



ARCH NOTES

Newsletter of

The Ontario Archaeological Society (Inc.)

University of
Western Ontario

NOV 16 1973

LIBRARY

P.O. Box 241, Postal Station "P", Toronto, Ontario

November 1973

73-7

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Peter Ramsden of the University of Toronto will speak on "The Draper Site" on Wednesday, November 21st, 1973 at 8:00 p.m. in the Archaeology Laboratory, Room 561A, Sidney Smith Hall, University of Toronto, 100 St. George St., Toronto.

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RESEARCH NOTES REQUESTED

The Editors (pro-tem) wish to echo the call for papers to be published in ARCH NOTES, made by our previous Editor. While we could not handle a thesis, we would be happy to receive any notes and short articles on topics of current interest to our membership. Undoubtedly field work engaged in by members over the last summer would provide subject material for discussion and would suit the present format perfectly. Do not hesitate to drop us a line:

ARCH NOTES Editors,
P.O. Box 241,
Postal Station "P",
Toronto, Ontario.

PRO-TEM CO-EDITORS: Marian Press and Jim Burns

NOMINATIONS FOR AND ELECTION OF 1974 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee has been appointed, and is prepared to accept nominations for the 1974 Executive. The members are:

Gerry Shepherd, Apt. 505, 85 Lawton Blvd., Toronto.

Tom Anderson, 237 Spring Trail, Ancaster.

Marian Press, Apt. 909, 6 Assiniboine Rd., Downsview.

As stated in Article VI, Part 2 of the Constitution:

"The Nominating Committee shall present its slate to the Executive Committee by the regular meeting in November. The nominations shall be advised to all members of the Society in writing, before the regular meeting in December. Nominations from the floor can be made only after the member has agreed to allow his name to stand."

Article VI, Part 1:

"Election of Executive Officers shall take place annually at the regular meeting of the Society and shall be by unsigned ballot of the paid-up members of the Society."

The deadline for the submission of names to the Nominating Committee is November 21, 1973. The slate of candidates will appear in the December issue of ARCH NOTES but note that nominations from the floor can be made at the December meeting. Election night is January 16, 1974. Ballots will be sent out with the December ARCH NOTES with instructions for their return.

MEMBERSHIP LIST DELAYED

It has been noticed that a list of members has not been published since June, 1972. In the interest of economy the Editors have decided not to include a new listing until after the New Year; with membership fees due January 1st, additions and omissions flow into the mail chute making a list made now quickly out of date. Hang loose!

CANADIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The 1974 Annual Meeting of the C.A.A. will be held March 7-10 at Whitehorse, Yukon Territories. Arrangements are being made now, including charter flights to Whitehorse from Edmonton. In the letter sent to current members, President James Tuck urged persons wishing to attend to notify Programme Chairman Dr. Richard Morlan, of the Archaeological Survey of Canada, Ottawa, before January 15, 1974.

E.S.A.F. PUBLICATION

"Archaeology of Eastern North America", the publication which many of you ordered from E.S.A.F. has now been delivered to John Reid. He will give out copies at this month's meeting to those who are there; the rest will be mailed the following day.

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OTTAWA CHAPTER NEWS

A new chapter Executive has ushered in another year of activity, headed by Mr. Gordon Watson as President and Col. L.H. Wylie as Vice-President. Mrs. Louise Estabrooks continues faithfully as Secretary-Treasurer.

At the September meeting, Mr. Watson reported on his archaeological survey in the vicinity of Constance Bay, along the Ottawa River north of the city,* during 1972-73. The November 14th meeting will feature Dr. J.V. Wright, the Society's former President, with a talk about the "Grant Lake Palaeo-Indian Site, Keewatin, N.W.T." The meeting of December 12th will have Chapter Past-President, Mr. Clyde Kennedy, speaking about "A Woodland Site near Arnprior, Ontario." Any of the Society's members who are visiting Ottawa at the right time will surely be welcome.

The Chapter's fall field activity was planned to include a further weekend's work on the St. Lawrence Iroquois fishing camp known as the Steward site, near Morrisburg, Ontario. Initial work was reported by Dr. Wright in ARCH NOTES of December, 1972 (Vol. 72-10). News of the results should begin to come in during the next month or so, which we can then pass on, weather permitting!

Eds. Note: See articles on Constance Bay archaeology by G.D. Watson and H.G. Savage in ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY no. 18, 1972.

Excerpted from:
ARCHAIC NOTES
4 September, 1973,
Ottawa, Ontario.

