



ARCH NOTES

Monthly Newsletter of

The Ontario Archaeological Society (Inc.)

No. 70 - 9

EXECUTIVE

November, 1970

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University of Toronto

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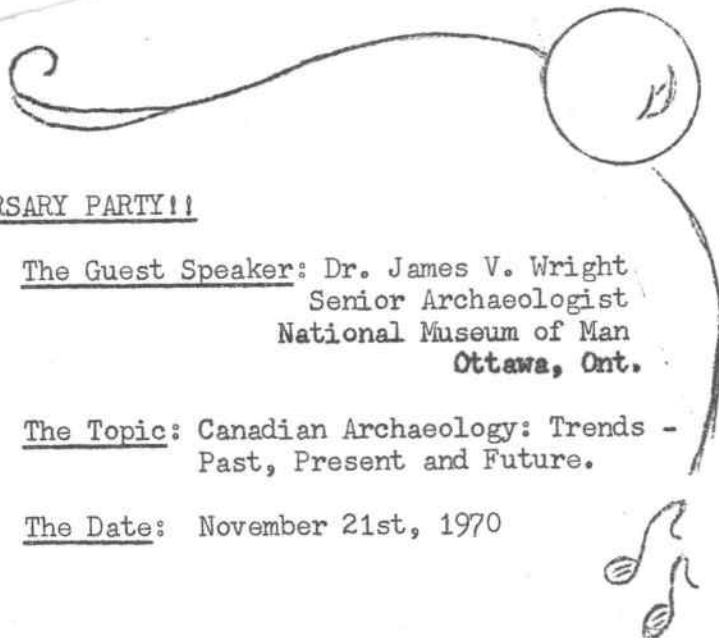
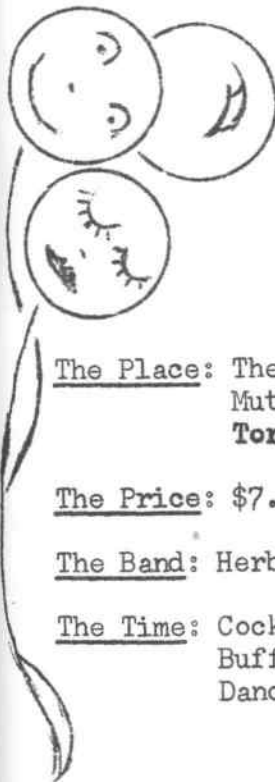
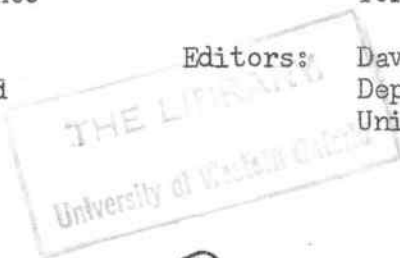
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Department of Anthropology
University of Toronto



20th ANNIVERSARY PARTY!!

The Place: The Town and County
Mutual & Gould Streets
Toronto, Ont.

The Guest Speaker: Dr. James V. Wright
Senior Archaeologist
National Museum of Man
Ottawa, Ont.

The Price: \$7.25 per person

The Topic: Canadian Archaeology: Trends -
Past, Present and Future.

The Band: Herb Read's

The Date: November 21st, 1970

The Time: Cocktails 6 - 6.30 p.m.
Buffet Dinner 6.30 p.m.
Dancing 9. - 12. p.m.

THE MENU

Standing Prime Ribs of Beef * Choice of Potatoes * Hot Buttered Vegetables *
Cold Assorted Meats * Potato Salad * Egg Salad * Green Salads * Vegetable Salads *
Fresh Lobster with Choice of Sauces * Fresh Rolls or Croissants * French Pastries *
Coffee or Tea ***and then you can start all over again on your second helping!

Tickets available, but going fast! Please contact either Gloria Schimmel at 699-0812
or Marie Zaputovich, 921-4940 or write 484 Avenue Rd., Apt. 606, Toronto 195, Ont.

MONTHLY MEETING - There will be no November O.A.S. meeting. In its place come to
the 20th Anniversary Banquet.

OCTOBER MEETING

At the October meeting Miss Helen Devereux and Mr. John Reid described their excavation of a two component Beothuk site (prehistoric and historic), which included the excavation of an historic winter house structure. A verbal presentation supplemented by an original documentary film and slides was delivered.

