

all the news
that's fit to print...

ARCH-NOTES

No. 69-1

January 1969

EXECUTIVE

President:
Dr. R. Dean Axelson
237 Lord Seaton Road
Willowdale, Ontario.

Vice-President:
Mr. R. James Gauci

Recording Secretary:
Mr. Ross Strain

Treasurer:
Miss Lorna Procter

Past President:
Miss Phyllis Bowland

Corresponding Secretary:
Mrs. Barbara McDonald
2547 Jarvis Street
Mississauga, Ontario.

Jan 15
The next meeting of the Ontario Archaeological Society will be held at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 20, in Room 561 of Sidney Smith Hall at the University of Toronto. The Sid Smith building is at 100 St. George Street--two blocks north of College Street.

The program this month will not include a guest speaker.

As a change of pace, the program committee has obtained a movie, for us, while it is available. It is entitled The Hunters. It runs for one hour and thirteen minutes, and is in colour, of course. This award-winning film was produced by the Peabody museum of Archeology and Ethnology. It deals with the Kung Bushmen of the Kalahari Desert, and it shows in detail the problems and techniques of hunting in the Kalahari Veld.

THE DECEMBER MEETING:

Our annual banquet was even more pleasant than usual this year. This was held at our old meeting place, the Commercial Travellers' Association Salesman's Club in Toronto. Our President will be commenting on this elsewhere in this issue.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

The time has come once again to pay up for the coming year. please note that membership fees cost a little more this year. Those who joined in October, November, or December are already covered for 1969. Your O.A.S. membership card will tell you whether you are paid to the end of 1968 or to the end of 1969. Cheques and money orders should be made payable to the ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

There is an order form on the last page of this issue. Please mail it with your money to our treasurer Miss Lorna Procter, 137 Madison Ave. Toronto 5, Ontario.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

A Note From The President:

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the members a very prosperous and happy new year in all their endeavors. Also, I would like to thank all the members of the executive committee and all the sub-committees for their strong support and enthusiasm during the past year. Without these people behind me we would not have had as successful a year as we did. The 1968 season saw a membership increase of about fifty. We also had a very good year as far as field work was concerned; and a lot was accomplished in the analysis lab. Meanwhile, an excellent series of speakers and programs was set up by Rollo McDonald and the program committee for our monthly meetings. I wish the incoming executive all the very best in 1969.

R. Dean Axelson, D.V.M.

Our Christmas banquet was a great success due to the efforts of Rollo McDonald and Jim Gauci. The meal was delicious and Dr. Churcher gave a very interesting and illustrated lecture. However, much to our disappointment, only thirty-one people turned up. We had been led to believe that at least forty-five would be present, so we made reservations for this number. As a result, the O.A.S. is now showing a deficit of \$69.50 in our bank balance. I would like to make an appeal to anyone who feels a twinge in his conscience (for not being there when he should have been) to make a donation to the OAS as we had to pay for your dinner whether you were there or not. Thank you.

R. Dean Axelson, D.V.M.

Lab Session:

The next lab analysis session to process the Beeton Site material will be held Friday night, January 24, 1969, starting about 7:00 p.m. Let's have a good turnout. This should be a good opportunity to relax and enjoy yourself, to get to know your fellow members and perhaps to do some work. As usual, this will be at Dean Axelson's home, 247 Truman Rd., in Willowdale.

Progress Report on Ontario Archaeology:

Because of rising printing costs, we have had to look for a new printer to undertake the publishing of our journal at a price that we could afford. After finding such a firm, we submitted our manuscript to it by the beginning of September. The editor received half of the galley proofs just before the holidays and has been promised the rest of them in "early January". This seems like an uncommonly long time, but apparently nothing can be done to speed up the process. It is hoped that the final result will justify the long wait.

Conrad Heidenreich.

Executive Committee for 1969:

At our next general meeting, we will be voting for our new executive officers for the new season. Here is a forewarning of the people who are madly campaigning for your support.

President	--	Dr. Dean Axelson
Vice-President	--	Mr. Jim Gauci
Recording Sec.	--	Donna Britton
Treasurer	--	Miss Lorna Procter
Corresponding Sec.	--	Mrs. Barbara McDonald

Other nominations from the floor at the next meeting will be welcomed.

News of Members:

Bone Lab:

There is still room left for more participants in the human osteology course that Mr. Pat Hartney is giving on the first and third Tuesday night of each month. These labs are held from 8:15 to 9:30 p.m. in the Anthropology lab in the Sid Smith building at the U. of T. This is a good chance to learn the human skeleton.