REPRINT ON GUNFLINTS

John Witthoft, "A History of Gunflints", Pennsylvania Archaeologist, 36 (1-2): 12-49. Price \$1.25 including postage and handling.

As the abstract of the now classic monograph said, "A technological and socio-logical history of gunflints is outlined. Data from archaeological and historical sources are used to clarify the hitherto little known proveniences of gunflints and of other fire-stones. Gunflint typologies are discussed. A review of the scientific principles concerning fire-stone operation is offered, and interpretations regarding their past utility and performance are formed on the basis of experimental studies. Gunflints are shown to be useful keys for dating contact period and historic American Indian sites. As aids to students of history, gunflints are good indicators of the trade relationships that were operative among flint-bartering peoples on a worldwide basis. The manufacture of gunflints is discussed as a valid example of trade specialization and European socio-technological genesis. The techniques of gunflint manufacture recapitulate in their development the evolution of Old World prehistoric lithic traditions."

Checks or money orders should be made payable to The Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc. and should be sent to:

Vivien M. Marshall, Secretary
Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc.
R.D. 4
Salem, Ohio 44460

*** CHRISTMAS BANQUET ***

DECEMBER 1, 1973 6:30PM
VALHALLA INN, HIGHWAY 27 AT BURNHAMTHORPE RD.

SPEAKER: DR. WILLIAM NOBLE

*** MENU ***

SOUP DU JOUR

GRILLED ALASKA COHOE SALMON, MAITRE D' HOTEL
BAKED VIRGINIA HAM, SAUCE MADEIRA
FRENCH CUT GREEN BEANS
O'BRIEN POTATOES
LINZER TORTE
COFFEE TEA MILK

COST \$6.00 PER PERSON

PLEASE SEND YOUR RESERVATIONS BEFORE NOVEMBER 21 TP P.O. BOX 241,
STATION "P", TORONTO, SO THAT WE CAN MAKE FINAL PREPARATIONS. ATT-
ENDANCE IS LIMITED TO 50 SO FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!

PAY BAR 6:30 P.M.

DINNER AT 7:30 P.M.

I WISH TO ATTEND THE O.A.S. CHRISTMAS BANQUET. ENCLOSED ARE:

