

The Birmingham Anthropological Society
presents

STONES AND BONES

Executive Officers

E. O. Dahlen, President
Mrs. M. S. Hullender, Secretary-Treasurer
Ed Greene, Vice-President

Editorial Board

Dan W. Josselyn, Editor
R. A. Humbard
Mrs. T. E. Rybka
F. J. Parsons

Vol. No.

III

Date

AUGUST 1958

MOVIES!

Yes, we are going to relax with air-conditioned movies at our August meeting. This will no doubt be doubly welcome after the heavy going at the July meeting. In this weather, who wants to take anything seriously?

You'll want to bring the entire family for this pleasant occasion, of course. And how about a friend or two? Bait them with "free movies", and of course the very nice company which we enjoy. (Really, we do have a nice crowd, and maybe we should plan another meeting without a program - just chat-and-chatter and get-acquainted. Our last meeting of this kind was most successful.)

But for August - oh boy, movies! See you at the Birmingham Public Library, fourth floor, August first, 7:30 P.M.

APOLOGIES

That August first reminds us of something. When Friday comes so early in the month, it always takes us by surprise. And with the July meeting postponed for a week - well, this month is very short.

So we didn't get Reverend Blackford's paper on MORE PRECOLUMBIAN DISCOVERIES OF AMERICA IN LEGENDS ready for our publisher, Mr. Parsons. Apologies to everyone.

AN INVITATION

Of course it is quite wonderful that we can be "just Americans" with so little class differentiation - no barriers of title to obstruct honest worth.

But in the intellectual and cultural fields, wouldn't you like to be a bit "exclusive"? You don't really want to be buried in the anonymity of some 170 million John or Jane Americanos, a mere statistic (and of course tax payer!) Do you now? Why not "be somebody"?

You can! You are cordially invited to join one of the most exclusive

clubs in the world. In fact, you are urged. And we do mean exclusive!

In all the world this world-wide organization has only 1388 members, and 298 of these are institutional - societies, libraries, etc.

It has even been estimated that there are only 3000 potential members! Only 3000 in all the world with the intellectual and cultural desire to join! Are you one of those? That is to say, are you one in a million or so?

We are speaking of THE SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY. It is the hub of American archaeology. It publishes the journal on American archaeology, AMERICAN ANTIQUITY - without which you cannot possibly keep up with archaeology.

Yet, it is suffering from this deplorable state of neglect by the many thousands of good amateur archaeologists who should be anxious to learn, and to support our MAIN STEM of archaeology. What is wrong? Is it true that we read nothing but comics and murder mysteries?

Are we going to let Russia get ahead of us in the field of archaeology, too? To let them get ahead in rockets is bad enough - but gosh, not in arrowheads! Russia is, you know, pushing an archaeological program. Communist China reports that it is sending out archaeologists with survey, roadbuilding, excavating and other groups to prevent archaeological destruction. Last year Russia began its own archaeological journal - Sovetskaja Arkheologija. We wonder how many subscribers it already has in that ambitious, knowledge-hungry land.

Are we gone soft, ambitionless, with the "fat of the land"? Is it true that "everybody's business is nobody's business" in a land ruled by the people? Can a democracy keep us with a dictator? Are Russians smarter than Americans?

So often such questions pertain to matters where the individual can do nothing. But in this case, you can do something. You can join up with THE SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY. The officers, splendidly trained professional archaeologists, anthropologists, ethnologists, etc., all serve without compensation. About 90% of your membership fee goes into publications which come back to you! Even more important, publications which spread archaeological knowledge and interest!

Beside four book-size journals a year, you get special publications as often as the budget (and donations) will allow. (The Society has no capital and no endowment.) And what publications! They aren't just over-your-head stuff, as you might judge from the very exclusive membership.

Take the special supplement, ASIA AND NORTH AMERICA - TRANSPACIFIC CONTACTS. If you think "the battle of Atlantis" has been hot and heavy, you should read about the current battle over transpacific contacts. Do you know it is being suggested that corn may not even be American in origin? And all these "multiple Probabilities" which the transpacific proponents are offering - are they more fuel for the proponents of Atlantis? You shouldn't be missing this!

And did you know that one of our members (we do hope we can still boast him as a member) had an article in the April, 1958, American

Antiquity? We are speaking of E. Bruce Trickey, Chickasaw, Alabama. A relative newcomer to Alabama, he contacted our Steve Wimberly when he began working on the neglected problem of pottery in the Mobile Bay region. Now he comes up with a most competent study, professional caliber, and indicative of a vast amount of good work, titled A CHRONOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE MOBILE BAY REGION. Good going, Bruce.

You see, this most exclusive journal is open to amateurs. We are most fortunate, as amateur archaeologists, that archaeology is one (about the only one!) profession where the professional welcomes and assists the cooperative efforts of the amateur. It is a trust for which we should be grateful, and which we should honor.

And of course, we should take advantage of it by joining THE SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY. The cost is only eight dollars per year. If you are a bit short on cash, don't buy a new hat this fall. Or cut down on your smokes - which will be good for you. Or forego a week-end trip - or any of the dozens of things that would save you eight dollars.

Of course, the Society is a bit exclusive. It is definitely for the preservation and study of archaeology, for the scientific approach, for the dissemination of proper knowledge - against destruction, commercialism, irresponsible "collecting". You have to sign a brief statement stating your sympathy with and subscription to the "ideals and objects of the Society.

All those of good will who want to learn how to ride their hobby more scientifically, more rewardingly, and more pleasantly, can qualify.

We wrote our hard-working Secretary of The Society for American Archaeology, David A. Baerreis, that if he would care to send us some applications, we would do a bit of campaigning for members. He sent us five application blanks.

Five! Positively insulting! Only five exclusive, cultural, intellectual people in our Society? He just doesn't know us, does he? We bet we have ten members who are "one in a million". At least ten!

Applications will be available at our August first meeting - another reason why you can't afford to miss it. If you so desire, your money will be accepted and we'll do the job of mailing in your application. You haven't an excuse to stand on! And remember that you cannot possibly keep up with American archaeology without reading AMERICAN ANTIQUITY. It is an exciting field - books on archaeology are now on the best-seller list.

We were missing Jim Wilkinson the other day. He was one of our working members - a busy family man, too. We make a motion that our Society should put a subscription to Antiquity in our Public Library in Jim's name so he can go right on working for archaeology. Seconded?
