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V A S    N E W S L E T T E R

Special Number

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JUNE MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees met on June 6, 1974, at the Bixby Library, Vergennes, Vermont. The following Trustees attended:

Richard Adams	J. Robert Maguire
Jeffrey Aronson	H. N. Muller
Louise Basa	Durwood Smith

Mrs. Susan Smith also attended as a member of the VAS Task Force. President H. N. Muller called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. The Board considered the following items.

Task Force Questionnaire

Louise Basa, chairwoman of the VAS Task Force, reported on her analysis of the results from the Task Force questionnaire published in the Spring 1974 special edition of the Newsletter. Although only 10% of the membership responded, Ms. Basa felt that certain conclusions could be drawn.

- A. The membership determined that "education" (self-education and public education) and "field works" should constitute the main activities of the VAS.
- B. Existing publications should be published on a frequent but regular basis.
- C. The Society should explore the possibility of establishing a depository for archaeological artifacts. This activity rated a lower priority than the above concerns.
- D. The membership felt the creation of the position of Director (paid on a part or full time basis) to be of lesser priority.

Ms. Basa stated that the Task Force would continue to assimilate the results of the questionnaires still to be completed.

Discussion of the Task Force Recommendations

Nick Muller commended the Task Force on its work, but questioned the emphasis on publications. While regular newsletters and monographs are important, the Society should also engage in a field work program to meet its aims of education. Mr. Muller outlined five major tasks of the Society: meetings, fieldwork, requisite financial support of excavations, publications, public awareness of archaeology in Vermont. He noted that the latter activity would of necessity be a function of other Society activities. To attract public attention, the VAS should produce a slide package on the Highgate site utilizing the material compiled by Louise Basa and Ray Precourt. This could be used in conjunction with the excellent film produced by Tom Vogelmann. The members recognized additional activities of the Society to include a site survey and cataloging of existing museum holdings, but deemed these beyond the ken of the Society at this time.

The Trustees discussed a task orientation for the future Board which could inject some accountability into a volunteer organization. Following Dr. Smith's suggestion, members discussed a task system which would assign responsibility for required tasks to individual Trustees. General members would be requested to assist in these activities; hopefully, this would stimulate interest in the overall functioning of the Society. This might also diversify the current workload of the organization which tends to fall on too few members. In this light, members examined assigning new functions to existing officers and creating new positions. For example, the Vice President might also become a Project Director for the Society, coordinating existing projects and

planning new directions. The position of Editor might be established to relieve the Secretary of some duties. A Public Relations Director, drawn from the Board or the general membership, might be created to increase public awareness and improve communications within the Society.

Action on these suggestions was deferred until the July meeting.

#### Non-Profit Corporation Application

Trustee J. Robert Maguire, an attorney, has taken responsibility for the preparation of our non-profit status application. He anticipated formal filing within two weeks, but warned that IRS action might take up to six months.

The Board adjourned at 6:30 p.m. and agreed to meet this summer to take definitive action on the above proposals.

Jeffrey B. Aronson, Secretary

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#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION ACT

On May 24, 1974, President Nixon signed into law the Archaeological Conservation Act, perhaps the most important federal legislation helping to preserve America's past since the Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

The measure was introduced by Sen. Frank E. Moss (D-Utah) and Rep. Charles E. Bennett (D-Florida). It essentially restructures federal support for archaeology and authorizes salvage of the nation's archaeological resources that are in danger of destruction by a wide variety of federal programs. Presently, much of the nation's irreplaceable historical heritage is being rapidly destroyed as a result of both private and public construction.

Under provisions of the Act, any federal agency responsible for a project may spend project funds to preserve scientific, historical, and archaeological resources which may be destroyed by construction activity.

Under the 1960 Reservoir Salvage Act which this Act amends, the National Park Service was authorized to salvage archaeological sites which would be destroyed in the construction of major dams. The new Act widens this program to include all federal agencies. These groups will now be authorized to spend federal funds for archaeological salvage operations, either directly or by contracting with an appropriate institution. Alternately, such federal agencies may transfer up to one percent of the project authorization to the Secretary of the Interior who would then administer the work.

