

Alabama Archaeological Society

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Associate Editors

Bart Henson
Dorothy Luke

STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

Editor

Amos J. Wright
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Huntsville, Alabama 35803

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MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

Number 10

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1981 ANNUAL MEETING

The Alabama Archaeological Society will hold its annual meeting in Birmingham on Saturday, November 7 and Sunday, November 8, 1981.

Tentative Agenda - 1981 Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 7

- 9:00 a.m. Registration begins in the lobby of the UAB Engineering Building (Cudworth Hall) - 1919 8th Avenue South, next to the Hilton. Coffee, donuts and other breakfast snacks will be available.
- 9:30 a.m. "Amateur Archaeology: the Work of Dan Josselyn"; presented by Dr. Roger Nance, Dr. Theodore Haddin and Ms. Eddie Hatcher of the Departments of Anthropology and English, UAB.

October 1981

10:30 a.m. "Indian Influence in Alabama"; Dr. H. L. ("Lindy") Martin - Dean of Student Services, Samford University and Chief of Cherokees, Jackson County, Alabama.

Note: The above presentations will be held in Cudworth Auditorium. The Board of Directors meeting will be held in Room 303, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m. Business meeting and election of 1982 A.A.S. officers.

12:00 noon Lunch (on your own). There are many fine restaurants within walking distance of the Engineering Building.

1:15 p.m. Papers and Reports on Archaeological Activities

4:00 p.m. Meet in the lobby of the Birmingham Museum of Art for a special guided tour: "Rediscovered Objects: Artifacts Not Generally Seen in the Birmingham Art Museum". The speaker will be Mr. Richard Murray, Director of the Birmingham Museum of Art.

Sunday, November 8

10:00 a.m. Dan Josselyn Exhibit - Iron and Steel Museum, Tannehill State Park. The speaker will be Dr. Tom Rhodes, Director of the museum.

12:00 noon Lunch (on your own - either a picnic or in the park restaurant)..

2:00 p.m. A walk through the Red Mountain Museum and road cut, led by Dr. Whitman Cross, III - Director, Red Mountain Museum - and his staff.

Note: For further information on the meeting, call Dr. Charles Ochs - President, Birmingham Chapter, A.A.S., at 967-8848.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Those who plan to stay over in Birmingham might be interested in attending a special program on Saturday evening (November 7). "Lucy: The Beginning of Humankind", a presentation of Dr. Donald C. Johansen of the Cleveland Museum, will be held at the Jefferson County Civic Center beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets to this program cost \$3 and are available at the Red Mountain Museum or the Civic Center. The program is sponsored by the Red Mountain Museum Society.

More complete information on the annual meeting and associated activities will appear in the December STONES & BONES.

Joe Watkins
Birmingham

MOUNDS IN ALABAMA

Prof. Lupton's Investigations - Interesting Discoveries - Remains of a Lost Race - Facts and Conclusions - More Explorations Promised, etc.

(From the Selma Argus.)

Editor of The Argus: At the request of Prof. Henry, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, I have recently made a partial examination of Indian Mounds on the Warrior river, an account of which may be of interest to your readers.

The number and extent of these Mounds is much greater than is generally supposed. They are found for a hundred miles or more along or near the river at various intervals, and some of them are of huge dimensions. Near Carthage, a small village formerly in the southern part of Tuscaloosa, but now in the extreme northern section of Hale county, is a collection of more than twenty in number, which have attracted marked attention since the earliest settlement of the State. One of these Mounds was opened some twenty years since and a skeleton found near the centre, which crumbled on exposure, and also some beads and a few other remains. This interesting group of Mounds was selected for examination.

They are situated on a level plane about 23 miles north of Greensboro and 18 miles south of Tuscaloosa, within sight of the road connecting these two places, and immediately upon the bank of the river. Neither history nor tradition tells us anything of their origin or of the race of people by whom they were constructed. The Indians, who inhabited the country when the first white settlers moved into the State, were utterly ignorant on the subject, the Mounds being to them as much objects of curiosity as to us. For ages past they have stood as silent monuments of an extinct race, whose civilization was evidently superior to that of the modern Indian. The object of the exploration was to ascertain the nature and design of their construction and to determine if possible the character of their builders.

These mounds are truncated, rectangular pyramids, averaging about 20 feet in height. As the field has been cultivated for many years, some of them have been ploughed down nearly to the common level, while one towers up over 40 feet and is covered with a luxuriant growth of forest trees, one of which measures near three feet in diameter.

In the arrangement of these Mounds considerable regularity was observed, the one occupying somewhat of a central position being the largest in extent, and the more prominent of the others forming a rectangle around it. This central Mound is one hundred and ten yards by seventy at its base, and about twenty in height. The longer sides run N. 12 deg. E. Toward the East, South and West are twelve, which approximate closely to the sides of a rectangle at a distance of 275 yards to the nearest one on each side. Towards the North, or exactly N. 12 deg. W. is the high Mound, distant 120 yards, while towards the East and Southeast are two others about the same distance as the high Mound. Towards the Southeast and Southwest, at the corners of the

rectangle are two at a distance of about 350 yards, and towards the Northwest are several at a distance of half a mile or more. The river lies upon the North, while beyond the Mounds towards the South are the remains of a rectangular embankment with occasional elevations along its course.

