

THE ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



ARCH-NOTES

No. 68-2

FEBRUARY 1968

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247 Truman Road,  
Willowdale, Ontario

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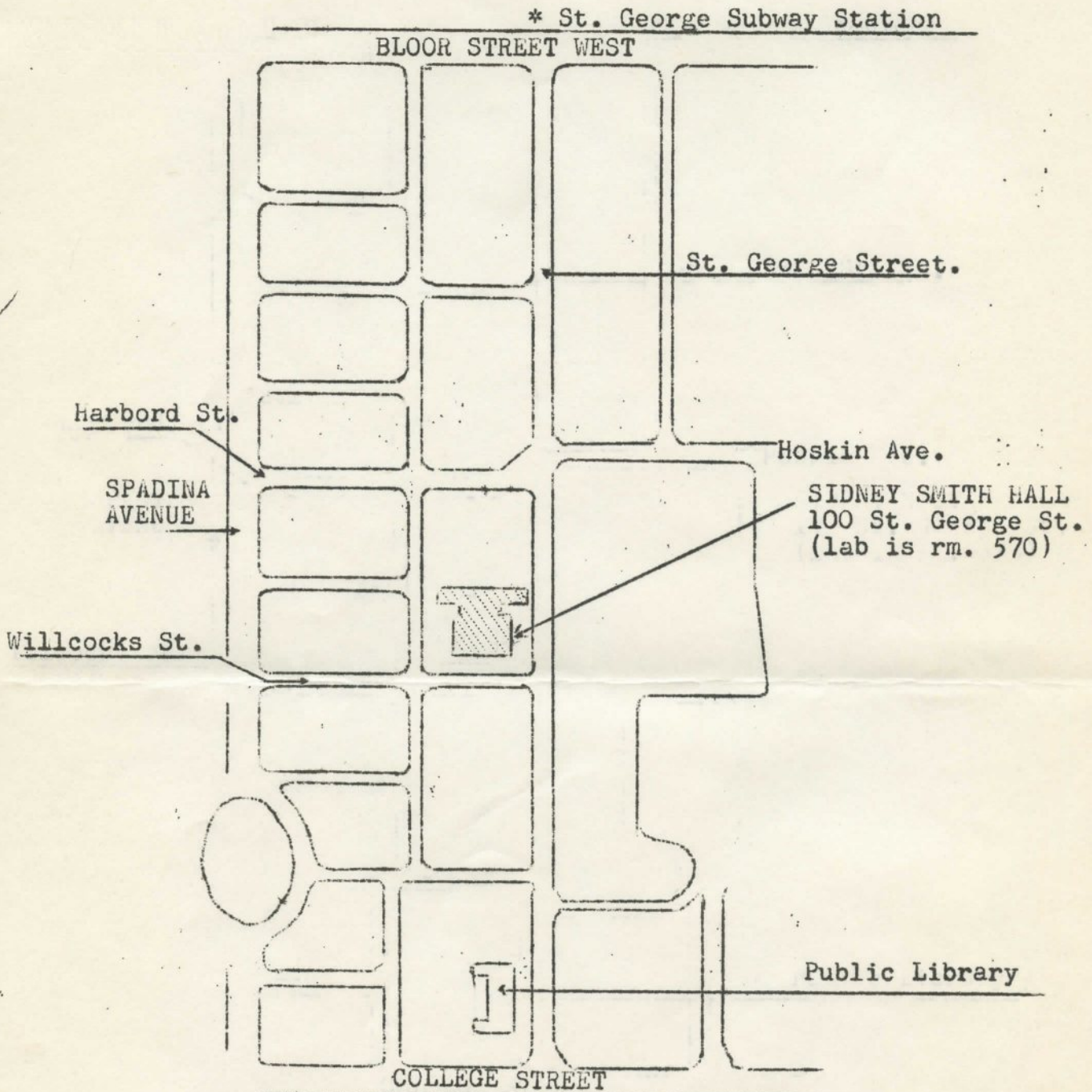
The next meeting of The Ontario Archaeological Society will be held at 8 p.m., Wednesday, February 21st, in Room 570, Sydney Smith Hall, University of Toronto (Room 570 is on the lower level of Sydney Smith Hall, 100 St. George Street, Toronto - see sketch on following page for location of building).