The O.A.S. only managed to grab three new members this month. We would like to welcome these fine people--

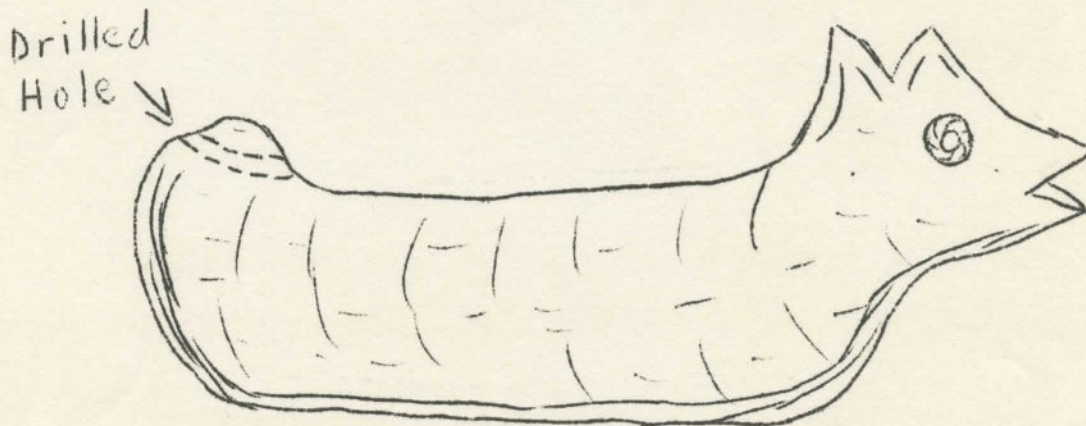
Mrs. Millar MacLure	Toronto
Robert D. Drewitt	Don Mills
Helen Sutcliffe	Hamilton

THE CLUES CLOSET

By R. Dean Axelson, D.V.M.

The stone artifact illustrated below may be called an effigy amulet or a birdstone. It is made of dark gray banded slate, and was found somewhere along the north shore of Lake Superior. The exact location of its discovery is not known as the author obtained it only after it had changed hands many times over a number of years.

The stone measures five inches in length, half an inch in width, and 1 7/8 inches in height. The eye was drilled with a tapered drill from both sides. The tail-section has a hole through it (as illustrated) and is also tapered and drilled from both sides. This artifact is no doubt very old. It was probably used for some ceremonial function.



Bird stone, or Animal stone?

VIEWS AND COMMENTS

by Mr. Bill Donaldson

A fact brought home to many an irrate farmer during deer season is that, unlike a camera, the human eye often sees only what the conditioned brain wants it to see. An archaeological case in point is disclosed in an article by Alike Podolinsky Webber in the Autumn, 1968, issue of the Beaver (pp.24-26). This article, entitled "A Painting Tool", shows how certain bone and antler tools found in Ontario and commonly regarded as pottery markers, are actually Indian painting tools used to draw several parallel lines with one stroke of the hand.

This article is well worth reading because it not only provided some valuable information on painting tools and pottery markers but strikes a cautionary note to all who might accept widespread repetition of error as a truth.

Imagine the saving on expenses in unproductive digging if field directors could view buried artifacts in three-dimensional detail prior to excavating a site? Pretty far-fetched, you say? Perhaps, but so was a flight to the moon a decade ago. Recent advances in acoustical holography have already provided three-dimensional pictures of underwater objects and have brought pre-excavation viewing of buried objects well within the bounds of possibility.

For more details on acoustical holography--which also holds great promise of replacing X-rays as a tool for medical diagnosis--we suggest you read A. F. Metherill's article, "Holography With Sound", in the Nov., 1968 issue of Science Journal (Vol IV, No. 11).

Remember the Macleod site excavation in Oshawa last spring? Roughly one-quarter of the material recovered during that excavation has now been cleaned as a preliminary to analysis and the preparation of an archaeological exhibit for the Henry House Museum.

Unfortunately, time is running out, and more man power is needed to ensure that everything will be completed before the museum opens its doors this spring. Members willing to assist in the cleaning, coding, and cataloguing of the material should contact Mr. Bill Donaldson (111 Riverside Dr. N., Oshawa. Tel. 728-5880) without delay.

Editorial:

I'm speechless.

Ross Strain
800 Kennedy Rd. Apt.312
Scarborough
Ontario
Canada

THE ARCHAIC OCCUPATION OF THE NIAGARA PENINSULA AND THE URGENT
NEED FOR SALVAGE ARCHAEOLOGY ON THE QUEEN ELIZABETH WAY.