-----\$----- FOR ----- RESERVATIONS

----- BAKED HAM
----- GRILLED SALMON

NAME -----

ADDRESS -----

The Royal Ontario Museum Excavations at Fengate, near Peterborough, England

by Francis Pryor

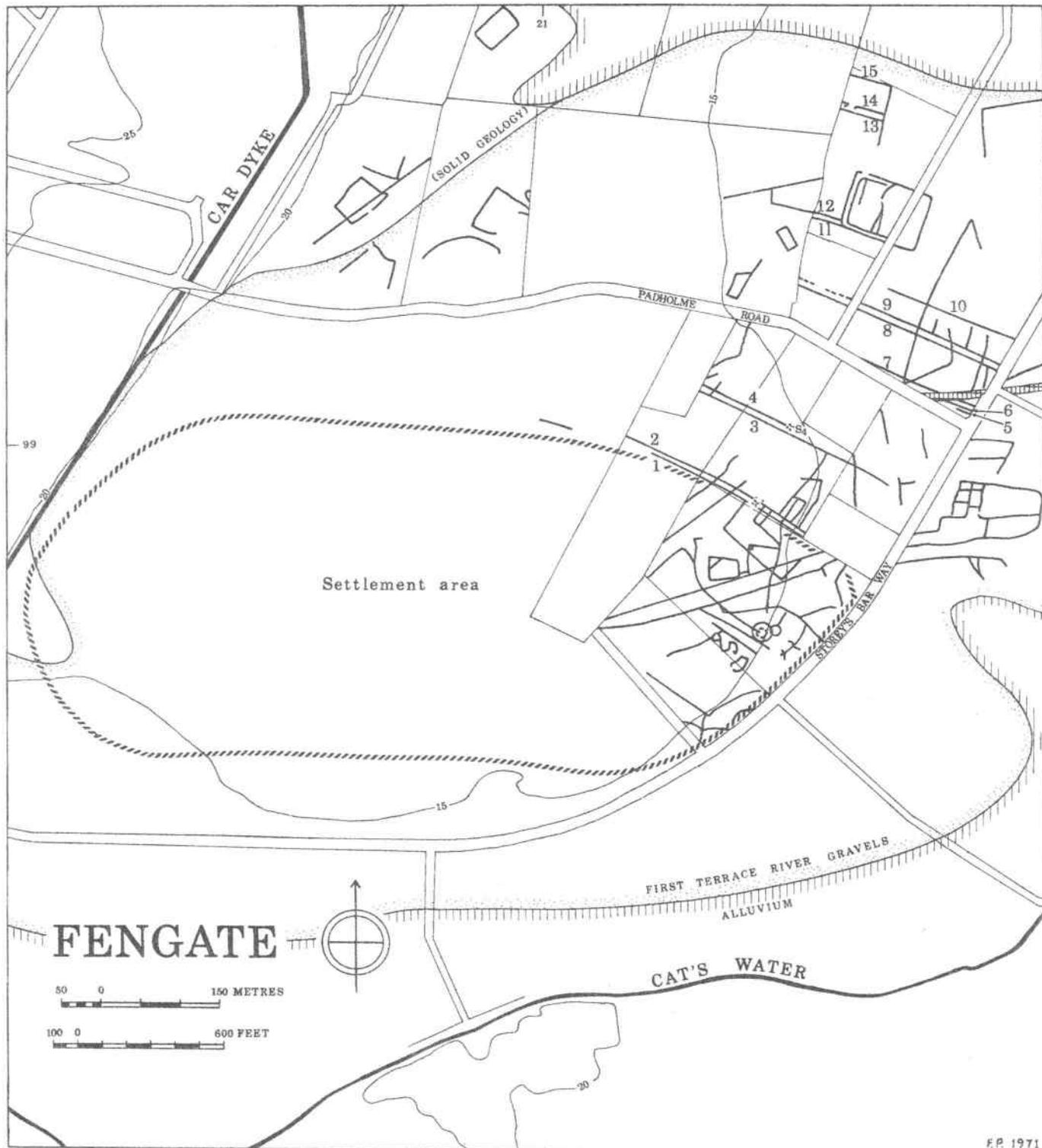
The ROM's decision to mount an excavation in Britain was taken on two grounds. First, it was seen as part of the Museum's general policy of illustrating the two traditions that gave rise to Medieval and later European culture, namely, the classical and barbarian worlds. In general it is perhaps fair to say that in the past more attention has been given to the classical than to the barbarian, and it was hoped that a pre-Roman excavation in Britain would help to redress this imbalance. Second, the Museum has one of the finest collections of prehistoric European material - swords, spearheads, axes, ornamental metalwork and even some Irish gold jewelry - in North America. Most of this collection was purchased by the Museum's founder, Dr. Currelly, in the nineteen-twenties and thirties through his numerous contacts in London. Apart from possessing the finest collection of British and Irish material on this side of the Atlantic, the Museum also has a magnificent array of Central European - mainly Hungarian - metalwork. All of this material, however, would sit in a cultural vacuum if we were not able to supply information as to how the people who made and used the splendid pieces lived. This of course could be done quite simply by consulting the textbooks on prehistoric European archaeology, but by doing this it was felt we would not be making any real contribution to the advancement of prehistoric Europe scholarship which is one of the responsibilities imposed on us by the possession of so fine a collection. In addition, it is a fundamental truth in the museum world that objects speak louder and more directly than words or pictures on their own. It was therefore hoped that the excavations would reveal occupation material that could eventually be placed on display along with the more exotic items already in the Museum.

I am often asked why the Museum chose Peterborough rather than, say, the area around Stonehenge or somewhere else suitably exotic. Again there are a number of answers to this. First we were looking for somewhere that was likely to provide evidence of prehistoric settlement sites and these are by no means plentiful around Salisbury Plain. Secondly, Peterborough has long been known to be an important settlement area in ancient times, finds having been made there on many separate occasions since the turn of the century. Thirdly, we were interested in digging a multi-period site in order to give a fuller picture of life through time and if possible to study how man reacted to his environment and vice versa, as the climate and landscape of eastern England changed. Finally, I have a personal interest in East Anglia and the south-east Midlands having spent the first twenty-three years of my life there - mostly, it sometimes seems, on rainy sites.

Accordingly the governing body of the area's archaeology was approached with a view to collaboration, and a site was found that suited all our requirements while at the same time fitting into the overall strategy for archaeology in Peterborough. The Nene Valley Research Committee allotted the ROM the area known as Fengate. This suburb was, and indeed still is, to become the principal industrial area for the new city of Greater Peterborough; the population of the present city is to be expanded from 80,000 to 180,000 over the next fifteen to twenty years.

The Fengate project was originally to last for about five years, certainly no longer, but since then the new town of Greater Peterborough has really taken

Fengate: Archaeological features as revealed by air photographs. (The contours are in feet above sea level.)



root and more land is needed for factories than we had been led to expect at first. Consequently the programme is expected to last a total of eight years.

