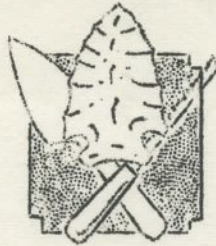


THE ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



ARCH-NOTES

No. 68-3

MARCH 1968

EXECUTIVE

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Dr. R. Dean Axelson,
247 Truman Road,
Willowdale, Ontario.

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Corresponding Secretary:
Mrs. Barbara McDonald,
2547 Jarvis Street,
Erindale, Ontario.

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The next meeting of The Ontario Archaeological Society will be held at 8.00 p.m., Wednesday, March 20th, at the Commercial Travellers' Association Salesman's Club, 17 Dundonald Street, Toronto (just east of Yonge Street, one block north of Wellesley).

Speaker: MR. PAUL B. PARK

Topic: ARCHAEOLOGY IN GREAT BRITAIN (ILLUSTRATED)

A year's study of European educational techniques provided Mr. Park with the opportunity to visit many archaeological sites and exhibits in Great Britain and Continental Europe. He will describe and show colour slides of some of these.

THE FEBRUARY MEETING

There was a good turn out of members at last month's meeting, which included a tour of the University of Toronto's Archaeological and Physical Anthropology workshops. The tour provided the newer members with an excellent introduction to these subjects, and for the more advanced there was an opportunity to test their knowledge of Ontario Archaeology (If you didn't spot the "ringers" in the archaeological display - after all those hints in Professor Emerson's preamble - perhaps you are not as "advanced" as you thought).

For those hardy enough to brave the near-zero temperature, Mr. Pat Hartney provided a bonus tour of the Osteological workshop in the Borden Building (two blocks away) at the close of the meeting. Here members had an opportunity to see how the skeletal material recovered from Iroquoian ossuaries is prepared for study.

During the business portion of this meeting Dr. William Hurley announced the implementation of a program by the University of Toronto to plot all Ontario archaeological sites on a master site chart or map, and codify all known sites according to the Borden system of site designation (See Garrad, C., 1967, "Borden Site Designation Scheme Applied to Ontario" O.A.S. Publication No. 10). He invited the O.A.S. to participate in this project - designed to co-ordinate research efforts in the province and eliminate the confusion engendered by the numerous site designation methods now in existence - on a mutual exchange basis. After answering a number of questions from the members, Dr. Hurley was assured that the University of Toronto would receive the full co-operation of the O.A.S. in this program.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

The Promotion and Publicity committee's archaeological exhibit has now been installed in the Mississauga Public Library, Cooksville, where it may be seen until April 3rd.

The third O.A.S. winter "lab" session was held at President Axelson's home on March 8th. Though there were only 5 members in attendance, enough Beeton site material was processed to expose the bottom of the last box of specimens.

With spring "dig" time fast approaching, it is hoped that short work can be made of the remainder at the next "lab" session, scheduled for 7.30 p.m., Friday, March 15th, at President Axelson's home, 247 Truman Road, Willowdale.

A special "lab" session on pottery sorting and restoration will be held at 1.30 p.m., Saturday, March 30th, at Bill Donaldson's home in Oshawa. The Address is 111 Riverside Drive North (a one-hour drive from downtown Toronto). Car-pool arrangements for Toronto members will be made at the March meeting of the Society.

The Executive have been advised by Dr. Walter Kenyon that the Royal Ontario Museum is prepared to assist O.A.S. members encountering problems in the preservation of metal archaeological specimens.

A revised edition of Professor J. Norman Emerson's 1956 publication on Iroquoian pottery, entitled "Understanding Iroquois Pottery in Ontario - A Rethinking", is now being printed by the O.A.S. and should be ready for distribution this spring.

Our treasurer, Miss Lorna Procter, reports that the printing costs for ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY (Publication No. 10) amounted to \$1216.93, including tax. Printing of Publication No. 11 will begin as soon as sufficient funds are available (The Society has petitioned the Ontario Government for a grant to assist in the publication of archaeological reports, but the outcome is still in doubt as Arch-Notes goes to press).

