

THE MIDDEN

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Report on Excavations near Kamloops, B.C., Summer 1977

by Catherine Carlson,
Simon Fraser University

During the summer of 1977 from May through August, archaeological excavation of a prehistoric house-pit village site (EdRa 22), located along the north shore of the South Thompson River near Kamloops, was conducted. The project was initiated for two reasons. First, the site is imminently threatened by the proposed widening and straightening of Shuswap Road which runs parallel to the site, and which has in fact already partially destroyed some of the cultural depressions on the northern boundaries of the site. Secondly, as the site is in close proximity to the city of Kamloops, it logistically provided an excellent place to carry on the archaeological field school for Cariboo College which was scheduled for May and June. Consequently, funding in the form of a contract administered by Cariboo College was allotted to the project by the B.C. Department of Highways through the Provincial Archaeologist.

The work schedule for the project included two months in the field, with the 12 members of the field school excavating at EdRa 22. The next two months of July and August were spent in the lab doing initial analysis as well as some test-pitting at another threatened site, EdRa 4, a couple of miles downstream. Dr. Arnoud Stryd of Cariboo College was the instructor for the field school part of the project, while I

was in charge of the research aspects, and subsequent analysis and write up of the materials, with two assistants, Stephen Lawhead and Rena Webber.

Briefly, the site can be described as a winter house-pit village containing a total of 29 cultural depressions ranging in size from one meter diameter "cache pits" to larger eight meter "house pits". The depressions are arranged in linear fashion along the edge of the river terrace. The site lies on the South Thompson Valley floodplain, in an area of much sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata), and some rabbit-brush (Chrysothamnus nauseosus), and bunchgrass (Agropyron spicatum). The climate here is characterized by hot summers and cold winters with very low precipitation.

Historically the Kamloops area is inhabited by one of four ethnographic Interior Salish language groups, the Shuswap. Ethnographically, the Shuswap lived a semi-nomadic existence along riverine areas, with a hunting, gathering, and fishing subsistence. While the spring and summer settlement patterning consisted of the dispersal of individual family groups into the higher elevations of the plateau to hunt, fish, and pick berries, the winter from November to March was spent in permanent settlements along the major rivers, in villages containing semi-

subterranean lodges, interspersed with cache storage pits and some sweat lodges. (Teit 1909). Site EdRa 22 represents one of these winter village types as documented by Teit.

Unfortunately, very little is recorded in the ethnography for the functional specialization and variation in size of the structures occurring within a winter village site. Also, little is documented in terms of activity areas and community patterning occurring in the areas outside the houses. For this reason, the research emphasis during this archaeological project included a concentrated excavation of the area surrounding a single larger house-pit, as well as investigation of the small very shallow depressions at the site, commonly thought to represent "mat lodges", "menstrual isolation huts", or "sweat lodges". Most archaeological excavation to date in this area has concentrated on the excavation of the large deep "house-pit" depressions at the site, and for this reason it was thought that new information could be gained about the archaeology of this area by digging in areas outside house-pits, and in these smaller depressions of dubious function.

VARIETY OF FEATURES EXCAVATED

Therefore, during the course of the six-week field school, we excavated 19 units (1 x 1 meter each) within the outside adjacent areas around one of the larger house-pits, plus six units within the house-pit itself in order to tie it in stratigraphically with the outside areas. As well, six of the smaller cultural depressions on the site were excavated, two of them almost in entirety.

Excavations outside the house-pit proved most fruitful as a total of 253 artifacts, including eight projectile points of the large corner and basal notched type, as well as approximately 17 scrapers, and some graters, perforators, hammerstones, and three worked bone beads, were found. Not much faunal material was recovered as preservation was poor. However, on cursory examination, some mule deer, beaver, salmon, and canid have been identified. Various features were also recovered, including two hearths, a number of post or stake holes, part of a small pit, and one large pit of 2 meters diameter and 1 meter deep, with an interior "bench", containing a mixture of artifactual and faunal materials.

It is probable that none of the six other depressions excavated at the site represent mat lodge remains as had been hypothesized prior to excavation. Based on the recovered stratigraphy of fairly well defined "floor" and "roof fill" zones, I would suggest that four of these depressions represent small house-pits or possibly isolation huts (as these, according to Teit, were constructed in the same way as the house-pit), and that the other two smaller depressions may be cache storage pits, although it is difficult to say as no artifactual or faunal material was recovered from either of these two areas. One of the depressions (area 4) was overlain by a 30-40 cm. layer of fire-cracked rock and charcoal. Speculation is that this area was once used as a habitation structure, and later re-used possibly as

an oven or sweat lodge. Artifacts from these smaller depressions are not as numerous relative to the number found within the large house-pit and adjacent outside area. The total number of artifacts recovered from these areas is 156, including eight projectile points of the large corner and basal notched type, and one crude side-notched point.

