

THE ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



ARCH-NOTES

No. 68-4

APRIL 1968

EXECUTIVE

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247 Truman Road,
Willowdale, Ontario.

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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, April 17th, at the Commercial Travellers' Association Salesman's Club, 17 Dundonald Street, Toronto (just east of Yonge Street, one block north of Wellesley).

Speaker: MR. PATRICK HARTNEY

Topic: BONES (ILLUSTRATED)

Many amateur archaeologists tend to view prehistory only in the light shed by the study of cultural remains - pottery, points and post moulds - but the physical anthropologist knows that the bones of long forgotten people can be just as helpful in interpreting the past as the shape of a flint point or the design on a pottery vessel. Mr. Hartney will show us how, to the physical anthropologist, dead men can and do tell tales.

THE MARCH MEETING

Last month Mr. Paul Park used colour slides to conduct us on a vicarious tour of archaeological sites and museums in Great Britain and Continental Europe. Beginning with a visit to the Archaeological Society of Belfast and the Grimes Graves flint mines in Northern Ireland (where nodular and tabular flint had been worked out of the chalk overburden with deer antler picks), Mr. Park took us to England to look at a Roman villa and paleolithic site being excavated by the British Institute of Archaeology, neolithic burials, a Roman town, Stonehenge (where he had previously dug at the age of 16), and then to Sicily to see the partially restored ruins of Pompeii, where we had the privilege of seeing several areas not open to the casual visitor.

During his talk, Mr. Park touched on some of the problems encountered by archaeological societies (there are roughly 2000 in England) and the contribution they make to the advancement of archaeological knowledge. He expressed the view that the O.A.S. could make a real contribution in Ontario by building outside interest in the schools of our province, and suggested a number of ways of doing this (Executive Committee now considering these).

Mr. Park brought with him a number of specimens and British archaeological publications for inspection by the membership.

During the business portion of this meeting, Miss Lorna Procter, treasurer, announced the receipt of an additional \$1,000 grant from the Government of Ontario to assist the Society in publishing archaeological field reports. With expenses of \$1,337.18 and additional receipts of \$90.05 since the previous meeting, this left us with a bank balance of \$1,519.14 on March 19th - sufficient to authorize the printing of another issue of Ontario Archaeology (Publication No. 11).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

The Promotion and Publicity Committee's archaeological exhibit is now on display at the Lakeview Centennial Library, where it may be seen until May 3rd.

Miss Joyce E. Holloway has been appointed Projects Co-Ordinator to fill the vacancy created when Mr. Jan Roraas returned to his native Norway.

Our fourth and last winter "lab" session, held on March 15th, was well attended. As a result, all the Beeton site material has now been washed, and cataloguing and restoration is well advanced.

The special pottery sorting session, held in Oshawa on March 30th, was also well attended. After learning the basics of sorting potsherds and restoring vessels, the members managed to process all the Area "A" pottery from the Draper site - no mean accomplishment.

It has been agreed that the proposed Ontario Site Survey File will belong to The Ontario Archaeological Society. The Machinery for its operation is now being set up and a further report will appear in this newsletter when the details have been worked out.

Due to mounting costs, extra copies of Ontario Archaeology will now be sold for \$1.50 plus postage and handling charges. All members will, of course, still receive their first copy without charge as part of their membership privileges. Copies of issues #4,6,7,8,9 and 10 are still available, and may be ordered through the Corresponding Secretary (address in masthead above).

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Professor J. Norman Emerson was elected vice president of the newly formed Canadian Archaeological Association at the formative meeting held last month in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Dr. J.V. Wright, National Museum of Canada, was elected president of the Association.

Mrs. Ilse Kraemer, Clarkson, will exhibit Neutral, Huron and Point

Peninsula Indian material at the Lewis Bradley Pioneer Museum, corner of Orr and Meadowood Roads, Clarkson, Ontario. This exhibit will be on display from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, May 12th, at which time Mrs. Kraemer will be on hand to answer questions concerning this material.

During his annual March trek to the West Coast, Mr. Charles Garrad, our nomadic librarian, continued his practise of visiting museums and seeking out publications for the O.A.S. library. He was sufficiently impressed with the new museum at Edmonton to write a small item on it (see Views and Comments, below). However, he points out that the British Columbia Provincial Museum, nearing completion in Victoria, bids to be at least its equal, and that construction of the City of Vancouver Museum is also under way.