This meeting will be a departure from our usual format. Through arrangements with Professor J. Norman Emerson, we are to be given a conducted tour of the University of Toronto's Anthropological and Archaeological workshops. Professor Emerson and Mr. Patrick Hartney will be on hand to describe the points of interest and answer pertinent questions from the members. Since there will be movement from room to room during the evening, members are requested to make a special effort to be in Room 570 at 8 p.m. sharp.

THE JANUARY MEETING

Members attending last month's meeting soon found themselves (vicariously) in deep water as Dr. Walter Kenyon, of the Royal Ontario Museum, described and showed coloured slides of some of his underwater archaeological activities during the last six years.

First likening underwater archaeology to land archaeology, only wetter, Dr. Kenyon set forth some of the unique problems in this field. Among the foremost of these were poor visibility in areas of suspended silt or tannic acid (from tree leaves), and strong currents (such as those encountered below rapids). He also pointed out that though in some places in the world underwater conditions were such that men could maintain transit and plane-table procedures under 130 feet of water (e.g., Dr. George Bass, in the eastern Mediterranean), in others you could barely see your hand in front of your face, though only a few feet below the surface (A condition Dr.



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Kenyon encountered in the artificially enlarged, early Mayan pond at Altun-Ha, British Honduras). Thus, underwater archaeology, like its land counterpart, has had to develop different techniques for different situations.

Dr. Kenyon, whose main field of interest is the early fur trade routes of the voyageurs, has had to contend with the oozy bottoms of subarctic lakes, the tannin-dimmed waters of the boreal forest zone, and the white waters of countless rapids.

These white water areas are the ones that caused the early voyageurs

the most trouble, and since 1961 have been the focal point of Dr. Kenyon's Royal Ontario Museum team investigations. To date they have checked the foot of all the rapids in the French River section of the voyageur's 3,000-mile route, as well as Boundary Falls, on the Winnipeg River. Scuba gear and wet suits were the rule for these investigations, but hard-hat diving gear and air pumps have been used on occasion. All the artifacts encountered were plotted both horizontally and vertically, and many features photographed (though tannic acid and clay silt in suspension at times presented problems of reflection). Because many of the recovered artifacts were manufactured from several different materials, requiring separate treatment for proper preservation, preservation in the field was mostly confined to methods of preserving the moisture content of the specimens until such time as they could be treated under proper laboratory conditions (e.g., muskets were usually immediately packed in a plastic pipe with wet newspapers).

Early doubts as to the accuracy of Dr. Kenyon's plotting methods under the silty, swiftwater conditions encountered were laid to rest when it was found that measurements taken under these conditions tallied with later checks of recovered bundles and deposits.

Five major upset areas have been found to date, and all of these have produced a hafted axe. Also recovered was a loaded musket dating from the early 1800s (containing a charge equivalent to that used by trapshooters today), several stacks of iron axe heads (stamped with the initial B.A.R. and either one or three punch marks to denote 1 and 1½ lb. weights respectively), solid cast tin dishes and pans, a spiked tomahawk (the only one ever recovered by the R.O.M.), and the end of a roll of French twist tobacco, now chemically converted to ferrous oxide by water transference from nearby iron items. This chemical action also preserved enough of several wooden boxes for Dr. Kenyon's crew to determine their original size and shape.

Thanks to the preservative action of ferrous oxide, and the plotting and recovery methods used by Dr. Kenyon's underwater crew, it was possible to identify several loads which had been recorded as lost by the early voyageurs - in one case that lost by Alexander Henry on August 9th, 1801.

The business portion of the January meeting saw the election of our 1968 Executive Committee (as listed in this month's masthead of Arch-Notes) and the passage of a motion to increase the O.A.S. membership fees, effective October 1, 1968. This increase will amount to \$1.00 per member in all classes, and will be the first increase in membership dues since the formation of the Society, some 17 years ago.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

President Axelson reports that plans are already underway for our 1968 spring "dig". To ensure greater efficiency this year, arrangements will be made to provide some pre-excavation training on field techniques for our newer members. Details of this program will be included in next month's issue of Arch-Notes.

