

The Ontario Archaeological Society



ARCH NOTES edited by Nancy Powell

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MARCH MEETING

WHEN:	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1965
WHAT TIME:	8:00 p.m.
WHERE:	Room 251, Education Centre, 155 College Street, Toronto 2B
WHO'S SPEAKING:	MRS. ETHEL BRANT MONTURE
WHAT ABOUT:	The Place of the Indian in History

We are very fortunate this month to have as our speaker, Mrs. Ethel Brant Monture, a well-known authority on Indian culture and history. Mrs. Monture is the great-great granddaughter of the famous chieftain of the Six Nations Indians, Joseph Brant. She was born and received her early education on the Iroquois reservation at Brantford, Ontario, and she has never lost touch with her people. For many years she has worked for the Canadian Government in Indian service. She is the author of many books and articles and has appeared as a lecturer on platforms across Canada and the United States.

I know that many of you will want to avail yourselves of the opportunity of hearing this very fine speaker. I hope that some of us will have found time to brush up on our knowledge of Iroquoian history for I am sure that Mrs. Monture will look forward to answering any questions we might have on various aspects of Indian history.

Last month we heard Miss Lyn Soucy give us a fascinating and detailed account of the Louisbourg restoration project and her own particular excavation work on this interesting historic site. She prefaced her remarks with a general discussion of the architecture of a fort and went on to describe to us the set up of the Louisbourg Fortress illustrating her talk with many excellent slides. It was a pity that there was not time for an open discussion after the talk as Miss Soucy obviously had a thorough knowledge of her subject and would have been glad to answer any of our questions.

Dr. A. D. Tushingham, Chief Archaeologist of the Royal Ontario Museum was also present at our meeting. He gave us information on the forthcoming Conference on Underwater Archaeology to take place at the Museum over Easter weekend, April 15-17. There will be speakers coming from the U.S.S.R., Greece, Holland, Italy, Britain, the U.S. and Canada. Film showings will be held in the evenings in the Macmillan Theatre of the Faculty of Music (next door to the Museum on Queen's Park). These are open to the public at a cost of \$1.00 per evening. Total registration fee for the Conference is \$10.00 - if you are able to attend for only one day cost is \$4.00.

Starting from April 2 the Museum will hold a special exhibition on Underwater Archaeology. Relics rescued from the waters of many countries will be on display, as well as the special diving equipment. Techniques such as underwater photography will be discussed at the Conference, including special site reports such as a Spanish wreck off the coast of Bermuda, a Byzantine wreck in the Aegean and many others.

This is only the second Conference which has been held by the Council of Underwater Archaeology. The first took place in St. Paul, Minnesota, on April 26-27, 1963. Ontario has played a leading role in the development of this new field of archaeology as many important finds have been made in the Great Lakes. The speakers at the first Conference included Mr. Walter Kenyon of the Royal Ontario Museum; Mr. Kenneth E. Kidd at that time also with the Museum, and now Head of the Anthropology Department at Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario; and Dr. William Mayer-Oakes, of the University of Manitoba. The talks have been edited and published in book form under the title Diving into the Past: Theories, Techniques, and Applications of Underwater Archaeology. This book came out last year as a joint publication of the Minnesota Historical Society and the Council of Underwater Archaeology.

Another book worth reading on the subject is Deep-Water Archaeology by the French diver Frédéric Dumas, co-author of The Silent World. This discusses techniques of underwater excavation. There have been many articles on particular sites appear in such periodicals as National Geographic, Scientific American, Life, and American Antiquity. In the May 1962 issue of the National Geographic, Peter Throckmorton writes about a Bronc Age shipwreck and in the August 1963 issue of The Canadian Geographical Journal there is an article by Doris K. Megill on underwater finds in the French River, to name but two such articles.

April is going to be a busy month! On the weekend of the 23rd the 1965 Annual Meeting of the New York State Archaeological Association is to be held in Buffalo, New York. We have been invited to attend this meeting by the host chapter the Frederick M. Houghton Chapter of the N.Y.S.A.A. Meetings will be held at Norton Union, State University of New York at Buffalo. The local committee has made special arrangements at the Lord Amherst Hotel conveniently located right off the Thruway and two miles from the University. The room rates are as follows: \$11.00 for single occupancy, \$12.00 for two persons, \$16.00 for four.

