

STONES AND BONES

Birmingham Anthropological Society      Morgan-Limestone Chapter

## THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Madison-Huntsville Chapter      Muscle Shoals Chapter

Members of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation

## NEWS NOTES

Dr. Frank J. Soday writes President Britt Thompson that in spite of being very busy and on the road about half the time, he is maintaining his interest in archaeology. The famous Flint Ridge, Ohio, seems to be receiving his special attention. He didn't say he had located any more "Quad Sites" but has found a number of Hopewell and Adena Mounds.

HITLER almost made the news again, to judge by the hopes of three young (ab out 12 years) friends of ours. They were, as boys will, preparing a secret hide-out in the deep woods, some ten blocks from a highway. In the process of digging a "foxhole", a shovel stuck something solid with a metallic ring. Shades of Ben Gunn, pieces of eight, and all the rest! Shovels flew like mad until a heavy metal chest was uncovered. They backed off for safety, and with a .22 rifle shot off the rusty lock in good G-man style. Among the contents were several German military caps and a crash helmet. After the mysterious story had been retold several times, and the treasures displayed, one of the boys asked hopefully, "Did Hitler really commit suicide?"

Missing Link is in the news again. Dr. Louis S. B. Leakey reports his discovery of what he considers the oldest known tool-making man. He regards it as the link between South African ape-man and man himself. The age he judged between 600,000 and 1,000,000 years. Specimens of the skull (from Tanganyika) have been shipped to the University of California for tests to determine its age by the rate of radio-active decay of potassium 40 into argon 40.

ANOTHER ARCHAEOLOGY HEADACHE is reported by the New York times. When workmen in Italy incidentally uncover antiquities, their growing tendency is to rebury them quickly and quietly. For it seems there will be no end of official investigations and regulations. We thought we knew all the headaches of archaeology, but hadn't even dreamed ab out governmental interest. Our boasted freedom includes freedom to destroy our archaeology!

CORRECTION: apologies for incorrect spelling last month of our member adrain E. Thompson, 101 N. Main Street, Tuscumbia, Alabama.

CHARLES BROSNER sent us last month, too late for Stones & Bones, an invitation to meet with the Madison-Huntsville Chapter at his home Sept. 21. Winchester Road, Huntsville, Rt. 1. Drop in and see his museum when you are in the vicinity.

THERMO-LUMINESCENCE AND ARCHAEO-MAGNETISM are coming along as two new methods of dating. Libby really started something when he discovered a dating method.

JOURNAL OF GLASS STUDIES, a new publication, will be of interest and value to all archaeologists interested in glass. Address Journal of Glass Studies, Corning Museum of Glass, Corning Glass Center, Corning, New York. \$5.00 per year (50¢ extra for foreign postage).

THE KENSINGTON STONE by Erik Wahlgren, exposing this famous hoax, will be of interest to those who follow the pre-Columbian discovery myths. We are particularly glad to see this one exploded, it has always seemed so absurd on geographic grounds. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison Wisc., \$5.00

HISTORY BEGINS AT SUMER, its schools, social reforms, religions, hymns, horticulture, literature, etc., 5000 years ago, is a book you can afford at \$1.45. By America's foremost Sumerologist, Samuel Noah Kramer, Doubleday Anchor Books, Garden City, N. Y.

BURIED TREASURE. . talk about places you can scoop up artifacts with a shovel. We are talking about the basements of America. That is where most of our archaeology is now buried, or reburied. If you were lucky enough to have had sufficient instruction to collect yours properly, dust it off and report it in the Journals. The last resting place of artifacts should be in the tomes of science.

AGRICULTURE IN AMERICA may be about as old as agriculture anywhere, we learn with surprise. Old World agriculture has recently been pushed back to about 9000 years, several thousand years older than former discoveries. At the twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology this year, Richard MacNeish reported that from evidence at Tamaulipas, Mexico, domestication of plants seems to have begun 10,000 years ago.

SCOTTSBLUFF, EDEN AND PLAINVIEW OR MILNESAND points excavated by Joe Ben Wheat in the bone bed of 120 skeletons of *Bison occidentalis* which appeared to represent a single kill point to the contemporaneity of these point types.

