

ARCH*NOTES

No. 68-9

November 1968

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Willowdale, Ontario.

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" "

The next meeting of the Ontario Archeological Society will be held at 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 20, in Room 561, Sidney Smith Hall, at the University of Toronto. Sidney Smith hall is at 100 St. George St. Toronto--two blocks north of College Street. Room 561 is the Archeology lab on the lower level of Sid Smith. You can't miss it--honest.

The speaker for the evening will be Mr. pPeter Ramsden. His lecture will be entitled Archeology in Northern Canada, and will be illustrated. Mr. Ramsden has worked in Alaska, the Yukon, and the North West Territories.

THE OCTOBER MEETING

At last month's meeting, our speaker for the evening was Father William A. Russell (S.J.). Father Russell brought us up to date on his Fournier site located on the eastern part of the Martyrs' Shrine property, about 800 yards from the Sante-Marie I site.

This summer his party excavated an extremely large longhouse. This house was about 24 feet by 150 feet. It could perhaps go to 200 feet but the site has been destroyed partially by a bulldozer. This made it very difficult to find the perimeter of the house.

Although he had not yet analyzed his material, Father Russell could give us some information about the longhouse. It had six hearths, and over 550 pits. Many pits were superimposed and were therefore very difficult to excavate. The longhouse floor, which was depressed in the centre region was covered with a black spongy, compressed, almost midden-like material. It contained many fragments of artifacts accumulated during a long or intense occupation. The water level in the soil was not very far below the surface. This perhaps was responsible for the floor condition. The only door found was in the northern end of the house. The house was lined up in a north-west position apparently to compensate for the prevailing wind conditions. Post molds turned up in a 3½ inch-4 inch-3½ inch sequence alternating poles with ½ inch tolerance. This demonstrates again that an Iroquoian longhouse was not a simple structure.

There was a considerable range of Ontario pottery types found, on the site, along with fish bones and scales, but no hooks or net sinkers. This suggests that the inhabitants had a weir. Since there was only debris lying around, the site was obviously abandoned.

Father Russell's crew used a different excavating technique most of the time. He mentioned that they dug in fifty-foot squares rather than the usual five-foot square. He showed some slides which illustrated beautiful post-moulds and fire pits. We went up to Midland to visit Sainte-Marie and the Fournier site a few days after Father Russell spoke to the O.A.S. Although his crew had vacated the site, their careful work was still very apparent.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

The O.A.S. and the U. of T. are co-sponsoring the second annual meeting of the Canadian Archeological Association, in Toronto, on the weekend of March 16, 1969. The O.A.S. representative committee met with Mr. Bill Hurley on Tues. Nov. 12, and the organizing is well underway.

The Site Survey and Codification Committee also met that night; but we will have to wait for a report from that group.

On Nov. 2, and 3, the Eastern States Archeological Federation convention was held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and twelve people represented the O.A.S. This was the best showing in the history of the O.A.S. "Ontario Archeology" appeared to be one of the best publications in the ESAF and we certainly had the best publications display--over \$100.00 worth of back publications were sold.

As I have already mentioned, we visited Sainte-Marie Among The Hurons a few weeks ago. Our friend Bas Mason, up there, expressed hopes that Sainte-Marie will be open all year round starting next year. This site always was fantastic, but now it is even better. The museum and research centre is nearly finished. Visitors will now be shown a movie in this section of the site before they pass on to the fort. It is very much in the style of the Expo pavilions.

Our first lab of the season will be held at Dean Axelson's house, 237 Lord Seaton Rd., Willowdale, on Friday Evening Nov. 15. Work will be done on our Beeton site, material again. This time, during our coffee break (we work so hard, you see) a movie will be shown. As a matter of fact, it is the Sainte-Marie movie. So how does that grab you? If you don't want to come out to work, come on out to talk. We can always lapse into a party...