Also, the Secretary may carry out such work in connection with a wide variety of federal grants or federally assisted private or public projects which alter the terrain and result in loss of archaeological resources.

Finally, the Secretary is directed to conduct such salvage work in any other circumstance where he finds archaeological information is being destroyed by a federally funded or licensed project.

Dr. Charles R. McGimsey III, Director of the Arkansas Archaeological Survey, and President of the Society for American Archaeology said, "This bill opens up tremendous opportunities for increased cooperation with federal agencies working in Arkansas and will have a great impact on the archaeology of this and every state."

William A. Haviland  
Jericho

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#### REPORT OF THE 1973 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ESAF

On November 2, 3, and 4 the 1973 annual meeting of the ESAF was held in Newark on the University of Delaware Campus. The Archaeological Society of Delaware hosted the meeting with a program consisting of sessions on the Terminal Archaic, Scientific Applications in Archaeology, a

Symposium on the Delaware Indian and a joint session with the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology. Also offered was a field trip to the Prehistoric Island Field Site Museum, a permanent structure erected by the State of Delaware displaying all the features, burials and artifacts in situ.

Vermont was represented by two VAS members, Louise Basa (Burlington), who reported on VAS activities in 1973 to the Business Meeting, and Bruce Morgan (Milton), who provided explanations at a display of photographs from the Boucher site. (Vt-Fr-26)

The final session was a general one beginning with a report by Cara Wise of the Delaware State Section on archaeology, on "The Nassawango Adena Site" in Maryland. Louise Basa then presented a thirty minute paper on "The Boucher Site in Highgate, Vermont," giving the audience a chance to directly compare two geographically widespread Adena related sites, and two very differently organized salvage projects.

(NOTE: The date of the 1972 meeting of the ESAF was inadvertently omitted from Ed Bacon's report in the March VAS Newsletter #8. The ESAF Meetings were hosted by the Society for Pennsylvania in Harrisburg in November of 1972.)

Louise Basa

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# KOSTER SITE: EARLY MAN IN NORTH AMERICA

Dr. Stuart Streuver, Professor of Anthropology at Northwestern University and Director of the Illinois Foundation for Archaeology, delivered the Edmunds Memorial Lecture at Middlebury College this past spring. His topic was "The Koster Expedition: New Light on Early Man in North America."

Located in the Illinois River Valley north of St. Louis, the Koster Site is 25-30 acres in extent and is one of the few deeply stratified and well preserved sites in the Midwest. Fifteen horizons

have been identified during the course of excavations in the past four years; a time-span of approximately 8,000 years is represented, from Early Archaic (6000 B.C.) to Late Woodland-Jersey Bluff (A.D. 1200) times. The Archaic occupations are particularly significant, since archaeological evidence suggests that these groups were relatively sedentary and had achieved a level of cultural complexity that is generally associated with agricultural peoples. Their subsistence was based upon seasonal exploitation of several ecological zones in the immediate area -- river, floodplain, forest edge and oak-hickory forests -- and the natural flora and fauna that were harvested and collected in these zones were apparently abundant enough to support large populations. Several cemetery areas have been delineated; one of these contained the remains of a dog, which was dated at 5100 B.C. Permanent houses were constructed by 4500 B.C. and throughout the Archaic horizons there is ample evidence of extensive trade activities, including imports of such materials as copper from the Great Lakes and marine shells from the Gulf Coast.

In addition to the cultural data recovered at Koster, the excavations are of special interest to archaeologists because of the magnitude of the project, Streuver's multi-disciplinary approach and innovations in methods and techniques that have been employed. The base of operations is in the nearby town of Kampsville, Illinois, where various buildings have been purchased and converted into laboratories, dormitories, a museum and a computer center. More than 120 individuals will be directly involved in the 1974 season, ranging from high school "shovel hands" to specialists engaged in full-time research/analysis and representing such fields as malacology, paly-nology, paleobotany, paleozoology, paleogeography and physical anthropology.

