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# THE MIDDEN

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BRIAN HAYDEN SPARKS FIERCE RESPONSE

(1) By W. E. Taylor, Director, National Museum of Man

Brian Hayden's article, "The Crisis in Canadian Salvage Archaeology", published in The Midden October 1976, contains so many errors and misconceptions, explicit and implicit, that some comment is required.

My first comment concerns the National Museum of Man policy for rescue archaeology. The goal is, very briefly, to retrieve and present archaeological information before it is destroyed by the activities of federal and shared federal-provincial projects. It is simply not true that "the most distinguished characteristic of the Ottawa policy has been an extreme aversion to research," and that "salvage archaeology is not, and must not be, research archaeology." Anyone knowing the history of Canadian archaeology might find that a bizarre contrast with this Museum's role in that history. Is that why we published more than 50 research volumes in four years in archaeology? Prof. Hayden might possibly be ignorant of the history of Canadian archaeology, but one might reasonably expect him to be familiar with the research and publishing done by this Museum in Canadian archaeology in the past three years. "A revulsion for research and theory"? Dear me!

The accusation that the National Museum of Man is "anti-research" appeals, for we are so often accused of being too research oriented. After all, what other Canadian museum sponsors research by other than its own staff - or has done so for nearly 20 years - or funded or co-funded up to 150 outside research projects in Canadian studies annually? And what of the British Museum, Musée de l'Homme, the Smithsonian, Dahlem and other national museums by contrast - or our provincial museums in this respect on their own levels? Hayden might have been more accurate to suggest that our archaeologists did not consider Draper a suitable rescue archaeology situation in which to emphasize a field study in theory or method. One might wonder whether such would be a selfish scholarly orientation or, perhaps, even the kind of orientation that threatens archaeologists' credibility in the eyes of non-archaeological agencies who are funding such projects. This Museum and its rescue archaeology contractors have more than a simple or narrow responsibility to archaeology; there exists a responsibility to the funding agencies and to a wider, albeit duller, data base - and a duty to perform so well that outside funding of future rescue projects is encouraged. "Do-your-own-thing" archaeology might not do that, nor do the fulsome claims of even the most promising young theoreticians and methodologists. We still require scholarly humility born in hard experience.

Even with the establishment of cost-sharing agreements between the National Museum of Man and the federal agencies involved in developments destructive to prehistory, the available funds are

sufficient to meet but a fraction of the national requirement. Under the circumstances, priorities must be established, based upon acquiring the maximum amount of information for the funds available. It is a hoary old maxim in the Archaeological Survey of Canada that research, relevance and potential are among the criteria for establishing the priorities required by that simple fact of life in rescue archaeology.

This note does not provide a statement of National Museum of Man archaeological policy, rescue or otherwise, although, perhaps, a few of its general observations pertain. The Harvard Business School system surely has a merit I cannot challenge, but one might question the unthinking devotion accorded it as some sacred totem of administrative sachems. We have not elaborated a soothing overall policy for National Museum of Man rescue archaeology that seeks to be all things to all people. Such commonly reduce flexibility, which is a rare and valued quality in a bureaucracy. Rather, we seek to judge each project or possible project within its particular conditions. That requires much professional ability and maturity within the Archaeological Survey of Canada as well as their confidence in those receiving the contracts and my faith in both. That regard remains unaffected by Hayden's excited inaccuracies. Conversely, I suppose if our rescue operations grow, we might require a more formal policy net for it. May I hope, should that occur, that Prof. Hayden will not conclude he is its lone godfather.

The \$23,000 contract accepted by Prof. Hayden yielded the exposure of part of one house pattern. Prof. Hayden's field performance was judged inadequate to the task at hand and the scientific officers of the Archaeological Survey of Canada concluded that his field method badly suited the rescue responsibility he had accepted in the contract. Additionally, Museum archaeologists considered his 72-page report on the Draper site and White site excavation to be a theoretical study with limited reference to the actual field work and one marred by major errors of interpretation. Another more substantial report (circa 400 pages) was submitted to the National Museum of Man for publication in the Mercury Series. This report was judged unacceptable for publication. In short, Prof. Hayden's dissatisfaction with the Archaeological Survey of Canada is matched by the Archaeological Survey of Canada's dissatisfaction with both Prof. Hayden's field performance and his final report.