The Mound selected for opening is one of the smaller ones, directly west of the one opened some years ago. It is about eighty feet by sixty-five at the base, and about fifty by thirty-five feet at the top, and about sixteen feet in height. These measurements could not be taken with exactness, because of some irregularity of the sides produced by atmospheric and other agencies. The plan adopted in exploring this Mound, as involving the least amount of labor, and, at the same time, presenting the best prospect for a favorable result, was to sink a well or shaft eight feet in diameter, as nearly over the centre as possible, and at the same time to cut a trench four feet wide from this to one of the nearest sides. After the trench had been carried down four feet it was abandoned, and the central shaft continued with the following results: -

At a depth of three feet, portions of two skeletons were found, with their heads towards the East. The teeth only were in a good state of preservation; the remaining bones nearly all crumbled on being handled. At the depth of about eight feet the remains of three or more skeletons were found similar to the first. The bottom portion of a vase was here found, which, on being removed, disclosed a circular opening about one foot in diameter, around the sides of which were the charred remains of wood, showing that a stake or wooden pillar once occupied this opening. About a foot from the bottom of this opening, at the depth of sixteen feet from the surface, the remains of several skeletons were discovered, with the teeth and some other bones in a fine state of preservation. A large quantity of ashes and some charcoal, with one piece of charred bone, were found around this opening. Only a few stone implements were found - what appeared to be heads, crumbled to powder when handled. Muscle shells were occasionally met with while digging, also charcoal, pieces of mica, and pottery.

The fact was clearly established that this is a burial mound and the conclusion is drawn that a stake or pillar was originally planted over the grave of several personages of distinction and victims burned thereat.

At a depth of seventeen feet the original earth was reached. A singularly carved ornament of wood was gotten which is supposed to have formed the top of the stake. It is apparently covered with paint, which accounts for its preservation. Two round stone tablets or plates eight and ten inches in diameter and a rectangular one six inches by nine, notched and grooved, were secured from a gentleman in the neighborhood and are said to have been found in one of the Mounds, also a very perfect spear head and some imperfect stone implements. A piece of sculpture, known as the Indian Idol, was placed in my possession by Capt. Jack, a gentleman who lives about seven miles from Carthage, which was found in the vicinity of the Mounds. It shows some skill in sculpture and is an object of considerable interest.

My indebtedness for valuable assistance must be acknowledged to Mr. Edward Parish, one of our students, who accompanied me to the Mounds, and also to the citizens of Carthage and vicinity for their generous hospitality. As it is my purpose to make further explorations at a suitable time, any information in reference to the Mounds of the State will be thankfully received.

N. T. Lupton
Southern University, Greensboro, Ala.

(From The Mobile Daily Tribune; Mobile, Alabama - Wednesday Morning, November 10, 1869, Old Series No. 4651, New Series Vol. V, No. 114)

The Editors

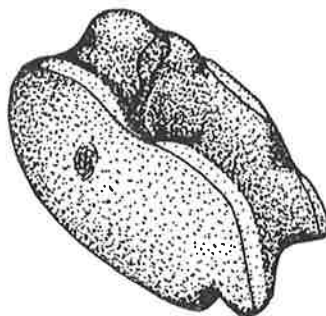
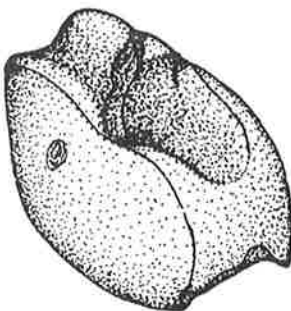
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I am currently working on a study of prehistoric bone dice made from astragali, a bone of the foot. These artifacts are relatively easy to recognize. To make them, an astragalus was usually ground down to nearly flat surfaces on from two to all six sides (see figures below). Most of the astragali used to make dice in the prehistoric Eastern United States were from deer; one occasionally finds them made from elk or bison bones.

The topics covered in this study are: 1) the spatial distribution of astragali dice in the Eastern U. S., and 2) the archaeological contexts in which they have been found. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has found examples of these artifacts. In each case I need to know the specimen's dimensions and its archaeological context when found.

My address is: Dr. Barry Lewis; Department of Anthropology; 607 S. Mathews Street; University of Illinois; Urbana, Illinois 61801.

Note: The astragali dice depicted below are slightly larger than life-sized.



Dr. Barry Lewis
Urbana, Illinois

EASTERN STATES ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEDERATION
ANNUAL MEETING

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania - November 6-8, 1981

The banquet speaker is Dr. James B. Griffin of the University of Michigan. His topic is "Middle America and the Southeast".

