

# The Ontario Archaeological Society



ARCH NOTES edited by Nancy Powell

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## EXECUTIVE

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## THE MARCH MEETING - *Wed., March 11*

SPEAKER: Dr. E.S. Rogers  
TOPIC: The Use of Ethnological Data to  
interpret Archaeological Material  
TIME: 8 p.m.  
PLACE: Sidney Smith Hall, Archaeology Lab.  
in the basement

And this month I mean the basement lab! For those of you who attended last month's meeting I must apologize for the inconvenience of travelling up and down stairs as we tried to find a room to hold our meeting. This time things should be under better control. For those of our members who have not been to Sidney Smith Hall before, it is located on the west side of St. George St., the very large building just south of Harbord.

Our speaker, Dr. Rogers, is a prominent ethnologist. At present he is the curator of Ethnology at the Royal Ontario Museum and also a special lecturer with the University of Toronto's Department of Anthropology. His background includes archaeological survey work in Quebec and Maine and ethnographic field work in Quebec and Ontario. He has just returned from an expedition to India where he was making a study of primitive tribes in the Nilgiri Hill region of Southern India.

Dr. Rogers is an author of considerable repute. His publications include a study of the Round Lake Ojibwa and an article on snowshoes among the Montagnais-Naskapi Indians. Both these publications can be obtained from our Society library.

Our Society's Professional Consultant, Dr. J.N. Emerson, will be on hand to introduce Dr. Rogers to us. So let's have a full turnout for what promises to be a stimulating evening.

#### NEWS FROM MEMBERS

DR. J.E. ANDERSON who up to a year ago was one of our most faithful and enthusiastic members, writes from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He is now a member of the Department of Anthropology and Linguistics there. Dr. Anderson, you will remember, held the regular bone labs for the Society until he moved across the border last spring. He writes to say that despite a heavy schedule he is still keeping in touch with the local archaeologists. In fact he gave his first talk to the local chapter of the New York State Archaeological Society. In the field he has recently been excavating in Mexico with Dr. Macneish, formerly of the National Museum of Canada. Among their finds at Tehuacan (not Teotihuacan) were some skeletons believed to be the oldest dated ones in the New World.

DR. PAUL F. KARROW, our former President, reports on the progress of the newly formed Archaeological Society of Western Ontario. The Society has 23 members as of December, 1963 and regular monthly meetings are held in members' homes. The Society has already held its first dig last September on the Parker Site near Corunna. The Society would appreciate any help we can give them especially any suggestions for speakers. Any of our members who are in the area on the first Wednesday of the month will be welcome at any of the meetings. Dr. Karrow plans to join this Society and encourages us to do likewise.

DR. R.D. AXELSON, President of this new Society, has also written to us this month. Dr. Axelson is, of course, a member of our Society. He informs us that the Society intends to publish a bulletin about three times a year and he will send us a copy of the first issue. He has also sent us a copy of the constitution of the Society and would appreciate any of our comments upon it.

#### NEW MEMBERS

I'd like to welcome several new members to the Society. Here are their names and addresses to add to your membership list:

DAWSON, I.J.	187 Winnipeg Avenue, Port Arthur
HAEBERLIN, Mr. & Mrs. Colin	2177 Avenue Road, Apt.318, Toronto 12.
MANTLE, Miss Patricia	96 Caroline Avenue, Toronto 8.
MURRAY, Miss Rosalind	56 Sandringham Drive, Toronto 12.
REID, Mrs. Patrick	14 Lindenlee Road, Ottawa
RELYEA, John D.	68 Jackman Avenue, Toronto 6.
SMITH, A.C.	70 Spadina Road, Apt. 413, Toronto 4.

#### THE LAST MEETING

For our last meeting we tried a change of pace by bringing along Professor R.M. Smith, assistant professor of the East Asiatic Studies Department of the University of Toronto. He discussed and illustrated the architecture of Indian Temples, in particular their sculptural adornment.