We propose that the term "MICRO-EXCAVATION" should come into common use in archaeology. This was impressed upon us by many enlarged photographs of Imprints of Grains in an excellent article on HOW FARMING BEGAN IN THE OLD WORLD, by Hans Helbaek, in the Autumn 1959 issue of ARCHAEOLOGY. This micro-excavation (with a cat's whisker?) was the all-important factor in differentiating between wild and domestic varieties. Those who think a shovel a fit instrument for excavation will please take note! Helbaek reports that the wheat and barley grain imprints found at Jarmo, the oldest Old World site so far discovered where grains were domesticated, "bear the closest similarity to the wild prototypes which we have ever seen".

AND ARCHAEOLOGY BECOMES MORE "SCIENTIFIC" the deeper we dig into its patient pages, and more deserving of a reverent cat-whisker approach. How easily one careful slice with a trowel could have destroyed the priceless evidence at Jarmo! Any second-hand dental instruments for sale? But we'll do our digging in the Literature.

The Archaeology of the Bible has perhaps become more interesting to those who heard Dr. Gessmann's absorbing discussion of the Dead Sea Sc rolls. A history of the Bible, by the distinguished biblical scholar Fred Gladstone Bratton, should be interesting and profitable reading as an introduction to what is known as the "historical method". Dr. Bratton begins with the Babylonian (where our Western religion really began) - to the Sumerian, the Hebrew, to Aramaic, to Greek, Latin, English, and includes the impact of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Religion has been one of the most powerful forces operating on the history of mankind, and the briefest acquaintance with history will show that the outrages committed "in the name of God" have ranked with mankind's worst. Burning "witches" at Salem and hanging Quakers on Boston Common fortunately belong to religion's regrettable past, but it still is true that one of the reatest contributions we can personally make to social and scientific progress is to achieve a rational understanding of this overly emotional subject. Address Beacon Press, 25, Beacon St., Boston 3, Mass. \$4.95 postpaid.

EXCAVATION HAS BEEN RESUMED AT NIPPUR, CITY OF ENLIL. "Father of The Gods". we are happy to see. Certainly Babylonia fathered many of our religious concepts of today. In the twelve cantos of the epic of the God Gilgamesh is found the story of the creation of man from clay, and the eleventh canto contains the account of the "flood" almost identical with the myth as it still is told. About 2500 BC the priest-king Gudea of the city of Lagash placed a brazen sea in the temple as Solomon did some 1500 years later ( I Kings VII, 23-26). The Adapa myth tells how the god Ea feared lest man, who had become intelligent, would eat the food of the gods and become immortal - a parallel to Adam eating of the "tree of Knowledge" and being ejected from the Garden so he might not eat of the "tree of life and live forever". An "eye for an eye" is found in the Code of Hammurapi. Later borrowings from Babylonia, which are not found in the pre-exilic Bible texts, are hereafter, heaven, hell, devil, demons, angels, resurrection, end of the world, final judgement, and a "messiah" in the sense of a saviour (from the Zoroastrian "Saoshyant", the last and greatest of the prophets, who is to preside at the day of judgement and the resurrection of the dead).

The importance of Babylonian religions in furthering an understanding of our own can readily be seen. The "holy city of Nippur" is a remarkable mine of information where we might say that "the stratigraphy of God is 5000 years deep", ruins of temples to ancient Gods built upon ruins of earlier temples to tremendous depths. And it was perhaps in this area that writing was invented, and at the very first Nippur excavation more than 60,000 cuneiform tablets were recovered! Nine cultural levels, going back to 3000 B.C., have been excavated - at less than half way to the bottom of the ruins. It may seem an odd expression, but the "archaeology of God" would seem

to be one of the greatest contributions archaeology can promise. As Ambrose Bierce wrote humorously, but pointedly:

"The pig is taught by sermons and epistles  
To think the god of swine has snout and bristles."

Mankind has sometimes outdone ghe pig!