In Vancouver he found the University of British Columbia campus to be worth a visit. He toured the Anthropological Museum, located in the basement of the University Library building, and the Archaeology laboratory, hidden away in the rear of the Mathematics building. Here he viewed the Fraser Canyon Cobble Tools, associated pre-Paleo leaf points and other material from the 46-foot deep (!) Millikin DjRi3 site, as well as specimens from many other sites excavated under Dr. Borden's direction. He was conducted on this tour by Dr. Borden himself, a thrill Mr. Garrad, a ski enthusiast, likened to skiing the local mountains.

Mr. Garrad reports that the Borden Site Designation scheme, now being widely adopted throughout Canada, was first used in British Columbia, and seems to have stood up very well to the test of time.

A number of publications were donated to the O.A.S. library by Dr. Borden and the B.C. Provincial Anthropologist during Mr. Garrad's visit, and he has listed these in his Library News section below.

Mr. Wayne Purdy has published a limited run of his preliminary report on the 1967 Short site excavation. He has generously offered to supply copies of this report to O.A.S. members as long as the supply lasts (members wishing to take advantage of this offer are requested to write to the editor of this newsletter. Your copy will be mailed with Arch-Notes).

We welcome the following new members into the Society this month, and apologise for omitting to include Mrs. Watkins in last month's list.

Mrs. K.G. Watkins, Montreal, Quebec;
 Mr. Allen E. Tyyska, Toronto, Ontario;
 Miss Susan Van Ryn, Toronto, Ontario;
 Miss Megan E. Finlayson, Toronto, Ontario.

FUTURE EVENTS

APRIL 19-20 - Annual Meeting of the New York State Archeological Association, being held at the Holiday Inn, Rome, N.Y.

APRIL 26-27 - Annual Meeting of The Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, being held at Lafayette College, Easton, Pa.

INDEFINITE - A special "dig" on an Iroquoian site within the city of Oshawa. This is expected to take place near the end of April, but arrangements are not yet completed. Further details will be given at the April meeting.

O.A.S. LIBRARY ADDITIONS - April 1968

- ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Stones & Bones Newsletter" March 1968
(Includes list of available back issues of the "Journal")
- ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1967 "Journal of Alabama Archaeology" vol
xiii no 2 December 1967 (Interesting Site and other reports)
- ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA "Anthropological Journal of Canada"
Dr Donald B. Shutt of Guelph, charter-member and patron par excellence
of this Society has again made a large and generous donation from his
personal library. The present gift comprises a number of back issues
of the Anthropological Journal of Canada, vol 2 (1964) nos 1,2,3 & 4,
vol 3 (1965) nos 1,3 & 4, vol 4 (1966) nos 1 & 4, the last item
containing an index covering the previous 4 years. All contain items
of general interest with many specific to Ontario, as may be seen by
the Contents and Comments listed elsewhere. As a result of this head-
start in obtaining so many back issues, the Society will subscribe to
this publication henceforth and asks for donations of other back-
issues to complete the set.
- ARCTIC INSTITUTE OF NORTH AMERICA 1962 "Technical Paper no 11" December
1962. This 181 page work contains the works of 16 authorities on the
topic "Prehistoric Cultural Relations between Arctic and Temperate Zones
North America", a veritable encyclopedia on the subject. Canada is
well represented by Dr C.E. Borden (U.B.C.) Drs R.S. MacNeish and
W.E. Taylor jnr (National Museum).
(Donated to O.A.S. by Dr Chas E. Borden, U.B.C., Vancouver)
- BORDEN C.E. 1965 "Radiocarbon and Geological Dating of the Lower Fraser
Canyon Archaeological Sequence" Reprint from Washington State University
Sixth International Conference 1965). (By selecting different occupation
levels in three sites indicated as interlocking by C14 and Geological
dating, Dr Borden has achieved a continuous picture of Fraser Canyon
development back to 9,000 b.p. Undatable Cobble Tools possibly push
the picture back to 12,000 b.p.)
(Donated by Dr Chas E. Borden, U.B.C., Vancouver)
- BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL MUSEUM 1967 "Report for the Year 1966"
(List of donations include archaeological and ethnological material)
(Donated by the Office of B.C. Provincial Anthropologist, Victoria)
- GARRAD Chas 1968 "Ontario Archaeology and Radiocarbon Dating" Feb 1968
(Donated by author)
- KNIGHT Rolf 1968 "Ecological Factors in Changing Economy and Social
Organisation among the Rupert House Cree" NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CANADA
Anthropology Papers no 15 March 1968 (A social and economic survey of a
Cree community in the last 60 years)
- MACDONALD George F. 1968 "Debert: A Paleo-Indian Site in Central Nova
Scotia" NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CANADA Anthropology Papers no 16 February
1968 (At long last, a site yielding fluted points has been closely
examined. Too large a book for your reviewer to have completely
read yet, the early conclusions are quite impressive E.G. when the site
was occupied, glacial ice was but 60 miles distant, the mean annual
temperature below zero degrees centigrade. It is hoped to publish a
more adequate review later of this important work.)
- SANGER D. 1968 "The Texas Creek Burial Site Assemblage, British Columbia"
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CANADA Anthropology Papers no 17 February 1968.
(Logging work in B.C.'s Fraser River valley revealed flexed primary
burials with grave goods suggesting dates of A.D. 1400-1600).