During his visit at Middlebury, Streuver recruited five students who will attend the Northwestern University's Summer Field School and takes part in the Koster excavations. Among these is VAS member Clark Hinsdale.

Marjory Honerkamp

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PITTER-POTTER PATTTER

April 1, 1974

Ms. Tess Pitter  
RFD #1  
Jobsville, Vt.

Dear Tess,

Saw a robin yesterday mornin and the sun was so warm today, I figured that Spring was here. Took a ride along the old river road, and stopped at Pete Moss' bottom land where he has that corn piece in. Well shoot, there was tracks weavin up and down and back 'n forth over the whole thing. Pretty soon Tom Gellert and Roy Leader came truckin up out of that mire with gunny sacks over their backs. "Any luck you guys?", I said. "Naw" said Tom, his eyes buggin out of his head tryin to hold onto that bag nonchalantly, "Just a few chips 'n stuff like that." Roy chirped up in his usual eddified way "Ya know, the Indians around here sre must a been the tail end of the group. Picked up a few arrowheads where they tried to square off the base, and they darn near ruined them. Took long hunks right out of the side to almost halfway up. Both sides too. I'll bet I can't swap em out to the summer dudes for more than two bits apiece."

Well Tess better luck next time, they beat us to it this year, but wait til next year. I got an old mattock 'n soon as the snow goes we can chip the stuff, right outa the ground.

Regards,

Hunt Potter

April 7, 1974

Mr. Hunt Potter  
Box 1776  
Bailey's Gore, Vt.

Dear Hunt,

You know, that makes me mad. That piece is rightfully mine to pick. Old Sly Perkins showed me that, over 25 years ago. I think the Society ought to call Tom and

Roy on that, and make em lay off. I went up to the college a while back, just on this same matter, and do you know what they said? Get this! They said it all belonged to Pete and without his permission we were stealin from him. Anyway, that funny stuff that Roy picked up, I just happen to have one or two pieces like it and I showed it to that speaker from down country, we had a couple years ago. It ain't worth a cent but I keep 'em in a separate apple box in the cellar. So anyway Hunt take it easy and let me know if you find anything interesting. I'll sign off now, as I want to drop a short line to Roy Leader.

As ever,  
Tess

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OHIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
PUBLISHES NEW BOOK

We recently received an announcement of a new publication on the Riker Site, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, edited by the Sugarcreek Valley Chapter of the Ohio Archaeological Society.

The Riker Site in brief is a multi-component Indian village mostly of Fort Ancient culture. It was excavated by members of the Sugarcreek Valley chapter, begun in 1965. The Chapter's President, Mr. Richard Stambaugh, feels the site is "one of the most outstanding Indian sites of the state."

The price is \$10.00 postpaid, and can be ordered from the Sugarcreek Valley Chapter of the Ohio Archaeological Society, c/o Lois Thomas, Secretary-Treasurer, P. O. Box 2233, North Canton, Ohio 44720.

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E.S.A.F. ANNOUNCES  
SECOND VOLUME OF JOURNAL

The Eastern States Archaeological Federation has announced its second volume of its journal Archaeology of Eastern North America.

Articles in this latest work include: "Radiocarbon Dates and Reality" by E. K. Ralph et al, of the University of Pennsylvania's Applied Science Center for Archaeology; "An Introduction to Archaeology in the Greater Boston Area" by Dina Dincauze, of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (See VAS Newsletter #8); "Early Archaic Peoples of Eastern North America" by James Tuck, of St. Johns University, Newfoundland. (VAS members might remember James Tuck for the interesting talk he delivered at our 1971 Annual Meeting on the Port-aux-Choix site in Newfoundland).

VAS members can order the volume for \$4.00 from E.S.A.F., Bronson Museum, 8 North Main Street, Attleboro, Massachusetts 02703. Be certain to indicate you are a VAS member; non-members must pay \$5.00. State clearly that you wish Volume II, no. 1, of the Journal.