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THE FUTURE OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN ALBERTA

By Dr. R. G. Forbis, Head of Archaeology,  
University of Calgary

(This article is excerpted from a speech given by Dr. Forbis to the Alberta Archaeological Society last year and reprinted in the Society's newsletter March 1977. The speech followed new Alberta legislation providing for preservation of archaeological resources. Now almost all land development in the province must be approved by the Ministry of Culture with Archaeology Department input.)

Certain trends seem evident. On the organizational side, the legislation passed by the Provincial government certainly will result in a much more closely structured organization of archaeology than we have seen to date. I view it with mixed feelings. On the one hand, there can be no doubt that we will soon lose our archaeological heritage unless there is some central control, and we cannot afford this loss, not only so far as we the living are concerned, but, more important, because we cannot deprive succeeding generations of their enjoyment. Like oil and gas, these are non-renewable resources, and we have a clear duty to preserve them to the best of our ability.

On the other hand, I will personally feel less free, more constrained by rules, regulations and bureaucracy. But I see no two ways about it. If we are to preserve the heritage of the past, then we must all act in concert for the public good. Just as the solitary buffalo hunter was ostracised when he frightened a herd away from a camp of starving Indians, so must we be vigilant that personal gain or pleasure be held secondary to the success of the group as a whole.

The problem of certification of professional archaeologists is now a blazing question throughout North America. What constitutes a qualified archaeologist? This matter will probably come to some sort of resolution within the next few years. Nothing has done more to focus attention on the problem than, in fact, the very legislation that I have mentioned. There is now good money to be made by archaeologists consulting for industry and government. One result has been to create competition among archaeologists themselves. There is then a question of credentials and the certification of who is qualified to do what. For myself, this is tiresome, but it seems obvious that in not too many years there will be professional archaeological organizations akin to the doctors' and lawyers' associations. While I regret the trend, since it will take a lot of the fun out of archaeology and turn it into a business, I can only foresee that it is inevitable.

Continued on p. 6 .....