O.A.S. LIBRARY (Continued)

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM "Archaeological Newsletter no 34 March 1968". Contains three papers:-

KIDD K.E. "Archaeological Work at Trent University 1967" (Survey of Trent Watershed, recording 33 sites, about half being Iroquoian, some having been earlier noted, other reported sites being shown in error. The L. Quackenbush Site at Stoney Lake was excavated, being Iroquoian (therefore agricultural) yet at the extreme northern limit of possible horticulture). (Indexed in O.A.S. records)

VASTOKAS R. "A New Study of the Peterborough Petroglyphs" (Indexed)

HARRISON P.D. "Return to Tikal" (A Maya City in Guatemala).

SASKATCHEWAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Newsletter" no 20 March 1968

VIRGINIA (ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF) "Quarterly Bulletin" vol 22 no 3 March 1968. Contains two papers :-

GILL Harold B. "Sources for Research in Virginia Local History"

WALKER Sansoucy "Field Report on an Excavation at Louisbourg, Nova Scotia" (Indexed). (That this report by an O.A.S. member on a Canadian Site should appear in a Virginian publication is not so inappropriate as might first appear since archaeology in that Commonwealth is dominated by the same Colonial Period to which the Louisbourg Fortress belongs, as the accompanying paper bears witness. The Walkers have clearly worked under most difficult conditions. This writer for one was not aware that the restoration was partly a "make-work" project for unemployed miners, and it is tragic that the speed of reconstruction is taking precedence over accuracy. We look forward to more reports from Sansoucy and Iain and hope conditions are more comfortable in England, where they presently are working, than those described for Cape Breton.

ANOTHER DONATION comes to hand and will be reviewed in May's ARCH-NOTES. This comprises some 15 titles from the pen of Dr James E. Fitting of Michigan, all donated by the author. Many thanks from the O.A.S. to all our donors.

CONTENTS AND COMMENTS - Anthropological Journals of Canada donated by Dr Shutt. Items marked # are indexed in O.A.S. library files.

VOLUME 2 NO 1, 1964

LOPEZ Julius "The Colonial Aspects of the Schurz Site" (Colonial site in the Bronx, N.Y.)

LEE T.E. "Canada's National Disgrace" (Summary of events to 1964 in the National Museum)

VOLUME 2 NO 2, 1964

ROUSSEAU Jacques "Human Problems in the Canadian Arctic" (Constructive suggestions for the better aiding of Eskimos)

ZELLER Richard "Guangala Culture Discoveries, Ecuador"

AGOGINO G.A. "Hypnotism: An Anthropological Tool" (has hypnotised Sioux and Navajo Indians and suggests this could help aged Indians recall forgotten techniques and culture patterns of their youth)

HORN Kahn-Tineta "The Indians of Canada - Their Destiny ?" (short statement of Miss Horn's personal beliefs and intentions)

BRUCE James S. "Dance of the Dead in New Guinea"

