



# ARCH NOTES

Monthly Newsletter of

The Ontario Archaeological Society (Inc.)

MAR 17 1971

No. 71 - 3

EXECUTIVE



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National Museum of Man  
Ottawa, Ontario

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Marie Zaputovich  
and Lorna Procter  
(pro tem)

Editor of Ontario Archaeology:  
Dr. Conrad E. Heidenreich  
York University  
Downsview, Ontario

## MONTHLY MEETING:

This month's General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 17, 1971, at 8 p.m. in the Archaeology Laboratory, Room 561, Sidney Smith Hall, 100 St. George Street, Toronto.

The speaker will be a valued member, Dr. Howard Savage, who will speak on "The Archaeological Uses of Faunal Analysis".

Dr. Savage is a graduate of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, and for several years was a Paediatrician at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto. These later years Dr. Savage has divided his time between the Royal Ontario Museum and the Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto. At the former he is a Research Associate in the Department of Ornithology where he studies faunal analysis of bird bones from archaeological sites across Canada. The other half of his time Dr. Savage spends as a Research Associate doing similar work on bird bones mostly from Ontario sites, for the Dept. of Anthropology.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

Some of our members have not as yet renewed their membership for 1971. All cheques and postal money orders should be made payable to: The Ontario Archaeological Society and mailed to:  
Miss Lorna Procter, Treasurer, 137 Madison Ave.,  
Toronto 180, Ontario, up to March 31, 1971. From April 1st, 1971, please mail to 335 Vaughan Road, Toronto 347, Ontario.



## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Re: Dr. Dean Axelson's Resignation

Members of the Ontario Archaeological Society must be wondering why Dr. Dean Axelson resigned shortly after he was elected to the office of Vice-President. The explanation is simple but the surrounding events are complex. Dr. Axelson has been dealing in antiquities; an activity which is regarded as unethical by the Executive. Under Article XVIII of the Constitution, unethical behaviour on the part of a member can result in suspension, expulsion, or the resignation of said member. A member of the society, acting on his own initiative, informed Dr. Axelson that if he accepted the executive post his commercial involvement with antiquities would be made public to the membership. Dr. Axelson submitted his resignation.

During the February meeting I learned that Dr. Axelson was upset with my acceptance of his resignation and was, indeed, entertaining the withdrawal of his resignation. At the same meeting the Executive agreed that it could not permit a member who was guilty of unethical behaviour to hold an executive post. It was further agreed that I should talk to Dr. Axelson in private during the guest speaker's address. The results of the conversation between Dr. Axelson and myself were as follows:

1. that he have a letter to me by March 8th stating that he was no longer dealing in antiquities and no longer associated with the commercial enterprise called the Little Museum.
2. that a statement explaining his resignation would have to appear in the next Arch-Notes inasmuch as some members of the Society might believe that his resignation was due to pressure from certain professionals rather than an unethical and constitutional matter.
3. that along with the evidence that Dr. Axelson had disassociated himself with dealing in antiquities he would provide me with a short explanatory statement which would appear in Arch-Notes beneath my statement on the whole matter.
4. that if Dr. Axelson was still involved in the buying and selling of antiquities after March 8th I would urge his immediate expulsion from the Society - if, on the other hand, he had severed his business connections there would be no action taken by the Executive.

I left these discussions with the belief that Dr. Axelson was fully aware of the Executive's position and that, indeed, he was in essential agreement with our stand. The following is Dr. Axelson's reply dated February 28th, 1971:

Dr. R. Dean Axelson,  
237 Lord Seaton Dr.,  
Willowdale 440, Ont.

To President Jim Wright and the Executive of  
the Ontario Archaeological Society:

" My reason for resigning as vice-president of the O.A.S. was because of personal harrassment by certain professional members of the O.A.S.

. . . . continued

(Dr. Axelson's letter continued from previous page)

"I am appalled that the O.A.S. executive feels it necessary to delve into my personal life and also to threaten me with blackmail as was done by another O.A.S. member. Long before these threats were made against me I had decided to stop dealing in antiquities for reasons of my own and have now stopped. I was not influenced by this harrassment because the decision was already made. However, the trafficking in anti- quities will not stop because I stop.

I am also appalled by the fact that you want to publish this information in Arch-Notes and further blacken my name. As you may realize by the last election, I still have a majority following of O.A.S. members even though a large portion of them knew about my dealing in antiquities. I told a number of them on election night not to vote for me and they didn't. If you think that by publishing this information in Arch-Notes it will get you "off the hook" and make the members think you are not (as you phrased it, Jim) "picking on me", you are sadly mis- taken. I know it will have the completely opposite effect and only draw to everyone's attention that indeed you are "picking on me". Many people have told me already that they feel they should resign from the O.A.S. if you go ahead with this publicity. I want it on record that I do not want this published in Arch-Notes.

Since the O.A.S. has become so grossly influenced by professional archaeologists it has deteriorated tremendously from the happy organiza- tion it was prior to 1970. This was very evident during the last year's administration. Its activities have decreased a great deal. No work is being done other than some excavating, and the work Bill Donaldson and Joyce Holloway are doing with the Oshawa site material. What about all the work needed on all the other excavated material? I am not anti- professional but I am thoroughly disheartened with the O.A.S. at the present time.

I wish to have my name removed immediately from the membership list of the Ontario Archaeological Society. My wife Judy will continue to maintain her membership. I prefer not to have a potential blackmail situation hanging over my head. "

Yours truly,

c.c. to M. Zaputovich  
M. Brown  
L. Procter  
F. Mee  
B. Donaldson

R. Dean Axelson, D.V.M. (Signed)

As a footnote I would simply point out that Dr. Axelson had, on a number of occasions, threatened to leave the Society and take a number of the members with him. Under the circumstances it was essential that the reason for his resignation be made public. In short, members leaving the Society because of Dr. Axelson's resignation will presumably share his views regarding the dealing in antiquities. In my blunt opinion, the Ontario Archaeological Society is better off without such members, if they, indeed, exist. Finally, with reference to the professional domination myth, how can 12 professionals, not all of whom are members of this Society, dominate an organization with over 375 voting members?

