

THE BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS

STONES & BONES

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All of our members and friends who failed to attend our last monthly meeting missed one of the most interesting talks we have had in a long time. Drawing upon a seemingly limitless knowledge of PALEO INDIANS, Dr. Frank Soday traced the development of Paleo Archaeology in this country. The study of Paleo Man has always held the interest of many of our members, and we feel sure that everyone present benefited from Dr. Soday's talk.

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MARCH MEETING - - - FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1957,
7:30 P. M. BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

SPEAKER: MR. RICHARD HOWARD

Mr. Howard is an old friend of our Society. In his job as Curator of the Birmingham Art Museum, he has shown a keen interest in the Indians of Alabama. A graduate from Harvard University, he has subsequently studied at the Harvard Graduate School, Cornell University and Pennsylvania. For some years he was a Carnegie Fellow at Yale University and has been Director of the Texas Museum at Dallas, the Des Moines Art Center, Ohio and for some years after the war was in charge of the problem of reviewing and restoring to their proper place the fine arts and archives under the Military Government in Germany. His interest in this field, coupled with his knowledge of all phases of art, promise to make his talk one that will be long remembered. We urge our members to come and bring their friends.

SUBJECT: THE MUSEUM AND ARCHAEOLOGY

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HELP WANTED ****

Your editors (?) are still in need of articles by our members for publication in Stones & Bones. Although most of us are prevented by lack of time or money (or both) from contributing to the science of archaeology in Alabama in a great and glorious way, we do have an opportunity to contribute through publication of field notes, book reviews, articles, etc. Everyone can contribute something. DO YOUR PART.

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DOUBLE WINNER

Our President, Brittain Thompson, was recently honored by being elected to the presidency of the Alabama Archaeological Society at their annual meeting in Decatur.

We have considered affiliation with this group for the purpose of furthering Alabama archaeology. Our March 1st meeting will discuss the pros and cons. Please bring an open mind.

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COOSA RIVER HYDRO PROJECTS

In recent talks with Mr. Ollie D. Smith, manager of the Land Department of the Alabama Power Company, we learned that work will be started on the first of a series of new hydroelectric dams on the Coosa River. The Leesburg, Alabama project will get under way first and will require about four years to complete. This dam will flood about 40,000 acres of land in Cherokee County and in the western section of Georgia. Still another project will soon be undertaken at Kelly Creek on the Coosa, which will flood land on both sides of the river from Kelly Creek (St. Clair County) all the way to the base of the Leesburg Dam.

Quite a few of our members have found excellent sites along the Coosa in the areas to be flooded by these and other projects. The need for extensive archaeological salvage work in these areas is obvious. Our members are urged to concentrate their field trips in these areas and to report sites located. Perhaps something may be done by our Society to spark a professional salvage program along the river, but we are sure that the banks of the upper Coosa will prove interesting to amateurs in the meantime.

Maps of the areas to be flooded have been promised to the editors as soon as they are completed. Copies of the maps will be available to anyone interested.

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UP THE CREEK

A man attempting to sell some Indian Artifacts to the Curator of a Museum:

"I have some fine examples of wampum in my collection," he said, "which were used by the Sioux Indians. Would you be interested in purchasing it for the museum?"

"I'm afraid not," the curator replied, "I'm only in the market for genuine wampum. The things you have are Sioux Dough."

the Wall Street Journal

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GENUINE DOUGH

Earlier this month it was reported that George H. Heye, banker and explorer, died, leaving more than \$1 million to the Museum of the American Indian which he founded in New York City 41 years ago.

Heye died January 20th at the age of 82. He was Chairman of the Board for the Museum at the time of his death.

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REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Mr. William Sylvester Steele reports the find of a Clovis fluted point in Lawrence County, Alabama. The point is made of blue-grey flint, and now measures approximately one and three quarters inches in length. This artifact is a well made specimen, but has suffered much abuse since its manufacture. The tip is broken and several recent breaks appear along the basal sides. A single shallow flute extends along the full length of either face of the point as it now exists. Although the base does not show grinding or smoothing, the basal sides appear to be ground for approximately one-half the present length of the point.

Our facilities for publishing "Stones & Bones" do not conveniently allow an illustration or photograph of the point, but the editors are agreed that Mr. Steele will exhibit his find to interested persons (or disinterested persons) with or without demand.

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Mr. Ginnane, Mr. Steele, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Daole, Mr. Duncan and Mr. Gray recently visited Tukabatchee in Elmore County and Indian Hill in Macon County. As many of our members know, these sites are historical and have been explored by numerous people for many years. The party from our Society returned with a number of trade beads and other trade items. Mr. Daole found a copper projectile point of unusual length. In addition to exploring the two sites, the group had the pleasure of examining several fine collections of artifacts owned by persons residing near the sites.

Ed Conerly reports the finding of a few sherds of fiber tempered pottery at the site of the Jackson Lock and Dam Project on the Tombigbee River near Coffeenville and Jackson, Alabama. The pottery was found in an excavation made in the course of construction work now being conducted. Several projectile points and other artifacts were found in the same excavation. Due to the circumstances, the exact depth at which the material was found could not be accurately determined, but the depth is estimated to be between three and four feet. Association between the pottery and other artifacts is more than probable, but cannot be established with absolute certainty. Plans are being made for further exploration in the vicinity of this site.