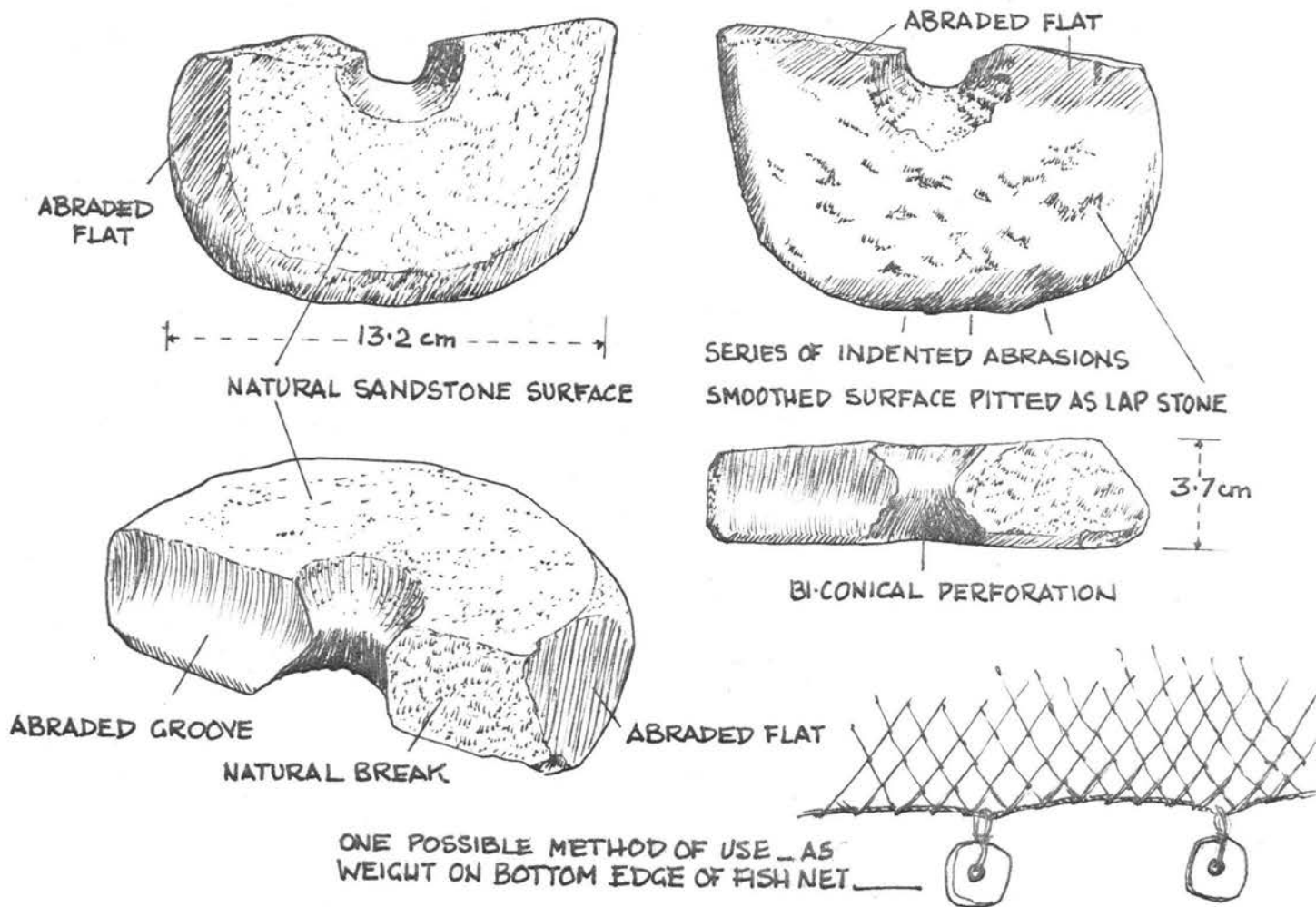
By Hilary Stewart

It was New Year's Day 1977 and I was on Cortes Island. Down by the beach picking waxberries for a table decoration, I spotted half a stone sinker (probably a net weight) lying in the grass. Nearby a drainage ditch cut through a shallow midden, so it was not difficult to figure out how it got there. I picked up what at first seemed to be simply a broken artifact and then saw there was more to it than that.

When the sinker stone, with bi-conical perforation, had originally broken it was not discarded. Instead it was recycled and used for three or more other purposes. A closer look revealed:

- 1) One face was pitted, as a lap stone or anvil stone might be.
- 2) The surface of one broken section had been ground into a wide shallow groove, as though it might have been used as an abraded on something having a rounded shape.
- 3) Other areas on the edge of the stone showed heavy abrasion of a different pattern; one was a flat surface, another a series of indented abrasions. In addition, there was evidence of flat abrasion along the broken edge of one face of the stone.

The re-use of a sandstone implement on Cortes Island (east of Campbell River) seems a little odd as this stone is not too difficult to find in the area. Perhaps the craftsman was merely a frugal person. At any rate it is another example that recycling was practised long ago.



HAYDEN NO. (2)

By Dr. W. J. Byrne, ex-National Museum

(Reprinted from Ontario Archaeological Society's "Arch Notes")

A recent edition of "Arch Notes" (October, 1976) published an article by Mr. Brian Hayden entitled "The Crisis in Canadian Archaeology" (emphasis mine, though it appears to be the intention of the article), which purports to expose the negative policies of the National Museum of Man in archaeology. As invited by the editor, I am certainly interested in commenting on the matter, particularly as I did have some involvement in the original arrangements on the Draper project.