As a member society, the O.A.S. has been advised that the 1968 meeting of the Eastern States Archeological Federation (E.S.A.F.) will be held on November 1 - 3 in the Rackham Building on the campus of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor.

Papers from O.A.S. members are welcomed - either 15 minute field

work reports or larger 25 minute papers. All contributions should be mailed to the program chairman before July 15th. The address is:

Dr. J.E. Fittings,
Curator and Program Chairman, E.S.A.F.,
University of Michigan,
Museum of Anthropology,
University Museums Buildings,
Ann Arbor, Michigan,
U.S.A. 48104

A partial agenda for this meeting includes:

November 1 (afternoon) - informal workshop on projectile point typology.

November 2 (morning) - - field work reports
(afternoon) - Adena symposium
(evening) - - banquet speaker: Dr. J.B. Griffin

Further details will be passed on to O.A.S. members as it becomes available.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Mr. Donald Forrester, Timmins, Ontario, reports that his investigations have revealed that a surprising amount of the lithic material found on Archaic sites in the Timmins area came from the shores of Lake Superior, some 150 miles to the southwest (By the way, Toronto members please note: Mr. Forrester found time to include attendance at the O.A.S. "lab" session in his Toronto visit last week).

Four new names have been added to our membership list since the last issue of Arch-Notes: -

Mr. Sanko Kraemer, Clarkson, Ontario;
Mr. Donald P. Tanner, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;
Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Gauci, Islington, Ontario.

