



# ARCH NOTES

P.O. Box 241, Postal Station P, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2S8

April 1976

76-4

---

## This Month's Meeting

The April meeting of the Ontario Archaeological Society will be held at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, 1976 in the lecture theatre of the McLaughlin Planetarium, Royal Ontario Museum, Queen's Park, Toronto.

Speaker for the evening will be Dr. William Hurley of the University of Toronto, and his subject: "Late Woodland Occupation in Wisconsin".

Newsletter of

**The Ontario Archaeological Society (Inc.)**

ISSN 0048-1742

C O N T E N T S

March General Meeting - Petun Archaeology 3

Report on O.A.S. Faunal Analysis Course 5

Press Cuttings 6

O.A.S. Questionnaire Reviewed 8

New Books 12

Information Please 13

In Memoriam - J.B. Morton 14

O.A.S. Symposium 1976 15

N.B. The Editor has not received his usual copy of Archaic Notes from the Ottawa Chapter, but their news will be in our next issue. However, we do know that, on Wednesday, April 14, their speaker will be our President, Dr. Howard Savage, and he will be speaking about the preservation of human tissue for 3,000 years in Ontario.

- - - - -

ARCH NOTES - Facts and Figures - April 1976

Initial mailing this month was to 362 members, as follows:

<u>Metro Toronto</u>	<u>Rest of Ontario</u>	<u>Outside Ontario</u>	<u>Totals</u>	
10	19	31	60	Institutions
<u>128</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>302</u>	
<u>138</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>362</u>	

This is an increase of 24.8% over last April's mailing to 290 members.

A summary of highlight topics from a talk PETUN ARCHAEOLOGY, by Chas. Garrad, given before the O.A.S. on March 17th, 1976

1. The French ethnohistoric sources provide a number of reasonably consistent references to the distance and the direction of the Petun area from the Hurons, and descriptions of the countryside there. The townships of Nottawasaga, Mulmur and Collingwood are seen to satisfactorily comply with the historic Petun area.
2. Work in this area commenced with David Boyle in 1886. The conclusions and speculations of the pioneer researchers are generally confirmed today as mainly accurate. The exception is that of Father Jones, whose main contribution lies in the fact that he caused others to respond to his theories. Mr. J. Allan Blair has worked in the area for more than half a century. In all we have recorded reports of 239 archaeological occurrences.
3. In 1974 the accumulated data was reinterpreted as evidential of: 18 "villages" of two acres or more; 18 lesser villages or major campsites; 22 minor campsites of only one fire; 31 burial areas; 47 food growing areas. Of the 18 villages, the earliest dates circa 1550 AD, too early to be historic Petun. The remaining 17 villages are presently accepted as historic Petun.
4. Smaller sites and activity areas are seen to cluster around a central village, and their archaeology presumably reflects that of the village. Hence something might yet be deduced about those small sites even if totally destroyed.
5. The evidence responsible for the belief that the Petuns at any time lived in the Bruce Peninsula, or anywhere west of the Blue Mountains, does not stand up to examination.
6. The archaeological evidence suggests much trading, and manufacturing activities by the Petun.
7. Prior to 1974, 1,781 rimsherds and 391 clay pipe bowls were recorded from the 18 Petun area villages. In 1974 the A.S.C., R.O.M. and U. of T. Petun collections were recorded, and work on sites in 1974 and 1975 added further samples. At the moment the counts are 4,000 rimsherds and 866 clay pipe bowls. Emphasis is on these two types of artifacts because they are recorded from all 18 villages; the rimsherd collections range from 3 to 1,216 pieces from any one site. Samples remain deficient from a number of sites.
8. To utilize rimsherd data a typology system was set up combining the works of Bell, Emerson, MacNeish, Ridley and Wright. For clay pipe bowls the work of Emerson and Noble was extended to include 40 types.

