

THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

affiliates

BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MORGAN-LIMESTONE CHAPTER

MADISON-HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER

MUSCLE SHOALS CHAPTER

LETTER FROM DR. CARL F. MILLER

This is real front-page stuff!

Dr. Carl F. Miller, Smithsonian Institution, Archaeologist in Charge of Southeastern Archaeology, writes us a full page letter saying he is receiving our literature "which I read from cover to cover" and "enjoyed very much hearing about the good work being done".

Dr. Miller closes his letter with a very encouraging prediction: "I am sure that the BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY and the ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY will have a very bright future for there is real enthusiasm shown in both the Newsletter and the Journal."

This top-ranking professional taking the time to read our literature, and to write us a generous pat on the back, is a fine example of the professional encouragement extended to amateurs in the field of archaeology. Our members will certainly be most appreciative. And with the Smithsonian itself looking over our shoulder, we shall be encouraged and challenged to put our best foot forward and make worthy contributions.

The SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, one might almost say, was once an amateur itself- as the first broadly based scientific institution in America. It was certainly a pioneer, as it has been called "the Cradle of American science." It was made possible, of course, by the generous bequest of his entire fortune (a very large one for those days) by James Smithson, a distinguished English scientist who never even saw America. This generous and forward-looking donation was to found "An Institution for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men".

Strangely, it was not accepted without opposition. In fact, Congress bickered and debated and opposed for 7-long years - against the ardent sponsorship of John Quincy Adams. When the Institution was at last opened in 1846, the physicist Joseph Henry of Princeton University was put in charge, and since has been world famous not only for the "increase of knowledge, but also its "diffusion among men" - men of science, and men of the multitudes.

We are truly honored to receive attention from the Smithsonian. And as we do our field work, our mapping of sites, our marking of artifacts, our recovery and preservation of archaeology, and our reporting in our Journal and Newsletter, what better slogan could we keep with us than "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men"?

MORE NEWS OF RUSSELL CAVE

Dr. Miller was also kind enough to add to the news of Russell Cave which Dick Humbard brought us last month.

"The skeletal material which Dick Humbard saw sticking out of one of the metal drums was that of a female which was found alongside the south wall of the cave where we put down a test. She belongs to the Transitional Period between Late Archaic and Early Woodland and probably dates around 5,000 years. We succeeded in getting a fair amount of charcoal from around the burial and when we can get a radiocarbon test made of this material it will probably give us better age placement.

"A deep hearth was located this summer from the 31-foot level and charcoal from this feature has been sent to the Lamont Laboratory for a radiocarbon assay. We should be getting a date early this coming January. As you can judge, I am most anxious to get this for I feel that it will take us back considerably into antiquity."

Dr. Miller has already given Alabama the second oldest radiocarbon date (from Russell Cave) east of the Mississippi. Indeed, there appears a possibility that it may be the oldest. The chronology of Modoc Rock Shelter, Illinois, has been questioned by Dr. James B. Griffin who suggests that on the basis of glacial chronology "the bottom of the shelter was under 23 feet of water at approximately 8700 B. C..... I believe that the authors have overemphasized the antiquity of the cultural assemblage they have illustrated." (American Antiquity, Oct. 1957, p. 197.)

INVITATION TO SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

Dr. Miller extended an invitation to our members to attend the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Dr. Miller will show movies of Russell Cave the morning of Dec. 6. This annual meeting is always interesting, with professional archaeologists from all over the southeast presenting excellent programs. And who says business and pleasure can't be combined? We recall one such Conference when the after-hours recreation was building a mound some six feet high out of beer cans (empty, need we add?). We hope we shall be represented and a report made in the Newsletter.

ANNUAL MEETING
ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Annual Meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society, Nov. 15, 1958, was well attended. It was especially encouraging to see so many visiting opportunities for spreading the word in widening circles. A young man from Sylacauga, Dave Brown, even brought an exhibit of material carefully collected by site.

The exhibits were good and interesting. Ed Mahan, as usual, came up with artifacts we didn't even know existed - what appeared to be cheap "fist-picks" for digging.

There was an imposing slate of speakers.