The professor, who is a recognized authority on his subject, provided a most rewarding evening of lecture and discussion and all extremely well illustrated. It was an evening well worth attending.

#### OUR REVISED CONSTITUTION

Copies of our revised constitution became available as from the last meeting. They can be purchased for 25 cents from any member of the executive. Incidentally, these books will also prove most worthy for out of town members who might be considering forming new archaeological societies. Also available, and free, are copies of two publications by J.V. Wright, Chief Archaeologist with the National Museum. "The Middleport Horizon" deals with the Iroquis culture, while "An Archaeological Survey along the North Shore of Lake Superior" discussed pre-historic culture sequences in the Lake Superior Basin. Copies of both publications may be obtained at this month's meeting, or upon request to your Corresponding Secretary, Miss Nancy Powell, Library, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto 5.

#### NEW PUBLICATIONS

Our Past President, Dr. Paul Karrow, has recently published a report with D.F. Hewitt entitled "Sand and Gravel Pits of Southern Ontario". This is Industrial Mineral Report No.11 put out by the Ontario Department of Mines.

National Museum of Canada Bulletin No. 190, recently published, is devoted to anthropology and contains an article on the Mistassini Indian by our March speaker, Dr. Rogers, and the 1960 bibliography of Canadian anthropology by our honorary member Professor McIlwraith, Head of the University of Toronto's Anthropology Dept.

A new book entitled "Science in Archaeology" edited by Don Brothwell of the British Museum of Natural History and Eric Higgs of the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Cambridge will be of interest to the serious student of archaeology. It collects a number of interesting essays by specialists in various fields such as geology and zoology that deal with problems concerning the study of early man. The editors point out that archaeology is becoming increasingly dependent upon a variety of scientific disciplines for information. To quote "it becomes clear that not to use the scientific methods now available to archaeology is to commit the worst of archaeological crimes, to ignore available evidence or during excavation to destroy it".

#### THE ORGANIZATION AND ROLE OF AN AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

In leafing through a recent copy of "Plains Anthropologist", the journal of the plains conference, I came across an article by Mr. Stuart W. Conner on the role of the amateur archaeological society. I thought his remarks were worth repeating for all our benefit.

The influence of the group can be of value to the science of archaeology when used properly. One of the principal goals of an amateur archaeological society should be the education of its members. Members should be exposed to instruction on all aspects of prehistoric man and his environment, and on the proper procedures for recording archaeological evidence.

Without question the quickest and easiest way to learn archaeology is through instruction by professionals. Many groups, however, do not have this help available, so many have to find help in movies, and there are many such films made by universities available at moderate cost.

Publications are one of the principal sources of knowledge, and many fine books are available. I recommend that the first book a novice might read is "Hunters of the Buried Years" by Alice Kehoe. It is an excellent resume of the field of prehistoric man on the plains. It also conveys proper attitudes a person should develop towards the sites of prehistoric peoples.

With so many societies publishing periodical journals, and with so many professional publications, the problem is not so much where to get reading material as which to select.

Regularly scheduled meetings with programs dealing with archaeological topics are important to most local societies. There are many fields on which to draw. Pleistocene geology, climate and glaciation can be of value. Ethnologists can help interpret archaeological finds. Paleontologists can interpret bones from sites to explain types of animals hunted. Local teachers can be drawn on for programs on the classical archaeology of Europe and Africa. Color slides of many famous antiquities can easily be purchased.

Subjects to encourage new societies might include projects on the construction of dioramas of archaeological displays, presentation of book reports, casting stone artifacts and reproducing prehistoric rock art.

As members become more experienced they can present papers at meetings and have them published. At least one important book, "Early Man in the New World" was written by a non-professional, Kenneth MacGowan.

Members of archaeology societies must always consider themselves as students and their learning should never cease. The more one learns, the greater will be the enjoyment and satisfaction. (Continued in next month's bulletin.)