

VAS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER
1971

NUMBER 5

PUBLISHED OCCASIONALLY BY THE VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Society this year will be for one day only and will again be held at the Bolton Valley Lodge in Bolton, Vermont. The date is Saturday, October 23, and the program promises to be at least as stimulating and satisfying as in previous years. As you will note from the following outline of the day's activities, there is one event that requires advance reservation: the dinner meeting. Chef Stewart will serve his incomparable prime ribs dinner; the stipend is \$6, including tax and gratuity, payable in advance or at the meeting. Reservations will be taken until 10 AM, on the day of the meeting, but an early reservation will be appreciated.

Send or phone your reservation to Program Chairman, H. N. Muller, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, The University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05401 (Phone 656-3344). A reservation blank is included at the end of this Newsletter for your convenience.

If you wish to stay overnight at the Bolton Lodge, we are being offered a very modestly priced American plan package which includes lodgings and three meals. The price for a single is \$21, and \$38 for two. These reservations may be made with Bolton Valley Lodge (mention the VAS meeting), or with Mr. Muller.

PROGRAM OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

October 23, 1971

- 9 AM - Registration (\$1) and Coffee.
- 10 AM - First Session.
 - Darrell Casteel. The 1971 Summer Archaeological Program at Lyndon College.
- 12 N - Lunch (Individual choice from the menu).
- 2 PM - Second Session.
 - Walter Zacharchuk (Department of Indian Affairs, Government of Canada). "Underwater Archaeology." Mr. Zacharchuk will show a motion picture of the raising of a gunboat from the St. Lawrence.
 - Business Meeting.
- 5 PM - Social Hour(s).
- 7 PM - Dinner (reservation necessary).
 - Speaker: James A. Tuck (Assistant professor in Anthropology, Memorial University, St. John, Newfoundland). "The Archaic period of the Northeast."

See Ballot and Reservation on last page!

PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE BY-LAWS

The Trustees have discussed several proposals for amendments to the By-laws of the Society during recent meetings. These changes are practical considerations that are the result of corporate experience and changing times.

In accordance with Article VIII, "Amendments to By-laws", of By-laws of the Vermont Archaeological Society, notice is hereby given by the Secretary that the following amendment proposals will be presented for vote at the next annual meeting:

Article I. Membership.

Add the following:

Section Ia. Local Chapters.

Members interested in promoting archaeological activities on a local or regional basis may petition the Board of Trustees to establish a chapter of the Vermont Archaeological Society, Inc. The petition must be signed by seven potential chapter members who are members of the Society and must give the proposed name and the approximate geographical boundaries of the chapter. Because the chapter is a part of a corporate body, it must not engage in practices or activities which are contrary to the Constitution and By-laws of the Society.

Within the limits described above, the chapter will have complete autonomy in its administration and activities; it may meet as often as it may decide and charge dues of chapter members in addition to regular dues collected by the Society. The chapter may request of the Board such benefits as mailing services and the printing of forms or announcements. If there is a chapter by-laws document, it shall be submitted to the Board for the record, as well as regular announcements of the appointment of officers and committee chairmen, minutes of regular meetings and any publications issued by the chapter. No one may be a regular member of a chapter who is not also a member in good standing of the Society. As much as possible, administrative procedures (such as election of officers, keeping of essential records, etc.) should conform to the general policies of the Society.

It is not the intention of this section to rigidly limit the activities of the geographical unit of the Society, nor to preclude membership in that unit by any other member of the Society living beyond its boundaries.

[NOTE: This addition to the By-laws is offered by the Board of Trustees in the interest of the members of the Society who reside in the Vergennes area, and who, through Mr. Richard Adams, have expressed their desire to form a local chapter of VAS. The Board believes that the enthusiasm of this group might well be shared by others in the state, and that the vitality of the Society will be enhanced by concerted efforts at the local level.]

Article I, Section I. Classes Dues and Election of Membership.

Line 4, par. 1. Change "Junior Members" to "Student Members", and all other references to "Junior Members" in like manner.

Article II, (Board of Trustees), Section I, (Composition):

First paragraph.

Change "The Board of Trustees shall consist of the President, the Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, together with an additional four(4) members."

To "The Board of Trustees shall consist of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer, together with seven(7) additional members."

[NOTE: It was the unanimous thought of the Board members that a larger Board would benefit the Society by adding more depth to its planning functions and would assure a satisfactorily large attendance at Board meetings despite the necessary and average absences such a group must contend with.]