The following speakers and topics have been accepted, but not scheduled as yet.

Jay Custer: A predictive model for settlement-subsistence systems.

Kurt Carr: The Pennsylvania regional archaeology program.

Jim Herbstritt: Late Woodland in North-central Pennsylvania.

Stanley Lantz: Allegheny Valley Iroquis.

Richard George: Monogahela, menopause, and me.

William Johnson: Late Woodland on the Allegheny Plateau.

Frank Porter, III: Roots of modern archaeology in Maryland.

Thomas Grubb: Phosphorous: The invisible artifact.

Kenneth Feder: Trade and warfare in New England.

Diane Allstadt: Historic Cherry Hill, Albany, New York.

Robert Doyle: Basalt/Gabbro related sources of Jasper.

R. Michael Gramly: Fluted drills and projectile points from the Vail Paleo-Indian site.

Marshall Becker: Post Contact Lenape sites in the Philadelphia area.

W. Fred Kinsey, III: Catlinite

W. Fred Kinsey, III and Ed Wilson: Site survey in East-central Pennsylvania.

Ronald Thomas: Early/Middle Woodland occupation at Delaware Park.

Louis Brennan: Amateur/Professional relationships.

Jeff Kalin: The Pamunkey project: "Living Archaeology".

Because ESAF does not have a way to reach everyone interested in the annual meeting after the program has been set, we have to rely upon word of mouth. The Saturday program is very diverse for students and people just getting interested in the field, as well as the opportunity to tour the museum and meet Dr. Griffin. We urge you to encourage your students or interested friends to attend at least one day. A special registration rate of \$4 is set for Saturday only.

To register write to: ESAF Annual Meeting, Box 260; Washington, Connecticut 06793. Pre-registration - \$6. Banquet tickets - \$12.50.

The Editors

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter

The Birmingham Chapter meets at the Red Mountain Museum Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. The September program, "Archaeology of Alabama", was presented by Mrs. Christine Wimberly. "Early Coal Mining in Alabama, Primitive Tools and Patterns in Nature" is the topic for the October meeting; the speaker will be Dr. Quida Kinzey, Professor of Mathematics at Birmingham Southern University. On November 12, Mrs. Ruth Spence - Map Curator, Birmingham Public Library - will speak on the "South-east in Maps Since 1540". Rare and old maps will be exhibited. Dr. H. L. Martin, Dean of Student Services, Samford University, and Chief, Cherokees of Jackson County, will deal with the "Indian Influence in Alabama". For further information call Dr. Charles Ochs, Chapter President, at 967-8848; or Tom Hutto, Vice President, at 956-1895.

Cullman Chapter

The Cullman Chapter met Monday, September 14, at the Cullman Middle School. The program was a film entitled "The Chaco Legacy".

Huntsville Chapter

On Tuesday, September 15, chapter members enjoyed a slide-and-cassette program on the mound complex at Cahokia, Illinois, courtesy of Bart Henson. Bart and O. D. Hartley visited Cahokia, among other interesting archaeological sites, on their recent trip to the field school in Campsville, Illinois. The Huntsville Chapter meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Arts Council Conference Room, Von Braun Civic Center.

JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY

Volume XXVII, Number 1, of the Journal of Alabama Archaeology, has been mailed to A.A.S. members. This volume contains the following articles: "Experimental Heat Treatment of Cedar Creek Cherts" by Stanley C. Bond, Jr.; "A Voyage to the Mobile and Tomen in 1700, with Notes on the Interior of Alabama", by Vernon J. Knight, Jr. and Sheree L. Adams; and "Time and Temper in the North Central Hills of Mississippi", by Janet Ford.

The Editors

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of <i>Journal of Alabama Archaeology</i> Vol. 13-18	\$1.00 pp
Vol. 20-24 (\$2.50 to Members)	\$4.00 pp
<i>Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations</i> (Journal of Alabama Archaeology) Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint)	\$5.00 pp
Special Publication 1 — Fort Mitchell	\$2.00 pp
Special Publication 2 — <i>The Archaeological Sequence at</i> <i>Durant Bend, Dallas County, Alabama</i>	\$4.50 pp
Special Publication 3 — <i>Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend</i>	\$6.50 pp
<i>Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types</i>	\$7.35 pp
<i>Lively, Long, Josselyn - Pebble Tool Paper</i>	\$3.00 pp
<i>Investigations in Russell Cave</i> , published by the National Parks Service	\$5.00 pp

CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO: **ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

MAIL CHECKS TO: **MR. EUGENE FUTATO**, Office of Archaeological Research
1 Mound State Monument, Moundville, Alabama 35474

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MAIL TO:

MRS. BETTYE T. HENSON
SECRETARY AND TREASURER
7008 Teal Drive, S.W.
Huntsville, Alabama 35892

Alabama Archaeological Society

Mr. Amos J. Wright
2602 Green Mountain Road SE
Huntsville, Alabama 35803



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