Speaking of parties, our December Banquet is here at last. It will be at the Commercial Travellers' Association Salesmen's Club, 17 Dundonald Street, Toronto. The date will be Wednesday evening, December 18, 1968. The total cost will be \$5.50 per person. It has not been confirmed yet but we hope that Walter Kenyon will be our guest speaker. NOW EVERYBODY PAY ATTENTION--so that Jim Gauci can obtain an accurate count of those planning to attend, we ask you to complete the form at the bottom and mail it to him. Money will be collected at the banquet. Micro-minies welcome.

Mr. Jim Gauci
159 Perry Crescent
Isl ington, Ont.

Tel. 239-2676

I plan to attend the December
Annual Banquet , Dec. 18, 1968.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

Number in Party: _____

Two more donations by prominent archaeologists pertaining to Ontario archaeology have arrived, more than filling representation for an area hitherto poorly represented in our library, the several Mounds areas of Rice Lake.

Dr Richard B. Johnston's many years of work on the Serpent Mounds have resulted in a variety of papers, copies of which, some in duplicate, have been donated, along with the Dugout Canoe paper. He was Field Director for the R.O.W. Sergeant Mounds work from 1957 to 1960 and is now Assistant Director of the River Basin Surveys of the Smithsonian Institution.

Michael W. Spence, after graduate study in Anthropology at the University of Toronto, became an associate of the Teotihuacan Mapping Project, University of Rochester, and is presently with the Southern Illinois University.

Our thanks to both these gentlemen for these generous donations.

FIELD EXPERIENCE AVAILABLE FOR EXCELLENCE !

Any O.A.S. member seeking unusual field experience should contact Mr Don Withrow of the Etobicoke Historical Society, whose hobby is excavating elephants. He needs all the help he can get examining a Mastodon near Thamesville before the weather halts operations. Three ribs, some 47" long were first taken out but the skull, tusks and vital neck areas have not been reached at last report. Don wishes to emphasize that excavating a Mastodon is not a trowel and punning shoes affair. Hip waders, long-handled shovels and the ability to work in waist-high running water are requisites. Furthermore, volunteers must have their own car or other means of transportation and be self-sustaining as to all their needs. Like most modern elephant finds, this one seems to have bogged down in a very mucky area, and a Bailey bridge had to be erected to even approach it. For details contact Don Withrow at his home 36 Toledo Road, Etobicoke, 621-3342, or at his office at 3034 Bloor St West 231-9081. One last word from Don - he wants workers, not observers, of whom several Universities have already sent a quota.

ALBERTA ARCHAEOLOGY

This is the name of a new book by D.R. King, Box 456, High River, Alberta. It is subtitled "A Handbook for Amateurs", 140 pages, 19 plates, 23 sketches, covering archaeological technique in general and Alberta in particular for \$3.25.

We hope it won't be too long before some bright Ontario amateur makes something similar available for this Province.

A "Stop-Press" further library arrival:

NEW YORK STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION "The Bulletin" No 43 July 1968. (This issue contains four papers, two of which relate to archaeology as such, and two to a very important issue which as far as this reviewer knows is entirely overlooked in Ontario. This is archaeological salvage work in connection with Highway construction. New York State is fortunate in having both a programme and an organisation (with state funds) to carry it out. Details of all proposed highway routes are obtained and examined both during the design and in the later construction stages. Depending on the nature of the find and the degree of salvage justified, a suitable co-operating institution is brought in on a crash basis. All this is organised through the central coordinating body, the New York State Museum, which has the authority (and may designate it) to compel construction to halt for an assessment. Amateurs act as scouts and report details directly to pre-arranged institutions.) Shouldn't Ontario follow this lead ?

- ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Stones and Bones Newsletter" November 1968
- ALBERTA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Newsletter" no 16 Spring 1968, principally containing "Detrital Silica Rocks for the Archaeologist" by F. Taylor
- AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY "Natural History" vol LXXVII no 9 November 1968 (Papers of diverse interest, incl. the Beaver & Great Lakes pollution)
- ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOC'N OF CANADA "Anthropological Journal of Canada" vol 6 no 4 1968. Contains: "A Lithic Industry from Central Texas" by G.F. Carter & P. Hammond (using petrified wood); "The Mashonas" by J. Sarga (A principal tribe of Rhodesia, some recollections of a visit there and speculations as to the future under U. D. I.); "Too Much Paleo" by Dan W. Josselyn (Alabama Fluted Point Types); "Special to Anthropological Journal of Canada" (a letter) by Miss Kahn-tineta Horn (Points out that the modern Indian customs, culture and motivations result from 20,000 years prehistory, and the values resulting are opposed to the white man with his struggle for power, prestige, wealth, control of others, the delight in striving, the stimulation of competition etc, and prevent the Indians' "co-ordination with a white man's world". She suggests that anthropologists must first study the cause and effect of that 20,000 yrs to better understand the modern Indian. Miss Horn adds that she has been ridiculed for this suggestion, which perhaps is the best proof of its merit. Thankfully, in Miss Horn we have an Indian with an understanding of the whites.); "Summary of Norse Evidence in Ungava 1968" by T.E. Lee (37 points establishing his Ungava finds as Norse, not Eskimo) (Indexed); "The Question of Indian Origins, Again" by T.E. Lee (A major work summarising earlier and present opinions. While nothing positive has been proven, the balance of evidence and opinion is becoming more favourable towards a trans-Atlantic entry)(Indexed).
- AXELSON R.D. 1968 "A Short Course in Archaeology 1968" (text for 10 sessions in Ontario Archaeology)(donated by author)
- JOHNSTON R.B. 1958 "The Findings After Two Years of Work at Serpent Mounds Site, Rice Lake, Ontario" reprint of pp 96-7 INDIANA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE vol 67 1958 (donated by author)
- JOHNSTON R.B. 1958 "The Serpent Mounds Site 1957" ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM Bulletin of the Divn of Art & Archaeology June 1958 (donated by author)
- JOHNSTON R.B. 1959 "The 1958 Interim Report on the Serpent Mound Site" ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM Art & Arch. Divn. Toronto 1959 (donated by author)
- JOHNSTON R.B. 1960 "More Findings at the Serpent Mounds Site, Rice Lake, Ontario" INDIANA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE Proc. for 1959, vol 69 pp 73-77, 1960 (donated by author)
- JOHNSTON R.B. 1962 "Another Dugout Canoe from Ontario" reprint of pp 95-6 AMERICAN ANTIQUITY vol 28 no 1 July 1962 (donated by author)
- JOHNSTON R.B. 1968 "The Archaeology of the Serpent Mounds Site" ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM Occasional Paper no 10, Toronto 1968 (donated by author)
- SASKATCHEWAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Saskatchewan Archaeology Newsletter" no 22 September 1968 (4 papers pertaining to plains archaeology)
- SPENCE M.W. 1967 "The Obsidian Industry of Teotihuacan" reprint pp 507-514 AMERICAN ANTIQUITY vol 32 no 4 October 1967 (donated by author)
- SPENCE M.W. & PARSONS J. 1967 "Prehispanic Obsidian Mines in Southern Hidalgo" reprint pp 542-3 AMERICAN ANTIQUITY vol 32 no 4 October 1967 (donated by author)
- SPENCE M.W. & HARPER J.R. 1968 "The Cameron's Point Site" ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM Occasional Paper no 12, Toronto 1968 (donated by author) (Three mounds and a shell midden at the Trent River end of Rice Lake of the Middle Point Peninsula period equate in many features (pottery, burials) with the Serpent Mounds, parts of which are contemporary with parts of the mounds at Cameron's Point).

