



# ARCH NOTES

ISSN 0048-1742

MAY 1976

76-5

## THIS MONTH'S MEETING

The May meeting of the Ontario Archaeological Society will be held at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19, 1976, in the lecture theatre of the McLaughlin Planetarium, Royal Ontario Museum, Queen's Park, Toronto.

Main speaker of the evening will be Bill Johnson, and his subject: "The Campbell Site, New Perspectives on Late Woodland Archaeology in Southwestern Pennsylvania".

## C.A.A. Meeting

We expect to have a report in our next issue of the April 29 - May 2 meeting of the Canadian Archaeological Association. Four members of our Executive were there and they have promised the Editor a comprehensive write-up.

Newsletter of

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

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

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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, Willodale, Ontario M2P 1K1

After conducting the necessary business, our President, Dr. Howard Savage, presented a Certificate of honorary life membership to Murray Corbett.

The evening's talk was given by Dr. Wm. Hurley, of the University of Toronto, and editor of Ontario Archaeology.

Dr. Hurley discussed the Onaiota Site on the Missouri River. It is situated in an area containing many resources: lake, prairie, the Chippewa River, swamp and uplands. There were mounds in the woods behind the site, but a connection could not be established. He worked there for six weeks on a \$2,000 grant, with two free students.

The area excavated was a house site covering a small area, and contained deep pits within it. The material was plentiful and well stratified. It was totally different from material from Orr focus sites, the pottery having high rims, a circle motif, handles, with decoration round the shoulders and a crenellated lip.

Flotation recovered corn, raspberry, blackberry, pigweed and prairie grass seeds and hickory nuts. Faunal remains were predominantly mammal, including some human without evidence of cannibalism. The remainder were bird, turtle, fish and mollusc.

Dr. Hurley gave an account of the difficulties of trying to do the pottery analysis on a computer. The method he used proved unsatisfactory, and he said it wasted three years. The main problem lies in the difficulty of classification, and he said that archaeologists have some way to go yet on defining a "type". He stated that the computer was fine for a data base, but archaeologists should beware of using it as an analytic tool.

Dr. Savage mentioned the brief being presented to the Ontario Heritage Foundation on "The Changing Role of the O.A.S. into the 1980s", and the following is a summary.

During the next five years the O.A.S. envisages, if given financial support, a programme of education available throughout the Province to individuals having an interest in archaeology. An expanded programme of publication of both scientific and newsletter format is foreseen. Members of the O.A.S. will be offered courses in various phases of archaeology. The analysis of site materials and the reporting of sites already excavated will then be more feasible. A continuing excavation programme will stress the educational aspects of field work, rather than extensive site excavations. A considerable increase in membership, followed by the formation of new Chapters, is anticipated.

The above programme will only be possible if central, permanent office facilities and staff, and commensurate financial support are available. The benefits to archaeology in Ontario are seen as considerable, far-reaching and worthwhile.

CERTIFICATE AWARDS FOR THE O.A.S. FAUNAL ANALYSIS COURSE

The O.A.S. Faunal Analysis Course was given, on Thursday evenings in nine sessions, from March 5 to April 1, 1976. Discussions on a wide range of faunal subjects which supply information about the village occupants of archaeological sites were entered into by all present. A written quiz was held at the last session, and this hopefully was a learning experience.

O.A.S. members who attended at least two thirds of the sessions, and received a mark of 70% or more in the quiz, are listed below. Certificates will be given at the O.A.S. meeting on Wednesday, May 19.

Rosemary Prevec	Margaret Brennan
Jim Brennan	Mary Tivy
Heide Lenzner	Margaret Ann Clark
Brad Millen	Gisele Lincoln
Larry Pavlish	Patsy Cook
Bob Pearce	Lawrie Jackson
Cam Cullis	Karen Cobbe
Mike Birett	David Roberts
Maria Latyszewskyj	Glenn Murphy
Megan Lockyer	

It is hoped that a similar Faunal Analysis Course or a more advanced course will be given next winter.