The extent of the Archaic occupation of the Niagara Peninsula was unknown to this writer until 1968, when several collections in the area were examined as part of the O.A.S. fluted point survey. The full extent remains unknown, but the implication of the R.O.M. collection, which has gouges and bannerstones from the Hamilton area only and nothing of any kind from Grimsby to St Catharines, that there was thus virtually no Archaic occupation (See distribution maps in WRIGHT J.V. 1962, "A Distributional Study of some Archaic Traits in Southern Ontario" pp 124-142 Bulletin 180 National Museum of Canada Contributions to Anthropology 1960 part 1, Ottawa 1962) is most misleading. From discussion with local residents and examination of such collections as the Honsberger (See GARRAD Chas 1968 "The Honsberger Collection"), the impression was gained that at least the narrow strip of land between the Escarpment north to the Lake was a well-travelled route for the thousands of years of the Archaic period. From the Jordan Station area the Honsberger collection has gouges, bannerstones and a full-grooved axe, as well as many chert points probably of the period. More important, it was reported to the writer that some of these items were found on camp-sites, associated with ash and other organic refuse. Many of these camp-sites were found and lost immediately during the original construction of the Queen Elizabeth Way through the area, back in those unenlightened days, surely never to be repeated, when major road projects drew no interest from those appointed to guard the archaeological heritage of the tax-payers. A few are said to remain, long dormant under the fruit trees and vines of the area, and indeed the Honsbergers believe such a camp-site lies in their own orchard fronting on the Queen Elizabeth Way, the remains of a larger Site in a larger Orchard before the original road construction.

The Queen Elizabeth Way is now being widened. Long dormant sites, such as the one the Honsbergers claim to have, are also to be added to the acreage under the asphalt. The writer observed the bulldozers working not one full day away from the Honsberger orchard, long since expropriated. A year ago a small pond near the Honsberger farm, in whose muddy banks were found several bannerstones, remained for anyone with time to spare to examine. Today, no trace of the pond remains, filled in and levelled in but a single afternoon after centuries of existence. Another strip of Ontario's prehistory smothered.

The mistakes made at the time of the original construction would surely not be repeated in this enlightened age. Surely all the exhortations, the statistics of how many sites per mile were found in building road, these will not be ignored. Or can it still be that a major road project can be undertaken in Southern Ontario without a single Museum, University or other supposedly responsible authority showing interest?

It may be that more of Ontario's prehistory dies hourly under the blades of Q.E.W. bulldozers than a collector could destroy in a lifetime, on the other hand, the reports may be in error and nothing is being lost. But is anyone finding out?

Chas Garrad

O.A.S. LIBRARY - New Titles December 1968 to January 1969

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- GARRAD Chas 1968 "The Honsberger Collection" (This well catalogued collection contains everything from a fluted point through to French trade material. Heavily represented is the archaic period to which this report is primarily devoted, centering on Jordan Station (west of St. Catharines) area of Ontario).
- GARRAD Chas 1968 "The Shale Oil Works Near Craigleith" (About ten miles west of Collingwood Ontario an attempt was made in 1859 to distil oil from shale. This was the only such attempt in Ontario and the first in Canada. This report provides the historical back-ground for future archaeology on the site).
- MANITOBA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Manitoba Archaeological Newsletter" vol v no 3 Autumn 1968 containing Ronald J. Nash's "Early Eskimo Prehistory: A Manitoba Perspective"
- NATURAL HISTORY December 1968. (This issue contains several items of special interest to the anthropologist: "The Discovery of Marmes Man" by Ruth Kirk (a cave in Washington yielded human skeletal material together with food refuse and artifacts, the lowest level dated at 13,000 years b.p. and resting directly on ancient lake deposits. Claimed to be North America's oldest reliably dated human remains). (NOTE by Librarian: Canadian work in Alberta was apparently disregarded in this American claim). Two book reviews: "The Rise of Anthropological Theory: A History of Theories of Culture" by Marvin Harris, Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 806pp, \$16.50US. "Mound Builders of Ancient America" by Robert Silverberg, New York Graphic Society, 369pp, \$8.95US.

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O.A.S. LIBRARY REQUIRES NEW TITLES - your chance for fame !

Members have been asked before to lodge with the OAS library copies of fieldnotes, other MSS, drawings, photos, in fact anything pertaining to Ontario archaeology and related subjects. These do not need to meet the standards of our Publication Committee, and photocopies will do. Every member is reading, studying, excavating and researching in some aspect of archaeology and thus in a position to write on their subject. The O.A.S. Library already treasures several MSS completely unavailable from any other source, giving just cause for some satisfaction to those of us who hope to see the Society become a vital and leading force in Ontario Archaeology.

Our purpose in repeating the reminder at this time is because the supply of "INDEX TO THE LIBRARY HOLDINGS OF THE ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1967" is running low and sometime in 1969 we shall have to consider the compilation of a Supplement, or some alternative form of reprint. All members are urged to see that his or her name appears on the future listing. This is ensured by donating to the library an original work by the donor. We are all of us on the verge of getting a masterpiece started, so here is the chance. Those who are already prolific writers should doublecheck with the Librarian to see that all their papers are listed.

CG