#### NEW MEMBERS:

Mrs. Gladys Gilliland. . . . Route 3, Decatur, Ala.  
Oliver Douglas . . . . . P. O. Box 241, Decatur, Ala.  
Ed Neely and family . . . . . Carlisè Park, Guntersville, Ala.  
Mrs. Francis C. Smith . . . . . 717 Woodward Way NW, Atlanta, Ga.  
Chester Neiswender, Jr. . . . . Rt. 4, Box 66, Pensacola, Florida

Mrs. Francis C. Smith also sent \$1.00 for membership in the Birmingham Anthropological Society and wishes to receive any special bulletins sent to members. Which reminds us that non-resident members are wholly dependent upon our literature to reimburse their interest and expenditure. Your Journal is begging for papers. And your Newsletter is left too much to the Editor, which gives him undue voice of course, and limits variety. As we add them up, we now have 238 members. Don't let them down - or let this Editor discourage them with the same old cracked record.

And who is going to attend the Annual Meeting of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation, Nov. 7-8, Albany, N. Y., and send us a newsy report? We sure would like to sit in on that Symposium on Projectile Points.

#### MUSCLE SHOALS CHAPTER NEWS

A. W. Beinlich

For our Sept. 28 meeting Mrs. Louise Smith gave an interesting talk about the "Ancient Buried City" at Wickliffe, Kentucky, located near the mouth of the Ohio river across from Cairo, Ill. She passed out descriptive literature that she obtained while there. In 1932 this site was discovered when the approach to the bridge crossing the Ohio River was being built. The University of Kentucky was consulted and the site excavated under their supervision. Mr. and Mrs. Standord Smith visited this site while on vacation. (Would the culter be Adena, Hopewell ? ? ? Ed.)

In the September Stones & Bones reference was made to the Stones & Bones TV show beginning Sept. 8. For those of us (as myself) who cannot get this program, I believe it would be interesting if at least a summary and highlights of each show were written up in the Newsletter.

(We agree most heartily with Mr. Beinlich. Personally we are too busy even to allow a TV set in the house. President Britt Thompson is thoroughly overworked putting on the show. We therefore beg some



### ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ANNUAL MEETING FOR 1959

The 1959 Annual Meeting of the Eastern States Archeological Federation will take place on Saturday and Sunday, November 7th and 8th, at Albany, the Capitol of New York. The headquarters hotel will be the Sheraton-Ten Eyck where all the meetings will be held.

The constitution permits each member society to send to the Federation meetings a delegation of six members, each of whom shall have one vote. If a society is represented by less than six designated delegates or alternates, those representing it may cast a total of six votes on all issues. Each member society should appoint its full voting delegation in order to be properly represented during the Business Session. However, all society members are urged to attend the Federation meetings.

The following schedule of meetings has been arranged by the Program Committee:

***Saturday, November 7th—Fort Orange Suite,  
12th floor, Sheraton-Ten Eyck Hotel***

- 9:00 a. m. REGISTRATION in Foyer, 12th Floor. Fee \$1.00.
- 10:00 a. m. GENERAL MEETINGS: Papers on Eastern Archeology, Ethnology, and Indian History.
- 2:00 p. m. GENERAL MEETING. Symposium on Projectile Points.
- 6:00 p. m. RECEPTION, Hudson Room, Hotel Sheraton-Ten Eyck.
- 7:00 p. m. DINNER, Fort Orange Suite.

A guest speaker will follow the dinner. Reservations should be made not later than at time of registration (\$4.75 the person, including gratuity).

***Sunday, November 8th—  
Capitol Room, Sheraton-Ten Eyck Hotel***

- 9:30 a. m. BUSINESS MEETING of the Eastern States Archeological Federation. Reports by Officers, Staff

constant viewer to be our TV reporter and send us a paragraph on each show.)

MORGAN-LIBESTONE CHAPTER NEWS  
J. P. Knudsen

October 5, 1959, 7:30 PM, Decatur City Electric Auditorium, 110 Johnson Street, SE, Program: Discussion and display of stones "jewelry" from the Tennessee Valley.