Petun Archaeology - continued

9. To date the 17 Petun villages have yielded the following types of rimsherd and clay pipe bowls: Rimsherds - Sidey Notched - in all 17 villages, with the most popular types appearing in 13 villages; Huron Incised - in 16 villages; Lawson Incised - 13; MacMurchy Scalloped - 10; Seed Incised - 8; Warminster Horizontal - 8; Blue Mountain Punctate - 8; Clay Pipe Bowls - Coronet - 15; Apple Bowl Ring - 14; Conical Ring - 11; Trumpet Plain - 11; Bulbous Ring - 10; Human Effigy Pinch Face - 10. Effigy Owl - 10; Some revisions of these figures may be expected as future work is devoted to deficient sites.

10. The Sidey-Mackay BbHa-6 Site must also be regarded as among those from which usable samples are deficient. Excavated 50 years ago this year, the records are no longer available, and most of the collection is dispersed. Data adaptable to our present rimsherd and clay pipe bowl typology systems cannot be satisfactorily extracted from the published report. Published rimsherd data is based on the small remnant sample remaining at A.S.C., and there is no way of knowing how representative of the entire rimsherd collection this remnant sample is. The work on the other sites indicates the Sidey-Mackay BcHa-6 is either very different archaeologically or some other factor inhibits our achieving Coefficients of Similarity within the meaningful-relationship range. If the published data is drawn from a non-representative selection, this could be the inhibiting factor.

11. From work inside the Petun area has come a number of studies and publications of benefit to other researchers elsewhere. Topics include: The Borden Site Designation Scheme, Iron Trade Knives, Bear Jaw Tools, Ontario Fluted Points, and Corn Hills. From related work outside the historic area has come evidence that: the name WYANDOTTE embraces not only the tribes collectively called HURON, but also those known as PETUN and NEUTRAL;; the oral tradition of the Petun has survived in the book ORIGINAL AND TRADITIONAL HISTORY OF THE WYANDOTTES by Peter D. Clarke; people descended from the historic Petun may still be traced today in Oklahoma.

12. Past and present work in the Petun area is the product of the efforts of a number of people, to whom many thanks and much credit should be given. Special mention must be made to Mr. J. Allan Blair, who worked almost alone for more than half a century.

Acknowledgment for financial support in recent years is made to the Canada Council, the Ontario Heritage Foundation, the Imperial Tobacco Company, and a number of personal friends.

CG

A REPORT ON THE O.A.S. FAUNAL OSTEOLOGY COURSE

Dr. Howard (Grey Fox) Savage's Thursday evening course of ten weeks' duration at the Borden Building (Anthropology Department, University of Toronto) was a complete success, especially from the participants' point of view.

With an enrolment of 24-30, students came from as far afield as Peterborough (Trent University) and Burlington. While the facilities of the lab were strained to capacity, Howard's wry humour lent moments of relief to a very challenging and stimulating course, which was devoted to the osteological characteristics of each of the vertebrates, namely Fish, Amphibian, Turtle, Avian and Mammalian. Then each "class" represented by a typical specimen was reviewed in depth, special attention being given to the methods of ascertaining the age of the specimen. The excavated faunal material can be used, when properly identified, to tell us something of cultural, temporal, and spatial conditions existing at the time the species was utilized.

The use of specimen skeletal material, both mounted and loose, made the lectures a great deal more understandable and succinct. Deviations between specimens became apparent when they were viewed side by side.

We were awed by Howard's ability (sometimes intuitive?) to identify bone fragments and establish the species from which it came, and its age and sex.

The aboriginal use of bone material in the manufacture of tools was illustrated by artifacts, and the skeletal source identified, methods of manufacture were explained and actual methods of splintering bone were graphically demonstrated. Individual participation was encouraged, and the students' response more than proved their interest.

Faunal identification by small groups using the material from the O.A.S. Kelly Campbell "dig" of 1974 was carried out, with Dr. Savage assisting in the identification of questionable material. It is apparent that the serious student should begin to establish a representative skeletal collection to aid in identification.

The results of several quizzes left us only too aware of the complexity and demands of the subject. They also confirmed the fact that positive identification can and should be carried out only by experts. However, tentative identification (subject of course to verification) might be carried out by trained amateurs, thus reducing the work load of the overworked professional. On the positive side, we are now more familiar with one more of the disciplines that make up the multi-faceted study that is archaeology.