Clearly it is important when undertaking a long-term project such as this to spend a great deal of time planning ahead. So in close consultation with the Peterborough New Town Development Corporation we decided that the first two years would be spent clearing land that was needed for immediate development. This it was hoped would give us enough breathing space to approach the archaeological 'core area' with time enough to carry out a more careful, controlled research-like excavation. This has in fact happened, and last season (1973) was the first of the second phase of digs where our every move is not dictated by the need to keep one jump ahead of the builders. We have been able therefore to construct some test hypotheses and arguments that have given our field work additional impetus. Now of course we have more ideas and arguments than we can ever hope to deal with and I would sometimes like to be able to dig the fifty or so acres still left us with a staff of thousands over a period of fifty years rather than five.

I mentioned that the Fengate Area had long been known to be a settlement site, but for how long and by whom? The site sits on the terrace gravels of the River Nene, one of the rivers that drains the central part of England, principally the Jurassic limestone ridge that runs diagonally across the country and the lowlands to the east of it, into the North Sea via the muddy coastal indentation - I hesitate to dignify it with the term 'bay' - known as the Wash. The Wash, however, sits encircled by a wide band of once marshy land known as the Fens. Fengate, as its name implies, is situated on the western Fen Margins only a few hundred feet from one of the ancient courses of the river Nene - the picturesquely named 'Cat's Water' (See Fig.1). The site's importance is therefore twofold: it is a Fen Margin site with important links inland via the Nene. It is hardly surprising, therefore, to discover that prehistoric material of all ages was frequently unearthed during the gravel digging operations that took place in the area that I have simply labelled 'settlement area' on Fig. 1. Gravel extraction was undertaken by hand which might account for the high survival rate during the years 1900-1935. Thereafter work stopped, the archaeological finds were published and superb air photographs taken by Dr. St. Joseph of Cambridge University, one of the pioneers in this particular field. Both St. Joseph's photographs and the gravel digging finds caused people to sit up and take notice, and the whole area is now protected under the Ancient Monuments Act as a 'scheduled' monument of national importance.

Our first two seasons were both about six months long and took place during the summer months of 1971 and '72. The methods used were basically the same as those used in '73, namely to strip to topsoil by machine, to clean the surface by machine and hand, and then of course to dig the features thus exposed by hand. Most of the features are covered by about 75cms of overburden which means that the amounts of earth to be removed is considerable. So far we have excavated about 12 acres, thus freeing at least 50 for development. In general I prefer to dig with a small number of experienced diggers over a long period of time rather than to cover the site with hordes of people for a few hectic and often destructive weeks.

The plan reproduced here (Fig.1) was drawn up from the air photographs taken by Dr. St. Joseph. The most obvious features revealed are a series of 15 parallel ditches covering about 1/4 mile of countryside. We dug about 200 metres of ditches 1-4 in 1971 and have since received results of radiocarbon tests carried out on samples taken from them. These dates indicate that the ditches were dug and

used in the eleventh to thirteenth centuries B.C., the period generally known as the Middle Bronze Age. So far as we can tell these ditches formed part of a developing so-called 'Celtic' field system in which cattle are supposed to have played an important part.

In 1972 we found massive evidence for early Iron Age occupation (c. sixth century B.C.). We also found traces of the inevitable Romano-British and even managed to cut a swift section through a not very substantial Roman road. Perhaps the most exciting find of '72 however was the unearthing of a small, seven metre square, early Neolithic house. This gave radiocarbon dates well within the fourth millennium B.C. Artefacts recovered from it included plain pottery, a quantity of flint tools and waste flakes and two exotic items that could only have come from well outside the area - in one case, from the Lake District about 200 miles away. These finds clearly indicate a degree of contact with communities living in the area at the time. We should not assume that there was necessarily direct trade with the Lake District.

In 1973 we dug for four months with a, by now, thoroughly experienced team. And the features found required all the speed and expertise we could muster. Basically we discovered what at first inspection appears to be a later Neolithic (c.1750 -2000 B.C.) farm. A wattle-lined well was found near an elaborate system of ditches which we presently think of as field boundaries. Each field was entered via a corner gateway - we found six such gateways - and there was even a double-ditched cattle droveway. The large ring-ditch shown on Fig.1 a few metres due west of the caption 'Storey's Bar Way' was seen to be part of this farm. It possibly marked an area of importance to the community - but only a further study of the artefacts and their distribution can tell us whether it was a ritual or occupation centre.