. . . . continued

(The President's Report continued from previous page)

I sincerely trust that this unpleasant business is now resolved and that the energies of the Ontario Archaeological Society will continue to be directed towards achieving the goals as outlined in the Constitution. The threat facing Ontario prehistory is too enormous to allow petty divisions to deviate us even slightly from these goals. All individuals concerned with this province's prehistory, professional and non-professional, must co-operate. The task is too big and the stakes too high to tolerate any division.

J. V. Wright, President

#### ABSTRACT FROM DR. W. N. IRVING'S REPORT IN FEBRUARY, 1971

On February 17th, at the General Meeting of the O.A.S., Dr. W. N. Irving gave a stimulating talk on his work in the Yukon.

During the summer of 1970 Professor Irving, accompanied by graduate students John Holland and David Stothers, made a survey in the Old Crow region, northern Yukon, for sites with evidence of Man dating from Pleistocene times. Previous work in the area has turned up a number of bones of mammoth and giant bison which appear to have been broken by Man. Two of these have been dated by radiocarbon to between 25,000 and 30,000 B.P. A scraper made on a caribou tibia from the same locality, has been dated to about 27,000 B.P. This is at present the oldest definite indication of Man in the New World. There are, of course, problems. No artifacts have been found in situ, and no stone implements have been found at all. There is no very satisfactory way to explain these peculiar gaps in our findings.

Perhaps, however, they are not so peculiar as they seem; at such an early time level sites with middens and stone tools may be the exception rather than the rule. Last summer's work added significantly to the data, but did not modify conclusions reached previously in any significant way.

We are all very grateful to Dr. Irving for donating his time to the O.A.S. His reputation as an authority on Arctic archaeology is known to us all and his talk was both informative and enjoyable. Coloured slides added extra enjoyment to those of us who have never been farther north than Don Mills!

. . . Lorna Procter

#### THE WINDSOR CHAPTER OF THE O.A.S.

The Windsor Chapter reports the results of their recent elections, with the following elected to the Executive.

President - James Storey, Catham, Ont.

Past-President - Murray Tuck, Grande Pointe, Ont.

1st Vice-President - (Mrs.) Jessie Kilbride, Wallaceburg, Ont.

2nd Vice-President - Bruce Langley, Croton, Ont.

Treasurer & Recording Secretary - (Mrs.) Doris Crundwell, Wallaceburg

Corresponding Secretary - Glen Meredith, Thamesville, Ont.

The Chapter has adopted the Constitution of the present group. We hope to publish news from them every month.

#### NEW MEMBERS:

We are delighted to welcome the following new members and hope they will join in the activities of the Society whenever possible.

Miss Jill Ann Scott, Sudbury, Ontario  
Mrs. C. P. Harding, Oshawa, Ontario  
Miss Hughette Trudeau, Toronto, Ontario  
Miss Dorothy Lipscomb, Toronto, Ontario  
Miss Elizabeth Salter, Toronto, Ontario  
Mr. Edward Way, Toronto, Ontario  
Mr. Christopher Kapches, Toronto, Ontario.

#### O.A.S. LIBRARY:

Please Note: All societies and individuals forwarding publications to the O.A.S. Library should please revise their mailing list as follows:

Delete: Mr. Charles Garrad, 30 Upper Canada Drive, Willowdale

Insert: Mr. Rollo M. McDonald, 2547 Jarvis St., Mississauga, Ont.

This change is effective immediately.

#### NEW CO-LIBRARIANS APPOINTED:

President Dr. J. V. Wright has appointed Mr. Rollo McDonald and Mr. Dan Forrester as co-Librarians. The material will be kept at Rollo's house and donations should be sent there. Requests may be addressed to either gentleman. The O.A.S. pays the postage one way.

#### NEW TITLES:

Two members of the O.A.S. have donated the following publications that will add greatly to our library.

##### Clyde C. Kennedy of Ottawa.

- The Upper Ottawa Valley, Pembroke, Renfrew County Council, 1970, 254 pp. \$3.95. (The Royal Ontario Museum gift shop has a supply of this book and I am sure our members are interested in the history of the Indians of this valley.

##### Dr. David S. Brose of the Dept. of Anthropology, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

- The Valley Sweets Site (The Michigan Archaeologist, Mar.1966, p.1-21)
- The Backlund Mound Group (Wisconsin Archaeologist, Mar.1968, p.34-51)
- Excavations in Fort Mackinac, 1965 (The Michigan Archaeologist, June 1966, p.88-101)
- The Goodwin-Gresham Site, 20 IS 8, Iosco County, Michigan, by James E. Fitting, D.S. Brose and others. (The Wisconsin Archaeologist, Sept.1969, p. 125-183)
- Infra-red Photography: an Aid to Stratigraphic Interpretation. (Michigan Archaeologist, Dec. 1964, p.69-73)
- Summer Island III; an Early Historic Site in the Upper Great Lakes (Historical Archaeology, vol. 4, 1970, p.3-33)
- The Northern Periphery, by J.E.Fitting & D.S.Brose. 46 pp. (Paper presented at the III Adena Symposium at Ball State University, Muncie, Ind., March, 1970.
- Big Bend Historic Sites, by G. Hubert Smith. (Publications in Salvage Archaeology, U.S.Dept.of the Interior,1968) Reviewed by D.S.Brose, 1 p.