NEWS OF MEMBERS:

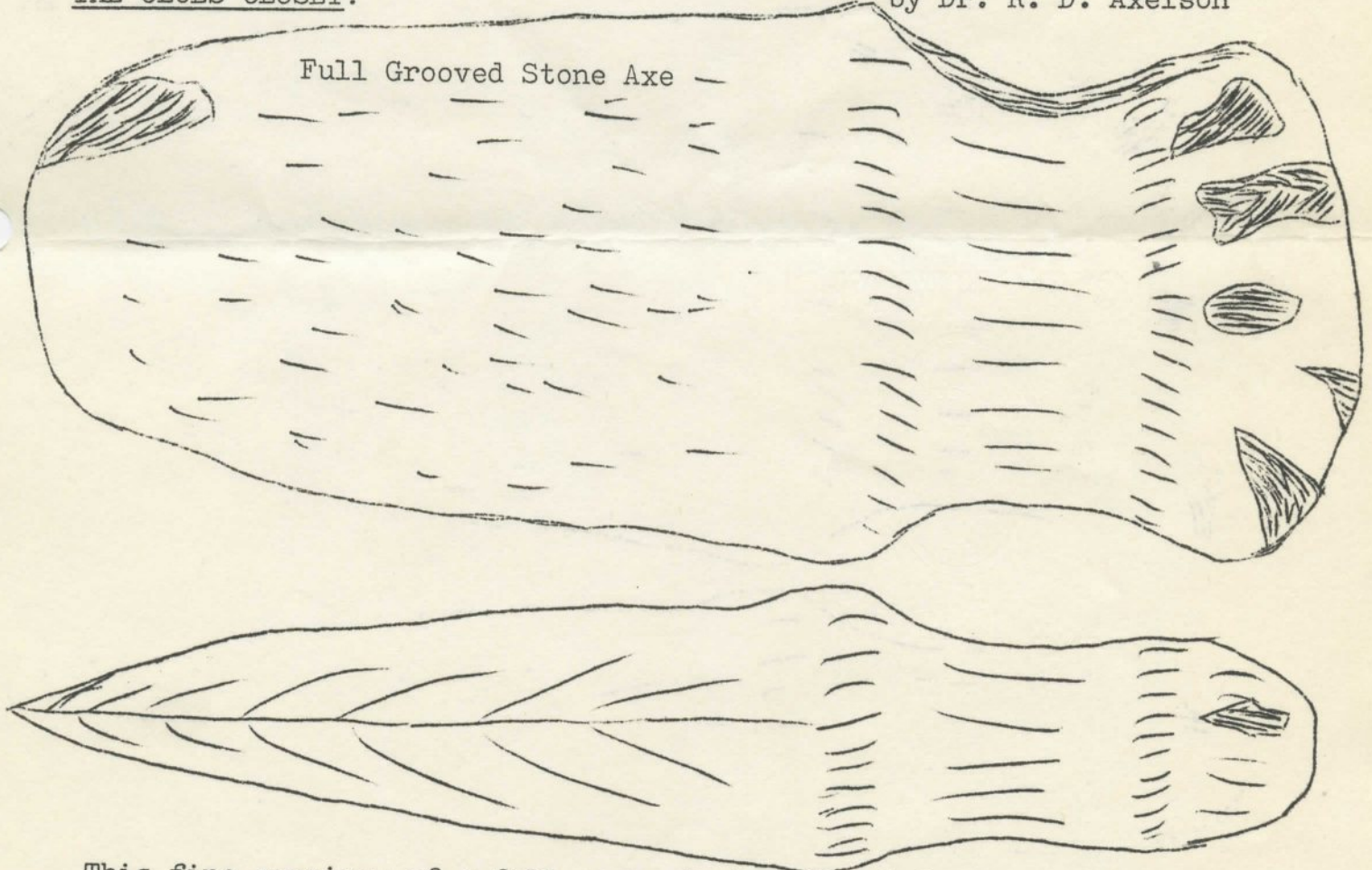
Those O.A.S. members attending the Digging Into The Past lectures at the R.O.M. and at Scarborough College (intellectual nucleus of the U. o f T.) were treated recently to a lecture on the effects of myrrh and frankincense on the economy of ancient Arabia. A two thousand year old frankincense burner was passed around and nobody dropped it. Imagine.