Howard Savage

Certificates are also being awarded on May 19 to those members who, earlier this year, successfully completed Dr. J.H. McAndrews' course on Archaeobotany of Ontario. These are:

Kim Beard  
Patsy Cook  
David Roberts  
Sharon Hick  
Jim Brennan  
Elizabeth McDonald  
Joanne Lindsay

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In the June issue of Arch. Notes we expect to include full details of the final arrangements for the 1976 O.A.S. Symposium. (Stop Press: Probable venue is the Four Seasons Sheraton Hotel, Toronto.)

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SUMMER SEASON - ARCHAEOLOGICAL ROUND-UP #1

What are you doing this season? If it's of interest to other members, please send a few notes to the Editor and your activities will be included in the next issue of Arch Notes.

This month we have details of the following:

1. EXCAVATION AT THE BEETON SITE
2. OSSUARY EXCAVATION AT S.E. LAKE SIMCOE
3. EXCAVATION AT EARLY PALAEO-INDIAN SITE AT COLLINGWOOD
4. POLLEN ANALYSIS AND DENDROCHRONOLOGY AT INDIAN HOUSE LAKE

1. Excavation is planned at the Beeton Site, BaGw-1, between August 2 and September 1. Marti Latta is supervising this dig and a professional archaeologist and crew will be on site during this period.

O.A.S. members are welcome to participate in one of two ways: 1) as volunteers for five days or more - when you will be invited to camp with the regular crew and share in all the ongoing program; or 2) as day workers - when you will participate in whatever work happens to be in progress that day. (Day workers will need to arrange their own accommodation.)

If you are interested in this excavation, maps and other information can be obtained from Marti Latta (via the O.A.S. Post Box please). As space is limited, please make arrangements with Marti for the period you wish to work as soon as you can.

2. Patsy Cook expects to continue work at an ossuary site at BbGt-1 this summer and hopes to be working weekends from mid-May until late October with perhaps two full weeks in August. The crew will consist of O.A.S. members including some from last year. The property owner has imposed restrictions regarding the size of the crew and the number of visitors. Consequently, an open invitation to O.A.S. members cannot be given, either to help with the excavation or to visit the site. However, a few O.A.S. members can be accommodated as crew, especially if they are free to participate over an extended period of time. Crew members are expected to provide their own trowels and camping equipment. Interested individuals should write to Patsy at her home address: 128 Hogarth Avenue, Toronto, Ontario.

"Last summer, several O.A.S. members were involved in the initial testing of this ossuary site (BbGt-1) located southeast of Lake Simcoe. The work was initiated by Dr. Emerson who applied for the licence to excavate. We worked weekends only, camping

(more)

Summer Season - Continued

over-night at the site; and our field season extended from mid-July until the end of October. When we first arrived at the site we could see some bones in a gopher hole but were otherwise unsure of the nature or extent of the site. Therefore, we removed the plow zone from an area thirty feet by thirty feet around the gopher hole, by shovelling and screening. The plow zone was relatively shallow (4-7 inches) and produced numerous human bone fragments and teeth, plus one teeny rim sherd and one discoidal shell bead.

"The removal of the plow zone revealed a dark brown circular stain, thirteen feet east-west by sixteen feet north-south. Within this stain was an 'oval' concentration of bone with a noticeable extension at its' south end. Inside the bone concentration was a circular area of grey brown sand. The above was considered to be a single feature, Feature I, with three components labelled I-A, I-B and I-C. respectively. All the stains around Feature I were sectioned and diagrammed. This revealed thirty three post molds, five of which are angled, and eight pits. Two of the pits produced some human bone fragments but no artifactual material. We also found four areas of heavy black staining which are irregular both in outline and cross-section. Their nature and relationship to Feature I are uncertain at this time but they are thought to be cultural in origin.