Papers will be given on Saturday afternoon starting at 1:30, and it is hoped that some members of our group will be able to contribute. Exhibits of artifacts will also be on display and we have been invited to include some of our own. On the Sunday there will probably be a short field trip. Further details of the meeting will be forwarded to us later. I hope that many of us will be able to accept this invitation, particularly as the journey is such a short one for a lot of us.

This month there are two lectures of special interest to our members. On March 16 at 4:30 p.m. in the Museum Theatre, Dr. Tushingham will speak on 'Excavations in Jerusalem, 1965'.

On March 25th a talk entitled 'The Evolution of Man' will be given by Dr. John Robinson, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Robinson is a South African anthropologist whose work on Australopithecus has pushed back the date of the first true man by 750,000 years.

This month a new display has been opened at the Museum featuring a diorama of realistic three dimensional show window of life in the rain forests of Madras State in India. To complement this outstanding achievement of research and display technique there is a series of photographs and objects portraying native life in this area. Of special interest to us perhaps are the beautifully made pots.

We were delighted to hear from our member Mr. Ross Channen, Director of the Simcoe County Museum of the events and proceedings of the Huronia Champlain Project held in Orillia at the end of January. The first speaker at the symposium on January 30th was Dr. J. V. Wright of the National Museum of Canada. He discussed the development of the Iroquois in Ontario. He was followed by Professor K. E. Kidd of Trent University who spoke about the Huron ossuary at Ossossane which he dug while with the Royal Ontario Museum. Mr. Bruce Trigger of MacMaster University talked about the part played by the Hurons in the fur trade. One of our own members, Father Russell, of Regis College, Willowdale, gave a talk on the site at Ste. Marie which he described as a 'fortified residence'. Dr. Emerson's paper on 'Research Problems in Huronia', a summary of the work which needs to be done in all fields of archaeology, ethnology and physical anthropology in this area, was read by Dr. Robert Dailey. The dinner address by Dr. William Fenton, the outstanding authority on Iroquoian studies was entitled 'The Iroquois: Friend or Foe', and was a discussion of the image of the Iroquois in history.

Besides the talks a number of displays were set up in the Orillia Armoury. One exhibit illustrated by the use of pictures, maps and models, the type of man that Champlain was and the world he travelled and explored. Another display featured materials recovered from the French River by divers. A model Indian village was shown along with cases of artifacts from Indian sites and burials. Other displays portrayed the fur trade, the mission life at Ste. Marie and finally the downfall of Huronia. The theme of each display was to describe some aspect of Champlain's Huronia in honour of his visit to this region 350 years ago.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Did you ever hear the story of the subway train standing at the Yonge-Bloor Station? It was rush hour and the subway train quickly filled with people wanting to go somewhere, but there was no driver aboard. An Inspector ran to the driver's rest room and shouted for someone to take the train downtown. Two drivers rushed out, each to a different end and tried to drive out the car his way. Of course it didn't move and after a few minutes all the passengers got off and none have used the subway since.

If just a few of those passengers had tipped off the two drivers about the situation there would have been no impasse. If members of our society co-operate, we won't be left stranded.

A case in point ... you've just finished reading the March Bulletin. It was written from cover to cover by our Editor Miss Nancy Powell. A tremendous job, well done, and an effort that makes our publication always an interest to read.

But what of your co-operation? At every meeting, members discuss so many interesting things with each other. Digs...new publications...items of archaeological interest....they even (at times) take an interestingly critical view of what the speaker for the evening has said. All these points and so many more of your ideas could arouse even wider interest if you expressed them in the Bulletin.

With Miss Powell's blessing, I am asking you for contributions. You all have points of view, you all have interesting theories and comments. May we share your interest through The Bulletin? Tip off the driver so that our trip through the downtown of 1965 will get started and be that much more interesting.

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