

TAMING THE TAXONOMY:

Toward a New Understanding of Great Lakes Prehistory



The 1997 Joint Symposium of the Ontario Archaeological Society and the Midwest Archaeological Conference

October 24-26, 1997
North York, Ontario

The Ontario Archaeological Society extends its thanks to the following
for their contributions to the 1997 Symposium:

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Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

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Cover Illustration: *Carte du Canada ou de la Nouvelle France*.... Guillaume Delisle, 1719.

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- 12:10-1:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 **Iroquoian Prehistory: Pots, Pipes, Points, and Problems**
William Engelbrecht (*Buffalo State College*)
- 1:50 **The Complex Formerly Known as a Culture: The Taxonomic Puzzle of Old Copper**
Susan R. Martin (*Michigan Technological University*) and Thomas C. Pleger (*University of Wisconsin - La Crosse*)
- 2:10 **A Fine Kettle of Fish: Ceramic Context, Society, and Typology in the Upper Great Lakes**
Michael J. Hambacher (*Great Lakes Research Associates, Inc.*)
- 2:30 **Exotic Ceramics at Madisonville: Implications for Interaction**
Penelope B. Drooker (*Southern Illinois University at Carbondale*)
- 2:50-3:10 Coffee Break, Foyer 2nd Floor
- 3:10 **Cultural Evolution of Phases Constituting Algonquian, Iroquoian and Siouan Culture History Sequences**
J. Peter Denny (*University of Western Ontario*)
- 3:30 **Topos and Taxis: Exploring Woodland Period Perceptions of Landscape in Southern Ontario**
David A. Robertson (*Archaeological Services Inc.*)
- 3:50 **Prefixing the Historic: New Definitions for Old Periods Before and After Contact in the Northeast**
Alexander von Gernet (*University of Toronto*)
- 4:10 **Continuity and Change within the Archaeological Sites Database: Exploring Practical and Political Implications**
Penny Young (*Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture & Recreation*), Robert von Bitter (*Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture & Recreation*) and Rachel Perkins (*Canadian Museum of Civilization*)
- 4:30 **What's in a Name? The Implications of Archaeological Terminology Used in Non-Archaeological Contexts**
Neal Ferris (*Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture & Recreation*)
- 4:50 **Concluding Remarks**
Martha A. Latta, Session Moderator
- 5:30 OAS President's Meeting, 19th Floor Boardroom
- 6:30-8:30 **Reception at the Royal Ontario Museum, Canadian Heritage Rotunda (Floor 1B)**
- Jointly sponsored by the Office of the Vice President, Collections and Research, *Royal Ontario Museum*; The Department of Anthropology, *Royal Ontario Museum*; The Department of Anthropology, *University of Toronto*; *Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority*.
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Saturday, October 25, 1997

8:00 a.m. Registration Desk Opens

Foyer, 2nd Floor

PLENARY SESSION

Gibson Ballroom, 2nd Floor

Taming the Taxonomy:***Toward a New Understanding of Great Lakes Archaeology***

(presentation titles to be determined)

9:00 **How Did It Work on the Ground? Reflecting on Reflections of Culture Change**Ronald F. Williamson (*Archaeological Services Inc.*), Session Moderator9:30 **Archaeological Implications of Great Lakes Paleoecology at the Regional Scale**William A. Lovis (*Michigan State University*) and Robert I. MacDonald (*Archaeological Services Inc.*)10:00 **"The Evolution of Socio-Political Structures in the Great Lakes"**John Paul Staeck (*Luther College*) and Peter A. Timmins (*University of Western Ontario*)

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break, Foyer

2nd Floor

10:45 **"The Evolution of Technologies and Design Elements in Material Culture in the Great Lakes"**Toby Morrow (*Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa*) and Robert H. Pihl (*Archaeological Services Inc.*)11:15 **Panel Discussion**Ronald J. Mason (*Lawrence University*), David M. Stothers (*University of Toledo*) and J.V. Wright (*Canadian Museum of Civilization*)