If what we found this year was in fact a farm, then it will be most interesting to try to determine what kind of animal husbandry or agriculture was practised there. Thankfully we discovered two features with fine water-logged levels in which organic material has been beautifully preserved. Studies of the preserved pollen grains, grass silica opals, seeds and wood fibres shall throw additional light on the animal bone analyses presently being carried out in England. By these means we hope to show if the later Neolithic countryside in our area was forested, and if not whether it was covered by scrub or open grassland suitable for grazing. Further, the pollen study should be able to tell us something about the state of the nearby Fens which we know formed an important part of the economy of early man in the area. Peat would have been burnt, wild-fowl trapped, fish and eels caught for food and rushes used for thatching. We also have evidence that the salt water of the Fens was boiled up in salt-extraction pans as early as 1000 B.C. Perhaps salt formed a valuable trade item in those days. We also have evidence for weaving, cooking and butchering - typical duties of the daily routine and exactly the sort of thing we need to make our museum bronzes come to life.

Suggestions for further reading

Unfortunately there is no general prehistory of Britain that takes into account the recent developments in the environmental field nor the flood of radiocarbon dates that has lately been unleashed from the many laboratories in Britain.

(see over)

- Stuart Piggott's The Neolithic Cultures of the British Isles (Cambridge University Press, 1954) is still the standard work on the period despite a chronology made hopelessly 'short' by radiocarbon dates.
- D.D.A.Simpson ed. Economy and Settlement in Neolithic and Early Bronze Age Britain and Europe (Leicester University Press, 1971) contains a collection of outstanding essays on early agriculture in Britain. House types are also considered.
- D.W.Harding's The Iron Age in the Upper Thames Basin (Oxford University Press, 1972) although a regional study, gives some idea of later prehistoric settlement patterns in lowland Britain. It also contains a very full bibliography.
- A.L.F.Rivet's Town and Country in Roman Britain (Hutchinson University Library, 1964) is one of the few works devoted to Roman Britain that is not vastly biased in favour of political history or pottery. Rivet gives an excellent picture of what it must have been like to have lived in England in the first four centuries A.D.

HELP WANTED

Anyone who would like to learn something about faunal analysis by "doing" are invited to volunteer for some rather urgently required cleaning and cataloguing of the bone material from the Hard Rock Site. Work is being carried on both day and evenings, and no experience is necessary. Those interested contact Steve Thomas at 925.7864

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES COURSE

A course on Historical Archaeological Techniques is going to be offered by David Newlands at Seneca College (Finch Campus) beginning January 30 and continuing for 10 weekly 2 1/2 hour sessions. The cost is \$30.00 and the course is non-credit. Although it has been organised to deal with historical sites, the course director feels that it would be useful for prehistoric archaeologists also. For further information contact David Newlands at 928.3710.

LIBRARY NOTES - November 1973

The following entries will update the Library holdings information for those of you who are keeping track of them. There are also additional pages of new title acquisitions which should be filed alphabetically in the original holdings list.

Betsy Gummow.

ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter - STONES AND BONES

add - 1973, Nos. 3 - 11

ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY, Journal of

add - Vol. XVIII, No. 2
XIX, No. 1

ALBERTA, Archaeological Society of
Newsletter

add - No. 29 (1973)

BRITISH COLUMBIA, Archaeological Society of
Publication - THE MIDDEN

add - Vol. 5, Nos. 1 - 4

CANADA, Government of, Dept. of Indian Affairs and Northern
Development, National and Historic Parks Branch, National and
Historic Sites Service, Canadian Historic Sites,
Occasional Papers in Archaeology and History

add - No. 6
7
8

NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS NEWS

add - No. 1
2
3
4
5
6
9
10

many thanks to Iain C. Walker for his generous contribution of these numbers.

NEW YORK STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Bulletin

add - No. 55
56
57 (1973)
58

ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Publication - ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY

add - No. 18 (1972)
19 (1972)
20 (1973)

SASKATCHEWAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

add - No. 39
40
41
42

SYESIS
Publication of the British Columbia Provincial Museum

add - Vol. 5 (1972)

CORAID NEWS
Library has:-

No. 4

5

DELAWARE, Archaeological Society of
Newsletter - INK SHERDS
Library has:-

Vol. 18 2-5

19 1

ONTARIO, Government of
Ministry of Natural Resources
Historic Sites Branch
Research Report

Library has:-

No. 1

2

POPULAR ARCHAEOLOGY
Library has:-

Vol. 2 2, 4-9

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM
Publications in Archaeology
Archaeology Monographs
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