ARCH NOTES
Monthly Newsletter of
The Ontario Archaeological Society (Inc.)

No. 7 - 1 Election Issue January, 1971

EXECUTIVE

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Dept. of Anthropology
University of Toronto

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Dept. of Anthropology
University of Toronto

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Dept. of Anthropology
University of Toronto

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: All cheques and postal money orders should be made payable to "The Ontario Archaeological Society" and should be mailed together with the membership form below to Miss L. Proctor 137 Madison Ave. Apt. 3, Toronto 180, Ont.

(Please check type of membership required)

Active ............................................. $4.00
Family (Husband & Wife) .................... $7.00
Associate ........................................ $3.00
Institutional .................................. $4.00

Name ..............................................
(Please print)
Telephone ......................................
Address .......................................... 
Signature ........................................
Date ..............................................
The speaker last month was Mr. Dean Knight, of the Dept. of Anthropology, University of Toronto. Mr. Knight's topic was the Kleinburg Ossuary. The following is a short resume of the information presented at the meeting.

"The Kleinburg ossuary was excavated by a crew of eight students from the University of Toronto under the direction of Dr. F. Jerome Melbye during the late summer of 1970. This early historic ossuary was located two miles east of the village of Kleinburg in the Boyd Conservation District overlooking the East Humber River. The site was reported to Dr. Conrad Heidenreich of York University in the spring of 1970. He did a preliminary test on the site and then reported it to Dr. Melbye who obtained funds from the University of Toronto to excavate that site the same summer.

"From the concentration of bone on the surface of the ground it was fairly easy to locate the ossuary. A grid system of two meter squares was set out over this concentration and excavation began with the removal of the plow zone in two trenches; one trench ran east-west while the other ran north-south across what was thought to be the center of the ossuary. These trenches exposed the edges of the ossuary as soon as the plough zone had been removed. Three peripheral burials were recovered through the use of these trenches. One burial was a bundle burial; another was a flexed burial while the third was an extended burial. Only the flexed burial contained grave goods—an iron knife.

"Although the primary purpose in excavating the ossuary was to recover skeletal material for Toronto University's continued program in human osteology, it was of ultimate importance to recover as much cultural data as possible concerning the ossuary. To do this, four centimeter balks were left around each square and maintained until the bottom of the ossuary was reached. This rather simple technique, which apparently has not previously been used in ossuary burial excavations, proved to be of great value. Not only was it possible to map in grave goods with more accuracy and speed, but it also showed that the ossuary had definite stratigraphy. The profiles left by the balks showed that the ossuary had at least three distinct layers of bone within it. Each of these depositions was separated by a layer of sand. The profiles also showed that the ossuary had been filled on the east side first and then further filled by moving to the west. The bone was piled highest in the middle of the pit and tapered off to the north and the south. This information throws a little different light on ossuaries than the picture one gets from reading Brebeuf's account of the Ossoane ossuary in which there were men down in the pit mixing up the bones with long poles, as they were thrown into the pit. Perhaps other ethnographic assumptions that archaeologists have been making for years should be questioned.

"Within the ossuary there were a number of individual burials. These were mostly flexed. Grave goods included many circular shell beads, 20 glass trade beads, ten trade axes, five iron knives, some fabric, six copper ornaments, and an iron basin in the bottom. The deepest part of the ossuary was about
one meter below the plough zone. An estimate of 400 individuals has been made for the number of people contained within the ossuary. Dr. Melbye is presently working on the analysis of the bone material.

D.K.

This Month's Meeting:

This month, on January 20, 1970, Dr. W.M. Hurley will address the society with respect to his archaeological field work in Algonquin Park this past summer. The meeting will be held at 8:00 P.M. in the archaeology laboratory (Room 561) in the Sidney Smith Building at 100 St. George St., Toronto.

The election of O.A.S. executive officers will be held at this meeting.

The 20th Anniversary Banquet

On November 21, 1970, the 20th anniversary banquet of the Ontario Archaeological Society was held at the Town and Country in Toronto. The banquet was a smashing success, and everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening.

Charter members present were Dr. J. Norman Emerson, Mr. Frank Mee, Mr. Murray Corbett, Mr. J. M. Sinclair and Mr. Bill Renison.

Dr. W.C. Noble was M.C. for the evening. After dinner, Dr. Emerson opened proceedings with a few remarks concerning the history of the O.A.S. and its contribution to our knowledge of Ontario prehistory.

Dr. Dean Axelson presented a framed certificate of honorary life membership for Mr. Frank Ridley. Mr. Ridley was unable to attend so Mr. Paul Sweetman accepted the award, paying tribute to Mr. Ridley's contribution to the field of archaeology.