The second of our winter "lab" sessions was held at President Axelson's house on January 19th. Nine members turned out for this session, not quite enough to finish the job of washing the Beeton site material recovered last

fall. The remainder will be processed at the next session, to be held at Dr. Axelson's house, 247 Truman Road, Willowdale, at 7.30 p.m., Friday, March 1.

A special training session on pottery sorting and restoration will be held on Saturday, March 30, at the O.A.S. pottery "lab" in Oshawa. Further details will be carried in the March issue of Arch-Notes.

The Promotion and Publicity committee's archaeological display has now been moved to the Malton Centennial Library, where it will be on view until March 3rd.

Mr. Conrad Heidenreich has agreed to assume the editorial duties for our major publication, ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY, while Dr C.S. Churcher is out of the country (see News of Members). During this period, all manuscript submissions and related correspondence should be directed to Mr. Heidenreich at 69 Glendale Blvd., Toronto 17, Ontario.

#### NEWS OF MEMBERS

Our Arch-Notes editor, Dr. C.S. Churcher, has returned to East Africa for a nine-month sojourn. Part of this time - some two to three months - will be spent working with Dr. L.S.B. Leakey at the now famous Early Man site in Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania.

Mr. and Mrs. Iain Walker have made Farmborough, England, their temporary place of residence while Iain is carrying out his research project on the early kaolin pipe industry of that country. A letter from the Walkers indicates that both Iain and Sou are hard at work checking museums, libraries and clay pipe manufacturers for information on the subject. Despite their heavy work schedule, and a very rainy fall, they did manage to visit a number of archaeological sites in the area, and plan a tour of French paleolithic sites this spring.

Mr. Charles Garrad, our energetic librarian, reports a most pleasant reception during a quick visit to the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, in Regina, last month, and advises that the Welcome Mat awaits any O.A.S. member fortunate enough to follow in his footsteps. Mr. W.H. Long, of the Museum, described the current excavation of a recent Hudson's Bay Company post, some 30 miles north of the city, and Mr. Gil Watson, who is also a member of the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society, accompanied him on a tour of the "Hall of Man" section of the museum.

Mr. Garrad was quite impressed by one display which showed a theoretical vertical profile of a hypothetical stratified site having an occupation level for every known phase in the province. This is illustrated with actual artifacts, which run from Paleo material through to late European trade goods. He noted another exhibit, devoted entirely to Paleo and Early Man points, which included a map on which the location of the different types found were plotted. Of particular interest to Mr. Garrad was the discovery during this tour that although a number of Mammoth remains have been excavated in that province - one being on display - so far no Mastodon remains have been discovered, indicating that while tundra-moss-lichen conditions once prevailed in Saskatchewan as in Ontario, this did not give way as it did in Ontario and New York to the evergreen forests the Mastodon seem to have preferred. A final display noted by Mr. Garrad was one showing artifacts recovered from the Mortlatch site, a report on which by Boyd Wettlaufer is available from the O.A.S. library collection.

We are pleased to welcome nine new members into the Society this month: -

Professor Kenneth E. Kidd, Peterborough, Ontario;  
 Mr. Ivan Cocsis, Hamilton, Ontario;  
 Mrs. Caroline Parmenter, Toronto, Ontario;  
 University of Windsor Library, Windsor, Ontario;  
 Dr. William Hurley, Toronto, Ontario;  
 Miss Roberta O'Brien, Toronto, Ontario;  
 Miss Cynthia Ann Hacking, Toronto, Ontario;  
 Mr. John Reid, Toronto, Ontario;  
 Mr. Arthur Mangiacotte, Rexdale, Ontario.