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INSTITUTIONAL NOTES

VAS Trustee and Anthropologist Louise Basa will depart UVM for Johnson State College, where she will assume the position of Instructor in the Department of Social Sciences. Louise reports she will offer courses in Archaeology and Northeast Indians.

Her replacement at UVM will be Ms. Marjory Honerkamp who is currently an Instructor at Middlebury College. We would like to commend UVM Anthropology Department Chairman William Haviland who involved VAS representatives in his interviews of candidates to replace Ms. Basa. We welcome Ms. Honerkamp to her new position and will have an interview with her in our next (Fall) issue.

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Lyndon State College Anthropologist Darrell Casteel is once again in Honduras directing an important excavation and running a field school with several Lyndon State students as participants. We will have more information on that excavation in our next issue.

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1974 E.S.A.F. MEETING

The E.S.A.F. Annual Meeting this year will be held in Bangor, Maine, October 17-20. As the E.S.A.F. is comprised of state societies like the VAS, a majority of the delegates will be serious non-professionals.

Two sessions for the conference include: The Maritime Archaic; The Pros and Cons of the Viking Influences in Northeastern North America. The remainder of the sessions will be devoted to reports on archaeological activities in member states. Specific information and registration blanks will be found on the announcement sheet included in this newsletter.

Anyone interested in presenting a paper should contact Louise Basa, c/o VAS, Box 663, Burlington, Vt. Past ESAF meetings were held in distant spots such as Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Dover, Delaware; perhaps the slightly closer locale can attract more VAS members to represent their society.

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INDIANA ARCHAEOLOGY

Devotees of midwestern archaeology should note that the Office of University Publications, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, has published a book entitled Indiana's Prehistoric Past, authored by B. K. Swartz, Jr. The cost is but \$1.00, postage prepaid.

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BOOK REVIEW

Haviland, William A. Anthropology. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York. 1974. 639 pages.

This book joins that relatively small number of modern anthropology texts treating the field as a whole, embracing cultural anthropology, archaeology, physical anthropology, and linguistics. Since the major interest of most of the readers of this newsletter is archaeology, I shall focus most of my remarks on that area.

The format features profuse illustration, both pictorial and exemplary. Each chapter incorporates pertinent examples and photographs within the text and offers an original study excerpted from other scholars' work at its end; each group of chapters is preceded by a portfolio consisting of several pages of striking color photographs on a cogent theme.

To those who have conversed with Haviland, or better still attended lectures by him, it comes as no surprise that this book is clearly written with a highly readable and enjoyable style. The use of jargon is limited; when introduced, it is clearly defined and usually aids in the presentation.

Turning to the specifically archaeological sections, these are organized into four chapters dealing with method and theory, Paleolithic and Mesolithic cultures, food production, and urbanism. By far the strongest are the first and last chapters listed. Using his own and others' work on the site of Tikal, Guatamala, Haviland gives a concise yet illuminating account of procedures in archaeology, which he then expands through less in-depth treatment of several far-flung examples. The urbanism chapter uses examples largely drawn from Egypt and Mesopotamia to illustrate processes concomitant with the development of cities. The concluding portions of this chapter frankly discuss how little is known about the "why" of urbanism, and offers suggestions toward the solution of that problem. Exclusion of explicit discussion of locational analysis in this context is unexpected, but perhaps not surprising in a general, introductory text: the coverage given is extremely broad and to complain over the exclusion of one's pet ideas is unwarranted.

In fact, discussing just the archaeological section of this text may be unfair. The most valuable feature of the book is its coherency: biological, cultural, and linguistic changes in man are seen as inextricably intertwined, each affecting the others. This systemic outlook is often praised but rarely used even for short articles, and, in my estimation, this text is the first consistent and convincing use of that perspective in a comprehensive and introductory treatment of anthropology. The required catholic interests and broad knowledge are rare.

Although not strictly within the purview of the VAS, this book is a significant contribution within its genre and is an enjoyable entry point to anthropology. And after all, it is wise to remember that archaeology is built on a foundation of general anthropology.

Russell J. Barber, Burlington