Professor and Mrs. Kroon and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Storey were present to represent the Windsor Chapter of the O.A.S. This is the first branch chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society, and the charter was presented to Mr. Storey by Dr. Axelson. The O.A.S. hopes that it will see many more new chapters formed in the near future.

The toast to the founding members of 20 years ago was given by Peter Ramsden, while the toast to the O.A.S. on the 20th anniversary of its founding was given by Mr. William Renison.

The highlight of the evening was Dr. James V. Wright, Senior Archaeologist, National Museum of Man, Ottawa. Dr. Wright addressed the society on the topic of Canadian Archaeology: Trends; Past, Present and Future. Dr. Wright stressed the need for archaeological salvage, conservation and communication with the public in order that our cultural heritage be preserved. Those present listened with great intent - Dr. Wright had delivered his message to its mark.

The orchestra provided music for dancing after Dr. Wright's address, while many discussed archaeology, met old friends, and made the acquaintance of many new ones. During the intermission Dr. Emerson and "Nipper" Sinclair provided music and singing. Dr. Emerson played the guitar and Mr. Sinclair played the banjo.

The banquet was the most successful the society has ever had, and already members are looking forward to next year's banquet.
A Note of Thanks:

"Will you please convey to Dr. Emerson and the members of the Ontario Archaeological Society, my thanks and appreciation for conferring on me lifetime membership in the Society."

"The framed and beautifully embossed document conferring the honor, hangs proudly on a wall of my library."

"I had no idea that my meager contributions to Canadian archaeology were so valued by members of the Ontario Archaeological Society."

"On this twentieth anniversary of the founding of the society, may I wish the membership full success in revealing the ancient history of our country.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Ridley.

Some Highlights of the ESAF Annual Meeting

"Your president and his wife were pleased to be able to represent the 0.A.S. at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation, at Natural Bridge, Virginia, November 6-8, 1970. It was an 1800 mile drive there and back but the conference set in the autumn splendour of the Shenandoah Valley and the beauty of the Allegheny and Blue Ridge Mountains made it all worthwhile. The hospitality dating from Thomas Jefferson's guest lodge of 1803 (as described in the travel brochure) was nowhere evident, but the gracious warmth of those attending the conference, especially that of the hosting Virginians more than made up for this, with traditional bourbon cementing the archaeological ties that bind.

"I will not attempt to summarize the whole program for that can be read by all in the ESAF Bulletin which you will receive as members; rather I would like to point out some of the highlights of the meeting as I saw them.

"The business meeting, which one might normally consider dull produced much of interest. When it was announced that Ohio was admitted as a new society, it made me feel proud that Ontario was now twenty years old as a society. This enthusiasm was somewhat dimmed to realize that Pennsylvania was in its forty-first year of activity. We have a good start and a long time to go.

"I was proud to announce that our membership was now 376 and that the formation of our first branch chapter was nearly an accomplished fact (and now it has been accomplished). However, when I recorded the fact that Michigan had 670 members and 10 chapters, New York 553 members and 12 chapters, and Virginia 1,292 members and 20 chapters, it gave me pause to think again. It would appear that the future development of the O.A.S. continues and membership increases, the formation of chapters will become an inevitable concomitant, if the history of the above successful societies serve as a guide.

"It was quite interesting to note how many societies indicated that their program was to some degree integrated with university
and museum programs. This was especially true of Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina; Massachusetts in particular indicated a very active children's program. South Carolina reported that a successful underwater archaeological law had been enacted. Tennessee reported that a division of archaeology had been created within the state conservation authority. Both Virginia and Pennsylvania commented that they faced problems of "inactive" chapters as a continuing problem.

"We are certainly concerned about the destruction of archaeological sites but we have nothing compared to the shocking conditions reported by Richard A. Marshall for the state of Mississippi, and I gathered that a similar situation exists generally throughout the southern states. Here archaeology and historical conservation and development finds itself on a direct collision course with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and it seems that there is no way that the former can win. The agricultural program consists of soil reclamation. To do this, all current land is bulldozed to a depth of from four to five feet, and this means the leveling of such items as ceremonial burial and temple mounds. This program of archaeological devastation is almost unbelievable and it seems that archaeologists are almost powerless to stem the tide.

"One of the most exciting, different, humorous and thought provoking papers was presented by Dr. James L. Swauger, on "Petroglyphs in the Eastern United States". He suggested many a hypothesis—some fictitious, but many very sound. There certainly seemed to be a relationship between the Petroglyphs and the well known Ojibwa birch bark scrolls. In turn there seemed to be some relationship to the powerful Mide or Medewiwin society of shamans—those of the shaking tent. I suggested to Swauger that perhaps the ultimate interpretation of the petroglyphs lay in the field of para-psychology and the occult.

