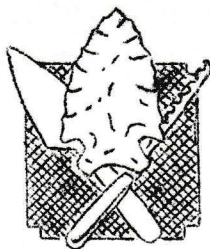


THE ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



ARCH-NOTES

No. 66-4

APRIL 1966

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(See note below)

NOTE: Because of serious family illness, Mrs. Cecilia Finnigan has tendered her resignation as Corresponding Secretary. This vacancy will be filled at the April meeting.

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The next meeting of The Ontario Archaeological Society will be held at 8 p.m., Wednesday, April 20, in Room 252, Board of Education Centre, 155 College Street, Toronto.

Our speaker this month will be Dr. Robert C. Dailey of the Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto. His subject, Ontario Archaeology, will cover the entire field at large, and certain aspects in detail.

We think this will be a most informative and stimulating meeting - and one you will not want to miss!

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THE MARCH MEETING

Members in attendance at our March meeting were treated to a colour slide tour of various archaeological sites in eastern Africa, courtesy of Dr. C.H.D. Clarke - a very able and entertaining guide. Considerable interest was shown in the Early Man excavations at Olduvai Gorge, in Tanzania, and more than a little surprise expressed by some at the similarity of the pottery from some of the later sites in the area to that of the Middle Woodland ware of Ontario.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Despite the sleet storm of March 12th, a few hardy enthusiasts attended the Oshawa pottery lab., further reducing our backlog of unprocessed artifacts.

At least one more session will be required to complete this job, however, and it is hoped that arrangements for this session can be announced at the April meeting.

PUBLICATIONS

We are pleased to report that Publication #9 is now in the hands of the printer and is expected to be ready for distribution to the membership sometime in May.

Dr. Churcher, chairman of the Publications Committee, is not resting on his laurels, however, and is already soliciting manuscripts for Publication #10. Submissions should be addressed to: Dr. C.S. Churcher, 20 Binscarth Road, Toronto 5, Ontario.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

While seeking pioneer items for the Bowmanville Historical Museum, Mr. Forrest Dilling recently discovered a collection of Archaic artifacts from a hitherto unreported site in the Newcastle area.

Arrangements have been made to investigate this site just as soon as the weather permits.

Col. James Pendergast reports that the National Museum of Canada plans to publish a manuscript entitled, "Cartier's Hochelaga and the Dawson Site." This seven-part work, which deals with all aspects of the supposed site visited by Cartier in 1535, contains contributions by Col. Pendergast, Mr. Bruce Trigger, Dr. James E. Anderson, Mr. Kenneth E. Kidd, and Dr. William N. Fenton. As yet there is no firm publication date, but it is expected to be in print next year.

Col. Pendergast's monogram on the Salem, Grays Creek, and Beckstead sites is expected to be in print very soon now. This report will provide further information on the early Iroquoian development in eastern Ontario.

Other projects now under way or planned by Col. Pendergast include a detailed report on the multi-component Brophy's Point site, and the excavation this summer of an Iroquoian site in eastern Ontario under the auspices of the National Museum of Canada.

Mr. Stanley Vanderlaan will be one of the speakers at the forthcoming Annual Meeting of the New York State Archaeological Association.

Mr. Vanderlaan's work in the Niagara Frontier area of New York State has contributed much to our understanding of this area. His most recent report on this work, "The Ganshaw Site", was published in Bulletin #35, a publication of the New York State Archaeological Association.

Mr. Bill Renison has now been transferred to the Workman's Compensation Hospital in Toronto for final treatment of his automobile accident injuries, and has progressed to the point where he is allowed home on weekends.

This month we are pleased to welcome Mr. D.A. Croft and Mrs. Doreen Hutchinson into our membership.

RECENT AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The 19th Annual Northwest Anthropological Conference was held this month at the Banff School of Fine Arts, Alberta. During the course of this conference, which ran from April 7th to April 9th, fourteen papers were presented on the prehistoric and historic archaeology of western Canada and the northwestern United States.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Lewis H. Morgan Chapter, the New York State Archaeological Association will hold its Annual Meeting at the Sheraton Hotel, Rochester, New York, on Saturday, April 23. The host chapter has struck special commemorative medals to mark this historic occasion.

On Wednesday, May 11, at 7.30 p.m., the East York Public Library will present an evening on Archaeology. The guest speaker will be Mr. T. Cuyler Young, Jr., Assistant Curator of the Near-Eastern Department of the Royal Ontario Museum, and Assistant Professor of the Near-Eastern Department, University College.

Mr Young will present an illustrated talk on Archaeology in general, and his work on a large, early site in Iran in particular. A discussion period will follow this talk.

VIEWS AND COMMENTS

If you are involved in artifact analysis, there is a passage in a very interesting article by D.J. Mulvaney in the March issue of Scientific American entitled, "The Prehistory of the Australian Aborigine", which should raise a sympathetic lump in your throat. It reads (page 91), "The present rub in classifying Australian artifacts is how to decide where to draw boundaries and what degree of emphasis to give single culture traits. Within each group of artifacts there are variations in size, shape and trimming. What criteria, for example distinguish.... The truth is that early workers, myself included, selected an ideal type and then blurred the edges of distinction by treating deviations from this ideal as atypical, even though the deviations possessed inherent definable characteristics."

The April issue of the same publication contains an article by Dudley T. Easby, Jr., entitled, "Early Metallurgy in the New World", that we recommend for inclusion in your reference library - particularly if you are interested in the techniques used in manufacturing the various metal artifacts that have been recovered in the Americas.

Page 51 of this issue should hold your interest as well.

Stanley Vanderlaan's report on the Ganshaw site (see News of Members) should be read by anyone in Ontario who is concerned with Iroquoian origins and early development. This site has produced more exterior bossed pottery than any other so far discovered in New York State. Its possible links with the Ontario series should be thoroughly checked out

Soon to be published in book form by the Pergamon Press are the results of the symposium on the skeletal biology of past populations, held in London, England, last November by the Society for the Study of Human Biology.

This publication should be of real value to anyone interested in palaeopathology, or wishing to trace the movement and intermixing of prehistoric groups through the study of their skeletal remains. It should also prove interesting reading for anyone who participated in the Fairty ossuary excavation and subsequent processing of the skeletal remains.

As a footnote to his "letter-to-the-editor", which appeared in the January, 1966 issue of Arch-Notes, Col. James Pendergast submits the following: -

"The ceramic sample (from the Dawson site) has been analysed using both the "pottery type" method and the "attribute" method. The latter method is based on rim sherd decorative motif, decorative technique, and shape. The results using both methods are closely parallel. This would appear to indicate that we may be able to use the attribute method to avoid the subjectivity and confusion now associated with the pottery type method. This conclusion is borne out by the results of a re-analysis of the pottery from all seven sites I have reported upon in this area. The results of this re-analysis and a comparison of the Dawson site on this basis is contained in Part 5 of the paper (Cartier's Hochelaga and the Dawson Site) in a king size table."

Dig time is fast approaching. Get out your equipment and sharpen your trowels - we will soon give you an opportunity to dull them.

NOTICE

Until our new Corresponding Secretary is installed in office, please address all correspondence to President Axelson, 247 Truman Road, Willowdale, Ontario.

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