The following is an abstract of Helen Devereux's and John Reid's speech and movie. Any errors or omissions are the fault of the editor.

- David M. Stothers

The Beothuk were the native people of Newfoundland. The last known Beothuk, a woman named Shanadithit, died in St. John's in 1829 after spending some five years living with Europeans there. The Beothuk had been exterminated by the settlers.

They are described as being in many ways quite different from other aboriginal peoples of the Northeast. Because of the hostile relationships between settlers and Beothuk, very little is known about the Beothuk. Over the last century and a half there has been a lot of speculation about just who they were.

Linguistic studies of the Beothuk vocabulary of some 400 words have produced ambiguous results. Very little skeletal material is available. There is some ethnographic information, but this has not ^{been} seriously worked over as yet. When Miss Devereux first began to tackle the Beothuk problem from an archaeological point of view, in 1964, there were no known or identified Beothuk sites. There were no artifacts available that could reliably be attributed to the Beothuk. Almost all of the archaeological collections in Newfoundland Museums were labelled "Beothuk" and these included many clearly identifiable Dorset and Archaic Indian artifacts. Hence the current belief held by some archaeologists, today, that the Beothuk were surviving Dorset or relict Archaic Indians. There seemed to be in extant collections no third distinctive assemblage that might be Beothuk. Miss Devereux believes this is due to the fact that Beothuk sites are few in number and hence not represented in surface collections.

It has taken a number of years to finally come upon a Newfoundland site of any size which produces a distinctive prehistoric stone assemblage which qualifies as Beothuk. This component is represented in the lower level of the stratified Indian Point Site. While it is the prehistoric stone tool component which will be most useful for comparative purposes in attempts to establish the relationships and origins of the Beothuk, the historic iron tool component at Indian Point provides a necessary link in the use of the Direct Historic Approach.

While excavating the historic component at Indian Point, Miss Devereux's crew came across an historic housepit. Thus the film viewed by O.A.S. members during the October meeting concerned the excavation of the housepit. The film was problem oriented and asked the questions: 1. Who were the people who left behind the remains found in the upper historic level at Indian Point? and 2. who were the people who preceded them and left behind the remains in the lower level at Indian Point? The film attempted to demonstrate why both levels were deposited by the Beothuk. The distinctive Winter Wigwam on Winter Mamateek found on the site is an important feature and one of a complex which leads to such a conclusion.

To establish the identity of historic iron producing upper stratum on the Indian Point Site Miss Devereux utilized the Direct Historic Approach, comparing the archaeological evidence found there with evidence such as descriptions and sketches available in historic documents.

The chief documentary source is J.P. Howley's The Beothuk or Red Indians of Newfoundland, a compendium of things Beothuk published in 1915.

Miss Devereux made her comparisons of documentary and archaeological evidence under three categories: 1. Place, 2. Time and 3. Form.

Place: With regard to place or location documentary evidence is clear that the Beothuk lived on Red Indian Lake (central Newfoundland) in historic times, and this is the location of the Indian Point Site. The location is then suitable.

Time: The only documentary references to time describe the Beothuk since the arrival of Europeans. In the film it was suggested that the upper occupational level origina-

ted in historic times (i.e. since ca. 1500 A.D.) because: 1. the occupation level is directly below loose, nondecomposed leaf mould and therefore recent; 2. the midden bone found in this level is in excellent condition despite the acid nature of the soil; and 3. most convincingly, there were iron tools in the level.

Also, with reference to "time", seasonality of Beothuk occupation was considered. Historic documents tell us that the Beothuk came to Red Indian Lake in the late fall and winter to hunt caribou which moved through the area at that time. The greater part of the midden bone retrieved from the upper level was caribou.

Written text and line drawings inform us also that the Beothuk lived in round conical wigwams during the summer and multi-sided wigwams in winter. This winter dwelling is labelled "Winter Mamateek" in a sketch drawn by the last Beothuk. At the Indian Point Site a multi-sided depression of similar dimensions to those given in historical texts (i.e. 22' in diameter) was excavated.

