



ARCH NOTES

Newsletter of

The Ontario Archaeological Society (Inc.)

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

January 1974

74-1

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

A speaker is as yet unnamed for our meeting on Wednesday, January 16th, 1974, but the gears are in motion and an evening will be arranged. It will be held in the Archaeology Lab, Room 561A, Sidney Smith Hall, 100 St. George St., Toronto, at 8 p.m. The original speaker was unable to attend this meeting.

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*****ELECTION ISSUE*****

LIBRARIANS AND OTHERS NOTE: Arch-Notes was not published for December, 1973. Therefore, the full volume for 1973 was completed with issue 73-7, November.

The O.A.S. Executive would like to wish all members a Happy New Year. We must, however, also remind you that 1974 dues are due. Please use the enclosed loose form, making written remittance payable to the Ontario Archaeological Society. Address as above. Please mark envelopes "re Membership".

CHRISTMAS BANQUET

The Annual Christmas Banquet was held at the Valhalla Inn on December 1st, and the 36 people who attended the "do" appeared to have had an enjoyable time. The highlight of the evening was certainly the talk given by Dr. William Noble of McMaster University on the relationships between corn horticulture and the rise of villages in southern Ontario. It was only unfortunate that many more of the Society were not present to hear this thought-provoking address.

INTUITIVE ARCHAEOLOGY

On December 6th, Dr. J.N. Emerson presented his paper on psychic archaeology to a meeting of the Ottawa Chapter of our Society. By all accounts, it was as well received by the Ottawa members as it was earlier in the year by the members in Toronto.

RECYCLED PAPER

For all those who are conservation minded - and we would like to think that all members of the O.A.S. fall into this category - the last three issues of Arch-Notes have been printed on recycled paper, a policy to be pursued in subsequent issues. In fact, if paper gets any more expensive - and all the signs point that way - layout changes may have to be made. We will try to keep the wolf away from the door!

SUMMER SALVAGE PROJECT 1974

At present we have little to report on the progress of the Salvage Committee's proposal for excavations in the Pickering Airport area, east of Toronto. A proposal was submitted in late November, followed by much discussion. A revised proposal was submitted for discussion but at time of press no news was available on the outcome.

ELECTION DELAY

Due to the fact that about the time that December Arch-Notes would normally have been mailed, the Nominating Committee reported a change of Presidential candidate, publication of this issue has been delayed till now. As the Constitution states that the membership must be informed in writing of the election slate one full month in advance of the date of the election, we have therefore been forced to delay the elections till February 20th, 1974. Balloting information is included on the ballot, page 9.

O.A.S. SUMMER SALVAGE PROJECTThe WHITE SITE - Interim Report

by Patsy Cook

The White site has been mentioned several times in Arch-Notes, usually in connection with the Draper site, but is generally unknown to most O.A.S. members; so I felt a brief summary of our present knowledge of this site might be welcome.

The White site is located on the 6th Concession of Pickering Township, approximately one mile southwest of the Draper site, and was first located two years ago during an archaeological survey. The White site, like some parts of the Draper site, has the advantage of never having been ploughed and, therefore, disturbance of artifacts and destruction of features is less than in ploughed areas. The site occurs on a secondary river terrace, some 30 feet above Duffin Creek and intermittently covers 2-3 acres of land. Since this summer 1973 was the first time archaeological investigations had been carried out at this site, and no local collections have been located from the site, our purpose in excavating was to 'test' the site to assess its size, nature, and cultural affiliation. To this purpose the datum point was established in the central area of the river terrace and 2-metre squares were excavated every ten metres along the north-south and east west axes. In addition, a series of continuous 2-metre squares were opened up in the south portion of the site in an attempt to locate a longhouse wall but results were negative. The field season at White was ten weeks with a crew of three which was reduced to two for the last four weeks. During this time, 32 test squares were excavated using the same techniques as those employed at Draper. Similarly, flotation samples, thermoluminescence, and radio-carbon samples were taken. Six C-14 samples have been submitted to the National Museum for dating, including one partially burnt cedar post which was found with good context in the midden.

Our test squares indicate that the cultural deposits at this site are, generally, relatively thin (10-20 cm.) in contrast to the Draper site, for example, and quite localized within the site's 2-3 acre extent. Only one 'typical' midden area was located and it occurs in the north end of this site to the edge of the river terrace. In addition, two natural depressions within the river gravels, which had been filled with refuse, were partially excavated. Three hearths were located including one which was nicely stratified with several layers of red sand and ash. A number of post moulds were identified, both singly and in clusters, but their significance is unclear at this time. As mentioned earlier, no longhouse walls were located. Similarly, a few pits were uncovered and excavated but these generally yielded little cultural material.

continued...

