

THE ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



ARCH-NOTES

No. 66-9

NOVEMBER 1966

EXECUTIVE

President and
Corresponding Secretary:
Dr. R. Dean Axelson,
247 Truman Road,
Willowdale, Ontario.

Recording Secretary:
Mrs. Eilene Balsky

Treasurer:
Miss. Lorna Procter.

Vice President:
Mr. Joseph DeRyck

Past President:
Miss. Phyllis Bowland

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The next meeting of The Ontario Archaeological Society will be held at 8 p.m., Wednesday, November 16, in Room 251, Board of Education Centre, 155 College Street, Toronto.

Our speaker for the evening will be Dr. R. Dean Axelson. His topic, "The Van Site", deals with this year's excavation of a Uren stage Iroquoian village site, situated near Aylmer, Ontario. This talk will be illustrated by means of colour slides and a display of recovered artifacts.

THE OCTOBER MEETING

The business portion of last month's meeting provided us with several items of interest to the membership at large. These included a report from Dr. Churcher, Chairman of the Publications Committee, that Publication No. 10 is well advanced, requiring only one more paper to bring it up to the desired size; a report from Treasurer Procter that our bank balance stood at \$1201.86, after payment of \$1175.94 for the printing of Publication No. 9; membership approval of a recommendation by President Axelson of a full-day joint meeting with the Archaeological Society of Western Ontario, to be held sometime next March; approval of planned assistance by the Executive in the formation of a proposed archaeological society in Newfoundland, and a possible O.A.S. branch chapter in the Collingwood area of Ontario, and the adoption of a motion to initiate certain procedures to limit the business portion of the monthly meetings.

At the close of the business session, several of the members in attendance gave informal accounts of their archaeological activities over the summer recess. Mr. George Gee reported on the results of his survey work in the Ancaster area, and his promotional efforts with the local amateurs on behalf of the O.A.S. Mr. Jerome Cybulski described

his work with Dr. J.E. Anderson on a contact Neutral ossuary near Milton, Ontario, stressing that his chief interest lay in the field of physical anthropology. Mr. Peter Shevchenko told of his work on the Beeton site, and of his attempts to locate new sites in York and Simcoe Counties. Mr. Forrest Dilling gave a brief account of his archaeological activities on the property recently acquired by the St. Mary's Cement Company, just west of Bowmanville, Ontario. Dr. Dean Axelson presented a progress report on the Carton ossuary excavation, near Milton, describing several of the interesting features that have come to light and the problems he encountered in preserving some of these. Mr. Jan Roraas spoke of his three-week archaeological tour of sites in Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri, describing in some detail sites soon to be inundated by conservation and hydro-electric power projects in Missouri, where the University of Columbia is now carrying out salvage excavations. Mr. Charles Garrad described his successful efforts to authenticate a fluted point find in the Blue Mountain area of Simcoe County, and his survey of archaeological sites in the Beaver Valley. He emphasized that all sites located were prehistoric and no later than of the Lalonde stage of development. Mrs. Eilene Balsky concluded the round with an amusing account of her experiences as an archaeological tourist in Mexico.

An informal discussion period followed these presentations, during which a number of recovered artifacts were passed around for examination and comment.

LIBRARY NEWS

The following publications have been added to the O.A.S. Reference Library. These may be borrowed by members for a period of one month by contacting our Librarian, Mr. Joseph DeRyck, at 2320 Gerrard Street E., Toronto 13, Ontario.

THE AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGIST'S HANDBOOK, by Maurice Robbins, with Mary B. Irving.

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON A WOODLAND SITE NEAR DEEP RIVER, ONTARIO, by Barry M. Mitchell.

THE ONTARIO IROQUOIS TRADITION, by J.V. Wright.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER - a periodical from the Office of the Chief Archaeologist, Royal Ontario Museum.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

President Axelson reports that the latest Revision to our Constitution will soon be in press and ready for distribution to the membership. He reminds us that two items of business required by the Constitution at the November meeting are the determining of the amount of fees for the following year, and the presentation of the slate of members suggested by the Nominating Committee for election in 1967. The fulfillment of this latter requirement will, of course, depend on the co-operation of all members approached.

On November 7, under the provision of Article XVIII of our Constitution (June 15, 1966 Revision), Miss. Phyllis Bowland officially took over the office of Past President. Phyllis has been acting in this capacity since last January, so is well versed in this year's Executive Committee business.

A feasibility study of the project by the Iroquois Pottery Type Revision Committee will begin with a meeting at President Axelson's house on November 13. It is hoped that this Committee will be able to submit some definite recommendations to the Executive before the end of this year.

Mr. Murray Corbett has resigned from his post as Chairman of the Program and Social Committee, leaving a vacancy that must be filled as soon as possible. Volunteers are requested to contact President Axelson immediately.