Form: In considering form or content features and artifacts were compared. Features include once again the winter mamateek with its unique plan, central fireplace and small depressions (perhaps for sleeping) on either side of the fireplace. These characteristics are all present in the housepit excavated at Indian Point. The second feature considered is the use of red ochre. This is well documented, and shows up on the site in the form of an elongate configuration of red ochre in the subsoil which perhaps could have resulted from the decomposition of an ochre painted bark canoe.

Artifacts which are described and illustrated in detail in historic documents and which are found on the Indian Point Site in the upper level consist of: iron deer spears, iron toggling harpoon heads for hunting seal, iron axes, iron fish spear prongs, fragments of European iron unmodified by the occupants and iron pyrites used in producing fire.

Cormack said in 1828 when he journeyed to Red Indian Lake in search of the Beothuk, "The traces left by the Red Indians are so peculiar that we were confident those we saw were made by them". (Howley, 1915, p.190) So close are the comparisons between documented and archaeological evidence that we can conclude that the upper level at Indian Point is indeed of Beothuk origin.

The second problem in the film was to establish the identity of the prehistoric stone tool producing component represented in the lower stratum at the Indian Point Site. Miss Devereux's methodology or approach in this case was to compare the Indian Point Site to the Beaches Site (located on the east coast of Newfoundland) where one of the components there represents a transition from prehistoric to historic times, and where both iron and stone tools are found.

Iron tools from the Beaches historic component are typically Beothuk. Associated with these are small corner notched or stemmed arrow points. This same type of point is present in the lower level at the Indian Point Site.

If the lower level at the Indian Point site is of Beothuk origin, then it will be possible to begin to describe the stone assemblage which characterizes prehistoric Beothuk. This assemblage is chiefly of chipped stone fashioned of poor quality flint or chert. It includes small corner notched arrow points, larger stemmed projectiles or knives, many bifaces ranging from leaf-shaped to triangular which may be knives, asymmetric knives, large elongate flake tools retouched along one side, small snub-nosed end scrapers, hammerstones and abrading tablets.

The presence of an historic house (mamateek) on a prehistoric stone producing site would seem to point to the archaeological identity of prehistoric Beothuk and set us on our way to another stage of the Beothuk problem - that of tracing origins and relationships.

On behalf of the O.A.S. the editors of Arch Notes would like to thank Miss Devereux and Mr. John Reid for a first rate account of their excavations last summer and for the many long hours spent in producing the unique and informative film shown at last month's meeting.

An Item of Special Interest

On the following page is a reproduction of a pen illustration which depicts an impression of life at the Middleport Site circa 1400 A.D. The illustration is by Ivan Kocis, an O.A.S. member from Hamilton. Mr. Kocis combines his keen interest in both nature and archaeology in this drawing, which is based on a reconstruction of the actual local, as well as a study of artifacts from the site.

Other works by Mr. Kocis can be viewed at the Seneca County Museum, Minesing; the Brant Museum, Burlington, and the Brewerton Museum, Brewerton, New York



- ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Journal" xvi:1 June 1970. Contains "A Selected Bibliography of Alabama Archaeology"
- ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Stones & Bones Newsletter" June, July, August and September 1970
- ALBERTA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Newsletter" 23-24 Winter-Spring 1970
- AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY "Natural History" May, June-July, August-September 1970
- ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA "Anthropological Journal of Canada" 8:2, 8:3 1970
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL ON CANADIAN WATERWAYS "ACCWA Activities" 1:5 June, 1:6 July, 1:7 September 1970
- ARNEGIE MUSEUM "Archaeological Newsletter" 44, September 1969
- COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY 1970 "Archaeological Bibliography for Great Britain and Northern Ireland 1968"
- EASTERN STATES ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEDERATION "Bulletin No. 29" July 1970
- ENSEN, R.E. 1970 "Archaeological Survey of the Rowlesburg Reservoir Area, West Virginia" W. Va Geol. & Economic Survey 1970.
- ENYON, T. 1970 "Clay Pipes - Glen Airn Sawmill Site" O.A.S. Archnotes 70-4 April 1970
- EE, T.E. 1966 "Payne Lake, Ungava Peninsula, Archaeology 1964" Centre D'Etudes Nordiques, Travaux Divers 12, Universite Laval.
- EE, T.E. 1967 "Fort Chimo and Payne Lake, Ungava, Archaeology 1965" Centre D'Etudes Nordiques, Travaux Divers 16, Universite Laval.
- EE, T.E. 1968 "Archaeological Discoveries, Payne Bay Region, Ungava 1966" Centre D'Etudes Nordiques, Travaux Divers 20, Universite Laval.
- EE, T.E., 1969. "Archaeological Findings, Gyrfalcon to Eider Islands, Ungava, 1968". Centre D'Etudes Nordique, Travaux Divers 27, Universite Laval.
- MANITOBA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Manitoba Archaeology Newsletter" vii:1-2 Spring-Summer 1970
- NEW YORK STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION "Bulletin" 48 March 1970 (see NOBLE)
- NOBLE, W.C. 1970 "An Unusual Neutral Iroquois House Structure" pp.14-15, New York State Arch. Assn "Bulletin" 48 March 1970
- ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Arch Notes" 70-4 April, 70-5 May, 70-7 Sept. 1970
- PENNSYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGY, Society For "Pennsylvania Archaeology" 40:1-2 Apr 1970
- PENNSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY MUSEUM "Expedition" vol 11:4 Summer 1969
- ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM "Archaeological Newsletter" 61 June, 62 July, 63 August, 64 September 1970 (see STORCK)
- SASKATCHEWAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Saskatchewan Archaeology Newsletter" 29 June 1970
- HEWART, A.M., 1970. "French Pioneers in the Eastern Great Lakes Area 1609-1791" New York State Arch. Assn., Occ. Paper 3.
- STORCK, P. 1970 "Beachcombing into the Past" (Killarney Park) R.O.M. Arch. Newsletter 63, August 1970.
- STOTHERS, D.M., n.d. "The Shaver Hill Burial Complex: Reflections of a Neutral Indian Population" MSS.
- STOTHERS, D.M. & KENYON, I.T., 1969 "The Princess Point Site and Its Relationship to the Owasco Tradition: A Preliminary Report" MSS.
- STOTHERS, D.M. & KENYON I.T. 1970 "The Porteous Site: A Late Manifestation of the Princess Point Complex" pp.5-6 O.A.S. Arch-Notes 70-4 April 1970.
- WEST VIRGINIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Newsletter" xii:2 March, xii:3 May, xii:4 September 1970
- VIRGINIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Newsletter" 31 April, 32 July 1970
- VIRGINIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Quarterly Bulletin" 24:2 December 1969, 24:3 March 1970, 24:4 June, 25:1 September 1970.

any thanks for special donations to Thos. E. Lee, Centre D'Etudes Nordiques, David Stothers and Iain C. Walker.

PRINCESS POINT COMPLEX

The Early Ontario Iroquois Stage, formerly thought to commence at the time of the Glen Meyer/Pickering Branches, has been extended back in time with the recognition and definition of the preceding Princess Point Complex. For this development the credit must go to McMaster University and especially to David Stothers and Ian Kenyon when students there

While their present studies at University of Toronto may fill their time with other subjects, it is easy to guess what topics David and Ian would prefer to choose for future intensive Ph.D. work.

GLASS TRADE BEADS

Kenneth and Martha Kidd have presented us with a classification system for glass beads which has been long awaited. Beads may now be described in codified form. This work does not attempt to date beads but so establish a uniform system of nomenclature, description and classification. We now await the establishment of a complimentary system of dating.

THE NORSE IN UNGAVA

Tom Lee went north to find the Dorset culture and found it. He also found the Norse in such abundance that the more publicised L'Anse Aux Meadows, Newfoundland, settlement is reduced to comparative insignificance. His first visit in 1964 resulted in his conclusion that the Dorset were non-Siberian people of southern origin. Their Payne Lake remains included at least one house of a different culture - "Sadlermuit" - later to be recognised as Norse. The 1965 work resulted in the identification of a European settlement with square houses, a church-like structure, a stone dam and causeway and artifacts cut with metal tools, and in 1966 a series of stone beacons were recognised as navigational aids, none of which were found in 1968. A complete Norse Longhouse, and parts of others, have been excavated.

Tom Lee has presented our Society with four large volumes covering his work on the Norse, Thule, Dorset and Naskapi, his reports professionally seasoned with cautionary words "probably" "Possibly" etc. But Farley Mowat contributes a 3-page "forward" in more emphatic terms ...

"During the 1960's the intriguing question of whether the Norse reached North America some centuries before its 'discovery' by Columbus was finally resolved ... The fact of a Norse presence on this Continent almost a thousand years ago is no longer a serious dispute ... Lee has opened the door to a previously unknown and fascinating chapter in the human history of this Continent ... It is to be hoped that ... those who are truly interested in arctic archaeology and in northern history will begin to follow where Lee has led".

What happened to the Greenland Norse may be reduced to a formula for those so inclined - D plus N equals T - where D means the Dorset Eskimo people who were hospitable to the Norse, N means the Norse, who, cut off from return to Europe, pushed by the hostility of the Skraelings (Naskapi ?) fell in with the friendly Dorset, gradually adopting their ways, and T means the Thule Culture, the end-product of the merger. There were other factors such as climate and ecological balance changes which served as catalysts in such a great change as the transition from being an independent village dwelling agricultural iron-using people to a people of a seasonally nomadic hunting non-metal using subsistence. They disappeared as a distinct physical type by inter-marriage with the Dorset people, but in doing so produced a new physical "type", whose descendants, presumably, reside in our northland even today.

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- ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Stones and Bones Newsletter" October 1970
- AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY "Natural History" October 1970
- ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA "Anthropological Journal of Canada" vol 8:4 1970. Contains an tribute to the late Dr. Jacques Rousseau.
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL ON CANADIAN WATERWAYS "ACCWA Activities" vol 1:8 October 1970
- BANNATYNE B.B., ZOLTAI S.C., and TAMPLIN M.J. "Annotated Bibliography of the Quaternary in Manitoba and the Adjacent Lake Agassiz Region, (including Archaeology of Manitoba)" Geological Paper 2/70, Geol. Surv. Manitoba Dept. Mines and Natural Resources, Winnipeg 1970.
- NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES SERVICE "Canadian Historic Sites, Occasional Papers in Archaeology and History no. 1" Ottawa 1970. Contains three papers: "Archaeological Investigations of the National Historic Sites Service 1962-1966" by John H. Rick; "A Classification System for Glass Beads for the Use of Field Archaeologists" by Kenneth E. and Martha Ann Kidd; and "The Roma Settlement at Brudenell Point, Prince Edward Island" by Margaret Coleman
- ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Arch Notes" 70-8 October 1970. Contains a report on the Society's dig at Oshawa "The MacLeod Site (AlGr-1)".
- ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Ontario Archaeology" Publication no 15, 1970. Contains three papers "A Petun Burial in Nottawasaga Township, Ontario" by Chas. Garrad, "A Burial at Wasaga Beach, Ontario" by James W. Shropshire, and "The Petawawa Small Sites Report" by Barry M. Mitchell and colleagues D.A. Croft, P.J. Butler, R.J. Cawthorn.
- ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM "Archaeological Newsletter" 65 October 1970 containing "Altun Ha: The End of the Dig" by David M. Pendergast.
- SASKATCHEWAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Saskatchewan Archaeology Newsletter" no. 30 September 1970, contains two papers of local interest and a major work "The Prehistory and Archaeology of the Canadian Prairies" by Margaret Hanna. This is a remarkable paper in presenting a comprehensive summation of Prairie ecology, geography, geology and archaeology since the time of the most recent glacier. Rufus Churcher's 30,000 yr old finds at Medicine Hat earn no mention, and the Bering Land-Bridge entry theory persists, requiring much reshuffling of evidence to accommodate it (why?). However, this paper is but an extract from Miss Hanna's B.A. thesis, leaving the reader looking forward to her future papers with the excitement of a developing unfolding thriller in serial form.
- VIRGINIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Newsletter" 33 October 1970.
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VACANCY - LIBRARIAN

Your present librarian of four years service wishes to retire when a successor is found. This is an appointed position, apply to the President.

The Librarian must have storage room for seven 12"x18" boxes, a file folder and a drawer of file cards. He needs a residence-type mailbox rather than an apartment size, and an address which will remain unchange for at least a year. Ideally, he should have easy access to the nearest post-office, a private line telephone and zeal enough to preach the cause, plus a typewriter and time to use it. He will find himself on the receiving end of mailings from a number of other Societies and people, and I hope he will find this as enjoyable as I have.