

The Birmingham Anthropological Society
presents

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STONES AND BONES



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How nice it would be if the Society could afford to send Stones and Bones into every home in Alabama! Think what we might accomplish over the years! However, we cannot afford such Utopian dreams.

In fact, it becomes awkwardly necessary to announce that this is the last issue of Stones and Bones which we can afford to send to members who have not paid their dues for 1958.

We need you! Far more importantly, archaeology needs you! We like to think that you need us - for educational stimulus, cultural contacts, better amusements, and good fellowship.

And, frankly, we need your dues - four cents a week. That just about pays for stamps, paper, letterhead, incidentals. Writing, stenciling, editing, printing, folding, addressing, etc., are free contributions of members (and thanks!).

Stones and Bones is still in its infancy. We hope to make it more and more interesting and educational - something you won't want to miss. If you cannot be at the next meeting (May 2, Public Library), mail your check for \$2.00 to the Birmingham Anthropological Society, Box 2171, Birmingham, Alabama.

In case you cannot afford membership at this time, please remember that our meetings are absolutely free. Come! And bring your friends. We hope you did not miss our last two fascinating meetings with talks and slides on Stonehedge and Cliffdwelling - both fascinating. And the same high caliber of our previous programs will be maintained at the May and June meetings.

For our May program, our very interesting and erudite Dr. Gessmann will speak on "Sunken Atlantis" - fact or fancy? This has been a topic of controversy for over 2000 years. But did you ever hear a linguistic specialist discuss the question? Pro or con, you won't want to miss this.

Reverend Blackford will elaborate on his paper that appeared in the last issue of Stones and Bones at the June meeting. His theme will deal with the Scandinavian claims to prior discovery of America. Many of you have read his essays dealing with Alabama history as related to Fort Lashley and know him to be a careful historian as well as an interesting narrator, so we can promise an educational entertaining evening.

NEWS FLASH!

While listening to a radio interview with a candidate for the office of Ala. State Supt. of Schools, we were interested to hear him say (from memory) that "Alabama Educational TV has taken the lead and is being watched by the entire nation". The able and well known radio MC replied that his family had "just discovered Educational TV and finds it a very healthy thing - very progressive effort - very much for it".

Of course we are proud of our own share in this - our Stones and Bones program so ably managed by Bill Ballard and Britt Thompson, which has interested the Ford Foundation. And thanks to the many generous speakers who have appeared on these programs. Thursday evenings, 8:30 - don't miss them!

Martin Hullender announces the following books ordered to be placed in circulation at the Birmingham Public Library as a lasting memorial to our past President, Jim Wilkinson.

Brodrick, Alan Houghton
THE TREE OF HUMAN HISTORY

Benedict, Ruth
PATTERNS OF CULTURE

Boule, Marcellin
FOSSIL MAN

Graham, J.B. (Editor & Publisher)
10-YEARS OF THE TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Leroi-Gourhan, A.
PREHISTORIC MAN

Lewis, T.M.N. & Kneberg, Madeline
HIWASSEE ISLAND

Lucas, Janette May
MAN'S FIRST MILLION YEARS

Montague, Ashley
ANTHROPOLOGY & HUMAN NATURE

Piddington, Ralph O'Reilly
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY
(2-volumes)

Swanton, John R.
INDIANS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN U. S.

Webb, W. S.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE NORRIS BASIN AND EASTERN TENNESSEE

Webb, W. S. and DeJarnette, Dave
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF PICKWICK BASIN

Here is the absorbing story of man in many of its most interesting and educational aspects. As Martin says, let us get these books into circulation right away. And tell your friends about them.

Following are the activities committees as announced & discussed at our last meeting:

1. Map Project : Ted E. Rybka, Chairman
2. Publicity & Membership: Britt Thompson, Chairman
3. Library & Publications: Martin Hullender, Chairman

4. Field Trips: Jack O. McKinstry, Chairman
5. Education: Dan Josselyn, Chairman

The objective of these committees is to activate the aims and ideals of the Society. No one person or group of persons can do even a fair job of this alone: it will take the active and interested participation of every member to do a successful job in making it possible for everyone to share in the benefits that these committee programs will offer. And remember -- anyone volunteering their services will not be refused!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MAY 10TH! Be prepared to conduct a scientific dig at the Mahan Creek site, west of Montevallo. We will meet at the site at 9:00 AM. A map of the route will be available at the May meeting.

A CAUTION! The gate to the property is old, be careful with it and be sure that it is closed after you enter as the Society wants to conduct a dig and not a cattle roundup!

As this area will shortly become a gravel pit, your Field Trip Committee proposes to continue scheduled visits to this site as long as it is useful to us.

It is amazing how quickly our own civilization becomes archaeology - as the following delightfully written piece will prove. Unfortunately, we do not know who the author was, but we are glad to help perpetuate writing like this. Dick Humbard dug it out of his files for us.

ALABAMA'S FIRST CAPITOL

Upon a high white bluff overlooking the Tombigbee, nine miles above the present city of Jackson, Alabama, there stands a clump of tall cedars; some aged crepe myrtle and china trees; a few moss-covered heaps of stone; and a cemetery turned into a forest.

This is St. Stephens, Alabama's first territorial capitol, and at one time a prosperous city.

It was the writer's privilege and pleasure during the summer of 1929 while visiting in Jackson to make a pilgrimage to this historic spot, where have lived, in turn, the Red Man, the patient Jesuit Fathers, the English traders and settlers from the Carolinas and Virginia, the haughty Spaniards under Don Galvez, and in 1802, the "Americans".

We spent a morning at St. Stephens, looking out over the river, highway of the past; and wandering through old streets that have forgotten they were streets; reading inscriptions on crumbling gravestones; and when we reached home the first thing we did was get out our Pickett's History of Alabama, and read up on St. Stephens. We wanted to know what it was that quickened the heart and stirred the blood as one stood under the cedars and myrtles of that silent old city down on the Tombigbee.