THE CRUMP BURIAL CAVE

Recent further explorations of the Crump Burial Cave and the surrounding area in Blount County by Sam Shannon and members of Explorer Post #225 failed to reveal much of value. Test pits sunk into the floor of the cave near the mouth led to nothing more than a few bits of charcoal. More test pits were made impossible by tremendous rocks, which have fallen from the roof of the cave in past years.

The cave still remains an object of interest largely because of the fine material found there by Mr. E. S. Ginnane many years ago. Mr. Ginnane's material included pieces of basketry, several fine stone blades and some copper implements plus fragments of a wooden canoe.

The Smithsonian Institution published a pamphlet in 1894 entitled "THE CRUMP BURIAL CAVE" in which "eight or ten wooden coffins" were reported found and described. The report also mentions the finding of a large number of human bones and 12 or 15 human skulls. These finds were accompanied by about "200 pounds of Galena, a number of arrow and spear points, a copper hatchet, a copper chisel, and about twenty copper ornaments". Virtually all of this material was sent to the Smithsonian Institution.

The pamphlet states that the cave was discovered in 1840, and was used as a mine for saltpetre and as a hiding place for refugees during the Civil War. The fact that the cave was once used as a mine is evidenced today by powder holes drilled in many of the large rocks, and by shoring timbers which are still in place under much of the cave's roof. The general unsafe condition of the cave makes the enjoyment of exploration rather difficult.

Both banks of the stream, which runs below the mouth of the cave, have been thoroughly explored. Although evidence of primitive occupancy is found on both sides of the stream, none of the sites appear to have been inhabited for any length of time.

About a mile below the entrance to the cave, on the north bank of the stream, there is a very high overhanging bluff with its base undercut by erosion. Although the base of the bluff is about 100 yards from the bank of the stream and about 100 feet above the level of the water, we did find deposits of periwinkle and other types of shell fragments. Even though no artifacts were found along the base of the rock shelter, the shells seem to indicate occupancy.

The cave and rock shelter are located in an extremely rough and beautiful gorge formed by a branch of the Warrior River as it leaves Murphee's Valley.

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OKAY SHOOT ! !

The 24th Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology (1902-03) deals with a rarely mentioned phase of Indian life, principally, games of chance.

Their dice were made of a great variety of materials, including split canes, bone staves, beaver and woodchuck teeth, walnut shell, peach and plum stones, shell, and brass and pottery disks.

The women were also addicted to gambling in many forms, but in their case, the stakes were usually trifling.

Catlin, in writing of their chunky games, said that after gambling away all their possessions, Indians have been known to stake their liberty upon the issue of a game of chance.

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HIDE 'EM

Whether you be a true student of archaeology or a mere collector, you have in your psychological makeup an uncontrollable urge to show your artifacts to other people and you expect them to realize (or be willing to be made to realise) the significance of the particular item displayed. You will also have to admit that you have an intense desire for people to "take on", exclaim, and look with awe and wonder at your finest arrowhead or your very best axe. But if you are to enjoy peace of mind and remain free from criminal charges of assault, mayhem or related offenses, take my advice. Collect your Indian rocks, wash them, mark them, place them in stout containers and guard them with your life, but don't show them to a living soul. If you choose to ignore the advice offered, stand ready to suffer the consequences.

In order to warn the beginner and refresh the memory of the experienced, I shall use examples to explain the matter under discussion. An extreme example will best serve to illustrate the principles involved.

Suppose that you are the owner of a fluted Sandia point, a full eight inches in length, with beveled, serrated edges and beautifully worked by the employment of ribbon flaking. This point is made of chalcedony and is patinated in such a manner that it appears to be made of the finest jade. Persons having an interest in archaeology will react according to an established pattern upon seeing your treasured point and the particular reaction will be governed to a limited extent by personality. One fellow collector will carelessly take the point from your hand, examine it from end to end, return it without comment and query as to whether he has told you of the new site he has located on his great aunt's farm in Minnesota. Another fellow amateur will examine the point and remark simply, "Nice material".

The expert archaeologist will take the point with steady hands. His respiration will remain constant and undisturbed and his pulse will continue at its regular rate. Without the least bit of outward concern, he will examine your Sandia briefly, return it and state in a conversational tone, "I don't know about this", and try as you may, the discussion is at an end.

Forsake, if you will, the expert and the amateur and seek out the vigor and enthusiasm of youth. Show the point to a small boy of tender years, who has only heard of arrowheads and Indians, and he will, in all probability, ask, "Ain't you got any long ones?" Show the same point to another small boy who has found three arrowheads at summer camp. Whether it be due to a poor memory or a malicious nature, he will look you straight in the eye, not bothering to accord your point more than a casual glance, and say, "Uh huh, I've got two just like it at the house". In passing, I might also mention that the father of this last mentioned child will look at the artifact and express his deep regret that you haven't had an opportunity to see his son's fine collection.

Although disappointment is suffered at the hands of all others, you need not expect any great comfort by showing your point to members of the opposite sex. But it seems that the womenfolk try to be sympathetic and say the right thing. These are some of the remarks you can expect: (1) Isn't it nice. (2) Don't you call those arrowheads? (3) I collect antique paper weights, you know. (4) Have you noticed that it's sharp on one end? (5) Look how rough the edges are.

If you are convinced of the truthfulness of all the matter set out above, you might wonder how you are to break yourself of showing your artifacts. Don't ask me! Let's consider the possibility of hiring paid admirers for our group.

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The priceless ingredient for any job is
personal integrity.

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!