RESIGNATIONS

George Leitch, of Springfield, VT, Director of VAS (volunteer), April, 1971, for personal considerations.

Dr. Durwood J. Smith, Treasurer, Director (expiring 1971), as Treasurer, 12 May 1971. Dr. Smith was host chairman of the week-long meeting of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, in joint session with the Medical Chemists of the American Chemical Society during August. He began his sabbatical year from the University of Vermont in September.

Charles T. Morrissey, Director (expiring 1972), as Director and Vice President, August 30, 1971. Mr. Morrissey has begun a two year appointment as Director of the Ford Foundation Oral History Project. Hopefully, at the end of that time, he will return to Vermont from New York.

Dr. M. C. (Cole) Twitchell, Director (term expiring 1972), October 7, for personal reasons. Dr. Twitchell has served as chairman of the nominating and elections committee.

STATE ACQUIRES DANIELS INDIAN COLLECTION

William Pinney, Director of the Vermont Board of Historic Sites, announced in August the acquisition of that portion of the Daniels Museum consisting of Indian relics. The archaeological portion of the museum was collected by Tom Daniels, noted authority on Vermont prehistory who died in 1962. His widow, Beatrice Daniels, felt that she could no longer cope with the burden of operating the museum and gave some materials of historical interest to the Vermont Historical Society. The Indian materials were purchased by the Board of Historic Sites. The new home of the collection has not yet been announced by Mr. Pinney.

Tom Daniels was a State Game Warden for Addison and Rutland Counties and was appointed a member of the Board of Historic Sites in 1961. He was thoroughly familiar with the layout of the fortifications at Mt. Independence, and his death was untimely for the historical archaeology of the State. His book, Vermont Indians, was published posthumously in 1963.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

H. N. Muller, Director (expiring 1971) was promoted from Assistant Dean to Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Vermont on September 13. Dr. Muller joined the UVM faculty in 1966 as a history instructor.

Board of Directors member Ralph N. Hill completed his first novel which was published jointly by Vermont Life Magazine (of which Hill is Associate Editor) and the Vermont Historical Society. The book is the first novel published by Vermont Life, and the first work not generated by the pages of the magazine. The Voyages of Brian Seaworthy is an adventure novel of the side-wheelers on Lake Champlain which represents an old love of Ralph Hill. The book is beautifully illustrated with 37 drawings by Robert Boyaijian of Akron, Ohio, a summer resident of Vermont.

VT-CH-3: PROGRESS REPORT, SUMMER 1971

Work continued at the VAS "dig" at this Shelburne Pond site under the coordination of Ken Varney. This season's participants included the following VAS members: Ed Bacon, Louise Basa, Frank Blazich, Jim Breeyear, the Kalahans, Christine Lancaster, Stephen Loring, Gordon Neilsen, the Swansons, and Buck Williams. Louise Basa, assisted by Stephen Loring, uncovered the first well-defined feature in undisturbed sub-soil at the site. Also, some indications of possible post-molds have been recorded by Ed Bacon. The site is in a heavily plowed and eroded field with a clay soil which makes recognition of features extremely difficult. As noted in the last progress report, Archaic, Woodland, and Modern artifacts mixed in the plowzone, but the majority of those discovered in the excavated area this summer belong to the Archaic -- slate points and ulu fragments, "Otter Creek" points, etc. Some of this material will be on exhibit at the annual meeting through the courtesy of the excavators.

FIELD RECORD CARD		# ← STAKES → #
SITE _____		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 120px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); position: absolute; right: -20px; top: 50%; font-weight: bold;">TOP VIEW</div>
SQUARE NO. _____		
DEPTH FROM SURFACE _____		
DEPTH ABOVE BELOW TOP SOIL _____		
STRATUM _____	#	# ← STAKES → #
REMARKS _____		
BY _____ DATE _____	#	# ← STAKES → #
		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 120px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; position: absolute; right: -20px; top: 50%; font-weight: bold;">VERTICAL VIEW</div> <div style="text-align: left; margin-top: 5px;">← OBJECT OUTLINE</div>