11:45 Moderated audience-panel-speaker discussion

12:15-1:30 **Lunch: Thematic Roundtable Discussions**

Johnson Room, 2nd Floor

Table 1 **Protohistoric Connections and Interactions in the Midwest: Late Prehistoric-Early Historic Ceramics South of the Great Lakes** - Hosted by Penelope B. Drooker (*Southern Illinois University at Carbondale*)Table 2 **Population Studies in Great Lakes-Midwest Archaeology** - Hosted by George R. Milner (*Pennsylvania State University*)Table 3 **How Ideological Continuities Transcend Archaeological Taxonomic Boundaries** - Hosted by Alexander von Gernet (*University of Toronto*)Table 4 **Migration in Archaeology** - Hosted by Dean R. Snow (*Pennsylvania State University*)Table 5 **Subsistence Change Through Time in the Great Lakes** - Hosted by Charles Cleland (*The Museum, Michigan State University*)

Sunday, October 26, 1997

OPEN SESSION 2

Gibson Ballroom, 2nd Floor

- 9:25 a.m. **Call to Order and Opening Remarks**
Dena Doroszenko (*Ontario Heritage Foundation*), Session Moderator
- 9:30 **Clovis Occupation of the Martens Site, 23SL222**
Julie Morrow (*University of Iowa*)
- 9:50 **New Evidence for Late Paleoindian Foraging Behaviour from the Western Great Lakes**
Steven R. Kuehn (*State Historical Society of Wisconsin*)
- 10:10 **Archaeological Site Burial: A Model for Site Formation within Middle-to-Late Holocene Alluvial Setting of the Great Lakes Basin**
G. William Monaghan (*Colgate University*) and Daniel R. Hayes
- 10:30-10:50 Coffee Break, Foyer, 2nd Floor
- 10:50 **A Close-up View of Springtime Princess Point Subsistence Activity at the Peace Bridge Site, Fort Erie, Ontario**
Stephen Cox Thomas (*Bioarchaeological Research Associates*)
- 11:10 **The Mississippian Period Population of Cahokia and the American Bottom**
Cathy Labadia (*Pennsylvania State University*) and George R. Milner (*Pennsylvania State University*)
- 11:30 **Late Prehistoric Landscapes and Settlements in the Central Mississippian Valley**
Sissel Schroeder (*Pennsylvania State University*)
- 11:50 **Late Prehistoric Settlement Locations and Resource Productivity Near Cahokia**
George R. Milner (*Pennsylvania State University*) and James Oliver (*Illinois State Museum*)
- 12:10 **Renewed Research on the Late Woodland in the Straits of Mackinac**
Alan McPherron (*University of Pittsburgh*)
- 12:30 **A Middle Phase for the Eastern St. Lawrence Iroquoian Sequence: Western Influences and Eastern Practices**
Roland Tremblay (*Université de Montréal*)
- 12:50 **Closing Remarks**
Dena Doroszenko, Session Moderator
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PLENARY SESSION ABSTRACTS

Algonquians and Iroquoians: Taxonomy, Chronology, and Archaeological Implications

Stuart J. Fiedel

Archaeological Implications of Great Lakes Paleoecology at the Regional Scale

William A. Lovis, *Department of Anthropology, Michigan State University*

Robert I. MacDonald, *Archaeological Services, Inc.*

This paper examines the Great Lakes watershed at the regional scale in order to highlight significant changes in the paleoenvironment since deglaciation. This exercise has three primary goals. First, in keeping with the mandate of this session, we will demonstrate how such a topic can be addressed without reference to taxonomic nomenclature. Second, it is our intention to act as provocateurs for an ecological approach to Great Lakes archaeology. Finally, we will review the evolving regional paleoenvironment of the Great Lakes watershed in terms of glacial activity, paleoclimate, changing lake basins, and paleovegetation. Whether considered individually or in concert, we believe that these environmental attributes provide more than a mere environmental backdrop against which to view culture change. Rather, they constitute a suite of variables worthy of thorough and continuing contemplation throughout the discussions of human adaptation which are to follow.