The knowledge we have gained has not only broadened our interest, but will make the job of daily field reports on the site more interesting and rewarding. I am sure that everyone who participated in the course joins me in thanking Dr. Savage. The course was obviously the result of a lot of time and work on his part, and we were very lucky to be the recipients of his generosity. We all hope that he will consider a possible extension of the course sometime in the future.

David G. Roberts

Find at Rice Lake dated at 2760 B.C.

An archaeological site beside Rice Lake has proved to be one of the oldest human settlements uncoovered in this part of the province, a Trent University anthropologist says.

R.B. Johnston, chairman of the department of anthropology at the university, said that the site has yielded artifacts that are almost 5,000 years old and provided important new evidence on the history of early man in Ontario.

There is evidence that man was here even earlier, but the findings have been random ones, Dr. Johnston says.

The discovery, he said, is twice as old as the Serpent Mounds, also near Rice Lake, which were human settlement areas 2,000 years ago. "It's an important step forward in understanding the early history of the province."

Dr. Johnston, who directed the dig at the site last summer, recently received the results of radio-carbon testing on some of the artifacts. The finds were taken from 40 firepits near the shore of Rice Lake. A bear tooth with a hole drilled through it - to be worn as a necklace - was dated at 2760 BC, he said. Other items, such as a millstone, were dated at 1700 BC.

The discovery of the jawbone of a dog, indicating the domestication of animals, is a rare and important find, he said.

The professor said he had known of the site for two years and preliminary testing indicated it would be promising, but he was unable to obtain enough money to establish a dig until last summer, when he and five students began work. "This is one of the very few Archaic sites ever excavated", he stated.

In the firepits, some of which are three to four feet across, the archaeological team found bones of catfish, bass and deer, some axes, and woodworking tools.

Globe & Mail  
March 18, 1976

1066 and All That

The hundred-acre field where William, Duke of Normandy, defeated King Harold of England, in the Battle of Hastings in 1066 is going to be sold to the highest bidder in June.

Here in Toronto, where the passing glance of a famous person is enough to bestow historic significance upon the most unprepossessing buildings, it will be difficult to digest the news that the English are prepared to sell the site of the Battle of Hastings. If it's historical significance you're looking for, you can scarcely do better

(more)

Press Cuttings - continued

than Hastings - the last successful foreign invasion (military, anyway) of England, and an event marking the infusion of Norman influence on the language and customs of the British.

But there it goes, under the hammer. One in the eye for England, just as Hastings was one in the eye for King Harold, particularly if it goes to a bidder from outside the country. This is not at all unlikely when one remembers that a Texan was allowed to cart London Bridge off, stone by stone, and put it up in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. Will he now slice up the sod and topsoil of 1066 and all that, for shipment to the New World? Is Stonehenge safe? Runnymede? Hadrian's Wall?

Will there always be an England?

Globe & Mail  
March 16, 1976

53 Ways of Saying Corn

For more than a decade, his ears ringing with unpronounceable and unintelligible words, his brain frequently fuzzed by cane-sugar liquor, Dr. Robert Laughlin, an American anthropologist, sat in a thatched hut in southern Mexico and listened to Indians talking in their native tongue, Izotzil.

As the sounds became familiar he wrote words down in relentless pursuit of his goal: the great Tzotzil dictionary of San Lorenzo Zinacantan.

Some of his colleagues in the natural history department of the Smithsonian Institute scornfully assessed his project as wildly insane.

Now, 14 years later and after \$120,000 worth of grant money has been spent, the 516,598-word dictionary, number 19 of the anthropology, is on sale at about \$14 a copy. Dr. Laughlin claims it is the largest dictionary of a primitive language in the western hemisphere and a bargain.

He is happy to know that half of the 3,300 copies published have already gone to anthropologists throughout the world. The dictionary could help those trying to decipher Mayan markings on Yucatan temples.

The Tzotzil word for corn presented a typical problem. The eight kinds of cereal have 53 names.