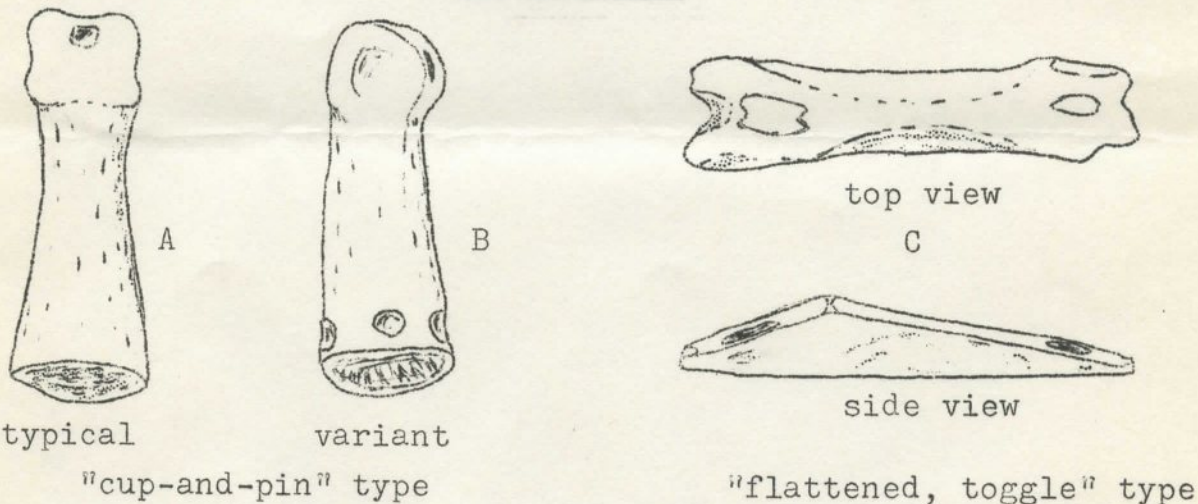
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### THE CLUES CLOSET

by R.D. Axelson D.V.M.

This new section of Arch-Notes is one I hope will be of interest to the reader. It is planned that an artifact or some other item of interest will be pictured and described in this section each month. Anyone having something they think would be useful to this section is invited to send a sketch or picture, together with all pertinent information, including size, etc. to Dr. R. Dean Axelson, 247 Truman Road, Willowdale, Ontario. It will be used as space permits.

### GAMING BONES



The phalanges or toe bones of some animals, especially those from deer, were modified in various ways so that they could be used as a form of entertainment to the Indians. The most widely used, and earliest type found, are the "cup-and-pin" variety (Figs. A, B). On these, the proximal end of the bone was cut off to make a large-holed opening, and a small hole was then drilled in the distal end. Several of these were then apparently strung on a cord with a bone pin, and the idea was to throw the cups in the air and try to skewer them with the pin. There are several variations of this type, with extra holes in different parts of the bone. This type of artifact is most common on the Uren and Middleport stage sites in the Iroquoian series, but is found on slightly earlier, as well as later sites.

On the later Iroquoian sites the "Cup-and-pin" type are replaced by the "Flattened Toggle" type which are also made from deer phalanges by polishing or wearing away the bone into shapes similar to that illustrated

by Figure C. There are also a number of variations of this type as well, but the exact usage of these is not fully understood. It is commonly thought however. that they were used as gaming peices.

A good account of the "cup-and-pin" game is given in the Pennsylvania Archaeologist, Volume 33, Number 4, December, 1963, pp 159 - 163, by John E Guilday.

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VIEWS AND COMMENTS

The current issue (February, 1968) of Scientific American carries an interesting proposal by Andre Leroi-Gourhan for chronologically dating Upper Paleolithic art in Europe. Basing his proposal on data obtained by excavation, the study of reasonably well-dated cave art, and from the evolution of human figures and abstract signs, he sets forth, in a well-illustrated article (pp. 59 -70), a convincing argument for the establishment of a chronological framework that would approximate reality.

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An article by Emil Zubryn which appears on pp. 117 - 118 of the February 3rd issue of Science News illustrates beautifully the divergent, yet interdependent goals of archaeology and government tourist bureaus. It is ironic, but too true, as this article shows, that these two are at the same time mutually beneficial and restrictive.

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These days, when the wind whistles around the eaves and the snow builds up in your driveway, it might help to remember that spring "dig" time is less than three months away, and with a bit of luck, you could be weilding the old trowel again in a couple of months.