Dr. Walter B. Jones gave a report on the archaeological excavation now being done in the Weiss Dam area of Alabama on the Coosa River. Most of the sites marked for excavation are in the Cedar Bluff area. Professor David DeJarnette of the University of Alabama (and Archaeologist in Charge, Moundville), who is in charge of these excavations, projected slides of the "dig" to illustrate Dr. Jones' talk.

Dr. Jones is, of course, State Geologist. We are fortunate that one of his many avocations is archaeology. We are indebted to Dr. Jones for negotiating the matter, and to the Alabama Power Co. for financing this archaeological salvage.

Steve B. Wimberly, former State archaeologist, gave an excellent summary of Alabama pottery types representative of the aboriginal cultural periods in Alabama. The typical pottery shapes, tempers and decorations of TRANSITIONAL (Archaic-Woodland), WOODLAND (Early and Middle), MISSISSIPPIAN (Early and Classic), and LATE (Historic) MISSISSIPPIAN were concisely discussed.

Mr. Wimberly most helpfully distributed illustrations of these pottery types that we might follow his discussion, and have something better than questionable memory to carry home with us. These should certainly be reproduced for all members who could not attend the Annual Meeting. They will miss, however, the warning about the "middle-sized potatoes" that do not fit neatly into the more typical categories.

We were also honored by an address by Congressman George Huddleston, Jr. Mr. Huddleston was most apologetic that his meager acquaintance with archaeology consisted of the enjoyment of "Gods, Graves and Scholars", but suggested that we ourselves might be mere archaeological relics if we didn't include the present, and future, in our interests.

His subject pertained to the problems inherent in America's assuming the unwelcome mantle of world leadership following the First World War and the dissolution of the English Empire. Just how big a stick can we afford, and just how softly shall we speak to those who shout?

AFFILIATION OFFICIAL

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Archaeological Society prior to the Annual Meeting, formally ratified the affiliation with the Birmingham Anthropological Society.

The new officers elected, and reelected, for 1959 at the Annual Meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society are:

President
First Vice-President
Second Vice-President
Secretary

Britt Thompson
Martin Hullender
R. W. Work
Rodger Schaefer

Treasurer	Dick Radford
Editor (Journal)	J. P. Knudsen
Editor (")	A. B. Craig
Director until Jan. 1, 1962	W. H. Pentecost
" " " " "	E. O. Dahlen
" " " " "	J. W. Cambron
Eastern States Archaeological Federation Representative	F. J. Soday

Continuing Directors are Ed Mahan and Dan Josselyn, until Jan. 1, 1960; Spencer Waters and Verne Reckmeyer until Jan. 1, 1961.

JOURNAL NEEDS MATERIAL

Our Editors planned 4-issues of the Journal for 1958 - we have received only two. But before you jump on the Editors with both bipedal extremities, consider their announcement at the Annual Meeting that money is not the problem (\$279.00 in the Treasury prior to the dues collected at the Annual). The problem is the members - their failure to turn in manuscript. So whom shall we gripe about?

As for that other often-heard comment, "What shall we write about?", we call your attention to Cambron's article Issue 2, 1958. It is about one chopper, with simplified drawings you could manage. Part of it is more patinated than the rest, the evidence indicating "that this chopper was found by Archaic people 5,000 years ago and reworked...the degree of patination would place the period of its original use as near thousands of years before Archaic man found it...very likely Paleo."

You see how interesting and informative an article can be, based on one artifact. Have you a reworked artifact, or unusual, or otherwise interesting? Why not make your baptismal plunge into authorship with a one-artifact idea?

In a letter to members dated Feb. 21, 1958, the Editors of the Journal stated: "With your help, we can turn out the best journal of its type in the country." Let's!

MORGAN-LIMESTONE CHAPTER NEWS

The regular Nov. meeting of the Morgan-Limestone Chapter was held on Monday, Nov. 3, 1958, at 7:30 PM in the City Electric Auditorium, Decatur, Ala. About 25 members and guests attended. After a brief business session, Pres. J. W. Cambron took over the program for the evening - the remainder of the color movie film prepared by Jack Cambron, Jack Ray and Spencer Waters on pictographs and petroglyphs. This portion of the film included views of Juttacula Rock and some other less well known carvings and paintings in the Great Smoky Mountain region of North Carolina. The film is an excellent one, and arrangements for showing it can be made by contacting Jack Cambron.