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In addition to the digging, a different system of recording finds, both feature locations and artifact locations, was introduced. This system, based on a model described by Maurice Robbins in his Amateur Archaeologist's Handbook (Crowell, \$6.95), provides an immediate record of excavation activity. "Field Record Cards" (see illustration) are distributed to "diggers" at VT-CH-3. They return these data cards with their excavated artifacts each week to a "recorder". The latter is responsible for numbering, measuring and fully describing each specimen and returning these artifacts to their excavators. The "Field Record Cards" are retained in a central file available for future analysis. These cards do not replace, but only supplement the catalog cards used by members to document their collections. In addition, an "Artifact Field Catalog", listing the site, artifact number, description, material, condition, square number and measurements to stakes, depth, associations, collector and additional remarks, is compiled in duplicate; one for the recorder and the other to be kept by Ken Varney for members to use. Our present recorder is Miss Lynne Perrotte, a senior in Anthropology at UVM.

-Louise Basa-

BOOK REVIEWS

PRUFER, Olaf H. & SHANE, Orrin C. III. Blain Village and the Fort Ancient Tradition in Ohio. Kent State University Press, 1970, xxviii plates, 23 figures, 287 pp. \$10.00.

Review by Russell Barber.

Blain Village is a site consisting of a burial mound surrounded by a dwelling area, situated in the Ohio River Valley in southern Ohio. During the summers of 1967 and 1968, salvage archaeology was done there before destruction by highway construction, and this report was the outcome.

The authors make good use of quantification of artifactual remains recovered, although sometimes these appear as merely artifact lists, without mention of cultural or historical significance. In fact, this lack of interpretation of the data is the report's greatest failing.

For example, the authors disregard recent research on microscopic analysis of wear patterns on flint tools, and state that "...to speculate on the function of the flint tools other than projectile points is a fruitless enterprise" (p.110). A great deal of information on subsistence mode and non-stone technology is lost by acceptance of such an assumption. Fortunately, corn remains at the site are used to bolster our knowledge of subsistence mode and possible adjustments of the society to the coming of corn agriculture, but the technology remains mostly unknown.

In short, the report presents data, but, with the exceptions of temporal placement and analysis of maize agriculture, does not analyze and interpret them sufficiently. Hopefully the authors will present more detailed articles on specific phases of Blain Village as further analysis is performed.

BRODRIBB, Conant. Drawing archaeological finds. NY, Association Press, (1971, c1970). 96p. illus. "First American Edition". \$4.95.

Reviewed by Joseph T. Popecki.

This practical, profusely illustrated book is designed to help beginners, students and amateur archaeologists acquire a basic skill in drawing archaeological finds. Whether the need is for drawing for publication or for personal on-the-spot recording of information, here are the fundamentals governing the selection of instruments and materials, techniques of drawing finds, finishing touches, correcting errors and drawing from photographs. There is detailed information on the selection of pens, pencils, ink, paper, measuring tools and optical equipment. Useful at the dig or the drawing board.

One drawback is the scarcity of models of typical archaeological finds.

BIBBY, Geoffrey. Looking for Dilmun. NY, Alfred A. Knopf, 1969. \$10.00.

Reviewed by Lynne Perrotte.

"I have a feeling that people do not discover lost civilizations but rather that, when the time is ripe, lost civilizations reveal themselves, using for the purpose, whatever resources and people are to hand." (p. 31)

In Assyrian mythology, Dilmun was a "legendary land of immortality." In reality, Dilmun, like Troy, was a lost culture, waiting to be revealed on the Persian Gulf islands of Falaika and Bahrein. Its discovery began with Mr. Bibby's excavation of a temple on Bahrein dating from the third millenium B.C. This precipitated interest in the Persian Gulf area, an archaeologically virgin territory, by the Danish Archaeological Expedition.

"Looking For Dilmun" is the result of this expedition's 15 years of archaeological excavation and detective-work, as directed by Mr. Bibby. In his chronicles of this lost civilization, the author focuses on reconstructing Dilmun's role as middleman in the Persian Gulf trade between ancient Sumer and the Indus Valley civilization. He illustrates common characteristics shared by the Dilmun culture with these two aforementioned areas, such as an Indus system of weights and measures and a Sumerian pictographic script. Such shared characteristics may be a by-product of Dilmun's extensive trade contacts which could have served as an agent of diffusion. In addition to theoretical aspects, Mr. Bibby also describes the groundwork behind any archaeological endeavor, i.e., diplomatic maneuvers, soliciting of financial assistance, requisitions for supplies, etc.