How Did It Work on the Ground? Reflecting on Reflections of Culture Change

Ronald F. Williamson, *Archaeological Services Inc.*

OPEN SESSION ABSTRACTS
Complex Problems: Structural Analysis of Middle Woodland Ceramics Using Multi-Dimensional Scaling (MDS) of Design Symmetry

James B. Bandow, *Department of Anthropology, McMaster University*

This paper documents the structural analysis of pottery samples from four Middle Woodland sites from southwestern Ontario. These sites, Boressma, Couture, Donaldson, and Thebes, represent three cultural complexes: the Saugeen Complex, the Couture Complex or Western Basin, and the recently designated Middle Thames River Complex. In this preliminary study, 578 ceramic specimens were observed, coded, and subjected to Multi-Dimensional Scaling (MDS) of their ceramic design symmetry. This study identified 32 corresponding design motifs which were ranked against 10 structural design variables common amongst all Middle Woodland samples examined. From these observations, 17 'stimuli' were identified and coded in relationship to their frequency, structural cohesion, and geographic distance. Based on the preliminary results of this study indicate that Boressma ceramics are more consistent with peripheral interactions of two overlapping interaction spheres. Thus, there is sufficient grounds to question the validity of the Middle Thames Complex as an appropriate archaeological construct.

"If They Are Not Neutral, Then They Are the Same Group with a Different Name": Cultural Identification on the Niagara Frontier

Martin S. Cooper, *Archaeological Services Inc.*

abstract not yet submitted

Cultural Evolution of Phases Constituting Algonquian, Iroquoian and Siouan Culture History Sequences

J. Peter Denny, *Department of Psychology, University of Western Ontario*

One aspect of the taxonomic complexity of the archaeological record has been the recent discovery of significant discontinuities in several local sequences. An alternative way to derive some coherence in the record is to develop culture history sequences for the major native groups. Two examples are examined. Firstly, a number of discontinuities have recently been inferred for the American Bottom sequence of phases which belong to the Algonquian culture history sequence and of other phases that belong to the Siouan culture history sequence. Secondly, a diverse set of doubts have been raised about the local sequences in the Lower Great Lakes which are thought to be Northern Iroquoians. As an alternative, it is proposed that the Northern Iroquoian sequence is spread across space as well as time, moving from the Middle and Upper Ohio drainage to the Great Lakes. By virtue of these examples, it is suggested that culture histories are a valuable way of achieving integration across diverse phases and traditions.

Exotic Ceramics at Madisonville: Implications for Interaction

Penelope B. Drooker, *Center for Archaeological Investigations, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale*

Madisonville and related Late Fort Ancient sites in southwestern Ohio have produced a variety of exotic ceramics, including sherds with connections to the upper Ohio River Valley, northern Ohio, northern Illinois, and the middle Mississippi Valley, and pipe fragments with connections to Iroquoia. To these can be added the famous pedestal vessels and face pot: locally-made but exhibiting non-local influences. Implications for late prehistoric-protohistoric interregional interaction patterns are discussed.

Iroquoian Prehistory: Pots, Pipes, Points, and Problems

William Engelbrecht, *Department of Anthropology, Buffalo State College*

This paper examines some problems with taxonomic units commonly used in Iroquoian archaeology in New York. These problems include: poor definition; a lack of a fit between the taxon and the data; inappropriate equation with past social systems; a confusion of means with ends; and strait-jacketed thinking. These problems appear at all levels of analysis, from a consideration of individual artifact classes to our current conception of Iroquoian culture.

What's in a Name? The Implications of Archaeological Terminology Used in Non-Archaeological Contexts

Neal Ferris, *Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture & Recreation*

Like any specialist discipline, archaeology has developed a form of technical shorthand when discussing and describing the materials, sites and past peoples under investigation. Indeed, this shorthand tends to blur and borrow terms that, strictly speaking, might be solely cultural, functionally descriptive or temporal in meaning, and create new definitions for the term when used in a separate context. The term "archaic", for example, is used much more frequently by archaeologists today in a temporal or cultural sense, than as the simple descriptive adjective it is in normal English usage. Such technical shorthand is both useful and necessary in disciplines such as archaeology. However, as archaeology increasingly adopts a high profile in society as a result of substantial and prevalent CRM activities, we share our technical language with people outside the discipline, who do not share the same "cultural" background and thus do not recognize the shared meaning these signifiers have adopted in archaeology. And taken out of context, archaeological terminology has the potential to be misinterpreted or even misused.

By way of several examples, this paper will examine the implications of archaeologists using technical terminology with non-archaeologists, and the misunderstanding and problems this has caused. Additionally, it will review some of the unique and distressing issues around terms like "Ontario Iroquoian" within the context of contemporary First Nations land claims and the use of archaeological data to support or refute those claims.

Interaction, Ideology or Irrelevancy: The Revision of the Early Woodland Period in Lower Great Lakes Prehistory

Joseph E. Granger, *Department of Anthropology, University of Louisville*

Since 1990, much has been written about the Early Woodland Period in northeast Prehistory. Investigation and argument have examined such pan-cultural aspects as gender relations, symbolic/cognitive mortuary or trade behaviour and linguistic affiliation. There has even been lively debate on formative transformations in a new and revised Iroquoian tribal development hypothesis. Other elements in the current heuristic explanation of the Early Woodland Period are geographic, such as the use of a re-ceremonialized "phase" defined as a buffer horizon between western lacustrine expressions, coastal cognates to the east and later derivatives to the south. Most, if not all, of these statements share a revisionist perspective not necessarily supported by solid archaeological data. Similar but earlier synthetic studies gave rise to the regional "phases" identified by ideological constructs and irrelevant suppositions, which are now undergoing this revision. This paper examines the Lower Great Lakes Early Woodland concept as being the product of the interaction of local groups affected by several factors such as population pressure, territorialism, resource control, trade and information flow in a mundane economic adaptive model. It suggests that this model represents a more appropriately secure foundation for elegant but speculative revisionist theorizing.

Integrative Taxa in Midwestern Archaeology

William Green, *Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa/Department of Anthropology, University of Iowa*

Systematics—the means we use to classify things, the ways we organize observations and interpretations—is an essential concern of any historical science. While we should not let our systematics and taxonomies strangle our imaginations, neither should we accept a confusing or anarchic system merely because we've been stuck with it. Systems of organizing archaeological information should be flexible, to accommodate and promote future research, yet there is a need for the maximum possible precision in nomenclature. This presentation is concerned with the integrative level within midwestern archaeological systematics and specifically with the Willey and Phillips system, the (often unconscious) framework for most midwestern archaeology. James A. Brown has noted that "midwestern archaeologists have not been overly concerned with ambiguities of their application of systematics. Most of us have been content with defining minimal units of membership-at the phase level. Work at the tradition and horizon level has been minimal" (1986). This gap is apparent when viewing integrative taxa such as Marion, Havana, Laurel, Effigy Mound, and Blackduck. Archaeologists often term these integrative units "cultures". This tendency is an unfortunate application of the weakest link within the Willey and Phillips-based systematics, employing precisely the term archaeologists should avoid for groups of phases. Rather than applying the term "culture" to such integrative units, midwestern archaeologists should consider borrowing from Plains colleagues the concept and term of the "variant" or "regional variant" of a tradition. The advantages are: clearer reflection of relationships among phases and of long-term regional trends; refinement of analyses and interpretations; and improvement of communication among researchers.

A Fine Kettle of Fish: Ceramic Context, Society, and Typology in the Upper Great Lakes

Michael J. Hambacher, *Great Lakes Research Associates, Inc.*

Ceramics represent one of the most informative categories of material culture recovered from archaeological sites in the effort to draw inferences about the nature and structure of past societies. In addition to providing chronological and technological information, particular emphasis has been placed on the examination of ceramic decorative styles as a means of deriving information about social organization, cultural/ethnic affiliation, and defining the nature of interaction between different cultural groups. These factors have formed an underlying basis of the development and use of ceramic typologies.

Despite the fact that recent theoretical advances have demonstrated that stylistic behaviour is an amazingly complex, multi-dimensional, dynamic phenomenon, relatively little attention has been paid to the nature of the social milieu within which ceramics exist and function. Using the sedentary village agriculturalists and residentially mobile hunter-foragers of the Upper Great Lakes as examples, this paper will explore the social context of ceramics and the ways in which these factors may structure both the types of social information encoded within ceramics and the types of social inferences which can be drawn from them.

New Evidence for Late Paleoindian Foraging Behaviour from the Western Great Lakes

Steven R. Kuehn, *Museum Archaeology Program, State Historical Society of Wisconsin*

Recent archaeological research at Paleoindian and Early Archaic sites in the Great Lakes and Eastern Woodlands suggests that preconceived assumptions regarding Paleoindian subsistence practices need to be re-examined and revised. Prior theories have held that early foragers in these areas employed a specialized hunting strategy, focused almost exclusively on larger game animals, despite little solid evidence. In addition to the ecological difficulties in maintaining a specialized foraging strategy, this view is challenged by the faunal remains recovered in recent years from a number of Paleoindian sites in northeastern North America. Faunal material recovered from two Late Paleoindian sites in Northern Wisconsin, the Deadman Slough site (47 Pr-46) and the Sucices site (47 Dg-11), provide additional evidence in support of more generalized Paleoindian foraging behaviour. The faunal assemblages from both sites are characterized by a diverse array of taxa, representative of a variety of environmental settings. The faunal material from the Deadman Slough and Sucices sites is used in conjunction with data from other sources to construct a generalized foraging model for Late Paleoindian groups in the Western Great Lakes.

The Mississippian Period Population of Cahokia and the American Bottom

Cathy Labadia, *Department of Anthropology, Pennsylvania State University*

George R. Milner, *Department of Anthropology, Pennsylvania State University*

An enormous population for Cahokia in southern Illinois serves as a basis for much of conventional wisdom about the existence of a powerful Mississippian period society without parallel anywhere in the prehistoric Eastern Woodlands. In contrast to widely accepted population figures in the low tens of thousands, Cahokia at its peak of development was probably occupied by several thousand people. Revised estimates for the Mississippian period (*circa* 1050-1400) are based on more excavations than previous calculations and a re-evaluation of the site's natural setting. The entire American Bottom, about 125 km of the Mississippi River valley, was inhabited by at most a few tens of thousands of people. The regional figures were calculated from the results of extensive excavations and estimates of habitable land in the floodplain. The maximum population size, therefore, fell in the range of the largest historically known tribes in eastern North America.

The Way We Were: Sixty Years of Paradigm Shifts in the Great Lakes Region

Martha A. Latta, *Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto*

This paper will present an outline of the history of archaeological interpretation in the Great Lakes Region from the Midwest Archaeological Conference (Minneapolis, November 1935) to the present.

Hawk's Nest: A Fluted Point Site in Northeast Illinois

Thomas J. Loebel, *Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois-Chicago*

Repeated surface collections from a single component Palaeo-Indian site located in a ploughed field in Lake County, Illinois, have produced an assemblage of 26 end scrapers, 16 side scrapers, and 18 fluted point preforms. The site may be affiliated with the Gainey Complex, a Clovis variant in the Great Lakes area. Variation within the Clovis Complex of this area is poorly understood in terms of temporal and spatial distribution. Hawk's Nest provides new insights into the distribution and variation of the early Palaeo-Indian period in the southern Great Lakes region.

Located on the edge of an upland depression, the site lies three kilometres east of the Fox River. Nearby palaeoenvironmental information from Volo Bog indicates an open spruce dominated parkland on the uplands at 11,000 b.p., which was rapidly replaced with temperate deciduous species at 10,300 b.p. The large number of fluted point preforms, formal tools, and lithic debris suggests that weaponry retooling, and processing and maintenance activities were taking place. Diverse toolstone material from sources 250 kilometres away, as well as local procurement, indicates movement from the southwest to the northeast, and from south to north.

Renewed Research on the Late Woodland in the Straits of Mackinac

Alan McPherron, *Archaeology GIS Lab, University of Pittsburgh*

Ground-penetrating radar was used in an attempt to locate the 1960-1961 excavation units and to map features at the stratified Juntunen site. A new site, located three kilometres from the original site has yielded 18 worked and unworked copper pieces similar to those recovered from Juntunen. The results of these investigations are discussed.

The Complex Formerly Known as a Culture: The Taxonomic Puzzle of Old Copper

Susan R. Martin, *Program in Industrial History and Archaeology, Michigan Technological University*

Thomas C. Pleger, *Department of Sociology and Archaeology, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse*

Uncertainties about the taxonomic status of the so-called Old Copper Culture plagued the archaeological literature following its initial description, exemplifying the puzzling status of regional archaeological taxa. The presence of copper is a useless criterion for a taxon; moreover the general and specific artifact forms that appear in copper are equally non-satisfying. Dating uncertainties confound simple chronologies of, for example, changes in artifact design and technology.

Recognizing that taxonomic distinctions are provisional as well as error-prone, we see Old Copper as a continuum of Middle and Late Archaic cultures that used copper, stone, and bone technologies, linking so-called Lake Forest Archaic, Shield Archaic, and Laurentian Archaic expressions. The uniting technological trait is the presence of heavy utilitarian copper tools, particularly socketed pieces. The Old Copper Culture taxon is more properly a Complex consisting of a series of spatially and temporally overlapping Middle and Late Archaic Stage local cultural manifestations in the Western Great Lakes spanning a period of 6000 B.P. to 3000 B.P. Attempts to explain the cultural behaviours that the Old Copper taxon represents continue, with the goal of understanding the development and demise of specific local and regional institutions.

Late Prehistoric Settlement Locations and Resource Productivity Near Cahokia

George R. Milner, *Department of Anthropology, Pennsylvania State University*

James Oliver, *Research and Collections Center, Illinois State Museum*

The largest Emergent Mississippian and Mississippian (circa A.D. 800-1400) settlements in the American Bottom (western Illinois), including Cahokia, were located where there was a roughly even mix of dry land, permanent lakes and swamps and regularly inundated low-lying ground. Settlement patterns, along with food remains analyzed by other researchers, are consistent with subsistence practices that focused on what fields and wetlands could produce. Maize and fish productivity estimates show that these foods were sufficient to support populations of the sizes that likely occupied the American Bottom. Hunting pressure was such that deer contributed little to the diet, especially when the human population peaked in the valley. Mississippian period Cahokia serves as an example of the significance of wetland resources, principally fish, to the members of organizationally complex prehistoric societies in major river systems.

Archaeological Site Burial: A Model for Site Formation within Middle-to-Late Holocene Alluvial Setting of the Great Lakes Basin

G. William Monaghan, *Department of Geology, Colgate University*

Daniel R. Hayes, Charlottesville, Virginia

Stratified prehistoric archaeological sites in Great Lakes alluvial settings reveal that distinct flood intervals, separated by periods of relatively quiescent periods, characterize the past 5,000 years. These variations in stream hydraulics relate to regional climatic fluctuations and affect site formation by controlling near surface residence time. Longer residence time allows greater natural and human context disturbances while rapid, deep burial preserves context. During periods of fluvial stability (*i.e.*, climatically mild Pacific and Xerothermic), limited floodplain accretion allowed comparatively extensive surface weathering. Where attractive for settlement, limited alluviation and regular reoccupation of the floodplain formed a distinctive "midden-like" surface deposit. Though artifact-rich, long near-surface residence time allowed extensive context and temporal mixing at these sites.

Accelerated flood alluviation, related to cooler, wetter climate episodes (*i.e.*, Neoglacial), limited both sediment weathering and artifact accumulation and progressively buried short-term, ephemeral occupation surfaces that formed between major floods. Because of limited soil formation on these now buried, associated artifacts commonly appear scattered within less distinctive subsurface soil horizons, unrelated to distinct paleo ground surfaces. Although content-poor, the rapid burial and short near-surface residence of these horizons offer great potential for single-component, single-use site preservation.

Clovis Occupation of the Martens Site, 23SL222

Julie Morrow, *Department of Anthropology, University of Iowa*

Recent excavations have resulted in new information on cultural activities and site formation processes at an upland Clovis habitation site in eastern Missouri. Bifaces in various stages of manufacture, debitage, and a wide variety of tools and tool fragments were recovered from within and below the ploughzone of the site. Diagnostic Clovis artifacts were recovered from as deep as 30 cm below the ploughzone. Cultural and natural formation processes are explored via spatial analysis and refitting of lithic artifacts. Theoretical and methodological implications of this research are discussed.

The People of Southwestern New York circa A.D. 1000-1300: What Should We Call Them?

Douglas Perrelli, *Archaeological Survey, State University of New York at Buffalo*

In the southern tier of western New York, a group of small habitation sites with a distinctive material culture pattern attributable to the *circa* A.D. 1000-1300 period has been documented by numerous researchers. Recent excavations at the R. Anderson 1 site near Chautauqua Lake expand our knowledge of early Late Woodland settlement in this region. The Chautauqua County sites are relevant to the current healthy debate in northeastern archaeology regarding Iroquoian origins. They also present some difficulties in terms of taxonomic assignment. Residents of this site cluster co-existed with Owasco, Clemson's Island, Glen Meyer and other cultural icons of the early Late Woodland. Though all of these people had similar subsistence-settlement patterns, tool kits and ceramic assemblages, many aspects of their material culture differ stylistically. As site clusters fill in the gaps between better known cultural manifestations, a picture does not appear to be explainable in terms of a single theory such as migration, diffusion or in situ development. Two important and related issues that face researchers in the northeast are (1) explaining culture change in the context of regional ethnic diversity, and (2) establishing a nomenclature that will facilitate and accommodate this explanation.

Topos and Taxis: Exploring Woodland Period Perceptions of Landscape in Southern Ontario

David A. Robertson, *Archaeological Services Inc.*

The Woodland period in southern Ontario (circa 800 B.C.-A.D. 1650) is one that subsumes the transition between two of the most fundamental classificatory constructs recognized by archaeologists: that of mobile bands of hunter-gathers on the one hand, and segmentary or tribal societies characterized by sedentary agricultural village settlement systems on the other. The past three decades of research on the Woodland period have witnessed the emergence of the cultural-ecological approach as a predominant means by which to examine these changes in subsistence-settlement systems and, by extrapolation, socio-political organization.

The basic premise underlying this research has been that populations adapt to their physical surroundings. However, the corollary to this assumption, that people adapt their environment—both conceptually and physically—in order to establish their place within their own understanding of the natural and human order of the world, has received rather less attention. It is the search for an understanding of these past senses of “place” that underlies most recent archaeological use of the concept of landscape. This paper presents a brief excursion into the landscapes of the Woodland period of southern Ontario in an effort to examine the degree to which the emergence of sedentary agriculture may correlate with changing perceptions of place.

Late Prehistoric Landscapes and Settlements in the Central Mississippian Valley

Sissel Schroeder, *Department of Anthropology, Pennsylvania State University*

Catchments of nearly 200 Late Woodland through Mississippian (A.D. 600-1400) sites in the central Mississippi Valley in Cahokia near Illinois are analyzed. Site occupation histories are estimated from ceramic; sites are categorized on the basis of size and type, and the number and size of mounds; and resource distributions are reconstructed from early 19th century documents and maps. Superimposed settlement patterns are teased apart against the backdrop of a heterogeneous natural environment. Local variations in the potentials for population concentration, surplus mobilization and long-term maintenance of large aggregates of people are linked to the emergence, proliferation, and collapse of complex sociopolitical systems.

The Cultural Classification of Princess Point

David G. Smith, *Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto*

Classification of the Princess Point Complex has been the object of debate since its first definition in the late 1960s. A number of questions have been raised and remain unresolved, such as: what does the term “Complex” mean?; is Princess Point a Middle or Late Woodland manifestation?; can we define characteristics of Princess Point that tie it coherently together and separate it from other contemporaneous cultures?

These and other questions will be addressed in this paper, with the object of examining what they imply for an understanding, not only of Princess Point, but the broader problems of classification in Ontario archaeology as a whole.

A Close-up View of Springtime Princess Point Subsistence Activity at the Peace Bridge Site, Fort Erie, Ontario

Stephen Cox Thomas, *Bioarchaeological Research Associates*

In 1995, on the Peace Bridge site in Fort Erie, Ontario, Archaeological Services Inc. discovered the remains of a complete, conical-bottomed, Princess Point pot which had been placed on a hearth within a feature. This vessel had been abandoned, perhaps after having been broken. Within the remains of the vessel was found a quantity of faunal material including 147 elements identified to genus or species level. This find represented a rare opportunity to examine specific food preparation process and the related set of subsistence activities engaged in by the people who used the vessel.

The feature in which the pot was found had penetrated a paleosol layer containing millennia of accumulated cultural material. Some bone from this deposit would probably have infiltrated the ceramic cluster. The first task was to differentiate the original vessel contents from the infiltrating midden bone by means of taphonomy-related attributes and a set of assumptions about the depositional processes. A seasonality analysis of the taxa inferred to comprise the vessel contents indicates contemporaneity of deposition. A combination of osteometric and body portion analyses provided inferences about preliminary food processing and subsequent cooking techniques. Other avenues of analysis suggest that the group of people using the cooking vessel were engaged in harvesting spring-spawning fish, probably with floater nets; that they also pursued other faunal resources; and that they interacted with other groups of people at the site.

A Middle Phase for the Eastern St. Lawrence Iroquoian Sequence: Western Influences and Eastern Practices

Roland Tremblay, *Département d' Anthropologie, Université de Montréal*

Recent research in the Lower St. Lawrence valley reveals a regional Late Woodland sequence that is more complex than was originally thought. Populations ancestral to the Eastern St Lawrence Iroquoians (Cartier's Stadaconans) are thought to have developed locally at least since the early Late Woodland period. While literally remaining on the margins of the Iroquoian sphere, they nevertheless participated in the general movements of ideas that occurred in that cultural world. While in some adaptive traits they closely resembled their Algonquian neighbours, the evolution of their ceramic styles serves as an example of continued contact with their western cousins. This paper proposes a transitional phase in the regional sequence, between the early Owascoid tradition and the late classic Iroquoian tradition. Links to the rest of the Iroquoian world, relations with Algonquian neighbours, and adaptive evolution will be discussed.

Prefixing the Historic: New Definitions for Old Periods Before and After Contact in the Northeast

Alexander von Gernet, *Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto*

abstract not yet submitted

The Vernacular of Vessels: Effects of the Type-Variety Approach to Ceramic Classification in the Early Late Woodland Western Basin Tradition

Christopher Watts, *Archaeological Services Inc.*

This paper explores the development and impact of the type-variety approach to ceramic classification within the Riviere au Vase phase (Early Late Woodland period) of the Western Basin Tradition. It is argued that this approach has created a series of parochial ceramic chronologies which tend to obfuscate the interregional similarities of ceramic styles both within the Western Basin Tradition and beyond. Furthermore the arbitrary nature of ceramic type classification, coupled with the subjective (and often implicit) schemes for membership, suggest a re-evaluation of these regional paradigms is necessary.

Continuity and Change within the Archaeological Sites Database: Exploring Practical and Political Implications

Penny Young, *Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture & Recreation*

Robert von Bitter, *Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture & Recreation*

Rachel Perkins, *Canadian Museum of Civilization*

abstract not yet submitted

The 1997 Symposium Organizing Committee - Toronto Chapter, OAS

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