On presenting a copy to the mayor of Zinacantan, he said: "If any outsiders come to town and call you stupid asinine Indians, please show them this book. Here is your knowledge. Please conserve it for your people."

Sunday Times  
March, 1976

MARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

The President and Executive of the O.A.S. would like to thank the 46 members who responded so quickly to the March Questionnaire. The analysis of the answers and consideration of the many suggestions and ideas submitted is now underway. Those members who kindly offered their services to the O.A.S. will be contacted.

The lucky winner of the free tickets for the O.A.S. Banquet and Symposium is:

James R. Brennan

Brief initial conclusions from answers to the questionnaire can be seen itemized below.

- a) The questionnaire evoked a 16% return (a 15-20% return for a mailing to a 'closed group' is considered "pretty good").
- b) The answers to the first question produced an overall majority on all items (excluding 1(k) - political lobbying - which had a majority, though not overall).

In effect the majority says: The O.A.S. should do more excavation, lab work and analysis, cataloguing and preservation, scientific publication, education within the Society and of the public, political lobbying, research and investigation, and the forming of local groups and chapters. The Society should continue doing the same as it is with regard to newsletter publications, monthly meetings, symposia, and social functions. There was no majority for less of anything.

The most decisive answers were: monthly meetings should remain the same - 91.3%, and symposia should remain the same - 77.2%. The least decisive: political lobbying should be increased - 45.6% and more local chapters and groups should be formed - 57.6%.

Four items in question 1 produced the greatest number of their majority answers from outside Metro Toronto, and these were: education within the Society; education of the public; political lobbying; and the formation of local groups and chapters.

- c) Regarding "...additional functions you would like the O.A.S. to provide..", suggestions included: more educational courses, both credit and certification courses; a speakers' bureau supplying lecturers for talks to high schools, public talks, etc.; financial assistance for special projects, research and instruction; fees for speakers; an employment service for archaeological work; hosting of an E.S.A.F. conference; establishing contacts with other Provincial Societies.

"Improvement in the functions of the O.A.S." Suggestions (although one member considered "... it is perfect as it is ..") included: travelling monthly meetings, i.e. don't always hold them in Toronto; each meeting to include a 10-minute talk

on field methods, lab methods; a display of excavated materials at monthly meetings; an occasional film night of anthropological films. Other suggestions (including a summer weekend banquet on an archaeological site) were: more cooperation with the ROM; more public contact; more advertising; continuity of Executive members to enable them to get more 'involved' both provincially and nationally; more projects for amateurs; better access to the library; and more opportunities for excavation, lab work and research.

- d) The questions on publication changes, or additional publications, produced the following:

A decisive vote for more "Ontario Archaeology" - a quarterly issue being the most popular suggestion.

Many members would also like a publication dealing with archaeological technical, scientific and research subjects dealt with as monographs, and either included in 'O.A.' or made up as a separate publication.

Suggestions included the expansion of Arch Notes to include more reviews of archaeological publications; more pictorial articles; more illustrations; more small stories and news flashes of archaeological interest; more site reports; information on 'who is doing what'; information on digs around the world; a catalogue of excavations; lists of specialists and volunteers required.

Other publications desired included: a library of reports on O.A.S. digs; a glossy photo magazine on archaeology; a pocket field handbook for new members; a list of our library papers; an ongoing journal on what's being done in all areas of Ontario archaeology; and reports from archaeological specialists.

A few members considered all publications were excellent and no changes were necessary.

- e) "Membership and Fees" produced the following:

We need an increase in membership	71%
We don't need an increase	29%
We need an increase in fees	58%
We don't need an increase	42%

Suggestions were made re establishing a student fee (to B.A. level) and raising the Active fee to: \$8, \$10 or \$15.

- f) "What do you find most rewarding about Membership" produced the following:

Publications	15 mentions
The people met	11 "

March Questionnaire - continued

Monthly meetings and lectures	9	mentions
Education, fieldwork & analysis	9	"
Being kept informed	4	"
Symposia	3	"
Awareness of history, exposure to Ontario archaeology	3	"
Don't know, very little, nothing	3	"
Participating in the Executive	2	"
Supporting a valuable institution	1	"
Communicating with archaeologists	1	"
Exposure to range of research topics	1	"
Forum for discussing Ontario archaeological problems	1	"

g) Answers to questions on premises and staff were as follows:

Offices: 41.3% of replies were in favour of "Private and general offices, secretary and manager, library and laboratory space";

23.9% were in favour of "Small office with phone and clerk plus space for library/reading facilities".