Enjoyable and readable, "Looking for Dilmun" reads much like an adventure story, and is a first-hand account of the problems and pleasures of archaeology.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THE SPEAKERS FOR THE FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING.

Darrell Casteel received his BA and MA degrees from Wichita State University in Kansas. His majors were anthropology and archaeology and his interests centered around the Middle American high culture, and the early Paleo-Indian in the New World. He is married and has two children; his wife has academic training and interests similar to his own. Mr. Casteel has begun his pre-doctoral work at the University of Texas, and is presently an instructor in anthropology at Lyndon College in Vermont.

James A. Tuck is assistant professor of Anthropology, Memorial University, St. John, Newfoundland. He has an undergraduate degree in botany and his doctorate in Anthropology, both earned at Syracuse. He has done archaeological work in New York State, New England and the Atlantic Provinces. His specialty has been the development of the Onondaga since the 12th century, and is presently working on Eskimo and Indian sites in Newfoundland. This year, Syracuse University Press published his first book, ONONDAGA IROQUOIS PRE-HISTORY: A STUDY IN SETTLEMENT ARCHAEOLOGY.

Walter Zacharchuk, Head of Underwater Research, Dept. of Indian Affairs, Government of Canada. He is presently involved as director of the Underwater Research Project, Restigoche, Newfoundland. This project is concerned with the underwater archaeology and exploration of the French relief fleet sent in 1760 to recapture Quebec City from the British. Its budget is over a million dollars.

VERGENNES GROUP ORGANIZED

Mr. Richard Adams has helped to coordinate a small group (ca. 50 members at present) which has been meeting monthly since December of 1970. Originally, the meetings were held in the Commodore Restaurant in Vergennes but since that time, more permanent quarters have been established in the Bixby Library. Membership in the group is by membership in the VAS with an additional \$1 fee to defray the incidental costs. The elected President of the group is Mr. Karl Field of Ferrisburg, and Miss Louise Basa, anthropologist on the UVM faculty, is acting as consultant. This regional organization, which we hope will be established as the first "Chapter" of the VAS at the annual meeting, has already contributed information about numerous sites in the Otter Creek area to Dr. Haviland's Archaeological Survey. One of these sites, VT-Ad-33, a quarry workshop, was slated for excavation by the group last summer but these plans were thwarted when the tenant farmer refused his permission. On the brighter side, the group has plans for acquiring, cataloging and maintaining archaeological collections for their home at the Bixby. They would also like to begin publishing a periodical report on their activities for their membership and eventually to arrange gifts of artifacts to area educational institutions.

Membership is not restricted to residents of the Vergennes area. An open invitation is extended to all VAS members to attend the group's meetings at the Bixby at 8 PM on the second Thursday of each month.

VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BALLOT, October, 1971

NOTE: Officers of the Society are elected by the Board of Trustees from the membership of the Board. The election is held annually after the membership elects the Board members.

Check or write in one candidate for each Board position, and mail in the enclosed envelope by October 20, 1971. If ballots are not mailed by that date, they must be brought to the annual meeting and presented by 10 AM.

For a term of one year to replace Charles Morrissey.

1. _____ Darrell Casteel, Instructor in Anthropology, Lyndon State College.
- _____

For a term of one year to replace Dr. Cole Twitchell.

2. _____ Douglas Egeland, School Teacher, Proctorsville.
- _____

For terms of three years to replace (or re-nominate) those whose terms expire this year:

3. _____ Richard Adams, Coordinator, Vergennes, VT
- _____

4. _____ H. N. Muller (incumbent), Associate Dean, UVM.
- _____

5. _____ Durwood J. Smith, Department of Pharmacology, UVM College of Medicine. (Incumbent)
- _____

The membership will vote at the annual meeting to enlarge the Board by two members. If this resolution is passed, the following candidates are nominated for those positions:

For a term of two years:

6. _____ Ralph Roberts, Instructor, Syracuse University (incumbent).
- _____

For a term of three years:

7. _____ Ed Bacon, Research Assistant, Dept. of Animal Pathology, UVM.
- _____

In submitting this ballot, I declare that I am a member of the Vermont Archaeological Society in good standing.

DETACH AND MAIL THIS RESERVATION FORM TO:

Dr. H. N. Muller, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05401.

I wish to make _____ reservation(s) for the VAS banquet, October 23, @ \$6.

My check for \$ _____ is attached; _____ I will pay at the meeting.

NAME:

ADDRESS: