friends. If interested, send a check for \$5.00 (yearly dues) to the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills, P O Box 435, Wiscasset, Maine 04578. Donald W. Martin, Editor of the Society, is compiling a list of the names and addresses of operating grist mills and the locations of still-standing mills. If any member can provide information concerning locations of such structures, please write to Mr. Martin at the above address. If possible, please include photos of the mills.

HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY 1973: Have you done an archaeological excavation of a historic site? Your report or any paper you have written on an aspect of historical archaeology should be listed in the Bibliography which will be in **HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY 1973**, the publication of the Society for Historical Archaeology. John L. Cotter and William D. Hershey compile "Recent Publications in Historical Archaeology" which includes material in manuscript form as well as that which has been published.

A special form should be completed and sent to Dr. Cotter, National Park Service, Northeast Region, 143 Third St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19106, and include the following items: Author; Date/Title; Publication or Sponsoring Agency; Publisher; Place Published or Available; Format; Period and Cultural Affiliation; Area; Contents; Drawings; Plates; Artifact Lists; and Bibliography.

DUES in the Society for Historical Archaeology are \$7.50 Individual, \$10.00 Joint, and sent to Dr. Roderick Sprague, Secy-Treas, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83843. The meeting of the Society in 1974 will be held at Oakland, Calif.

A PROJECT FOR EVERYONE

The efforts of many of our members to record Alabama rock features should not go unnoticed. This is a fine example of one of the countless worthwhile archaeological projects for non-professionals with which no rational professional could possibly find fault. It is extremely important that these features and symbols, even those without discernible pattern, be sought statewide and when found either reported to someone who can give advice on proper techniques for making photographic or other records or else can help in some other way to get this information preserved and mapped.

Just as each pottery fragment, each bit of bone, each man modified rock or chip of rock is a bit of information about human activity, so is each feature that has been carved, scribed, painted or engraved by human hands into boulders or on cave walls. This is an area of archaeology that has received very little serious attention in the eastern states. Nevertheless, correlations are bound to exist between these utilitarian or symbolic elements and the other archaeological data in a given area, and we can contribute greatly if we locate and record such items for purposes of future interpretation, possible dating and correlating by a trained professional.
(Alice Burns, Birmingham Chapter)

ALABAMA WILDLIFE

Have you wished to know more about the wildlife you see on your field trips? Here is the book for you - **ALABAMA WILDLIFE**, by Donald W. and Alicia V. Linzey (paper-bound, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 11, 109 pages, \$2.50 from Alabama Wildlife, Box U-104, Mobile, Ala.

36688.) This new publication contains information about amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals of Alabama. The authors have done extensive research to obtain scientific data, to which they have added heretofore unpublished facts resulting from their field work and that of other investigators. It is presented in a language and form easily understood. The information includes illustrations, descriptions, habits, range, local names and many interesting and unusual facts. Rare and endangered wildlife is also discussed.

MAUBILA

The search continues for the site of this important Indian town where DeSoto led the Spaniards against the Indians in 1540. An Indian village, recently discovered in Clarke County by Dalton Smith of Jackson, had led some to speculate that this might be the place. Dr. Douglas Jones, son of retired State Geologist Dr. Walter B. Jones, searched this site and several others with a metal detector, but nothing was found. They plan to continue looking on the north side of Hal's Lake which is felt a good location, but according to Jones, since the area is subject to flooding, the town very likely is under 4 or 5 feet of silt. (THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS, March 20, 1973)

UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY

Sunk in 1628, raised in 1971. This is the story of the Swedish Warship, the Vasa. Built of heart oak, she sank in 110 feet of water immediately after her launching. The March 12-25, 1973, issue of POPULAR ARCHAEOLOGY (now \$7.00 per year to Popular Archaeology, Box 18365, Wichita, Kans. 67218) tells the history of this vessel and her raising by Anders Franzen. Artifacts numbering 45,000 have been recovered from the Vasa, which is said to be the oldest ship yet identified and raised. The wood and leather have been preserved by treatment with a solution of polyethylene glycol. Special methods were developed for the clothing, glass, pottery and metal. The original, unused sails were stretched on a frame and treated with a clear plastic solution. They may be seen today in Stockholm's National Maritime Museum where the Vasa is on display along with other information about her history.

ALABAMA PUBLICITY

Alabama on the cover of POPULAR ARCHAEOLOGY! The picture shows several of the volunteers at work excavating the well found on the campus of the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa in May of 1972. Carey Oakley gave a report on this salvage project at our 1972 Summer Meeting, held at the University in Tuscaloosa. This article by Bob McKenzie and Jerry C. Oldshue, describes the cooperation between the professional and amateur and between the volunteer workers and the college authorities. The well was discovered when trenches being dug for electrical conduits cut into it. Over a period of 6 days, volunteers from many different departments excavated this well believed to have been dug in the 1830's or 1840's and refilled between 1880 and 1890. They dug to 50 feet or the water table. Screened the soil and found a variety of artifacts, such as ink well, bottle, chalk, coin and a coffee pot. They were able to determine the method of construction of this brick-lined well. Possibly an outcome of this project is an increased interest in Historical Archaeology with a course in the subject being tentatively offered.

A PLACE TO VISIT

Westville, the recreated 19th century village near Lumpkin, Georgia, is a busy place this year. Already a special "Blacksmith Shop" meeting has been held in March, and the Spring Pilgrimage held in conjunction with the Eufaula Pilgrimage April 5 to 8, also a Preservation Conference on April 20 & 21. May 5th will be a real "Old fashioned" May Day celebration. July 4th, the Independence Day Celebration, the kind

remembered by our parents. The Music Convention, started several years ago, is scheduled for September 29-30. A Fair of 1850 will be held on November 2 to 10. To round out the year's festivities, will be the Yule Log Ceremony on December 8th. Lumpkin is in southwest Georgia, south of Columbus. You will find signs pointing the way to Westville. (Above 4 articles by Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 1st Thursday of each month in Room 213, Chapman Hall, Sanford University. Chapter Member Mr. Joseph Watkins gave a beautifully color slide illustrated talk at the April meeting on "Land of the Inca".

Cullman County Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 3rd Monday of each month at Cullman City Hall. The program for the April meeting will be a color film "The Plains", which is about an excavation by the Smithsonian Institution in a fortified earth lodge village on the Missouri River in South Dakota.

East Alabama Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd Thursday of each month in Comer Hall Auditorium, Auburn University. The speaker at the April meeting was Mr. Harold A. Huscher, Department of Anthropology & Sociology, University of Georgia, who gave a laboratory session on "Burial Recording Techniques and Pottery Restoration".

Huntsville Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Twickenham Hotel Building. At the April meeting, Chapter member Mr. Roy Cochran Jr., was the speaker, on "Excavation of Caddo Village in Southwest Arkansas".

Muscle Shoals Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Indian Mound Museum, Florence. The guest speaker at the April meeting was Mr. Maurice Jones, Decatur, Ala., on the subject "Getting Historical Information from Civil War Bullets". The Chapter reports that the '73 flood brought water to a 56" depth in the Museum where showcases were 40" above the floor. Quite a salvage job!

ANNOUNCEMENTS - STATE NEWS

NEW MEMBERS DURING APRIL:

William Danny Blackburn, Route 5, Fayette, Ala. 35555
Paul H. Blackwell Jr., 2324 Quince Drive S.E., Decatur, Ala. 35601
Robert J. Hard, 101 Ann St., Apt. 55, Auburn, Ala. 36830
Mrs. E. F. Heflin Jr., 1720 Forest Drive, Kirkover Hills, Camden, S.C. 29020
James L. Michie, 4500 Monticello Road, Columbia, S.C. 29203

FINAL REMINDER ON 1973 DUES: Dues were delinquent March 31, and if still unpaid, will cause no further publications of the Society to be mailed to those now in arrears. To determine whether your dues have been paid and recorded, check the mailing label on this issue of the Newsletter. Labels for members joining this year are noted "(73)"; for those belonging previously who have paid 1973 dues - "x".

CATHEDRAL CAVERNS DEDICATION: An article appearing in the April 9, 1973, issue of THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS states that Cathedral Caverns at Grant, Ala., will be officially dedicated as a National Landmark on May 18. Ceremonies and presentation of a plaque making the Marshall County tourist attraction a National Landmark will begin at 2:00 PM at the spectacular entrance to the caverns.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS: Your Editors would appreciate hearing from State Society members any time you hear or read of some happening which might be of interest to others no matter where located. Keep us and them in mind when you run across something!