The WHITE SITE - continued

As one would expect, the most common artifacts were potsherds, with sufficient rimsherds being recovered, primarily from the midden, to carry out a rimsherd analysis. The most unusual sherds found appeared to be decorated with "woven basket" impressions. Clay pipes were quite scarce but one unique pipe was 'decorated' with what appears to be a human figure moulded on the front of the bowl with arms crossed over a distended abdomen (perhaps a pregnant woman) and two large, rounded ears perched on the lip of the bowl. Worked stone was very rare, with only two arrowheads and a few chips being recovered. Animal bones were not very plentiful and included bird, turtle, deer, and beaver. Surprisingly, most of the bone recovered was 'worked' and included awls and split beaver incisors. Fish bone seemed to be somewhat more abundant. Vegetal remains seemed quite plentiful and included the usual carbonized corn kernels plus a few carbonized corn cob fragments, as well as pumpkin seeds. Apparently, the flotation samples which are now being studied, are producing an interesting variety of wild plant seeds including wild raspberry.

My preliminary impression is that the White site is some sort of seasonally occupied, economically specialized site, possibly specializing in more than one subsistence activity, for the following reasons:

- a) apparent lack of longhouse structures;
- b) atypical location on a secondary river terrace;
- c) unsuitability of the locale for occupation in winter due to deep drifting snow;
- d) shallow depth and generally low yield of the cultural deposit;
- e) relatively small quantity of animal bone recovered - especially unworked bone.

If the Draper and White sites should prove to be contemporaneous, it would be interesting to speculate that perhaps, a group from the Draper site may have moved one mile south to the White site at certain times of the year.

At the moment, various people are engaged in analysing several aspects of the White site's cultural yield, and when these results are put together, we should be able to understand better the nature of the White site.

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ANOTHER MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

There will be only one reminder notice after the one which is enclosed with this issue of Arch-Notes. The February issue will be the last issue received by those who have not forwarded their 1974 fees.

RESEARCH NOTEDescription of European Trade Goods Found on Four Proto-Historic Neutral Sites

By Douglas A. Mannen, R.R. 2, Lynden, Ontario.

Consideration will be given to four sites, namely, Pottruff, Mannen, Cleveland, and Fonger. While the former three are situated directly on the Fairchild Creek drainage channel, the latter lies about one mile up an unnamed northeast tributary. Fairchild Creek drains the northern region of Beverly Township, Wentworth County, Ontario, in a southwesterly direction, eventually turning southeast before joining the Grand River, east of Brantford. (Army Survey 1952, Brantford map 40 P/1, Galt 40 P/8, east half) Topographically, the area consists of high, well-drained, sand-loam soils; these soils are suitable for the cultivation of most agricultural crops.

Documentary evidence depicts the Neutrals as sedentary farmers, fishermen, and hunters, occupying villages of some few acres (Jesuit Relations Vol. 21:195). Some authorities believe that European trade goods were finding their way into the Neutral region by 1580 A.D. (Wm. C. Noble, pers. comm.). Without exception, the type and diversity of European trade goods remains constant across sites. Iron, brass, and sporadic glass beads comprise the collected artifacts. Iron was used in the manufacture of utilitarian tools, while brass and glass became decorative ornaments.

Iron was recovered from three of the four sites. A fragment from the Mannen site was probably a knife part but a positive identification was impossible. The Fonger site yielded a probable mat weaving needle, measuring 147 mm. long, 8 mm. laterally, with a gauge of 2 mm. The eye orifice measures 4 mm. and the tip is bluntly tapered. An iron celt also appeared in Mr. Marshall's collection from Fonger. It measured 94 mm. long, 5 mm. thick, with a bit end of 25 mm. A corroded knife blade, measuring 99 mm. in length, is included in Fonger, as well.

An iron celt was collected from the surface of the Cleveland site (AhHb-7). Extreme corrosion prevented any precise measurements. Although probably not of the same design, a parallel exists between the celts in the Neutral region and those found in Huronia, in particular, the Sopher celt (cf. Noble, 1971:42).

Brass appears to predominate in the total trade good count. Brass was used to fashion rolled tubes, as well as rings and wristlets. The tubes were probably hairpieces or beads, the rings for fingers or ears. The brass probably originated from discarded and/or damaged kettles. The accompanying Table shows the distribution of brass artifacts.

In contrast, glass is relatively rare. Only two pieces have been found to date. Both were manufactured glass beads. The Mannen site bead has a light aqua-blue exterior with a clear interior

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Table I - DISTRIBUTION OF BRASS ARTIFACTS IN NEUTRAL SITES

	POTTRUFF	MANNEN	CLEVELAND (AhHb-7)	FONGER
ROLLED TUBULAR HAIRPIECES, BEADS	1/ 15mm x 5mm	1/ 23mm x 4mm	4/ 12mm x 6mm 29mm x 5mm 15mm x 7mm 16mm x 6mm	4/ 98mm tapered 19mm x 13mm 36mm x 5mm 16mm x 4mm
CRIMPED BEADS OR HAIRPIECES	1/ 12mm x 4mm			1/ 7mm x 5mm
MISCELLANEOUS FRAGMENTS	3/		1/	2/
ROLLED WRISTLETS				2/ semi-circular
RINGS, WIRE TYPE		1/ DIA. 19mm GAU. 2mm	1/ DIA. 19mm GAU. 2mm	1/ Lost from Walt Lindquist collection.