Twelve new members have come aboard. A warm welcome to--

Miss Patricia Moule	Newmarket
Mrs. Jean Pardoe	Don Mills
Mrs. Martha Latta	Willowdale
Mr. & Mrs. R.A. Adshead	Scarborough
Mrs. Donna Brittan	Thornhill
Mr. F, Jerome Melbye	University of Toronto
Manitoba Museum of Man & Nature	Winnipeg
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development,	Ottawa
Mr. Laird Nixon	Sarnia
Mr. & Mrs. Gino Ferri	Stouffville
Mr. Mark Siegel	Toronto
Mrs. Kathy Jacobs	Scarborough

THE CLUES CLOSET:

by Dr. R. D. Axelson



This fine specimen of a full grooved stone axe belongs to the writer and came from a field near Goderich, Ontario. It was found on the surface many years ago by a local farmer but all other information had been long forgotten.

This Axe is a prime example of what the Indians could produce by the pecking and grinding method of manufacture. It is $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and 3 inches wide, and $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches thick. Peck marks are plainly visible all over the axe except where they have been ground away. Most of the grinding is restricted

to the sharp cutting edge of the axe. The stone is a black, banded, finely grained type. Although it is not banded slate, it looks like it where it has been polished. The writer's knowledge of geology is limited and therefore a definite identification of the stone cannot be given. This axe is probably Archaic.

VIEWS AND COMMENTS:

by Mr. Bill Donaldson

November is the month when most field work comes to a halt in Ontario. The thermometer dips below the frost mark with increasing frequency as the days roll by--and digging on an exposed site at this time is something that must be experienced to be properly appreciated.

However, those thirsting after archeological knowledge need not spend the next five months in moody contemplation of our snow-covered landscapes. A little wintertime digging in the O.A.S. library will increase your knowledge of the subject considerably, as will participation in the various archeological projects now underway: The O.A.S. lab sessions, at which specimens recovered during this year's excavations are cleaned, sorted, and catalogued, and often restored and analyzed; Mr. Pat Hartney's excellent human osteology classes open to all members of the O.A.S. twice per month; And the courses in Anthropology and archeology at several institutions in the province, the University of Toronto and the Barrie Collegiate Institute being two that readily come to mind. All in all, there is enough to keep even the most avid amateur busy until spring thaw.

Prof. Z.S. Pohorecky, head of the Anthropology department of the University of Saskatchewan, had reported the discovery last month, near Saskatoon, of chipped flint artifacts in direct association with woolly mammoth bones. These were lying in a soil layer sandwiched between two other layers dated at 38,000 and 18,000 years old.

Since these dates indicate a deposition prior to the accepted date for the advent of the last (Wisconsin) Ice advance, it lends weight to the argument for man's pre-glacial presence in North America.

Since Prof. Pohorecky's discovery is but the latest in what can only be described as a rash of such finds in the last year or so, Mr. Thomas E. Lee's article, "The Question of Indian Origins, Again" in the latest issue of the Anthropological Journal of Canada (Vol. 6, No. 4, 1968, pp 22-32) is most timely, and provides a thought-provoking review of the entire subject.

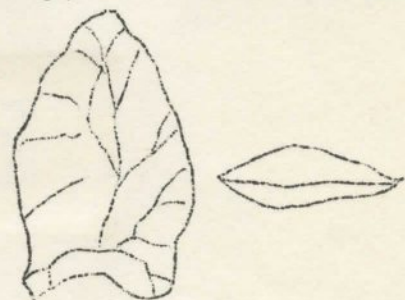
While on the subject of Paleo-man, we might mention that on a recent visit to Thamesville, Ont. we noticed three late-paleo Hilo points in the collections of Messrs. James and David Secord. These points were surface finds from low sand hills in the Thames River valley, in Orford and Howard townships, Kent County.

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HELLO:

This issue of Arch-notes sees a new editorial staff. Practice makes perfect, so just hang loose for a few issues till we get the hang of this business.

Ross Strain, Editor
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ONTARIO



A "Hilo" Point