In addition to the film, Jack Cambron gave a talk on containers, tracing their development from skin-lined holes and bags, through bark and woven baskets, to wooden and stone bowls, and finally true ceramic pottery. In his talk, Jack linked the various types of containers with the level of cultural development in existence at the time of their use. He also discussed the various techniques used to temper and decorate ceramic pottery. The talk was an excellent introduction to a detailed study of stone and pottery vessels which we hope to undertake at a later date.

On Nov. 11, the Morgan-Limestone Chapter was privileged to have as a special guest speaker, Dr. John Outwater, University of Vermont. Dr. Outwater is an extremely capable amateur archaeologist and has made significant contributions to our understanding of the engineering and stone working techniques of the Aztec, Maya, and Inca civilizations. In his talk, Dr. Outwater described the building arts of the Mayas and Aztecs, especially the intricately shaped and carved stonework accomplished without metal tools.

He showed that the Maya stone work was done in an oolitic limestone which was soft enough to carve with sticks when quarried, but hard as concrete after exposure to the air.

Aztec stone work was done in various types of stone, some of which soften when wet and were worked by channeling water to the quarry. Other Aztec buildings, however, were done in permanently hard stone, and the techniques of handling these materials are not yet clearly understood. In particular, we do not know how the thousands of carved slabs 1 1/2 inches thick, which were used at Monte Alban, were manufactured.

The talk was illustrated with beautiful color slides of native stone work and provided a memorable evening for the more than 50 members and guests in attendance.

DECEMBER MEETING, Monday, Dec. 1, 1958, 7:30PM, City Electric Auditorium, 110 Johnston St., S. E., Decatur, Ala. Dr. John T. Morris, Cullman, Ala., will talk on the buried city of Pompeii, with color slides made while on a tour of Europe during the summer of 1957. The slides are excellent and clearly depict the type of work which has been done to reconstruct and preserve a classical archaeological site. This is another program you will not want to miss. As always, the lecture is open to the public and we urge you to bring with you anyone who might find the program interesting.

Election of chapter officers for 1959 will also take place at the December meeting. We urge all members to attend and participate in the election. A good turnout will assure the new officers of your interest and support.

MUSCLE SHOALS (COLBERT-LAUDERDALE) CHAPTER NEWS

The Muscle Shoals Chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society was formed on March 21, 1958, and our Constitution has been approved. We hold monthly meetings on the 4th Monday of each month, 7:30PM, at the Student Lodge, Florence State College, Florence, Ala. Twenty-eight of

our 33 members are also members of the Alabama Archaeological Society.

Our activities to date have consisted solely of the monthly meeting - nine so far this year. The following people outside of our local group have appeared on our programs: Dr. Walter B. Jones, State Geologist, James W. Cambron, Spencer A. Waters, and Richard Radford. Several of our own members have given interesting talks and one program was devoted to several movies on archaeological sites.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, Nov. 24, 1958, at 7:30PM at the Student Lodge.

NEW BOOKS

Mr. A. W. Heinlich of the Muscle Shoals Chapter also calls our attention to two new books.

Have you wanted a book, easy to read, profusely illustrated, complete, authoritative, covering not only the 5-archaeological cultures of our southeastern area, but also the ethnology of the historic tribes of that area? Haven't we all! Well, now we have it. This is what our friends Lewis and Kneberg give us in their new book, "Tribes that Slumber", Univ. of Tenn. Press, Knoxville, Tenn. (at the unbelievably modest price of \$3.75).

Prof. Lewis directed archaeological excavation in the reservoir area of the TVA beginning as far back as 1934, with Prof. Madeline Kneberg in charge of laboratory work cataloguing and studying the artifacts recovered. In the 24-intervening years, they have played a leading part in southeastern archaeology, not only professionally, but also in encouraging and assisting amateur organizations. Their "Tennessee Archaeology" is undoubtedly one of the leading regional journals in the country (\$3.00 per year) and their new book is sure to get the reception it so well merits.

And Fundaburk does it again! Of course, you have SUN CIRCLES AND HUMAN HANDS, Fundaburk and Foreman, which is made indispensable by its remarkable photography of most of the public and private collections in our area and obtainable nowhere else - privately produced at great expense of time, effort, money and just plain grit "because it ought to be done and nobody was doing it". It has received glowing reviews from the very top brass.