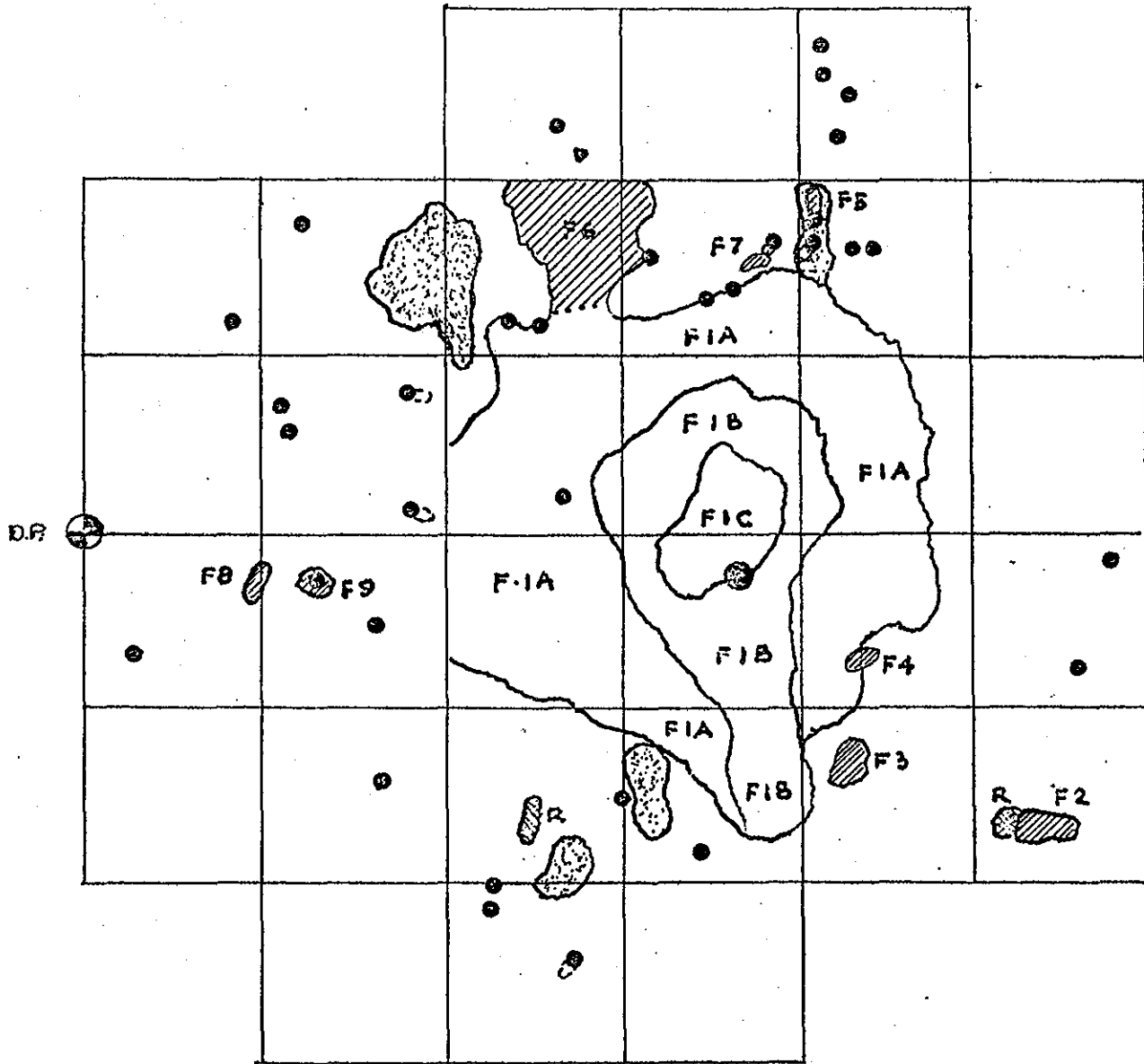
"Once the site layout was exposed, it was decided to remove a wedge shaped section of Feature I, designated Unit I. This was done to determine the depth, contents and profile of Feature I as well as the relationship between I-A, I-B and I-C. Unit I was removed in arbitrary four inch levels to a depth of forty two inches below ground level, when we finished our work last fall. We have not yet reached the bottom of Feature I. The cultural content of Unit I to date is one discoidal shell bead. As we dug downward in Unit I, Feature I decreased slowly in size and had an irregular outline. Components I-A and I-C diminished in size and finally both terminated (not at the same depth) and were replaced by I-B, the bone concentration.