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While on the subject of the passage of time, it might be wise to check your membership card. If you have failed to pay your 1968 membership fees this would be a good time to do so. Members in arrears after March 31 will no longer be in good standing, and will forfeit all membership benefits. A renewal form is included below for your convenience.

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Due to cicumstances beyond our control (the flu bug and other distrac-tions), the second instalment of "The Reason Why" will not be included in this issue, but will appear in next month's issue. Our apologies for the delay.

W.S. Donaldson, editor,  
111 Riverside Drive N.,  
Oshawa, Ontario.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

(Please complete and forward to Miss Lorna Procter, 137 Madison Avenue, )  
(Toronto, Ontario. Cheques and money orders payable to The Ontario )  
(Archaeological Society)

Enclosed find \$ . . . . . for 1968 . . . . . membership in The Ontario  
Archaeological Society.

Name . . . . . Address . . . . .

(Fees: Associate, \$2.00; Active & Institutional, \$3.00; Family, \$5.00)

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

- ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Stones & Bones Newsletter" February 1968
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ALBERTA "Newsletter no 15 Winter 1967"  
(Summary of 1967 fieldwork and report of excavations of prehistoric cabin sites in the Cyprus Hills, thought to have been those of 1860 Metis bison hunters. Borden Scheme fans will be impressed to note that two sites ¼ mile apart within the same basic unit are numbered GhPh 106 and GhPh 107. What density !)
- WEST VIRGINIA ANTIQUITIES COMMISSION "Annual Report 1967" (Reports on current condition of many W.Va Sites, ranging from Indian battlefields and burial mounds to Iron Furnaces and Oil Wells).
- WEST VIRGINIA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY "Newsletter, Eleventh Issue, January 1968 (includes news of the W. Va Antiquities Commission and W. Va Archaeological Society. Further news of the fantastic St Albans Archaic Site, 18 ft deep, 41 zones of which 18 are occupation !)
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA "Quarterly Bulletin" vol 22 no 2 December 1967. (Indian and Colonial Site Reports)
- ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM "Archaeological Newsletter" no 32 January 1968, containing the paper "CORBRIDGE '67" by Alison C. Harle, Curatorial Assistant, Greek and Roman Dept, R.O.M. (Corbridge is an old Roman fortified town in U.K. where Roman/British Archaeological Courses are held, which the writer attended. The R.O.M. claim a unique collection of Roman/British material.)
- SASKATCHEWAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Saskatchewan Archaeology Newsletter" no 19 December 1967. (Report on 25th Annual Plains Conference - 50 papers presented plus an underwater archaeology film featuring Dr Walter Kenyon. Index of Publications, Membership List. Description of restored untypable pottery vessel. We note the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History keeps a Site Log for the allocation of Borden Numbers to Sites in the Province of Saskatchewan).

The following are all donations from outside our usual channels and special thanks must be given to Prof. Ken Dawson, Dr W. Robert Harris, Saskatchewan Archaeological Society, Dr D.B. Shutt and Dr W.E Taylor.

Donated by Prof. Dawson, Lakehead University :

- DAWSON K.C.A. 1966 "Macgillivray Site DbJm-3" (Thunder Bay)
- DAWSON K.C.A. 1967 "Preliminary Report on Archaeological Field Reconnaissance undertaken in the Summer of 1967 for the National Museum of Canada" (Lake Nipigon and Thunder Bay area)
- LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY 1967 "Report-Northern Area Studies-for Dept of Indian Affairs" October 1967

Made available by Dr W. Robert Harris, M.D., F.R.C.S.(C). (NOTE: At our November 1967 meeting, guest speaker Dr Norman Emerson advised the publication of a study of the Cahiaque ossuary bones by Dr R.I.Harris. Dr W. R. Harris has kindly made available several of his late father's MSS and publications, which have been examined and the following photocopied, since there were no spares available. The author, Dr R.I. Harris, M.C., M.B., F.R.C.S.(Eng) & (C) etc., was Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Toronto.