This year's Annual Banquet arrangements are well advanced. It will be held at 7.15 p.m., Wednesday, December 14, at the Commercial Travellers Association Salesman's Club, 17 Dundonald Street, Toronto (just east of Yonge Street, one block north of Wellesley). A hot and cold smorgasbord dinner is planned at \$3.00 per person (including gratuity), with bar facilities available. Mr. Walter Kenyon, well-known Royal Ontario Museum Archaeologist, and member of this Society, will be the speaker for the evening.

Since the Banquet arrangements will require a very close estimate of the number of members and guests who will attend, all members are requested to fill out the form provided on the last page of this issue of Arch-Notes and send it IMMEDIATELY to Mrs. Gisele Reichert, 320 Tweedsmuir Avenue, Apt. 705, Toronto, Ontario.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Col. James Pendergast writes that this summer he excavated an Iroquoian site near Summerstown Station in Glengarry County, Ontario. He notes that like the Dawson site (Hochelaga?), and unlike the other sites excavated in this area to date, a great number of Huron pipes and pottery types were found, suggesting possible close relations with that group in late prehistoric and contact times.

In October, he managed to attend the American Ethnological Society meeting in Ottawa, and the Iroquois Conference at the University of Syracuse's Sagamore Conference Center, in New York State. At the latter conference he presented a paper on artifact trait comparison of seven Iroquoian sites in the St. Lawrence Valley.

Father William Russell is now engaged in a doctoral program in archaeology at the University of Toronto, having recently returned to Toronto from a year's sojourn in Wales.

While overseas he managed to view a good many historic and prehistoric sites, as well as various museum collections both in Great Britain and on the Continent. One memorable highlight was a three-week stay in the Orkneys, which he claims is an archaeologist's paradise.

Father Russell wasted no time in resuming active participation in the Ontario field on his return to this country. He spent the last three weekends in October on the University of Toronto Student Dig at Cahiaque, under the direction of Dr. J.N. Emerson.

Miss. Helen Devereux, now on the staff of the University of Alberta, has been actively encouraging the formation of an archaeological

society in Newfoundland. It is at her request that the O.A.S. is now offering assistance to the nucleus of this group.

In September, Mr. Lloyd Scott journeyed into central Asia, visiting the Republics of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Takzhikistan. He found the cities and environs of ancient Bokhara and Samarkand to be the most interesting historically and archaeologically, and spent many hours visiting such famous places as the Ulug Beg Observatory, Tamerlane's Tomb, the Bibi Khanum Mosque, Shah-i-Zinda, the Citadel and Registrar of Bokhara, the Great Minaret or Tower of Death, and the Shrine of Chasma Ayub.

Lloyd also visited the site of the old city of Pendzhikent, where Soviet archaeologists are at present carrying out extensive excavations. He reports that as far as he can determine, this Sugdian city flourished from 5 A.D. to 722 A.D., when it fell to Arabic invaders.

We welcome three new members into the Society this month: Mr. Brian Deller, Mount Brydges, Ontario; Mr. Conrad E. Heidenreich, Toronto, and Miss. Gail MacLean, Toronto.

VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Those of you who looked forward to November 5th and the hour-long CBS television special on Dr. Leakey's early man work at Olduvai Gorge in east Africa - and were disappointed to find much of it "filler" having little to do with the subject, can find their Early Man with a bit more meat on his bones by going straight to the source material - the September, 1960 and October, 1961 issues of the National Geographic magazine.

The current (November) issue of Scientific American also deals with early man. An eight-page article by William W. Howells, dealing with the entire known range of Homo Erectus, begins on page 46.

While you are at it, you might turn to pages 60 and 61 of the November 5th issue of the Toronto Telegram's Weekend Magazine and see some of the glittering subjects of Dr. A.D. Tushingham's recent Iranian Crown Jewels study.

Closer to home, Mr. Frank Ridley has compiled under one cover three of his previously published papers on the archaeology of the Lake Abitibi region. This publication, entitled "Archaeology of Lake Abitibi", is now available directly from the author at 289 Burnhamthorpe Road, Islington.

Also available is a set of six ready-to-frame prints of the Canadian Indians series mentioned in last month's issue of Arch-Notes. We are informed that these may be obtained by O.A.S. members at a considerable discount if ordered through the Society. Interested members are requested to contact President Axelson for details.

It was our intention this month to begin a quarterly Book Review department in Arch-Notes. However, due, as they say, to "circumstances beyond our control" - specifically the lack of time for even properly editing of our own effort - this will be delayed at least until next month's Issue.

Beginning with next month's issue of Arch-Notes, the deadline for accepting items for each month's issue will be 15 days before the regular meeting of the Society for that month.

Bill Donaldson, editor,
111 Riverside Drive N.,
Oshawa, Ontario.

Please cut off the form below and mail IMMEDIATELY to Mrs. Gisele Reichert (See details and address on page 3).