I may say that on the whole I should find the article highly amusing, were it not for the fact that the tone is so scurrilous and the misconceptions so gross. The article appears deliberately contrived to leave the impression that the project undertaken by Mr. Hayden was intended to be entirely preliminary in nature, and that once completed there should be no trouble in expanding subsequent season's operations to any length necessary. In fact just the opposite is true since protracted negotiations with Ministry of Transport in 1972 and 1973 had resulted in no commitment on their part to the project, and in fact there was constant danger of cancellation of the project at any time. Consequently, when Mr. Hayden states that he did not need to worry about village patterning in his studies since it "would be manifest when the entire site had been excavated", this was an assumption based on wishful thinking rather than a proper appreciation for the situation, since at the time he undertook his work it was understood that there would only be one more season of work at the site at best and possibly there would be no more at all.

The reason for this lack of certainty in this matter is quite simple. That is, in the absence of effective federal legislation with respect to the conservation of archaeological resources there is never any kind of guarantee that proper measures will be taken at any site which is to be affected by a federal construction project. It is all very well to state that certain requirements are obvious in conjunction with a specific construction project, but the assumption that public opinion alone will be sufficient to ensure that sufficient funds are allocated for archaeological needs is naive to say the least. The failure of the National Museum to implement an effective "salvage archaeology" programme within the federal system is not a reflection of the policy of that institution, but rather of the lack of any legislative base to undertake the measures which federal archaeologists would like to see accomplished.

This, in fact, is one of the main reasons why I resigned from the National Museum and took a position with Archaeological

Survey of Alberta. This province has one of the strongest pieces of heritage legislation in the country, and among its provisions are some which permit the requiring of archaeological conservation projects in conjunction with both government and private development programmes. Given this situation it is far easier to conceive and implement specific conservation projects than anywhere in the federal system at this time. Consequently, since I believe that I am the unnamed assessor referred to by Mr. Hayden who is reported to have concurred with the need for a salvage project at the Draper site of the scale recommended by the Ontario Archaeological Society but who is no longer employed by the National Museum of Man, I feel I should make it clear that not only did I not agree fully with the OAS proposal but also that my leaving the Archaeological Survey of Canada was not a function of the absence of a positive policy with respect to salvage archaeology in this or any similar situation. Rather it was in good part a result of dissatisfaction with the fact that even when federal archaeologists are able to clearly identify a much needed salvage archaeology programme they are usually unable to undertake the necessary work because of an absence of sufficient funds and an absence of legislation to permit the generation of those funds. This, to my way of thinking, is the real crisis in Canadian archaeology.

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#### The Future of Archaeology in Alberta - cont'd

As for the future, I hope to see an increase in the number of publications that may be of wider appeal to the general public. There is far more literature available now than there was 20 years ago, and most editors are merely waiting for printable material to lie on their desks, whether or not it be popular or technical. But unless the results of investigation eventually end up in print, then it is virtually useless except to a very sheltered crowd. If we intend only to speak to ourselves, then we might as well accept that fact and not hope for the support of the general public.

I have no crystal ball, nor any way of knowing what the intellectual future of archaeology may be. Each year, new and inspiring ideas crop up in the most unexpected places. Looking back, there is no way that I could ever have predicted their inspiration. It seems to me that we can do no more than keep our ear to the ground, and do whatever we can to follow through.

But having seen what I have seen develop during the past 20 years, I can only be most optimistic that the next decades will see a vast improvement over what we have now. The Archaeological Society of Alberta can most certainly be credited with inspiring much of what has transpired in the past two decades.

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# Describing Artifacts, No. 6

(Part of a continuing series on artifact description, reproduced from the handbook for archaeological staff working on the National Inventory Project in B.C. The Midden extends thanks to Tom Loy of the Provincial Museum for permission to reprint.)

## Shouldering



A. single



B. double

The choice is simple: shouldered points can be described as having either one or two shoulders.

## Basal Modification

Modification can usually be described in one of four ways:

1. thinned: flakes have been taken off such that the base thickness is lessened
2. snapped: no flaking has occurred, the artifact still exhibits its original thickness as the material has been broken by a sharp action
3. fluted: a type of flaking producing a single semi-cylindrical groove (flake scar) extending from the base toward the distal end
4. ground: by means of a grinding technique a variety of base shapes is attained.