J.N. Emerson

P.S. Phyllis Bowland's absence from this conference was a source of constant enquiry and all her friends wished her well. The next meetings are in Florida. Think about it!!!
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

At the December meeting of the OAS, Frank Mee proposed the following amendments to the constitution and these were passed by vote of the membership:

1) It is proposed that Article VI, Paragraph 1 be amended to read "Election of executive officers shall take place annually at the regular January meeting of the society and balloting shall be by mail by unsigned ballot."

2) Article VI, Paragraph 2 be amended to read "A nominating committee of three shall be appointed to prepare a slate of members suggested for election. The nominating committee shall present its slate to the executive committee by the regular meeting of the society in November at which meeting nominations may also be made from the floor providing the member nominated has allowed his name to stand. Nominations shall be advised to all members of the society in ARCH NOTES before the regular meeting of the society in December."

ELECTION NEWS

Lorna Proctor, chairman of the nominating committee, has provided the following list of candidates:

PRESIDENT: James V. Wright, Ph.D., of the National Museums of Man, Ottawa.


CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Marie Zaputovich, III year Anthropology (social), Univ. of Toronto.

RECORDING SECRETARY: Mima Brown, III year Anthropology (archaeology) student, Univ. Toronto.

TREASURER: Lorna Proctor, B.A. of Toronto.

Doctors Wright, Hurley and Axelson were requested to provide statements concerning their interest in the OAS and Ontario archaeology.

Dr. Wright emphasized the need for archaeological salvage and the necessity for co-operation between professional and non-professional. The following excerpt from an article by Dr. Wright in Science Forum (Vol. 2, No.5, pp. 12-14) is a plea for proper and immediate salvage programs:

"The serious situation currently facing Canadians concerned with the country's prehistoric remains will not accommodate a chauvinistic dispersal of
the limited means available to combat the threat. Regional and individual efforts must be united in a common cause. Professionals and non-professionals must co-operate. Provincial and federal agencies must co-operate. The citizens of Canada must co-operate. This country has been blessed with a richness of natural resources, one of which is the natural record of our prehistory, a resource rapidly being destroyed by ignorance and indifference. It is a unique resource and once destroyed it can never be replaced. Action must be taken immediately to initiate, maintain, and expand systems for both the retrieval and the preservation of this resource. Their are no alternatives and time is running out."

Dr. Axelsson (candidate for vice-president) stated that "My reason for running for the office of vice-president is to provide representation on the executive on behalf of the amateur or non-professional as well as having an open mind to the viewpoint of the professional. My four years experience as president of the society will be invaluable in this position."

Dr. Hurley (candidate for vice-president), who received his doctorate in anthropology from the University of Wisconsin, has been an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto since 1967. Dr. Hurley is concerned with the archaeology of Northeastern North America and Japan as well as problems of archaeological survey and salvage. In the past three years, he has been project director of six excavations or surveys in Ontario.

BOOK NOTES


Dewdney (in association with Kenneth Kidd) has already provided an extensive survey of rock paintings in "Indian Rock Paintings of the Great Lakes". The present volume contains a description of the Hickson-Maribelli pictographs in northern Saskatchewan. At this important site no less than 28 rock faces bear paintings which range from the abstract to the fantastic. In his study of rock art Dewdney became dissatisfied with his recording techniques and constructed a list of 26 variables to be recorded including acidity factors, wind direction and cloud cover. Dewdney believes that
the dating of rock art must rest on an understanding of the complex variables involved in the weathering process. No facile dating scheme is offered. Dewdney emphasizes that only by much difficult and frustrating work will the goal of dating rock art be attained.

Archaeology in British Columbia: New Discoveries. Edited by ROY L. CARLSON. BC STUDIES (203 Auditorium Building, University of British Columbia, Vancouver 8, BC), No. 6-7, Fall-Winter 1970. 152 pages. $4.00.

This volume is a most valuable contribution to Canadian archaeology and contains eight articles by six authors. Roy Carlson presents a summary of the development of British Columbian archaeology and presents a chart which includes 12 local sequences. This is followed by six descriptive papers which includes a summary by Charles Borden of the Fraser-Delta sequence. The last paper is an extensive bibliography of British Columbian archaeology by Knut Fladmark.

Canadian Historic Sites; Occasional Papers in Archaeology and History No. 1. National Historic Sites Service, National and Historic Parks Branch, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Ottawa, 1970. 97 pages. $1.50.