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THE CLUES CLOSET

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

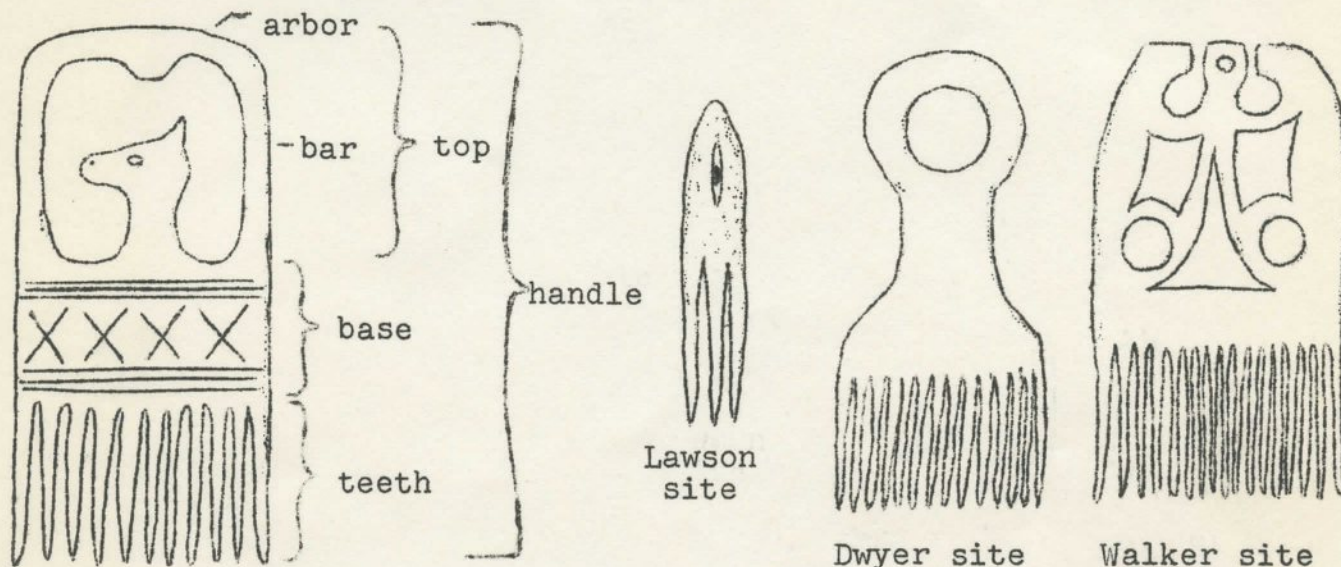
BONE COMBS

Combs were made by some of the Indian tribes that inhabited Ontario. Although the occasional comb appeared on early sites, they did not become popular until the 17th Century, and reached their peak during the historic period. Most were made of bone or antler, and some were very ornate in design. The number of teeth ranged from two or three to as many as thirty.

The comb to the primitive people was an object both useful and decorative. In the later periods it was more ornamental than useful. The design of the combs varied from simple undecorated handles to very ornate, intricately carved effigies. After the iron knife became available, combs became wider with more and thinner teeth. Prehistoric and early historic combs were often massive and had from three to five large, thick teeth. From 1620 to 1700 A.D. the number of teeth increased and at this time,

which was the peak of comb manufacture, nearly every one was highly decorated, often with intricate engraving.

The illustrations below show the anatomy of a comb and a representative sample of different types.



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BOOK REVIEW

by Conrad Heidenreich

White, M.E. : An Early Historic Niagara Frontier Iroquois Cemetery in Erie County, New York. Researches and Transactions of the New York State Archaeological Association, Vol. XVI, No. 1, Rochester, 1967, 23 plates, 4 figures, 91 pages.

This booklet is a report of the excavations conducted in 1958 by the Niagara Frontier Archaeological Project under the auspices of the Buffalo Museum of Science and the University of Buffalo Department of Anthropology, at the Kleis site in the town of Hamburg, Erie County, New York State. The report confines itself to a detailed description and analysis of a small group of burials and associated cultural remains. Culturally the site was designated as "Niagara Frontier Iroquois" of the early historic period; more detailed tribal affiliations were not possible.

The first half of the report, written by Marian White, consists of a description of the burials and associated cultural remains. The second half of the report is a more detailed analysis of specific subjects:

- A Description of Each Burial - M.E. White.
- Skeletal Analysis - W.S. Cornell and A.J. Sublett.
- Observations on Human Teeth - R.D. Gillings and D.J. Beck.
- Dentition: Anomalies and Population Pathology - J. Sirianni.
- Pottery Analysis - M.E. White.

The Reviewer feels that this publication is to be strongly recommended to all members of the O.A.S. who are interested in the excavation of burials. The report is a model of its kind, and in addition to pre-

senting interesting factual data, provides a useful guide to Ontario archaeologists on how such studies should be done. Throughout the report an effort has been made to integrate the findings at the Kleis site with other sites in the Niagara area.

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LIBRARY NEWS AND NOTES

by Charles Garrad

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY:

- ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA Newsletter No. 22, January, 1968 (Annual Report Issue).
- HAYNES C. Vance, and HEMMINGS E. Thomas, 1968 "Mammoth-Bone Shaft Wrench from Murray Springs, Arizona" from SCIENCE, Vol. 159, Jan. 12th, 1968. Donated by Dr. Donald B. Shutt. (Reports a unique tool, possibly a shaft straightener, of mammoth bone)
- NEW YORK STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION "The Bulletin" No. 41, Nov., 1967. (Several site reports, reviews, and also a reprint of a paper by Minze Stuiver and Hans E. Suiss "On The Relationship Between Radiocarbon Dates and True Sample Ages" from RADIOCARBON, Vol. 8, 1966, pp 534-540. (This paper promises to have a considerable effect on our present ideas of Ontario Iroquois dating, and will be more adequately reviewed next month)
- ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM Archaeological Newsletter No. 33, Feb., 1968. Contains paper "Jerusalem Excavations - An Epilogue" by A.D. Tushingham, Chief Archaeologist. (A humerous account of a stationwagon used in the Jerusalem dig)
- TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Tennessee Archaeologist" Vol. XXIII, No. 2, Autumn, 1967. (This well turned-out publication contains further data on Tennessee Pebble Tools and Petroglyphs)
- WALKER Iain C., 1967 "The Council for Canadian Archaeology: A Comment" ANTHROPOLOGICA, Vol. 9, No. 1, 1967, pp 91-95 (offprint). Donated by author. (Mr. Walker rightly points out that limiting membership in an organization supposedly giving leadership only to those holding a M.A. degree or higher is self-defeating)
- WEST VIRGINIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Newsletter" Vol. X, No. 1, Jan., 1968. (Report of work done and Annual Meeting, 1967)

