

The Midden

Vol. XV, No. 5

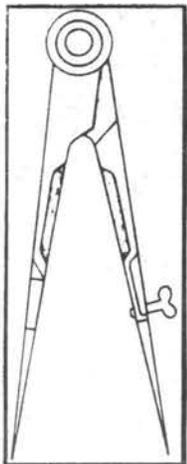
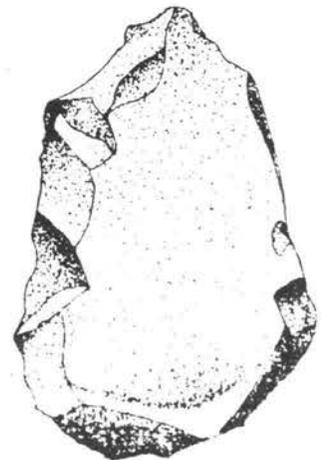
December 1983



Stone Bowls
Exported
— p. 2

South Yale — p.3

Vallican — p.7



Book Reviews — p.11, 13

New Publications — p.10



The Midden

Publication of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia
Acting Editor: Kathryn Bernick

Address: P.O. Box 520, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2N3.

Submissions and exchange publications should be directed to the Editor. Contributions on subjects germane to B.C. Archaeology are welcomed: maximum length 1500 words, no footnotes, and only a brief bibliography (if necessary at all).

The contents of THE MIDDEN are copyrighted by the A.S.B.C. It is unlawful to reproduce all or part by any means whatsoever, without permission of the Society, which is usually gladly given.

Subscriptions (\$8.00 a year -- 5 issues) should be directed to the attention of Ms. Lesley Ann Prentis. A subscription to THE MIDDEN is included in the membership fee of the A.S.B.C.

The next issue of THE MIDDEN will appear mid-February, 1984.

Publication of THE MIDDEN is made possible in part by a grant from the British Columbia Heritage Trust.



The Society

Membership year runs Sept.1-Aug.31. Fees: family--\$17; single--\$15; seniors and students--\$10. Address to: A.S.B.C. Membership Secretary, Box 520, Station A, Van., B.C. V6C 2N3.

NEXT MEETING: 8:00 p.m., Vancouver Museum Auditorium.
Visitors and new members welcome!

Jan. 11 Hector Williams: Canadian projects in Greece, Stympalos and Mitylene.

Topics for later meetings in the Spring include:
Vallican and The Broken Group Islands.

B.C. GOVERNMENT SIGNS PERMIT TO EXPORT ARTIFACTS

Recently two irreplaceable prehistoric artifacts were exported from British Columbia to the United States. According to informed sources, officials of the B.C. Provincial Museum signed an export permit allowing the objects to be sold out of the country.

The artifacts, works of art in their own right, are two of the finest known decorated stone bowls. Both were featured in Wilson Duff's exhibition "Images Stone B.C." One is a seated human figure bowl with a rattlesnake motif, and the other a Haida tobacco mortar (Nos. 30 and 119 in the published catalogue).

The ASBC, alerted by one of its members, wrote early in October 1983 to Federal Minister of Communication Francis Fox, and to Provincial Secretary and Minister of Government Services, James Chabot. The letters requested immediate investigation of the matter, and an effort to recover the pieces.

Ottawa has acknowledged receipt of the letter, and is apparently looking into the situation. At press time there is still no response from Victoria.

"FLASH"

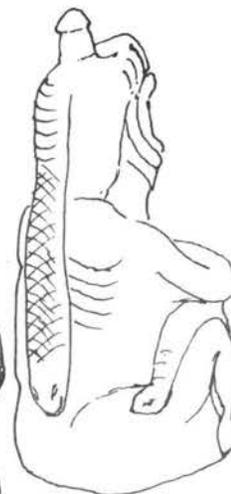
See the Dec. 6 Vancouver Sun --Eve Johnson reports on why export permit was granted.

K. B.



ABOVE: TOBACCO MORTAR,
BEAVER DESIGN - LENGTH 23.8cm

RIGHT: SEATED HUMAN FIGURE BOWL,
WITH RATTLESNAKES. HEIGHT. 38cm



REAR VIEW

HILARY STEWART '83

THE SOUTH YALE SITE: YET ANOTHER POINT

by Shawn D. Haley

In the April 1983 issue of THE MIDDEN, (Vol. XV, No. 2), I introduced some new radiocarbon dates for the South Yale site (DjRi-7). In that same issue, David Archer commented on those dates and questioned my interpretation. I would like to take this opportunity to respond to Mr. Archer and perhaps clarify the situation somewhat.