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O.A.S. LIBRARY Continued

ANTHROPOLOGICAL JOURNALS continued
VOLUME 2 NO 2, 1964 continued

- # JOSSELYN D.W. "Identification of Rocks" (Discussion concerning projected Method for Classification of Projectile Points: part 9)
- # MEADER R.F.W. "A Review of Frank Ridley's 'The Ontario Iroquoian Controversy'" (Seems to express few opinions on the topic but expands into a general discussion of amateur vs professional problems)
- LESLIE V "The Topic Catalogue" (Cataloguing the Amateur's Library, part 2)
- LEE T.E. "Let's go to the Museum - Again !" (Criticism of 1964 National Museum exhibits)

VOLUME 2 NO 3, 1964

- CARTER G.F. "Stone Circles in the Deserts" (Ancient stone-rings in the Colorado and Mohave deserts are assumed to be of human origin but evidence is lacking)
- #RIDLEY F "The Red Pine Point Site" (A camp site near a good fishing spot at the junction of the Little Abitibi River and Lake Montreuil yields a scattering of stone and pottery artifacts of the Middleport/Webb/Lalonde periods).
- SMITH A.G. "A Primitive Bark Boat" (The Australian blackfellow still leads a life similar to our Paleo-Indians and wooden artifacts may also be similar. Describes as an example a simple frameless bark boat)
- # JOSSELYN D.W. "The Central Bureau" (Part 10 of the Projectile Point series, suggests a central bureau to clarify typology)
- # LEE T.E. "Sheguiandah: Workshop or Habitation ?" (Despite the great activity evidenced at Sheguiandah, no "exports" of its characteristic wares have been found on other sites. The existence of a large habitation area subsisting presumably on fishing, might suggest that the real "export" was a perishable product to which the quarrying was incidental)
- # URBANSKI E.S. "Pre-Columbian Relationships between America and Asia ?" (Many similarities between Asia and MesoAmerica suggest trans-Pacific contact)
- LEE T.E. "On the Redeployment of Smoke" and "Museum Tea Leaves" (further comments on the National Museum)

VOLUME 2 NO 4, 1964

- # FARMER M.F. "The Arctic - North Atlantic as a Prehistoric Migration Route" (suggests a North Atlantic Land Bridge, or use of ice or boats)
- # LEE T.E. "The Parks Cache, Kemptville, Ontario" (A Late Archaic camp-site producing a cache of blades now swamped by the Rideau River)
- # JOSSELYN D.W. "Archery for Archaeologists and Ethnologists: Part 1 : The Need, the Terminology, The Basic Bow" (First of a series to increase regard of "Man's first good weapon")
- # RIDLEY F "Burins, Indian or Eskimo ?" (Reports finding of supposedly Eskimo artifacts on Indian sites at Frank Bay and Lake Abitibi)
- # LESLIE V "On Displaying your Collection" (Practical suggestions)
- STARKEY J.A. "Excavation of the Historic Boat at Batsto, New Jersey" (Boat used in pioneer industrial operations)
- JOSSELYN D.W. (Review of -) Marcel Brion's "Pompeii and Herculanium, the Glory and the Grief" (Recommends, but with reservations as to several inaccuracies)
- LEE T.E. "Go North, Young Man !" (Interesting account of three month's in the North).

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O.A.S. LIBRARY - Anthropological Journals continued.

VOLUME 3 NO 1, 1965 :-

- MILLER C.F. & WILKINSON C.W. "Discovery of an Indian Jasper Quarry in N.W. Virginia" (75 acre mine and workshop area reported)
- # JEFFREYS M.D.W. "Plant Diffusion - "Hands off America" . (This is a major paper built around a criticism of Prof. E.D. Merrill's "The Botany of Cook's Voyage and its Unexpected Significance in Relation to Anthropology Biogeography and History")
- # JOSSELYN D.W. "Seeing and Reporting Projectile Point Characteristics" (part 11 of the Point series)
- # LEE T.E. "A Small Cache of Early Points, Lac St-Jean, Quebec" (four unusual points found on a beach might be paleo-Indian)
- # JOSSELYN D.W. "How to interpret Alaska's Raised Beaches ?" (The presence in Alaska of Pleistocene Raised Beaches 1,700 ft above present sea level may have several explanations, some of which conflict with Behring Land bridge theories)