and is square in cross-section. This bead is a fragment of the original. A light-blue, football-shaped bead with white stripes came from the Fonger site (Kenyon collection). Glass beads seem to be connected with post-1600 A.D. sites.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer would like to extend especial thanks to Dr Wm. C. Noble of McMaster University in Hamilton for his assistance and interest. Also, thanks are due Mr. Wm. (Bill) Marshall of Caledonia for allowing the writer to record the Fonger site trade goods. As well as Mr. Marshall, appreciation is due Messrs. Donald Dargie, Thomas Anderson, and James Anderson for use of the Mannen site material. Tim and Ian Kenyon of Hamilton allowed the writer to note the one glass bead in their collection. Also, a sincere thanks to my typist, Mrs. Mary Mannen.

REFERENCES

- NOBLE, Wm. C.
1971 The Sopher Celt - An Indicator of Early Proto-Historic Trade in Huronia. Ontario Archaeology Publ. No. 16. Ontario Archaeological Society; Toronto.
- THWAITES, Reuben G.
1896-1901 Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents. 73 vols. Burrows Bros. Co.; Cleveland.
- DARGIE, Donald, Thomas ANDERSON, and James ANDERSON.
1970 The Mannen Site. Unpublished manuscript.

WHIDDEN LECTURES - McMASTER UNIVERSITY

Word via Tom Kenyon that there will be a series of lectures in January 1974 which should be of interest to many in the Society. Although McMaster University has presented the Whidden Lectures for about 20 years, this is the first time they have chosen an American archaeologist for their series.

McMaster University
Whidden Lectures - 1974

THE SCIENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGY?

3 lectures by

RICHARD STOCKTON MacNEISH
Internationally Known Archaeologist

Tuesday - January 15
LECTURE 1: The Hopes of American Archaeology?

Wednesday - January 16
LECTURE 2: On Being an Archaeologist.

Thursday - January 17
LECTURE 3: On Trying to be a Scientist.

at 8 p.m.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION BUILDING - McMASTER UNIVERSITY

Tickets are free upon request to the

Secretary
Whidden Lectures Committee
McMaster University

Tickets are also available on campus at the

School of Adult Education
Registrar's Office
Student Union Office

EXECUTIVE NOMINEES FOR 1974

Charles Garrad - President

Charlie has been active in Ontario archaeology for some time and has been a member of our Society for more than eight years during four of which he served as Librarian. Of his writings, several articles have appeared in the pages of Ontario Archaeology. His interests cover the entire spectrum of Ontario prehistory but with special emphasis on early man and the Petun-Tionnontati-Wyandotte occupations.

Marti Latta - Vice-President

As Programme Convenor, Marti has been busy in the last two years arranging for the speakers at our general meetings and at the Banquets. In addition to filling this responsible position, she has directed our salvage operations at the Draper, Boys, and McLeod sites during the 1972 season. Presently, she is a Lecturer in Anthropology at Scarborough College, University of Toronto.

Donald MacLeod - Vice-President

Known to many Society members, Don has been our Vice-President over the last year, giving our Executive the benefit of his wide experience and archaeological expertise. One of his notable achievements was spearheading the writing of the Society's brief to the Ontario Legislature on the important issue of archaeological site protection. Don is currently the Chief Archaeologist with the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ontario.

Patsy Cook - Corresponding Secretary

On leave of absence from archaeological studies at the University of Toronto, Patsy has long been involved in archaeology. During the last summer, she directed the Society's dig at the White site in the Pickering Airport area. She also sits on the Environmental Committee of the Cedarwood City project in Pickering, there representing archaeological interests.

Betsy Gummow - Treasurer

Betsy has agreed to remain as Treasurer for another term. Her current duties, apart from keeping the bank books straight and collecting the fees, includes supervision of the Society's periodical library.

- - - - - Recording Secretary

We are still deep in the process of selecting a candidate for this Executive position. Do hold tight!

The election for Vice-President will take place at the General Meeting to be held on February 20, 1974. Members have two methods of casting their vote.

In Person:- Bring your ballot to the meeting to be deposited in the ballot box provided.

Mail-in Vote:- All mailed-in votes should be placed in an unmarked envelope, then inserted in a regular envelope addressed to:

The Nominating Committee,
Ontario Archaeological Society,
P.O. Box 241,
Station "P",
Toronto, Ontario.

It is important that your marked ballot be placed in an unmarked envelope. In this way, the mailing envelope can be discarded and the confidentiality of the ballots can be maintained.

All ballots will be counted, and the results tabulated and announced at the General Meeting, February 20, 1974.

BALLOT

LATTA, Marti

MacLEOD, Donald

BALLOT