He suggested that the following questions were critical to our understanding of the Pasika Complex cobble tools:

1. What do the assemblages represent?
2. Why did they persist for such a long period of time?
3. What finally ended this longterm tradition?

Without attempting to answer those questions, I must agree with Mr. Archer that they are important. However, since both the second and third questions refer to time with such phrases as "long period of time" and "longterm tradition", we must first establish the temporal placement of the Pasika Complex before we can begin to search for appropriate answers. Both Archer and Borden place great weight on the geological evidence for an early placement of the Complex. The geological study does establish formation dates for the terraces, as noted by Archer. Borden used those data to assign the Complex to a pre-Milliken position (12,000-9,000 years B.P.), whereas Archer suggests a 9,000-3,000 year B.P. frame. Neither is necessarily correct as the geological data are confined to the terraces and not to the cultural material. Also, the presumed correlation between the Milliken and South Yale sites (as noted by Archer) is based on negative evidence -- that is, Pasika materials (as a 'pure' component) were not found at the Milliken site, and since the material appeared crude, it was placed at the base of the Milliken sequence. We still lack a direct link between the cultural material and a time period. We cannot assume that since the terraces were chronologically formed that they were inhabited in the same order.

Using the above as background, I would like to elaborate on the dates reported previously, and to add another.

Archer, quoting Borden (1975:58), describes the sample which produced the 5240 ±100 B.P. date as follows: "scattered bits (of wood charcoal) extending in a restricted area from near the surface of one excavation unit to a depth well below the deepest recorded occurrence of Pasika specimens." There was indeed scattered charcoal in the unit in question. However, the fragments were divided into four distinct samples one of which consisted of a single piece weighing approximately 7 grams and located 4.5 feet below the surface. It was that single piece that was submitted for radiocarbon dating in 1971. Further, according to the field records (catalogues N22 and N23-1970), there seems to be distinct vertical separation between each of the four radiocarbon samples contained in the excavation unit (Terrace III: 27-33S/108-111E). Borden states that "It seems likely that the date on this sample (No. 31) will indicate the time of formation of Terrace III and the approximate age of the pebble tool industry from the orange-

brown loam overlying the coarse grey sand... Estimated age $11,000 \pm$ B.P.". It could be suggested that the sample seemed viable until the date was received, or that somehow, the description of the sample found in Borden's later text (1975:58) referred to another undated sample.

The second Terrace III sample dated at 4200 ± 380 years B.P. came from a hearth near the base of the culture bearing strata with cobble tools in close proximity. The wood charcoal that comprised the sample was collected as small fragments from within an area of "hardened" red-brown silt. It should be noted that this feature and the associated artifacts were found in the deepest cultural level in the excavation unit.

Sample 44, dated at 5900 ± 130 years B.P., was as Archer suggested, taken from one of the rock shelter units on South Yale Ridge (Terr. II). It lay stratigraphically below the lowest occurrence of microblades and bifacial artifacts and was associated with an apparently pure Pasika group of artifacts. The sample consisted of wood charcoal from a confined area near the bottom of the cultural deposit.

The new date of 3130 ± 500 years B.P. is from an excavated unit on Terrace I and seems to agree with Archer's terminal dating for the cobble tool industry. The material dated consisted of two large pieces of wood charcoal found 3.2 feet below the surface in an area "...free of root debris... in the same area as a major concentration of artifacts" (cat. N22). It was also within a few inches of the interface between the culture and non-culture bearing strata.

I would like to point out that the features containing the samples were described as 'possible' hearths in the earlier article for a simple reason. My analysis of these features is incomplete and I felt it was better to avoid a definitive label at that time. Archer also cast doubt on the reliability of the samples with the following statements: "...I would assume that Borden examined both samples from Terrace III and chose the sample... considered to be the more reliable... If we reject his first choice, does that not cast considerable doubt on his second?" and "As far as I can recall the only radiocarbon sample taken from that area (Terrace II and South Yale Ridge) came from one of the two rock shelters." We've already dealt with the confusion centering on the initial 5240 date and the discrepancy between the site records and the published report. The selection process has just as much impact on sample reliability, and in this case it seems to be in question; whereas the samples themselves are not. Also, although the 5900 date does indeed come from a rock shelter, it was not the only sample from which to choose. In fact, there were ten samples collected from Terrace II (not one as suggested by Archer) and a total of 48 over the entire site. Incidentally, 11 samples are from Terrace III and the rest from Terrace I. Archer's information was erroneous.

Finally, I did not intend to answer the three questions raised by Archer nor do I intend to do so here. I agree that they are important in solving the riddle of the cobble tools at South Yale and, in my Ph.D. dissertation (in progress), I am

attempting to deal with them. I merely wish to inform the readers of THE MIDDEN of the new radiocarbon estimates for a site that has been the centre of controversy for more than a decade. In each case, samples submitted for dating came from the deepest levels of the excavation units and therefore potentially represent the earliest dates for the site. In the absence of other concrete evidence, the interpretations presented by me in the earlier article must stand.

The site does not represent a single occupation but rather is comprised of an unknown number of small sites including late prehistoric and early historic manifestations. The cobble tool industry (whatever it was) was replaced sometime about 3,000 years ago. Indeed, this is in complete agreement with Archer's evaluation. On the other hand, his suggestion that Pasika began as early as 9,000 years ago is unsupported. The radiocarbon estimates discussed herein provide evidence for a time span at South Yale beginning about 6,000 years ago and lasting 3,000 to 3,500 years, or roughly half the span hypothesized by Archer. Nonetheless, it is still a very long time.

On one final note I will close the discussion. Despite our differences, I believe David Archer and I are in agreement on one important matter -- the evidence does not support an "early man" designation for the Pasika Complex. Rather, it was a method for utilizing a readily available raw material - cobbles - and was replaced when an alternate, more efficient method was developed or when a new source of material was realized.

Reference Cited:

Borden, Charles E.

1975 Origins and development of early Northwest Coast culture to about 3000 B.C. National Museum of Man Mercury Series No. 45. Ottawa.

* * * * *

BURIAL INVESTIGATIONS CONTRACTED TO FORENSIC CONSULTANT

The Heritage Conservation Branch has awarded a contract, on a yearly basis, to Dr. Mark Skinner (Archaeology Department, SFU) to handle investigations of prehistoric burials.

The program is designed to complement Skinner's work with the coroner's office which calls on him to examine human skeletal remains that come to their attention. Until now there has been no formal -- or legal -- provision for him to exhume or analyze the bones once he determines that they are "archaeological" and not of forensic significance.

The archaeological remains will be stored at Simon Fraser University and released along with analysis data to the appropriate Indian Band at its request. Skinner estimates that he might come across a dozen prehistoric burials in a year.

* * *

CHAPTER PROFILES

VICTORIA

In June 1968 the Archaeology Club of Victoria was formed with 14 members. Attendance at the regular monthly meetings rapidly climbed to about 35. The name was changed to the Archaeological Society of Vancouver Island.

Affiliation with the ASBC was first considered in 1972, and in 1975 the club was reconstituted as the Victoria Chapter of the ASBC. Since that date membership has held steady at about 20.

The club organizes field trips and has an active guest lecturer program. Regular monthly meetings are held during the winter.

Lewis H. Wylie
Victoria Chapter, ASBC

KITIMAT

Established in 1981 at the inspiration of James Tirrul-Jones, Curator of the Kitimat Centennial Museum, the Kitimat Chapter of the ASBC has a current membership of 14.

Monthly meetings are held during the winter at the Museum. Programs include speakers on local and international projects, as well as practical workshops such as making stone implements.

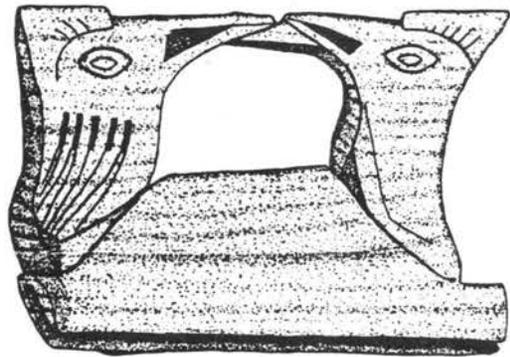
Recent field projects were excavation at an early farm site (see THE MIDDEN Feb. 1983: Vol. XV, No.1:7-11), and a surface sweep of a pioneer site.

Ernest Stevenson
Kitimat Chapter, ASBC

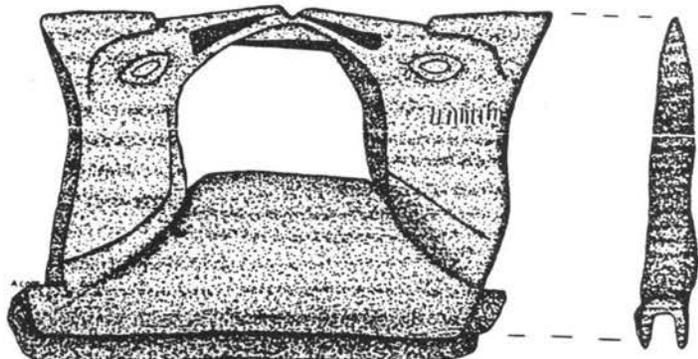


WATERLOGGED CARVING FOUND AT HOKO

A spectacular carved and decorated cedar wood artifact, identified as a mat creaser, was recovered last summer at the Hoko River site. The waterlogged deposits in which it was found are associated with a radio-carbon date of 2750 years ago.



Dr. Dale Croes (Washington State Univ.) has been excavating at the site since 1973, with major emphasis on the water-saturated component. The site is located at the mouth of the Hoko River, on the north shore of the Olympic peninsula.



Drawing by A. Cody,
courtesy of Dale Croes.

Save the Site — Vallican, B.C.



The Vallican Archaeological Site in southeastern British Columbia may become an educational park -- if Gordon Mohs and the many supporters he has mustered have their way.

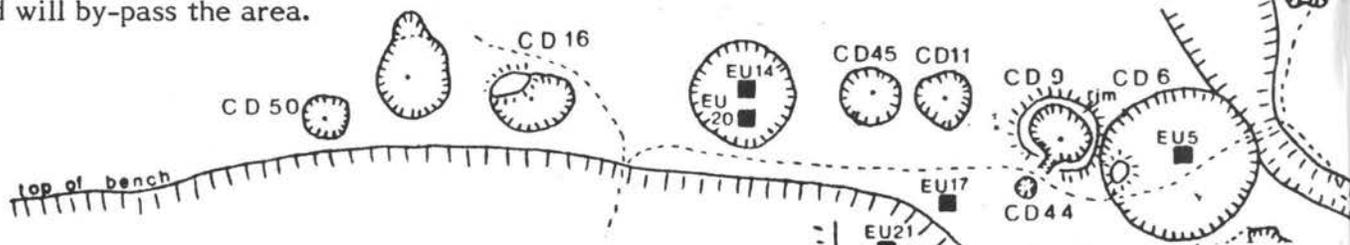
The project has several things going for it: a scenic location, a large number and variety of visible surface features, and evidence of over 2,000 years of occupation. Moreover, there is a real concern for the future of the site: it is part of a subdivision development, scheduled for construction in the near future.

The B.C. Provincial Government, acknowledging that something should be done to protect and preserve the site, was considering purchasing the property. However, negotiations between Victoria and the owner/developer have apparently been abandoned, and, according to one source, the Minister has categorically refused a budget request for purchasing the site.

Gordon Mohs, a graduate student in archaeology at SFU, is determined to save the Vallican site and to ensure its continued protection. This autumn he began a campaign to raise public support for the project. He distributed 500 information pamphlets, mostly in the West Kootenays, as well as 1,000 message postcards and 150 petitions. The write-in campaign is directed at the Premier, the Provincial Secretary, and the Director of the Heritage Conservation Branch, requesting that the government take action now, before it is too late. In addition, Mohs has been interviewed on CBC radio, and on local stations in Trail, Castlegar, and Nelson. Also, he has given talks at schools and colleges, and to the ASBC Abbotsford Chapter, of which he is a member. (He is scheduled to speak at the February ASBC meeting in Vancouver).

The response, Mohs says, is "excellent". The pile of letters and petitions received in Victoria is large and growing. The city of Nelson has lent its support and requested that the site be officially designated, and Castlegar has given tentative support. The Colville Confederated Tribes (Washington State) have expressed their concern to the Minister. And in the Slokan Valley residents have formed a non-profit society to raise funds toward purchasing the site.

Mohs first became involved with the Vallican site in 1981 when he was hired by the Heritage Conservation Branch to conduct an archaeological assessment, including test excavation. The site (DjQj 1, recorded in 1969) had come to the attention of the Provincial Archaeologist's office when a 1980 survey of the Slokan Valley reported direct conflict with planned highway construction as well as subdivision development. The results of the investigation showed the site to be of sufficient importance so that the Department of Highways revised its plans and will by-pass the area.



Although a final report has not yet been written -- neither technical nor popular -- Mohs has provided THE MIDDEN with information taken from the 276 page preliminary report which he prepared for the HCB.

The site covers an area of about 6.2 hectares, on several terraces above the Slokan River. Surface features include 70 cultural depressions and five hillside platforms -- the remains of pit houses, mat lodges, storage pits, earth ovens, and tunnels. In addition, excavations identified a burial ground and shell midden deposits.

The 1981 investigation was designed to discover the nature of the deposits and the type and antiquity of cultural remains. One 2x4 metre unit and 43 1x1 metre pits were excavated, many of them located in or adjacent to surface features. In one of the pit house depressions four hearths were discovered at different levels, the deepest being about one metre below ground surface.

Material recovered from the site includes 3,404 artifacts, several thousand pieces of lithic detritus, faunal remains (bone and shell), six burials, and 43 radiocarbon samples. About 3,000 of the artifacts were found in association with the burials (over two-thirds of these are historic glass trade beads). The prehistoric artifacts are primarily chipped stone.

Twenty two samples were submitted for radiocarbon dating. The results span a time range from 110 ± 80 to 2210 ± 180 years ago. The majority of the dates are from the past 1,000 years; three cluster around 2,000 years ago. Between the two sets is a gap of about 500 years.

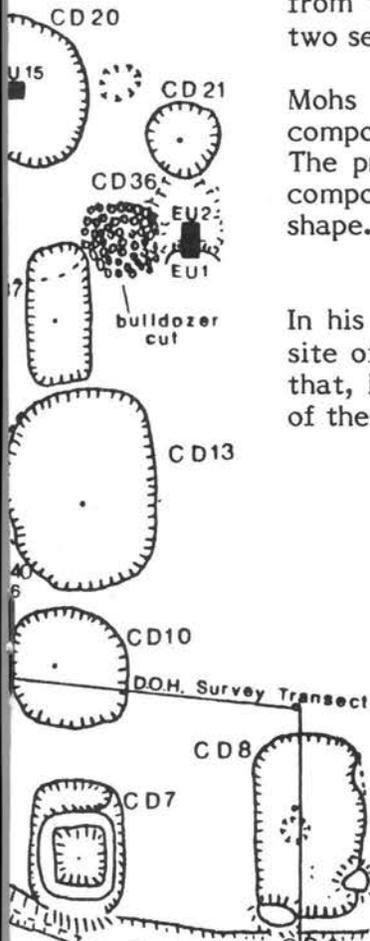
Mohs has identified a post-contact occupation at the site, and two prehistoric components. He tentatively suggests that even earlier remains may be present. The preliminary data indicate that the difference between the two prehistoric components is reflected in stone working technology as well as house pit size and shape.

In his pamphlet Mohs stresses that the Vallican site is the only archaeological site of its kind that still exists in either British Columbia or Washington. And that, in addition to its scientific value, "Vallican has the potential of being one of the most pleasurable outdoor educational park sites in British Columbia."

Kathryn Bernick

For further information on the campaign to save the Vallican Archaeological Site, contact:

Mr. Gordon Mohs
33088 Cascade Place
Mission, B.C. V2V 5S4
Tel: 826-9333





PACIFIC RIM PARK SURVEY COMPLETED

The Archaeology Division of the British Columbia Provincial Museum has completed a field survey of Pacific Rim National Park, on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

The data have not yet been collated in final form, however, preliminary figures indicate a high density of sites. One hundred and sixty of 252 recorded sites (63%) are in the Broken Group Islands, whereas the Long Beach and West Coast Trail park units account for 44 and 48 sites respectively.

Slightly over half of all the recorded sites are shell middens. Other site types include habitation caves, fish traps, burial places, isolated canoe runs, culturally modified trees, and rock art.

The project was co-directed by Dr. James Haggarty and Richard Inglis, with funding from Parks Canada (Western Region).

MEARES ISLAND SITES DEPEND ON LOGGING PLANS

The fate of 190 archaeological sites on Meares Island depends on whether logging operations follow prescriptions set out by the Heritage Conservation Branch. Meares Island is near Tofino, off the west coast of Vancouver Island. Last month the B.C. government announced that applications to log the island will be approved.

The H.C.B., armed with data from a complete shoreline survey of the island, is currently negotiating with MacMillan Bloedel, and will soon be talking to the other company concerned, B.C. Forest Products. Provincial Archaeologist Art Charlton would like to see an agreement ensuring that the sites are protected within the guidelines developed by his office. Charlton noted that the sites are protected under provincial law and that he is able to provide a detailed inventory of their locations.

That information comes from an intensive field survey conducted last year by Al Mackie. The 190 sites he recorded include 65 shell middens, 32 fish traps, one waterlogged site, one burial place, 10 isolated canoe runs, 73 culturally modified trees, and eight historic sites.

It is too soon to know if there will be specific conflicts with heritage resources, although the Designated Site of Fort Defiance is a likely candidate. Charlton observed that it is located on the most suitable terrain for construction of an access road, a fact already noted by the logging companies.

K.B.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- ** "A Site Catchment Analysis of the Little Qualicum River Site, DiSc 1: A Wet Site on the East Coast of Vancouver Island, B.C." by Kathryn Bernick. National Museum of Man Mercury Series, A.S.C. Paper no.118. (1983).
Available without charge from Scientific Records, Archaeological Survey of Canada, National Museum of Man, Ottawa, Ontario. K1A 0M8.
- ** "Archaeological Metrology" by Lester A. Ross. Parks Canada, History and Archaeology No. 68. (1983). \$7.75. See review on page 13.
- ** Ninstints: World Heritage Site by George F. MacDonald. UBC Press, 1983. 64 pp., ill. \$8.95.
- ** Crow's Shells: Artistic Basketry of Puget Sound by Nile Thompson and Carolyn Marr. Dushuyay Pubs., Seattle. 1983. 80 pp., ill. \$9.95.
- ** The West Coast People: The Nootka of Vancouver Island and Cape Flattery by E.Y. Arima. B.C. Provincial Museum Special Publication No. 6 (1983). 204 pp., ill. \$7.00
- ** Ethnobotany of the Nitinaht Indians of Vancouver Island by Nancy J. Turner, John Thomas, Barry F. Carlson, and Robert T. Ogilvie. B.C. Provincial Museum Occasional Paper No. 24. (1983). \$5.00.
- ** Smoky-top: The Art and Times of Willie Seaweed by Bill Holm. Douglas and McIntyre, Vancouver. 1983. 184 pp., 168 illus. \$24.95.
- ** The Box of Daylight: Northwest Coast Indian Art by Bill Holm. Douglas and McIntyre, Vancouver. 1983. 160 pp. ill. \$24.95.
- ** As Far as I Know: Reminiscences of an Ahousat Elder by Peter S. Webster. Campbell River Museum and Archives. See review on page 11.

SHOW TIME: NORTHWEST COAST INDIAN ART EXHIBITIONS

The exhibition "The Box of Daylight: Northwest Coast Indian Art" contains over 200 pieces -- from the Tlingit, Tsimshian, Haida, Bella Coola, Wakashan, and Salish. Both decorative and functional works of art are featured: masks, baskets, boxes, bowls, spoons, blankets, carvings, etc. The pieces have been gathered by guest curator Bill Holm from private collections, mainly from the Seattle area.

"The Box of Daylight" continues at the Seattle Art Museum in Volunteer Park until January 8, 1984, and is well worth the trip down, as many members of the ASBC know from their visit on November 6.

Also not-to-be-missed is the show at the Seattle Center (Space Needle) in Pacific Science Center Building No.2. Inside the longhouse is a very dramatic installation of masks, panels, and rattles by master Kwakiutl carver Willie Seaweed. "Smoky-Top: The Art and Times of Willie Seaweed" continues to February 29, 1984.

Elinore Glavin

REVIEW

As Far as I Know. Reminiscences of an Ahousat Elder by Peter S. Webster. Campbell River Museum and Archives, 1235 Island Highway, Campbell River, B.C. V9W 2C7. 1983. \$5.95 paper. 76 pp. ill.



"Perhaps the most valuable thing that my childhood gave me was respect for myself as one of a people who belonged to Clayoquot Sound..." And that is exactly what this short autobiography by Peter Webster is about.

The book is divided into three parts. In the first, Webster tells of growing up on the West Coast in the early 1900's. The focus is on recalling the "old ways" and his happy childhood. Part II, entitled "Growing Old," outlines his life from age 12 to 70. Basically it relates a series of conflicts with Euro-Canadian culture. Part III, the longest section, consists of eight traditional folktales.

The five full page illustrations by Kwayatsapath (Ron Hamilton) are good and provide a colourful relief from a rather dull format. Indeed, the book would be much improved if it were set in larger size type.

Despite some historical inaccuracy (the Centennial Museum in Vancouver did not open in 1976) I found Peter Webster's reminiscences enjoyable and instructive -- a useful insight for anyone interested in native culture.

Kathryn Bernick

SPRING CONFERENCES SCHEDULED

S.A.A. --

The Society for American Archaeology will hold its annual meeting in Portland, Oregon, April 11-14, 1984. For details see the April 1983 issue of American Antiquity.

C.A.A. --

The Canadian Archaeological Association will meet April 18-21, 1984 in Victoria. Sessions will be held at the Empress Hotel and the Provincial Museum. For program information contact Dr. James C. Haggarty, Archaeology Division, B.C.P.M., Victoria.

AND ANOTHER --

The Northwest Anthropological Conference is scheduled for March 21-23, 1984, in Spokane. Address inquiries to:

Harvey Rice, Chairman, Archaeological and Historical Services, Eastern Wash. Univ., Cheney, Wash. 99004.

RADIOCARBON DATES FROM THE PAUL MASON SITE IN KITSELAS CANYON

Following summer fieldwork in 1982 at the Paul Mason site (GdTc 16), 11 wood charcoal samples were submitted to two laboratories for ^{14}C dating (SFU and the National Museum). The dates obtained are:

<u>Lab No.</u>	<u>^{14}C years ago</u>	<u>Lab No.</u>	<u>^{14}C years ago</u>
SFU 255	4060 \pm 120	SFU 261	4350 \pm 320
SFU 256	4130 \pm 90	NMC 1290	4395 \pm 130
SFU 257	4250 \pm 100	NMC 1291	635 \pm 100
SFU 258	4270 \pm 200	NMC 1292	4745 \pm 195
SFU 259	5050 \pm 140	NMC 1293	4655 \pm 130
SFU 260	1330 \pm 90		

These may be added to the dates received following the 1981 field season (reported in the December 1982 Midden: Vol.XIV:5:10-11):

SFU 132	3130 \pm 100	SFU 134	3230 \pm 160
SFU 133	3780 \pm 120	SFU 135	890 \pm 160

Ten of the 15 dates fall roughly between 4,000 and 5,000 years ago. This was expected, given that a microcore and blade technology existed at the site. Elsewhere in the north coast region of British Columbia microblade components have consistently dated to earlier than 4,000 years ago.

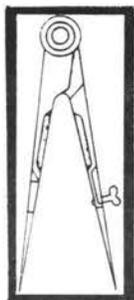
The remaining five dates vary more through time, but do indicate a second "post-microblade" occupation of the site. Importantly, the sample dated 1330 \pm 90 (SFU 260) was obtained from a deep hearth in a prepared housefloor.

Gary Coupland

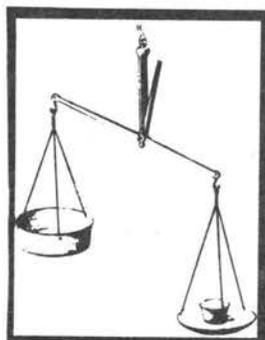
B.C. STUDIES CONFERENCE

The B.C. Studies Conference (sponsored by the History departments of UBC, SFU and UVic) will be held February 16-18, 1984, at the UBC Graduate Student Centre. Scheduled for the 17th: a session on Archaeology and Trade with papers by SFU archaeologists Roy Carlson, Phil Hobler, and Knut Fladmark; a workshop on Industrial Archaeology in B.C. chaired by Dianne Newell (History, UBC); and a workshop on Heritage Conservation in British Columbia given by Russell Irvine, Director of the B.C. Heritage Conservation Branch.

{review}



"Archaeological Metrology: English, French, American and Canadian Systems of Weights and Measures for North American Historical Archaeology" by Lester A. Ross. Parks Canada, History and Archaeology No. 68. (1983). 123 pp. Also available in French. \$7.75 in Canada, \$9.30 outside Canada. Cheques payable to Receiver General for Canada. Order from Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Supply and Services Canada, Hull, Quebec, K1A 0S9.



The title only begins to tell what treasures are offered in this well documented, meticulously researched, newest addition to the History and Archaeology series. While certainly not complete, the work includes many of the more common mass, capacity, and linear systems in use during the 15th through the 19th centuries. Measures of such commodities as dried apples, buttons, herring, wheat, wine, grass seed, wool, land, and many more are covered -- though nails, glass beads, ceramics, and glassware are not.

Each system is presented in easy to read tabular form along with its metric equivalents. A brief history of its evolution is included as well as the time period during which the system was in use. The appendix details the many acts and ordinances which regulated weights and measures in Canada during the 17th through the 19th centuries.

One minute flaw is the obvious typographical error in the column heading on page 19 which should surely read "Troy Grains". Nonetheless, it is a useful addition to the library of the historian, historical archaeologist, or the collector of interesting facts.

Phyllis Mason

●●●●

{news}

SUNKEN HERITAGE TO BE LABELLED

The Underwater Archaeological Society of B.C., under contract to the Heritage Conservation Branch, will soon be affixing information placques to shipwrecks at the bottom of the Strait of Georgia. The purpose of the project is to stop looting by educating divers about the historical significance of the wrecks.

According to Provincial Archaeologist Art Charlton, a moorage buoy will be set up off Valdes Island in Porlier Pass near the site of the Del Norte, which went down in 1868. The wreck itself will be identified with a placque -- underwater -- giving details of the ship and its history.

Information placques will also be placed at five other shipwreck sites in the Gulf Islands area. Charlton identified the ships as the Robert Kerr, Point Grey, Panther, Zephyr, and Iroquois.

The Zephyr, the Iroquois, and the Del Norte are each officially designated Underwater Heritage Sites by the Province of B.C.

{report}

SITE-SEEING ON THE QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS

Fourteen A.S.B.C. members journeyed to the Charlottes in September, living 7 days on the sailboats Lioness and Darwin Sound. The tour was conducted by Dr. Al Whitney (Pacific Synergies).

Landing at Sandspit, we crossed Allford Harbour to the Queen Charlotte Islands Museum, a splendid example of Haida art, built of cedar beams and planks, rich in artifacts, fossils, and paintings. After a video film of Bill Reid carving a pole, we visited Skidegate where the pole now stands proudly in front of the longhouse.

Highlights of the trip were daily excursions to explore Haida village sites. Massive cedars and spruce have taken over -- their roots wrapping around houses, splitting poles until only the discerning eye can see what was once a proud structure on the mossy forest floor. Looking at old photos of Skedans we could only mourn for what the rotting moss-covered mounds once were. Tanoo, once with 16 houses and 30 carved poles, is now almost moss covered. New Kloo has only gravestones left. Anthony Island (a World Heritage Site) has breathtaking Ninstints -- totem poles still standing, facing the sea, and lintel posts marking house ruins.

Each year each visitor will see less, and we envy those who have been before us. We feel indeed privileged to have been able to visit these fading Haida villages before they slip away.

Aileen Winskill



WATCH FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES AT UBC

The Archaeological Society of British Columbia will be co-sponsoring several UBC Continuing Education courses during the spring of 1984.

Final arrangements have not yet been made, however the courses, which will be offered to ASBC members for a discounted fee, are likely to include:

- * Inuit Art and Culture
- * Northwest Coast Indian Artists in Dialogue
- * Curator-Conservator Workshop Series
- * Mystery Petroglyph Tour
- * Archaeology Tour of Vancouver
- * Edible Wild Plants