Continuing our project of photographing the ground and polished stone artifacts from the Tennessee Valley, we have planned a program around the stone beads, gorgets, and pendants and other ornamental artifacts from our area. The camera will be set up to record your specimens, and as before the success of the program depends entirely on you. Our usual panel of "experts" will be on hand to talk about the display and try to answer questions about the material. Please also bring any pipes or bannerstones not previously photographed.

Fair Exhibit - Our Chapter has set up an attractive and instructional (we hope) display at the Morgan County Fair, why not drop by to see it? This was a real chapter project with about a dozen of our members contributing their time and talent.

Next Meeting: The auditorium has been reserved for Nov. 2, 1959. We will have a display of grooved axes plus an additional program.

BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS

We meet on the first Friday of each month, 7:30 P.M. B'Ham Public Library. Visitors are welcome, and welcome to join, but not pressured.

Dr. Albert Gessmann spoke on the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the vast problems of translation, at our meeting of October 2. Perhaps the fact that mistaken concepts have crept into our Bible down the long centuries of lost documents, mistranslations, had copying and sectarian editing - perhaps this was received with some mixed emotions.

Our personal view (and we shall be glad to publish yours) was that it seemed a very hopeful message for those who wish to see Christinait; survive a scientific age. The Scrolls can help to rid dogma of its superstitions, as well as errors of translation and interpretation, which increasingly make religion clash with science and logic.

When our modern age of science was ushered in about a hundred years ago it became apparent, in the words of the famous pioneer scientist Thomas Huxley, that the church, as it was constituted, "must, as a

matter of life and death, resist the progress of science and modern civilization". And on the other hand, in the words of Cardinal Gibbons, "The church is not susceptible of being reformed in her doctrines. The church is the work of God. .perfect . . . therefore, incapable of reform."

A considerable religious element seems still to agree with both Huxley and Newman, to the increasing disservice to Christianity.

Personally we cannot see that it has harmed the worthwhile elements in religion for the church to admit, finally, that the earth is not flat, but spherical, as Aristotle demonstrated more than three three hundred years before Christianity began - and the church labeled "heresy" until somewhat after the globe had been circumnavigated. We fail to see that it did religion any harm to quit burning "witches" (only 250 years ago) despite the command of Exodus XXII, 18. "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live". And, incidentally, we fail to see the work of God in the pious pronouncement of the church that "The Church abhors bloodshed" - hence hundreds of thousands who preferred their own interpretations of God were given the bloodless death of burning alive! We fail to see that the gradual admission of the church that man is the remarkable apex of some three billion years of evolution, instead of a mud-doll product of man's imagination, has harmed the good things of religion.

Our children are going to mature in an age incredibly more scientific than we did. If religion is going to quarrell with science, it hasn't even seen the beginning - our children will ask religion more "precocious" questions than we could have dreamed.

And we've been wondering - and maybe you-  
 If all ye olden fable will still do  
 As well in an atomic-sputnik age  
 As when we tilled a one-horse acreage!  
 Just worrying, you know, as elders do.  
 About the kids - what cherry tree they'll hew.  
 The world becomes adult, there's no doubt of it  
 But science hasn't offered any prophet.

The important danger, of course, is not to the church per se, but that the ethical principles so largely identified with Christianity (in this part of the world) may be injured by the collapse of the edifice in which they have been so long housed.

The Dead Sea Scrolls could help to resolve the unnecessary clash of religion with science. For the Scrolls obviously afford a graceful, face-saving opportunity for the church to weed some of the errors of translation and interpretation, and the superstitions, out of religion. And there is nothing in the Scrolls to detract from such important fundamentals as Peter's guides to the good life: "virtue, knowledge (we underscore this) temperance, patience, goodliness, brotherly kindness, charity.

November 1959

We feel that it would be most unfortunate for Christianity in our increasingly scientific age if the church (which, for all its improvement, we still refuse to identify with God) should disagree with Dr. Gessmann's closing statement: "The Church should be a repository for truth".

At our Nov. 6 meeting Dan Josselyn will speak on ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION, with emphasis on appreciation of the problems and possibilities of excavation. This will be distinctly an archaeological "lesson", but much time and effort has been put into visual to make it interesting as well as educational. We hope you can attend.