NORTHWEST COAST INDIAN ART EXHIBITION OPENS  
AT THE SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

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"FORM AND FREEDOM", an exhibition of Northwest Coast Indian art organized by the Institute of the Arts, Rice University, Houston, Texas, with the cooperation of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, opens at the Seattle Art Museum, Volunteer Park, Seattle Center, on May 12 and continues through June 26, 1977.

Museum hours are:

Tuesday through Saturday	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sundays and Holidays	Noon - 5 p.m.
Thursday evenings	7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Closed Mondays	

Admission:

Adults	\$1.00
Students	.50
Senior Citizens	.50

Thursdays	FREE
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The over 100 pieces on view are drawn from the Menil family and the Menil Foundation collections, and include fine old pieces first picked up in the late 18th century, when intensive contacts with European and American explorers and traders began, and the early 19th century. (Two, in fact, were collected by Captain Cook.) Among the later pieces are a grand Nootka ceremonial curtain of around 1900, and a magnificent wolf costume created in 1930 by the master Kwakiutl carver, Willie Seaweed.

Dr. Edmund Carpenter, anthropologist and writer who has lived and worked in the Arctic, planned the catalogue and wrote the introduction. The catalogue takes the unusual form of an informal conversation about each piece in the exhibition between William Reid, present-day Haida carver, and Bill Holm, curator of Northwest Coast Indian art at the Burke Memorial Museum in Seattle, also a carver. The Holm-Reid dialogue is transcribed, essentially unchanged, from their talks over a three-day period in Houston, where they visited to see and handle the pieces in the exhibition.

Accompanying the exhibition will be showings of the extraordinary film, In the Land of the War Canoes: Kwakiutl Indian Life on the Northwest Coast by Edward S. Curtis (1868-1952) in 1914. It was recently restored and provided with a sound track including spoken parts, chants and instrumental music by Kwakiutl people of today.

In conjunction also with "Form and Freedom" will be a photographic exhibition, "Out of the Silence", on Northwest Coast totem poles, the work of photographer Adelaide de Menil, and the photographs appear in a book of the same title with an accompanying text by William Reid, published by Harper & Rowe.

After showing at the Rice Museum for three months, "Form and Freedom" travelled to Australia and Toronto and will have its final showing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

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ADDITIONS TO SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

From Archaeological Sites Advisory Board:

Annual Report 1975 and Selected Research Reports

Occasional Paper No. 1 - Archaeology in the  
Williams Lake Area, British Columbia by  
Robert Whitlam