And now pretty Lila Fundaburk has done it again. This time it is SOUTHEASTERN INDIANS, Life portraits, A Catalogue of Pictures, 1564-1860. It brings together, for the first time, all of the early drawings, and later photographs, of the Indians of our area. There is Tomo-chi-chi for example - we had a boy doll named tomo-chi-chi when we were very, very little, our first Indian interest. And you will be delighted by the way these pictures are annotated - the very interesting and very historic stories of the pictures in the text.

These old pictures, and explanatory texts, are as near as we can ever get to the "real Indians" of prehistoric days, before their culture was

simply "poor white". The "historic approach" of the archaeologist, working backward into the unknown from the known, will make it imperative that you have this book on your library shelf. (Emma Lilla Funda-burk, Luverne, Alabama, \$7.50 plus sales tax if you live in Alabama.)

"TRIBES THAT SLUMBER" and "SOUTHEASTERN INDIANS" will also solve some of those vexing Christmas-gift problems! And remember that the only way we can have archaeology in our forgotten area is to support it.

BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Meeting: first Friday each month, 7:30PM, Birmingham Public Library. Vistors always welcome!

Mrs. James Mason of Indian Springs School, Pres. Audobon Society, active in the Flower Club, made our Nov. meeting very pleasant and informative with a talk on PLANTS THAT THE INDIANS USED. Though Mrs. Mason declared she could not begin to cover the plants used, or the variety of uses, it seemed as if she listed several uses for most of the plants and trees we knew about - textiles, containers, tools, weapons, building materials, logs for sacred fires, foods, medicines and what-have-you. It was quite amazing how many poisonous plants were processed to render them edible and the Indians were not nearly so addicted to meat as we commonly suppose.

And the talk was profusely illustrated with beautiful colored slides. We also tasted some "Indian potato" which proved quite edible. It was a talk which would interest and inform anyone.

Mrs. Mason proposed an excursion to the Dismals next spring, combining "Indian botany" with archaeology, which we hope will mature.

Dr. Albert Gessmann (whom we overwork!) will speak at our Dec. 5 meeting on "THE CELTS & THE PRE-CELTIC SUBSTRATA IN EUROPE". Dr. Gessmann spent the past summer doing research on a book-length paper on this subject - we can expect to "skim the cream" of this vast amount of research.

With Celtic blood probably flowing in most of our veins, it will be of absorbing interest to learn more about our ancestors.

A field trip to do stratigraphic testing at the site which is to be destroyed some 6 miles west of Montevallo was planned for Sat. Nov. 22.

STONES & BONES TV PROGRAMS

How many viewers have you interested in our Stones & Bones TV programs? Here is a good way to carry archaeology to the multitudes, interesting and educating them. Every member should be a promoter even if he cannot be a participant - or will not, for you are cordially invited to get up a program.

Nov. 11 Ted Rybka conducted viewers on a fascinating trip to western Cliff Dwellings with splendid slides of his own trip.

Nov. 25--Dr. Albert Gessmann (Ph. D. in Comparative Linguistic, Head of Dept. of Languages, Talladega College) will tackle the mysterious RIDDLE OF THE ETRUSCANS - of Horatio fame.

Dec. 9--E. O. Dahlen will give a vignette of the pre-history of the origin of man titled "MAN INHERITS THE EARTH"

GOOD NEWS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

Our Bill Ballard, who started our TV program, now with Station WEDU, Tampa, Fla., is doing an American History program for in-school use. He writes that he has sold the teacher on - you guessed it - an archaeological background! If you have any of those old, misbegotten artifacts that you collected before you learned to mark them, he would appreciate receiving some "visuals".

Bill is now established in his new home at 2904 Bay Villa Ave., Tampa - complete with lemon and orange trees.

A woman's intuition is about nine tenths suspicion. And men - well, about the time they stop feeling their oats, they start feeling their coons.

PREHENSILE FEMALE

Will time unveil a longish tail
On early man's - that is - ahem!
But as for Eve, we can believe
All women carry them.

FORECAST OF THINGS TO COME

1959 DUES ARE PAYABLE JANUARY 1, 1959