"On the north edge of Feature I, Unit I, but distinct from it, we encountered a double bundle burial. This burial contained a middle aged female and a nine year old male but with neither skeleton completely represented since there was only one pelvis and few ribs or vertebrae. There were no grave goods.

"During our field season we were fortunate to have the assistance and advice of Dr. Jerry Melbye, a physical anthropologist from Erindale College who had worked previously on the Kleinburg ossuary."

Patsy Cook

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PITS



BLACK STAINS



POSTS — VERTICAL



— INCLINED

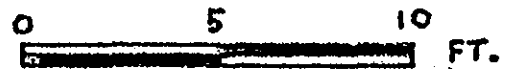


ROCK



RODENT BURROW

LEVEL N°1 P.Z.  
UXBRIDGE OSSUARY  
BbGt-1



Summer Season - continued

3. Peter Storck will be going into the field this summer from June 1 to mid-July. He will have a crew of eight, and will be testing a new Early Palaeo-Indian (fluted point) site he found last summer southeast of Collingwood.

He will be using motorized screens for the first time and he expects these to speed up the work considerably. These screens are minor modifications of similar units used so successfully by Trent University last summer.

Peter hopes to find remnants of features below the plough zone with sufficient charcoal for dating (and plant identification) and, if extremely fortunate, perhaps a few scraps of charred bone for faunal identification. He would like to know whether the site was occupied during or after the existence of glacial Lake Algonquin (dating from sometime prior to 12,500 BP to 10,400 BP.)

Peter is presently obtaining the views of the landowner regarding visits by interested members and as yet is unable to extend an open invitation. But if you are especially interested, please write or phone him at the Royal Ontario Museum toward the end of May.

4. Jock McAndrews is returning this summer to the site at Indian House Lake (Mushuau Nipi), Nouveau-Quebec, where Gilles Samson of Universite Laval is continuing work.

Jock will be carrying out pollen analysis plus studies in dendrochronology on spruce and larch.

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Pussyfooting !?

For 15 years Neil Todd has been spotting cats - not big cats and not fancy cats - but alley cats. Dr. Todd is a professor of biology at Boston University and works out of the Carnivore Genetics Research Centre at Newtonville, Mass.

Dr. Todd's fascination with the cat stems in part from his conviction that when enough profiles of its genetic mutations are compiled, light will be shed on past human migrations, trade and commercial routes.

The cat was around long before man came on the scene. Fossil records dating back 40 million years show the cat abounded then in remarkably similar form to his modern successor.

"My own persistent interest," says Dr. Todd, "is that there is a problem to be solved. The domestication of the cat and its dispersion comes closest to the parallel of the urbanization of man. It shows us something of early humans." He thinks that if a certain cat strain is found in a certain part of the world, it is probably because humans transported it there at some time.



Report on the March Meeting of the Ottawa Chapter

On March 10th, twenty members of the O.A.S. Ottawa Chapter, gathered to hear two talks. The first was delivered by Dr. Peter Storck, Assistant Curator of the Royal Ottawa Algonquin Museum, and was entitled "Early Man and Glacial Lake Algonquin in Ontario".

He began by outlining his work of the past five years in Southwestern Ontario. His particular interest has been, and still is, palaeo-Indian occupations in that area. His first survey was conducted in the boreal forest across from Manitoulin Island. That did not prove too successful because of the dense brush.

Storck then discussed fluted projectile points and informed his listeners that out of the ROM's entire collection of Ontario artifacts, (numbering some 250,000 specimens) only 17 were fluted palaeo-Indian points. He said that all of the dateable points of that type found in the United States fell within a period from about 9500 to 9200 B.C. He described the tremendous variation of fluting techniques and divided them into three groups: 1) Single Flake Technique - those points which have only had one flake removed to produce the fluting; 2) Multiple Flake Technique - those points which have had two or more flakes removed to produce the fluting; and 3) Single and Guide Flake Technique - those points which have had several tiny flakes removed to form a guide for the large simple flake which creates the flute.

Storck stated that one hypothesis concerning the use of fluted points suggested that they were attached to a bone foreshaft which was detachable from the wooden spear shaft. He said that although such a shafting method was possible, it was, as yet, only speculation.

Two distribution studies on fluted points have been done in Ontario and it was noted that there are only 50 known fluted points, most having been found in Southwestern Ontario. By comparing the distribution of the points with the distribution of mastodon fossils, it is discovered that they cover the same range. It is possible then to hypothesize that these palaeo-Indians hunted mastodon and mammoth just as other palaeo-Indians did even though no mastodon or mammoth kill sites have been found east of Manitoba. Storck also noted that there is some archaeological evidence that these people hunted caribou.

The second phase of his Ontario research took him to the Niagara escarpment which serves as a natural barrier to any movement in an east/west direction. In some places, the cliffs reach a height of several hundred feet. There are several valleys that provide a route across the escarpment and his work was based on the assumption that any migratory animals, (particularly caribou) would have had to travel through these valleys. Palaeo-Indian hunters would then have found these passes ideal. Therefore, Storck began a systematized examination of the valleys looking for palaeo-Indian campsites. He discovered mostly Archaic material and one fluted point.

He was deflected from that project when a farmer found two fluted points in the same field. It was on a drumlin that had formed part of the shoreline of a glacial lake (now gone). He has since spent three

(more)

Ottawa Chapter - continued

weeks each year at that site. Thus far no dateable features have come to light but he has some evidence of activity areas.

Dr. Rossa from the University of Waterloo is also working on a palaeo-Indian site (10,400 B.P.) which is on the shore of glacial Lake Algonquin. He has excavated some 75-80 fluted points and thousands of flakes. The pollen analysis suggests that the site was occupied after the lake had drained and the area was a marsh, but Storck feels that it could have been occupied at both times (once when the lake was there and again later when only a swamp remained).

Storck then decided to utilize the shoreline of glacial Lake Algonquin as a geographical focus for the location of archaeological sites. Those shorelines were well illustrated on available geological maps. Since he began, he has surveyed more than 300 miles of beach in the Simcoe-Collingwood area. He concentrated his investigations on streams that cut through the old beach. One thing that seems to be constant at all the sites he has located is that the sites were so situated as to provide a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside. In most cases, someone standing at the sites can see for miles in all directions. Most of the sites he has found have been what he thinks are small overnight camps.

Last summer, Storck found a fluted point site similar to Rossa's Parkdale area site. Storck feels that it could have belonged to the same band or one which was closely related to it. He mentioned that on the basis of the sources of raw materials (particularly chert) there could have been a movement of peoples from the one area to the other. His site appears to have been a factory site, as they located channel flakes, etc., or perhaps even a major site.

Dr. Storck concluded his talk by emphasizing that whether or not the people occupied the sites on the old shoreline when the glacial lake was in existence was not important. What was important was the use of a definite geographical feature (the shoreline) to concentrate or focus the archaeological survey.

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Also outlined at the March meeting by Clyde Kennedy, vice-chairman of the OHF Archaeological Committee, was information on grants for archaeological studies and field work, procedures in obtaining a licence to do archaeology, and the organization of The Ontario Heritage Foundation.

Archaeological Policy, Grants and Licences

Mr. Kennedy recalled that The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, came into force about a year ago and that the newly created Ministry of Culture and Recreation under the Hon. Robert Welch is responsible for the administration of the Act.

The Act enlarged the role of The Ontario Heritage Foundation, which had made important contributions to Ontario's cultural heritage through the years; provided the procedures whereby municipalities could designate for conservation buildings of historic or architectural value and appoint

(more)

Ottawa Chapter - continued

a Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee; set down the means whereby a municipality could define areas for designation as heritage conservation districts; and established, both within the Act and through the associated regulations, for the conservation of archaeological resources and for financial assistance to archaeologists to carry out field work, research projects and publishing of results.

The Ontario Heritage Act provides that The Ontario Heritage Foundation has at least 21 members on its Board of Directors, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council for a term not exceeding three years. The Board now has 31 members from various parts of the province, including archaeologists, architects, historians, artists and others who have an active interest in heritage matters in their own communities in particular and in Ontario in general. The Board, which is chaired by A.B.R. Lawrence, has four committees: historical, architectural, trust and archaeological. Mr. Kennedy commented briefly on the activities of each committee and summed it all up by pointing to the extensive conservation achievements that had been made possible through The Ontario Heritage Act.

The Archaeological Committee is chaired by Dr. William Noble, McMaster University; other members besides the vice-chairman are: Prof. Helen E. Devereux, Laurentian University; Dr. Rom Vastokas, Trent University; Prof. Ken C.A. Dawson, Lakehead University; Mr. Stephen A. Otto, Executive Director, Heritage Administration, Ministry of Culture and Recreation; and Dr. J. Keith Reynolds, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources.

The Archaeological Committee reviews licence applications, grant applications, and proposals for the designation of archaeological sites and generally acts in an advisory capacity to the Board of Directors of the Foundation which in turn advises the Ministry of Culture and Recreation on policies related to heritage matters.

The Archaeological Committee has proposed the designation of certain archaeological sites for conservation, has set up a special grant for doctoral candidates and has named it in honour of Dr. David Boyle who made many important contributions to Ontario archaeology; and has advised the Board on policies for licences and for grants in aid of archaeological projects.

Two types of grant are available: one for analysis of existing collections and another for new research. The former is designed to handle the backlog of work that has developed and provides archaeologists with funds to employ staff and pay for special studies such as faunal analysis. Grants for new research provide funds for salaries, equipment and supplies, travel, subsistence, laboratory expenses, specialist work such as faunal analysis and radiocarbon dating, and preparation of reports.

The committee is studying ways and means of assisting the Ontario Archaeological Society to strengthen its role as the major

(more)

Ottawa Chapter - continued

association of full-time and part-time archaeologists in Ontario. Among the possibilities being considered are a permanent office with a small, full-time staff and larger support for OAS publications to ensure an adequate outlet for publications on Ontario archaeology.

The committee is ably assisted by archaeologists on the staff of the Ministry of Culture, Mr. Kennedy said. The Historical Research and Planning Branch, directed by Robert Bowes, carries out its own archaeological program, mainly directed at conservation of archaeological sites within park areas or likely to be damaged by such activities as factory construction, housing projects and road building. The branch maintains an inventory of archaeological sites; provides guidance to development, planning and research agencies; and generally supports and co-ordinates private and institutional initiatives in archaeological research.

Within the Historical Research and Planning Branch, Archaeological Research is headed by Don MacLeod; Archaeological Planning is headed by Allan Tyyska; and the Archaeological Co-ordinator, the person with whom Ontario part-time and full-time archaeologists will have direct contact concerning licences and grants, is William Russell.

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Request for Information : The editor of ARCHAIC NOTES is looking for information on archaeological excavations or surveys (past or present) in the South Nation River Drainage Area, particularly that area which includes the South Nation River, the Castor River, and Bear Brook. Anyone having any information is invited to call him at 996-5051, ext. 197, or 255-6284, in Ottawa.

Reprinted from Archaic Notes

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Arch Notes - Facts and Figures - May 1976

Initial mailing this month was to 379 members, as follows:

<u>Metro Toronto</u>	<u>Rest of Ontario</u>	<u>Outside Ontario</u>	<u>Totals</u>	
10	19	32	61	Institutions
<u>136</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>318</u>	
<u>146</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>379</u>	

This is an increase of 26.3% over last May's mailing to 300 members.

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The Inverarity Collection

In a London warehouse last month, British customs officers broke the seals on a stack of packing cases from the U.S.A. Inside lay the British Museum's most spectacular ethnographic coup in a century - Robert Bruce Inverarity's collection of Red Indian art. Bought secretly under the noses of rival American museums and dealers, it has now been flown to London where it will go on show at the Museum of Mankind.

The size of the museum's achievement can be gauged from the fact that Inverarity's collection consists of more than a hundred items of the fashionable art of Indian tribes from the north-west coast of North America.

The collection is of unique anthropological interest for the picture it builds of an extraordinary culture, characterised more than any other by its rattrace, materialist way of life. Every tribal festival that the Inverarity collection records was for the advancement of the rank, wealth or prestige of an individual.

It is the largest single purchase for a century by the Museum of Mankind - formerly the ethnographic department of the British Museum. American dealers are known to have put a \$250,000 price tag on the collection, and it seems likely that the museum paid around that figure. It may have been a very good buy, since assembling individual items at auction would now cost much more - perhaps \$1,000,000.

In the 1930s, Inverarity worked among Indian tribes from the Columbia River in Oregon to Yakutat Bay, more than 1,000 miles north in Alaska. He examined, and recorded, the dying culture of the Tlingit tribe, and the Haida, the Kwakiutl, Tsimshian, Nootka and Salish. He recently retired as curator of the Nautical Museum in Philadelphia.

With the holdings already in the museum, the Inverarity objects complete the picture of this extraordinary Indian culture.

Michael Pye  
Sunday Times

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Archaeobotanical Identification Service

The Geobotanical Laboratory of the Royal Ontario Museum is offering a free archaeobotanical identification service on a limited basis, e.g. no more than 20 items per site. Both charred wood and seeds are welcome. Contact Jock McAndrews at 978-6271.

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NEW BOOKS

The field season has arrived, and in answer to the oft asked question "Are there any books available on archaeology and field methods?", here are two that I would suggest:

"Beginner's Guide to Archaeology" is written by Louis A. Brennan. It is available at Coles Book Store, Yonge and Wellesley on the west side of Yonge, and costs approximately \$2.95, soft cover.

"The Amateur Archaeologist's Handbook" by Maurice Robbins, is available at Albert Britnell's Book Store, Yonge Street above Bloor, and costs approximately \$10.00, hard cover.

Of the two books, the latter is more thorough, but both give details of how to find sites, mapping, digging, how to do reports, etc. A description is given of other scientific fields which help the archaeologist.

Mr. Robbins' book has an invaluable dictionary of some of those mysterious terms used in the field and by our guest speakers. Because the archaeology is American, I would suggest the purchase of "Ontario Prehistory" by J.V. Wright, which is available at Information Canada and The Royal Ontario Museum, price \$4.95, as a companion book to give the idea of what is found on Ontario sites.

J. Brennan

The Shaping of North America: From earliest times to 1763 and The Birth of the United States: 1763-1816, both by Isaac Asimov (Dobson, about \$5 each)

Asimov is, of course, better known to readers of works of science fact and fiction but he writes the history of his own country with such a marvellous zest that one wishes that Henry Ford could have been alive to read it.

Sunday Times

Before Civilisation by Colin Renfrew (Pelican)

Popular scientific classic (1973) in which Professor Renfrew describes the shattering effects on archaeological thought and work of the method of radiocarbon dating on prehistoric writings, fragments of fossil and bone, tombs, and entire civilisations (notably the Minoan).

Sunday Times

Pictograms from the Interior of B.C. by Fred Wah (Talonbooks, 42 pages, \$3.95)

O.A.S. SYMPOSIUM 1976

The third annual symposium of the Ontario Archaeological Society, to be held on Saturday, October 16, 1976, will have as its theme "Archaeology of the Great Lakes Region".

The final call for papers on work relating to this theme is now being made. Titles of papers, 20 minutes in length, should be submitted by June 1 to the Symposium Convenor, O.A.S., P.O. Box 241, Postal Station P., Toronto, Ontario M5S 2S8.

Following the success of our previous symposia, it is expected that a larger lecture theatre will be used this year to accommodate the ever increasing audience we seem to attract. We expect to have full details of the Symposium in the June issue of Arch Notes.

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TO: SYMPOSIUM CONVENOR  
P.O. Box 241,  
Postal Station P,  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5S 2S8

I expect to be submitting a paper on \_\_\_\_\_

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for the O.A.S. Symposium on October 16, 1976, and would like you to provisionally book me a time slot for this.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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