A NEWS ITEM:

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. J. ALLAN BLAIR, of Collingwood, who has been awarded the Canadian Centennial Medal through the Council of Nottawasaga Township for a lifetime interest in local history and archaeology. Mr. Blair inherited a family interest, an uncle having subscribed to the Ontario Archaeological Report series from the very first issue. Some of Mr. Blair's Royal Ontario Museum donations are illustrated in the 1927 and 1928 issues in the same series.

His most interesting find was a medal bearing two images, St. Francois Xavier and St. Ignatius Loyola, on the presumed site of Etharita, and therefore thought to have been the personal property of St. Charles Garnier. More recently Mr. Blair was mentioned in the December, 1967, issue of ARCH-NOTES in connection with an ossuary he and one of our O.A.S. members opened last fall. While not a member of the O.A.S., he is known to many who are, and has been responsible for the inspiration, instruction and development of at least one of its present membership.

THE REASON WHY : PART II

Part I of this series attempted to answer the all-encompassing "why" of archaeology itself. In Part II we begin to deal with some of the more specific "whys" of archaeological field and laboratory methods themselves.

There is an old English recipe for rabbit stew that begins: "First catch a rabbit...." This seemingly unnecessary direction is actually the most important in the preparation of the stew, for you can't enjoy a rabbit stew without the rabbit. Similarly, you can't write a site report without that essential first step - locating the site itself.

Archaeological sites may be located in many ways, and their location depends on many factors; the type of site, the ecology and physiography of the area at the time of occupation, the cultural level of its inhabitants, and the "political" climate of the period in which they lived. It is a consideration of all these factors and their logical application to a systematic survey of a given area which produces the greatest return in site finds for the least expenditure of effort.

You would not expect to find a fishing campsite several miles from the nearest water, but time has a way of altering everything: a dry ridge to-day may have been a storm beach on a glacial lake 10,000 years ago, or a dry gully may once have been the bed of a spring-fed stream. This is the reason a good archaeologist does his "homework" before attempting a field survey. Published archaeological reports, historical accounts, topographical maps and aerial photographs (particularly if taken in the late summer) are all sources of useful information for the archaeologist. From these he can learn something of the habits of the Indians that lived in the area, discover historical references to long-forgotten sites, and uncover clues to the past environment. This knowledge enables him to plot likely site locations on his survey map, and save much shoe leather once the field survey itself has begun.

NEXT MONTH: - the field survey and selection of sites for excavation.

VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Time is fast running out for those members who have not yet renewed their membership for 1968. As of April 1st they will no longer be in good standing and will, we regret to say, no longer receive a copy of Arch-Notes.

Please check your membership card and if delinquent, send your cheque or money order, payable to The Ontario Archaeological Society, to Miss Lorna Procter, Treasurer, 137 Madison Avenue, Toronto, Ontario. Please include any changes in your address as a new membership list is to be prepared next month. (FEES: - Associate, \$2.00; Active or Institutional, \$3.00; Family, \$5.00)

Arch-Notes welcomes contributions to its News of Members and Views and Comments columns, so if you have been busy on an archaeological project or wish to voice an archaeological opinion or comment, please write us a letter to-day.

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