City: 93.4% were in favour of Toronto. (90% of the replies from outside Toronto were all in favour of Toronto!)

Location: "a downtown location" 35%

"in a building of historic interest" 28%

and the above combined 19%

Total 82%

h) The primary aims of the O.A.S. are seen as: study and scientific investigation of Ontario prehistory; collection, collation and dissemination of information on Ontario archaeology; representing a major section of Ontario archaeology; integrating local interest groups across the Province; preservation of the archaeological record;

March Questionnaire - continued

providing a focal point for provincial archaeology;  
bridging the gap between professional and non-professional  
archaeologists.

Plus: field work, research, site preservation, discourse,  
dissemination, publication. Teaching and training,  
adult education, encouragement, promotion and help;  
communication. Locating, salvaging, recording and  
conserving.

Views of the Society in 5 years' time include:

"A major voice in Ontario archaeology; an influential  
public group; prominent in the cultural community; stronger,  
internally vital and contributing substantially to archaeology  
in the Province, and even nationally."

"Bigger, more efficient, better known, established, more  
chapters, more research, excavation and lab courses; more  
lectures and films."

---

Replies to the questionnaire received before the deadline date came  
from the following members: Lynda Ackroyd, Mary Ambrose, Nancy  
Barker, Frederick Baumann, Kim Beard, James R. Brennan, Margaret  
Brennan, Patsy Cook, C. Cullis, Chas. Garrad, Joyce Holloway,  
David S. Johnson, Joyce A. Kleinfelder, Dean Knight, Norma Knowlton,  
Victor A. Konrad, M.A. Latta, M. Latyshevskaya, Stew Leslie, Robert  
G. Mayer, Frank Mee, Barry M. Mitchell, W.C. Noble, A.N. Other,  
G. Ounjian, Robert J. Pearce, Arthur Pegg, Roland Piesik, Robert H.  
Pihl, John Pollock, Lorna R. Procter, John Reid, Gary Richer,  
David G. Roberts, John Robertson, William Ross, Elizabeth Salter,  
Shelley Saunders, Howard Savage, Gerry Shepherd, Michael Spence,  
Frances L. Stewart, Peter Storck, Geoff Sutherland, Neal L.  
Trubowitz, and I.C. Walker.

Mailing details:

<u>Questionnaire</u> <u>mailed to:</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Effective</u>		<u>% of</u>
	<u>Members</u>	<u>Institutions</u>	<u>Mailing</u>	<u>Replies</u>	<u>Area</u>
Metro Toronto	130	12	118	25	21.18
Rest of Ontario	166	23	143	16	11.18
Outside Ontario	60	31	29	4	13.79
(Unaddressed reply)				1	
Canada and U.S.A.	<u>356</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>290</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>15.86</u>

M.W.K.

NEW BOOKS

The Art of Easter Island by Thor Heyerdahl (George Allen & Unwin)

The Art and Artifacts of the Pacific and the Americas by Steven Phelps (The James Hooper Collection & Hutchinson)

Rapa Nui: Easter Island by Fred Picke (Paddington Press)

From a review by Jacquetta Hawkes

Thor Heyerdahl and the Easter islanders are worthy of one another. Both have allowed magnificent obsessions to drive them to labours that appear superhuman. By showing that they could be done he has convinced so many people that they were done by the ancients he was simulating.

However, Heyerdahl has a far better case in claiming that Rapa Nui ("Navel of the World" - Easter Island) was originally peopled from Amercia and not, as most anthropologists believe, from Polynesia, than he has for proposing that Egyptians crossed the Atlantic. Moreover, the excavations of his scientific expedition of 1955 (a few years after the Kontiki escapade) justified some of his arguments and won him converts. Among them is the French archaeologist, Dr. Lavachery, who has written a very favourable Forward to The Art of Easter Island.