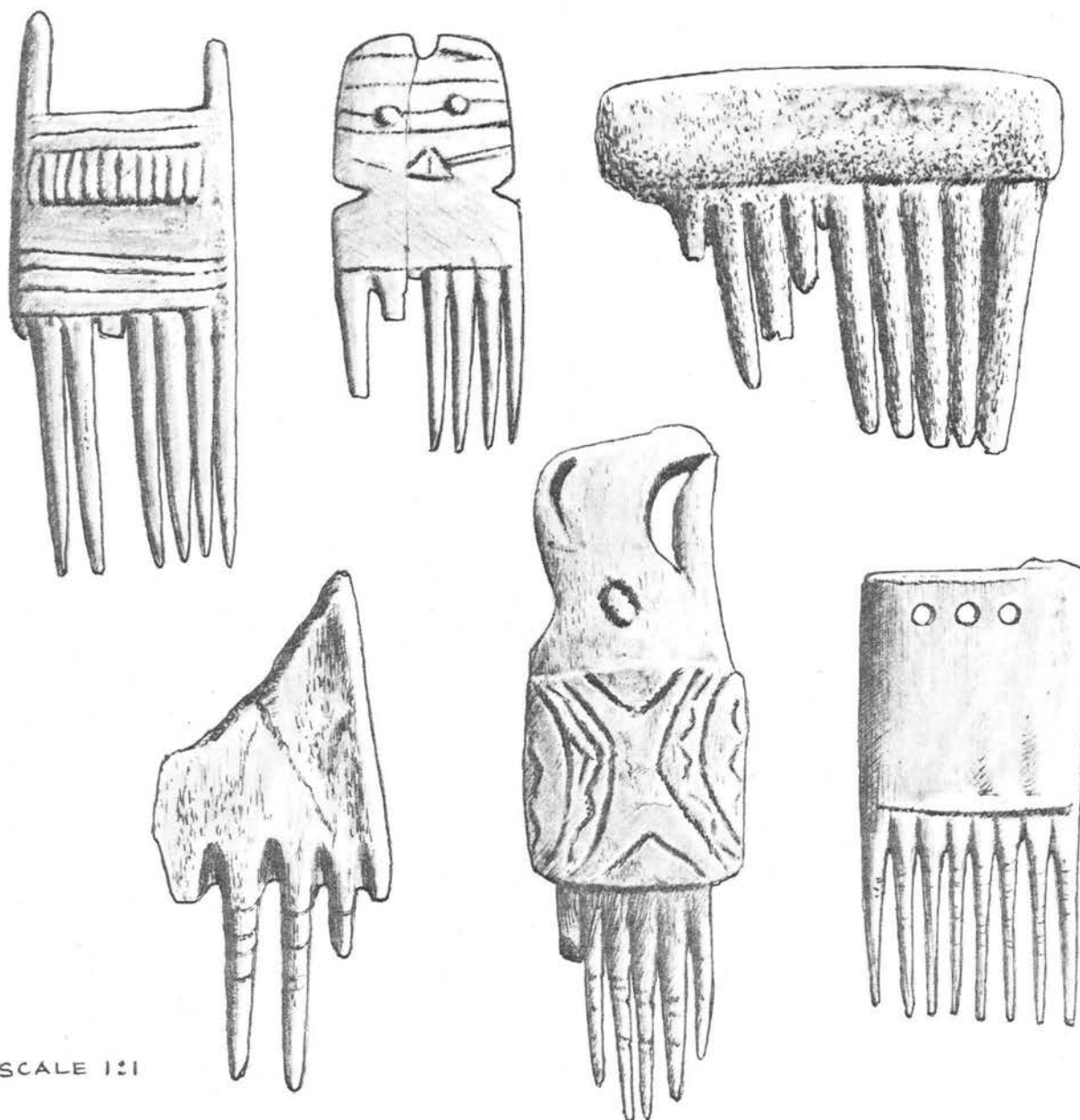
Occasional Paper No. 2 - The Rocky Point Site  
(Ed Qx 20): Spatial Analysis and  
Descriptive Report

From Archaeological Survey of Canada:

The Glenrose Cannery Site by R. G. Matson,  
Paper No. 52, National Museum of Man,  
Mercury Series.

To borrow these or any of our books, please see Jim Garrison  
in the Members' Lounge after the meetings.

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SCALE 1:1

A comb made from Wapiti antler, or occasionally sea mammal bone, is a fairly rare find. Its use would seem to be perfectly obvious - the grooming of the hair. Yet a closer look at the teeth will often reveal indentations and grooves that run across the width of individual teeth, like wear patterns. There are various speculations as to the possible use of the combs and among them is weaving.

It seems likely a comb may have been used for compacting the weft strands in weaving. The well known painting by Paul Kane that carefully documents a Salish spinner and weaver at work, shows a comb by the side of the woman weaving a blanket at a two-bar loom.

In making a comb the teeth would most likely be incised, or they might have been sawn through with a small slate knife fragment and then given a final smoothness by rubbing with dogfish skin or scouring rush.

Excerpted from: "Artifacts of the Northwest Coast Indians" by Hilary Stewart.