- HARRIS R.I., n.d. "Notes on the Paleopathology of the Skeletal Remains of Huron Indians from the Ossuary at Cahiaque opened 1946" Typed MSS.
- HARRIS R.I. 19?? "Pre-Columbian Tuberculosis in Canadian Indians" ONTARIO MEDICAL REVIEW pp 14-15, date unknown at present.
- HARRIS R.I. 1949 "Osteological Evidence of Disease Amongst the Huron Indians" U of T Med.Journal Nov 49 vol xxvii #2 pp 71-75.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY (Continued)

(NOTE: Dr Harris concludes the Cahiaque pit contained about 250 bodies almost all entirely disarticulated, that evidence of accidents in the form of healed fractures was remarkably small in view of their way of life, that a form of spinal arthritis was a common complaint, that TB was present in at least two vertebrae, and that as high as 50% of all tibiae showed the distortion characteristic of aboriginals spending much time in the squatting position.)

Donated by the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society:

- KEHOE Thos F. 1966 "The Distribution and Implications of Fluted Points in Saskatchewan" Reprinted from AMERICAN ANTIQUITY vol 31 no 3 April 1966...
- KEHOE Thos F. 1966 "The Small Side-Notched Point System of the Northern Plains" reprinted from AMERICAN ANTIQUITY vol 31 no 6 October 1966.
- SASKATCHEWAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY Newsletter - No 1 Jan 63, no 4 Dec 63, no 5 Mar 64, no 6 May 64, no 7 Oct 64, no 8 Dec 64, no 9 Mar 65, no 10 June 65, no 11 Sept 65, no 12 Dec 65, no 13 Mar 66, no 14 June 66, no 15 Oct 66, no 16 Mar 67, no 17 June 67, no 18 Oct 67.

As may be seen, this is almost the complete run, containing a great variety of papers covering items from Mammoths to H.B.C. An Index has been issued (see previous page).

Donated by Dr D.B. Shutt:

- FLANNERY K.V. et al 1967 "Farming Systems and Political Growth in Ancient Oaxaca", excerpt from SCIENCE October 1967.

Donated by Dr Wm E. Taylor of the National Museum of Canada:

- LAUGHLIN W.S. & TAYLOR W.E. 1960 "A Cape Dorset Culture Site on the West Coast of Ungava Bay" NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CANADA Bulletin 167, 1960.
- TAYLOR W.E. 1962 "A Distinction between Blades and Microblades in the American Arctic" AMERICAN ANTIQUITY vol 27 no 3 Jan 1962
- TAYLOR W.E. 1962 "Pre/Dorset Occupations at Ivugivik in Northwestern Ungava" ARCTIC INST. OF N. AMERICA Technical Paper 11, December 1962
- TAYLOR W.E. 1963 "Implications of a Pre-Dorset Lance Head from the Eastern Canadian Arctic" ARCTIC vol 16 no 2 June 1963
- TAYLOR W.E. 1964 "Archaeology of the McCormick Inlet Site, Melville Island N.W.T." ARCTIC vol 17 no 2 June 1964
- TAYLOR W.E. 1964 "Interim Account of an Archaeological Survey in the Central Arctic 1963" UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA Anthr. Papers Winter 1964
- TAYLOR W.E. 1964 "La Prehistoire de la Peninsule du Labrador" NATIONAL MUS. OF CANADA Anthr. Paper 7 December 1964
- TAYLOR W.E. 1965 "The Fragments of Eskimo Prehistory" THE BEAVER Spring 1965
- TAYLOR W.E. 1966 "An Archaeological Perspective on Eskimo Economy" AMERICAN ANTIQUITY 1966
- TAYLOR W.E. 1967 "Prehistoric Dorset Art" (also titled "The Silent Echoes, Prehistoric Canadian Eskimo Art") THE BEAVER Autumn 1967.

In his letter covering the above Reprints Dr Taylor says he is "embarrassed to learn I am one of those O.A.S. members who has not sent reprints to the Society Library", and wishes us all the best for the New Year. Dr Taylor's donation certainly rectifies the omission and rounds out our Eskimo collection, as well as offering an example to others! We apologise to Dr Taylor and the other generous donors that we have not been able to write a brief summary of each paper.