This publication represents an auspicious start for the National Historic Sites Service publication series. This publication is both inexpensive and lavishly produced and is one of the best designed archaeological publications extant. The first paper by John Rick is a summary of over 30 different projects sponsored by the Nat. Hist. Sites Service between 1962 and 1966. Since much of this work has not been published Rick's paper is most welcome. Of special interest to those interested in Ontario archaeology are the excavations at Fort St. Joseph, Fort Malden, Fort Wellington and Cahiaque. The second paper is "A Classification System for Glass Beads for the Use of Field Archaeologists" by Kenneth Kidd and Martha Ann Kidd. The first portion of this report is a consideration of glass bead manufacturing techniques. This is followed by a systematic glass bead typology which includes over 500 types. All of the bead types are described in tabular form and there is a complete set of colour illustrations. The Kidd's work is comprehensive and hopefully this typology will be adopted by those interested in the historic archaeology of the Northeast. This paper, it should be noted, does not present a dating scheme nor does it attempt to trace the origin of the various types. Hopefully, these approaches will be explored in future reports by the Kidds.

(This publication can be purchased from the Queen's Printer Bookshop at 221 Yonge Street, Toronto.)
1.) Ballots are for the convenience of out-of-town members or those unable to attend the January meeting. Ballots can be brought to the annual business meeting, Wed., January 20, 1971. The votes are to be counted at the beginning of this meeting.

2.) Ballots are to be marked with an "X" in the appropriate box and placed in a sealed, unmarked envelope. This unmarked envelope is to be placed in another envelope, which is to bear the name, signature and address of the member.

3.) The ballots, if mailed, are to be sent to
Mrs. Marie Zaputovich
484 Avenue Road., Apartment # 606,
Toronto 195, Ontario.
The outer envelope should be marked "BALLOT".

4.) Only members paid up for the year 1971 by the beginning of the January meeting are allowed to vote. Associate members have no voting privileges. Below two ballots are provided for family memberships which include two votes.

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CANDIDATES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE O.A.S.
(Place X in the box beside the candidate of your choice)

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Interesting comment concerning the number of years Man has been in the New World - "A projectile point in a bison bone is worth any number in a shoebox". [ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Stones & Bones Newsletter" November 1970]

This Newsletter always carries an impressive amount of news (surprise !) and other items of interest such as this quote from Mark Twain:

"In the space of 176 years, the lower Mississippi (by cutting off loops and leaving oxbow lakes) has shortened itself 245 miles. That is an average of a trifle over one mile and a third per year. Therefore just a million years ago the lower Mississippi River was upward of one million, three hundred thousand miles long .... And 742 years from now will be only a mile and three-quarters long .... There is something fascinating about science. One gets such wholesome returns of conjecture out of such a trifling investment of fact". [ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Stones & Bones Newsletter" December 1970]

Archaeological Council on Canadian Waterways "ACCWA Activities" vol 2 no 1. December 1970. (Contains a list of Shipwreck mysteries of Georgian Bay by Patrick Folkes).

PUTT, Raymond V. 1970 "Skeletal Remains on Nursery May be Prehistoric" CANADIAN NURSERYMAN July/August 1970. Donated by Dr. Howard Savage, this is the second issue of the Canadian Nurseryman to enter our collection, containing a follow-up report concerning the ossuary on the Sheridan Nurseries property at Glen Williams.


TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGIST vol xxv no 2 Autumn 1969


WALKER Iain C. 1970 "The Crisis of Identity - History and Anthropology" Excerpt donated by author from THE CONFERENCE ON HISTORIC SITE ARCHAEOLOGY PAPERS 1968 vol 3. (Continues the interesting argument concerning what history and anthropology are, and rigid definitions valuable or detractive).

WALKER, Iain C. 1970 "Comments on Garry Wheeler Stone's 'Ceramics in Suffolk County, Massachusetts, Inventories 1680-1775' extract from THE CONFERENCE ON HISTORIC SITE ARCHAEOLOGY 1968 vol 3 donated by author (Pleas for interdisciplinary interpretation of evidences)

WEST VIRGINIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Newsletter" vol xii:5 Nov. 1970.

Since this stencil will be the last cut by yours truly as Librarian, a few words of farewell are in order. And especially thanks to those who responded to our call for donations. Iain Walker, as may be seen above, has faithfully sent us copies of his works (what DO all those Gaelic comments mean, Iain ?), rivals Bruce Trigger for prolific work. But to each and every donor and exchange Society, many thanks. Thanks too, to those members who have assisted us in the past and remained in touch throughout the recent year, serving to sharpen the contrast.

Jan.'71. C.G.