© 1973

A.S.B.C. DIARYMONTHLY MEETINGS - 8 p.m. - Centennial Museum Auditorium

- May 11 - Annual General Meeting (brief business session).  
The Provincial Archaeologist Bjorn Simonsen will be in attendance to answer questions, as well as representatives from our Chapters.
- Guest speaker - Dr. Marvin Cohodas, Fine Arts Dept.,  
U.B.C. on "The Castillo of Chichen Itza", Mexico.
- June 8 - To be announced.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA - Vancouver Branch

- Apr. 29 - 10th Anniversary Meeting - 8 p.m. - Centre for Continuing Education Building, Conference Room, Chancellor Blvd. next to St. Mark's College.
- Guest speaker - Dr. Homer A. Thompson, Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton - "Pottery in Ancient Athens as an Urban Art".

CENTENNIAL MUSEUM

Talkabout - open house for members (A.S.B.C. members are affiliate members of Museums Association). Meet staff and board members in an informal session, 5 - 7 p.m., Members' Lounge, third Thursday of each month. No-host bar.

Calendar - Please pick up a copy of The Calendar which is issued monthly and lists all the varied activities taking place daily at the Centennial Museum. Available at ticket counter in the Museum and at your local Public Library. A series of free lectures at 1:30 p.m. on several days throughout May - topics will be listed in May Calendar.

Film - May 20 to 23 - "The Night of Counting the Years", an accounting of the opening of the royal cache near Thebes, Egypt in 1881. Called an "authentic masterpiece", has won several international awards, in colour, 100 minutes. Friday to Monday evenings at 8, Sun. & Mon. at 2 p.m.

Lecture and Tour of Archaeology Gallery - May 16, 1 p.m., Museum admission. Ms. K. Allen, Provincial Museum Conservation Analyst, "Archaeology through the Microscope", plus tour of special photographic exhibit showing analysis of field work.

Musical Lecture and Film - Saturday, May 7 at 11 a.m. Dr. Ida Halpern speaking on "Music of the Pacific Northwest Indians", plus film "Legend of the Magic Knife". Sponsored by Vancouver Women's Musical Club. Adults: \$3.00, Students: \$1.00.

(for more information please call 736-4431)

Centennial Museum - cont'd

Tour to First Peoples' Gallery, Provincial Museum, Victoria - Monday, May 9. Travel will be by bus and ferry. There will be time to view the whole gallery plus a special guided tour of the Chilcotin Basketry exhibit - never seen before - by Dr. Andrea Laforet, a basketry expert in the Ethnology Division. \$5.00 for members and \$6.00 for non-members includes tea at the Empress; bus fare and meals extra.

Heritage Festival - during June and the first of July many performances and activities in conjunction with the Festival will be held at the Museum. Some of the highlights are:

Film Premiere - "I Heard the Owl Call my Name", starting Friday, June 3 at 7:45 and 9:30 p.m. - auditorium - \$1.00, plus short film by Jan Martell and Steven Charleson "A Little While More Yet", portraying the feelings of a young Hesquiat Indian man.

Local Films - "I Heard the Owl..."  
 "Groundstar Conspiracy"  
 "McCabe and Mrs. Miller" (check for times and dates)

Outdoor Performance with Jimmy Sewid - Vanier Park - June 4, 2 p.m.

Bill Reid in "Out of the Silence" - Playhouse Theatre - June 5, 8:30 p.m. Tickets from Ticket Centre - \$4.00 and \$5.00.

Indian Crafts will be demonstrated during the weekend of June 3-5 at the Museum. On the afternoons of 4th and 5th videotapes of interviews with Indian community will be shown in Foyer, also National Geographic film with Jimmy Sewid. All free.

July 2 - Old-time Dominion Day festivities ending with Gala Ball in period costume.

Watch for: "Treasures of London - 800 years of Goldsmith work" June 5 to July 6 at the Centennial Museum, a major exhibit.

The great Griffiths' film "Birth of a Nation" - 8 p.m. May 27 - 30, Sun. & Mon. at 2 p.m.

Nature tour led by Hilary Stewart in Endowment Lands - May 8, 9:30 a.m. at Museum to arrange transportation, bring picnic lunch. \$4.00 members, \$5.00 non-members.

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