VOLUME 3 NO 3, 1965 :-

- MORIARTY J.R. "Cosmogony, Rituals and Medical Practice among the Diegueno Indians of Southern California" (a major study)
- FARMER M.F. "The Antiquity of Navigation Techniques" (astronomy for example has been long studied)
- SMITH A.G. "Who Named that Road" (often indicative of local history)
- # SARGA J. "Ancient Society" (This major work demonstrates the significance of the colour of red, representing blood the life-force, being exclusively the colour associated with stone-age drawings and objects. Concludes "the origin and quality of Human Society, and ancient human values (social and moral consciousness, tribal community, taboo, magic, morality and the god idea) were rooted in the idea of blood being the principe-vital).
- JOSSELYN D.W. "Statistical Probability and Human Improbability" (current techniques of statistical classification are open to human error)
- LEE T.E. "An Unfluted Cumberland (Beaver Lake) Point" (An unusually large Early Man point from Alabama).

VOLUME 3 NO 4, 1965 :-

- JEFFREYS M.D.W. "Maize and the Ambiguity in Columbus' Letter" (refutes the idea Columbus introduced corn into Spain)
- AGUIRRE J.T. "The Palette of the Hill of 'El Copero'" (A religious Mexican funerary offering)
- ROBBINS M "A Second Look at Antiquities Legislation" (in U.S.A.)
- MAJOR T.A.K. "Jaina, Treasure Island of the Maya Art" (Mexican Maya Site yields exquisite statuettes)
- SMITH A.G. "Recent re-use of Ancient Archaeological Material" (Uses a flint blade found on a French Neolithic site in 1918 substitute for matches)
- JOSSELYN D.W. "Diffusion - but by what Agency ?" (Plants and animals move geographically by many unsuspected means)
- # LEE T.E. "Two strange Pits on Smith's Island, McGregor Bay, Ontario" (two apparently man-made pits, unexplainable and without evidence other than a single corner notched Archaic/Early Woodland point)

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O.A.S. LIBRARY Continued

ANTHROPOLOGICAL JOURNALS

VOLUME 4 no 1, 1966.

- MORIARTY J.R. "Medicine, Myth and Science in Medieval Europe" (Gradual triumph of real medical knowledge over superstition etc)
- BECK L. "Jade". (Regarded by pre-Columbians as more precious than gold, & long thought to "prove" trade and cultural exchanges with China, Jade was first shown to be mineralogically different (South America vs China) culminating in the discovery of a South American source in Guatemala)
- # JOSSELYN D.W. "Announcing Accepted American Pebble Tools. The Lively Complex of Alabama" (Named for discoverer Matthew Lively, these tools represent the work of presently unknown people, here endorsed by seven major scientists. (NOTE BY C.G. Now accepted as being pre-Paleo, also found in Canada, see MITCHELL D.H. 1965 in O.A.S. Library)
- LEE T.E. "Champlain's Astrolabe" (Champlain made no mention of losing the instrument, and readings continue in his journal after the supposed event)
- LEE T.E. "Archaeological Traces at Fort Chimo, Quebec, 1964" (A number of dwelling earth-rings discovered, ranging from pre-ceramic to recent, but no tribal affiliation evident)

VOLUME 4 NO 4, 1966 :-

- JEFFREYS M.D.W. "Derivations for the words Canary, Wakore and Gorilla" (all really mean the same thing - man)
- JOSSELYN D.W. "Are we Ready to Close the Book ?" (Linguistic studies have only demonstrated the need for further study)
- HUMBARD R.A. & J.R. "Problems of Projectile Point Typology" (Need for better illustrations and descriptions demonstrated by the finding in two caches of 26 and 11 points all considered to be the same "type", but having a 100% variation in length and breadth)
- # CARTER G.F. "On Pebble Tools and Their Relatives in North America" (Points out that Pebble Tools have long been known in America but were hitherto not accepted "officially", and also shows evidence of pre-fluted point lithic industries producing "large leaf shaped points" NOTE by CG Dr Borden recovered large leaf shaped points with his Pebble Tools in B.C.)
- MORIARTY J.R. "Culture Phase Divisions Suggested by Typological Change Co-ordinated with Stratigraphically Controlled Radiocarbon Dating at San Diego" (a major work reconstructing cultural phases for a part of California)
- # LEE T.E. "INDEX of the ANTHROPOLOGICAL JOURNAL OF CANADA Volumes 1-4" (An Index by Author, Subject and Title)

THE SOCIETY would appreciate donation of the following issues of the above Journal :- VOL 1, nos 1,2,3,4 VOL 3 no 2 only, VOL 4 nos 2 and 3, VOL 5, nos 1,2,3,4.

ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY
AND RADIOCARBON DATING

A REVIEW OF "On the Relationship Between Radiocarbon Dates and True Sample Ages" by Minze Stuiver and Hans E. Suess (RADIOCARBON Vol 8, 1966, pp. 534-540) as reprinted in "The Bulletin" (NEW YORK STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION no 41, November 1967, pp.10-14).

The advantage of our Society having an exchange programme with such astute groups as THE NEW YORK STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION is well demonstrated by our attention having been directed through this connection to new information on the subject of radiocarbon (C14) dating which may be of great significance in our understanding of Ontario Iroquois development. The Association's recent "The Bulletin" reprints in full a 1966 paper from "RADIOCARBON" which appears to invalidate all or most of the presently accepted C14 dates in Ontario, but which at the same time provides the means of their correction.

Basically C14 dating is based on the premise that while living, organic material absorbs carbon at a constant steady rate, and that on dying the process is somewhat reversed, the carbon disappearing at a fixed, steady and measurable rate. Using the C14 as the measurable factor, the C14 measure of the tested material related to the known rate of disipation (expressed as a half-life) gives the number of years-before-present that the subject material died, which is usually stated as Years Before Present PLUS or MINUS an error factor.

Comparing organic materials of known age with the age given by C14 testing has revealed considerable discrepancies. Why this should be so is not presently entirely known, but it is suspected that of the many assumptions in the chain of C14 dating theory, the weakest link may be that the rate of absorption of carbon by the living organic material is constant. It is now known that C14 production is variable, depending on atmospheric CO2, cosmic rays, solar and other natural climatic influences. Enough cross-checking of C14 dates and dates obtained by other means has now been done to allow the construction of a Correction Chart from the year 1950 back to 1,000.a.d., part of which is reproduced here. In the form of a graph, a line drawn representing Age by Radiocarbon Test vs Actual Age, hitherto presumed to be straight, is erratic and sawtoothed.

The most important deviation of recent years will be seen for the year 1700.a.d., for which material tested gives a reading of but 80 years (in 1950). This is mentioned in the summary :-

"In general, radio-carbon dates since A.D. 1,000 are too young; one of the larger deviations is around 1700 when radiocarbon ages suggest 19th Century material. Radiocarbon dates from the first millenium A.D. are generally 50 to 100 years too old ...". The chart shows we can continue to accept dates for the period 1220.a.d. to 1400.a.d. as reasonably accurate, but from the year 1400.a.d. to the present, all accepted dates are now shown to be too young. This period of course covers the crucial Ontario Huron/Iroquois period of development, and would seem to be at least part of the answer to the puzzle of present thought that while the Archaic periods lasted unchanged for thousands of years, the late Woodlands Uren/Middleport/Lalonde/Prehistoric/Contact/Historic/Mission evolution seemed to have been compressed into but a few hundred. A site of the year 1520.a.d., for example, is presently regarded as of the year 1670.

The researcher/authors Stuiver and Suess advise that work is continuing on the extension of the Correction Chart back to Before Christ, and their preliminary work shows that Radio-carbon dates for the period 4,000.B.C. to 200.B.C. are too young, the extent of the discrepancy increasing with age.

ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY AND RADIOCARBON DATING continued.....