The excavators were able to show that there were men on the island by about AD 385, very close to Heyerdahl's estimate based on traditional genealogies. Most of his opponents had been placing the settlement a thousand years later. There was also good evidence to prove that almost all the great and grim statues had been carved in the middle phase of the island's history, between the eleventh and seventeenth centuries, and that all were intended to be set up on family mausolea. Bloody feuds broke out after 1680 when many of the most megalomaniacal of the statues were abandoned in and around the amazing Ranu Raraku quarries, while those already on the mausolea were overthrown.

What must remain very much in doubt is Heyerdahl's unshaken conviction that the people responsible for the early and middle period settlements came from America - the Polynesians having been brought in as foreign labour for the statuary. He is formidable but tremendously biased in argument, an advocate rather than a judge. He skates over time chasms, does not explain why his Peruvians ceased to practise their leading arts of potting and weaving, and sees close affinities between Easter Island and Peruvian art where most of us see none.

Steven Phelps, the young anthropologist who has published a handsome and useful catalogue of his grandfather's collection, while maintaining that the islanders are of "purely Polynesian origin" is prepared to allow the possibility of indirect contact

(more)

New Books - continued

with America, to account for the presence of the sweet potato. The thin end of a very small wedge?

These are old arguments revived. What is new and valuable in Heyerdahl's huge book is the bringing together of an impressive corpus of Easter Island art drawn from the museums of the world and from his own discoveries. One of the triumphs of his expedition was that his personal mana and his generosity induced the islanders to show him secret family caves where small, sacred sculptures had been concealed.

Fine though some of the minor works are, especially the well-known wooden skeletal figures, few of us would give them a thought if it were not for the big brothers on the volcanic slopes and the sea's edge. Here again Thor Heyerdahl has been a benefactor, for through his initiative some of the titans are being stood upright once more. One who has benefited is Fred Picker, who shows the restorations among his many dramatic studies in Rapa Nui.

If much of the mystery of Easter Island has gone, the marvel remains that a few thousand manic men with stone tools and muscle could have carved and hauled some 16,000 tons of rock. Yet we with our millions and our machines, cannot any longer "afford" to build so much as a stone house.

Sunday Times  
March, 1976

- - - - -

Information Please

Jim Pendergast of the National Museum of Man, Ottawa, is presently writing a report on the Benson Site. He would appreciate hearing of any stories, anecdotes or incidents, and seeing any photographs or sketches, connected with the excavation of this site by members of the O.A.S. Please contact him c/o The National Museum of Man, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M8.

- - - - -

ARCH NOTES is published 7 - 10 times a year by the Ontario Archaeological Society. All enquiries and contributions should be addressed to Mike Kirby, Chairman, Arch Notes Committee, c/o 29 Tournament Drive, Willowdale, Ontario M2P 1K1.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep personal regret that I pass along to the membership of the O.A.S. the obituary of a dear friend and longtime member of this Society, Mr. J.B. Morton of Carluke, Ontario. Jack often travelled to O.A.S. functions as part of the Hamilton contingent, to attend the Toronto meetings and symposia. He was well known in this area for his jovial kindheartedness and openness of manner and took great delight in showing his large collection of Indian artifacts to visitors who dropped in to talk archaeology. He knew all the sites in the Ancaster area and met many of the early collectors and professionals when he was a boy. He spoke warmly of old friends and acquaintances like Frank Ridley, W.J. Wintemberg, Rutherford Smith, Peter Pringle, Charles Hayes, Walter Kenyon and of neighbours whose names are synonymous with sites in the area. His own collection goes back three generations to his maternal grandmother, Mrs. George (Jennie) Cleland, who picked up the pieces left by former occupants when she helped her husband clear the land for farming about 1867. His uncle, William Cleland, greatly expanded the collection, which passed to Jack in 1955. Fortunately for us, Jack recorded his reminiscences at McMaster University in the spring of 1972 and although his words live on, we will miss him greatly.

Stew Leslie  
on behalf of all Jack's friends