CORRECTION CHART

Showing Radiocarbon Age, True Age and resultant
Calendar Year, as of 1950 a.d.

| Calendar
Year
A.D. | True
Age of
Sample | Age
by
C14 | Calendar
Year
A.D. | True
Age of
Sample | Age
by
C14 | Calendar
Year
A.D. | True
Age of
Sample | Age
by
C14 |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1800 | 150 | 130 | 1580 | 370 | 320 | 1360 | 590 | 600 |
| 1780 | 170 | 150 | 1560 | 390 | 270 | 1340 | 610 | 610 |
| 1760 | 190 | 100 | 1540 | 410 | 250 | 1320 | 630 | 610 |
| 1740 | 210 | 130 | 1520 | 430 | 280 | 1300 | 650 | 650 |
| 1720 | 230 | 100 | 1500 | 450 | 330 | 1280 | 670 | 690 |
| 1700 | 250 | 80 | 1480 | 470 | 370 | 1260 | 690 | 710 |
| 1680 | 270 | 120 | 1460 | 490 | 420 | 1240 | 710 | 710 |
| 1660 | 290 | 170 | 1440 | 510 | 470 | 1220 | 730 | 730 |
| 1640 | 310 | 280 | 1420 | 530 | 490 | 1200 | 750 | 920 |
| 1620 | 330 | 330 | 1400 | 550 | 550 | 1180 | 770 | 910 |
| 1600 | 350 | 340 | 1380 | 570 | 580 | 1160 | 790 | 890 |

As will be observed, the above Correction Chart does not entirely solve the problem. A C14 date of 100 years before present (in 1950, standard year for this table), thought therefore to be of the year 1850, in actual fact could be 1760 or even 1720. Similarly a 130 yr C14 date, giving a Calendar Year (in 1950) of 1820 is at least 1800, and possibly 1740. A site giving readings of 120 and 130 years, thus assumed to have been occupied for 10 years, may really be giving us 1680-1800, an occupancy of 120 years.

In summary C14 dating is not as exact as was thought, adjustment must be made in accordance with the above table, as well as for the other factors which may upset the result (E.G. contamination of the sample, malfunction of testing equipment etc), and every effort made to cross-check the supposed age by any other available means.

Chas Garrad
February 1968

VIEWS AND COMMENTS

On display in the Main Rotunda of the Royal Ontario Museum until the end of April is a fragment of an Egyptian tomb painting dating to the rule of Amenophis III (1410 - 1372 B.C.) which the Museum hopes to purchase with the help of contributions from the public at large.

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Professor Ronald Vastokas, of Trent University, and his wife, Joan, are preparing a report on last summer's investigation of the Peterborough petroglyphs, which they hope to publish next year. Their work encompassed a much larger area than that investigated by Mr. Sweetman in 1954, and enabled them to add another 200 carvings to his findings. In addition, several tools used to gouge the carvings out of the soft crystalene rock were found in situ, as were half a dozen potsherds dating to the late Woodland period.

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The following was submitted by Mr. Charles Garrad:

The Alberta Provincial Museum and Archives Building at Edmonton, a Centennial project opened last year, might perhaps be one of the most modern museum buildings in the world. This impressive complex of 20th Century architecture in stone leaves the impression that no expense has been spared. Just to see the building justifies a visit. This is just as well because only about half the exhibit space is yet open.

The Indian exhibits may be classed as average, presenting the usual feather and beaded Plains work, with nothing new or even comparable to the present National Museum Plains Indian Exhibit (which at least has a Teepee). There is a large photograph collection of turn-of-the-century Indians which will become more valuable as time passes.

The only real archaeological exhibit is from a rather distant trading post, "Fort George", showing an interesting but fairly sparse assembly of Trade Goods for the period. Early man is represented by some point-type reproductions, way behind Saskatchewan's museum in this regard. There is no mention of Dr. Churcher's exciting 40, 000 year man discovery in Alberta (See CHURCHER, C.S., Arch-Notes, 1967).

But the potential of this progressive, creative edifice is inspiring. Alberta has done well by its researchers here, challenging them to justify themselves and the institution.

From the casual visitor's point of view, the rather obvious closed-circuit TV cameras that seem to follow one's every move in the galleries are distracting. The hospital-like atmosphere and the feeling of being continually watched inhibits a relaxed appreciation of the exhibits, and one begins to feel like a specimen too.

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Because of space limitations, two feature articles, "The Clues Closet" and "The Reason Why", were omitted this month. They will appear next issue.

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Your 1968 membership fees should have been paid before April 1st. If you still have not done so, you are no longer a member in good standing, your name will not appear in the revised Membership List (deadline: April 20th), and you will, we regret to say, have just read your last issue of Arch-Notes.

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