A total of seven carbon samples was submitted for C-14 analysis, but the dates have not as yet been received. However, based on the projectile point types, it appears that the material recovered can generally be placed within the Thompson Phase dating approximately 2000-1400 B.P., as defined by Wilson (1976) for the Kamloops locality.

Provision in the grant was also made for a full-time field person to act as site-guide and conduct tours with various groups of school children from the Kamloops Schools. The

purpose of this program was to initiate some form of public education dealing with the conservation and protection of archaeological sites. Local pot-hunting activity tends to be rather severe in the sites around Kamloops, and therefore this program was thought to be extremely beneficial. Nicole Byers from Cariboo College was in charge of this aspect of the project.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Kamloops Indian Band Council for supporting this project, Mr. Raymond Curr of Harper Ranch for allowing us to excavate and camp on his land, and Cariboo College for the administration of the finances and for the provision of lab space. Dr. Arnoud Stryd deserves special recognition for his instigation of the project and valuable assistance throughout.

References cited

Teit, J.

1909 The Shuswap American Museum of Natural History
Memoirs, vol. 2(7):447-789.

Wilson, R.

1976 Archaeological Investigations Near Kamloops, B.C.
M.A. thesis on file Simon Fraser University.

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MERCURY PUBLISHES NEW TITLES

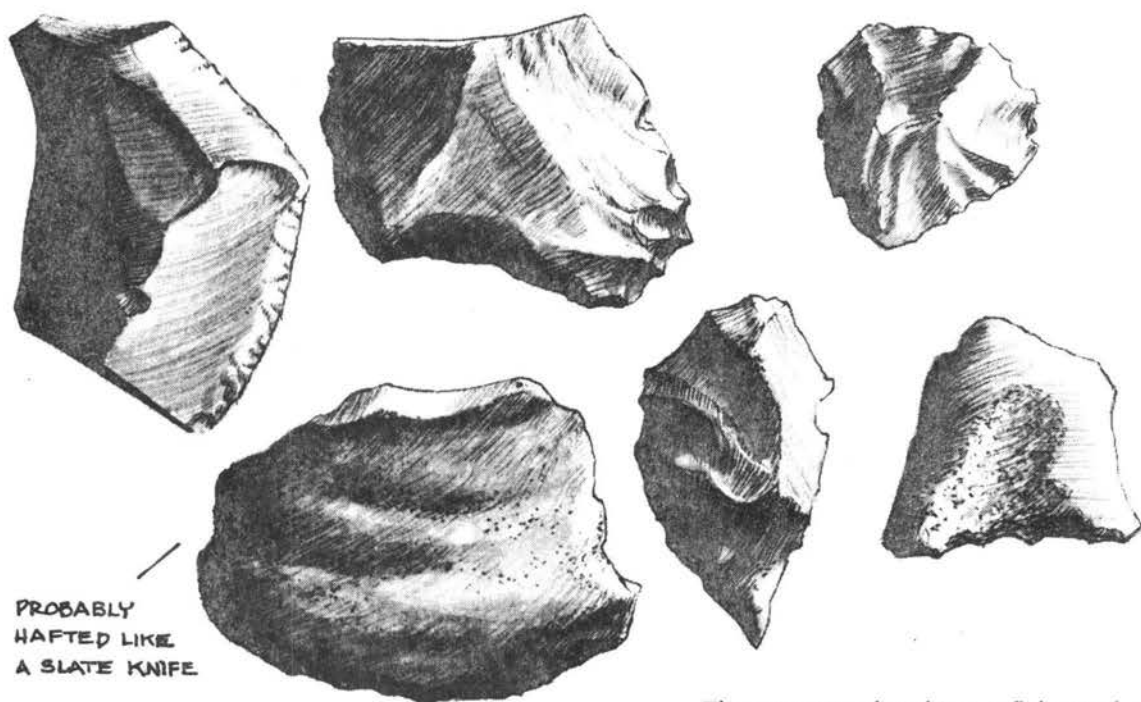
More than a dozen titles were added to the Mercury Series of publications, produced by the National Museum of Man, in 1977. Prices were not immediately available, but tend to be in the \$2.00 to \$3.00 range.

While only one of the 1977 editions specifically relates to B.C., many are of general interest:

- No. 57 "Pre-Dorset Settlements at the Seahorse Gully Site" by David A. Meyer.
- No. 58 "The Princess Point Complex" by David Marvyn Strothers.
- No. 59 "The Development of Caribou Eskimo Culture" by Brenda L. Clark.
- No. 60 "Models for Deriving Cultural Information from Stone Tools" by Robson Bonnichsen.
- No. 61 "The Saugeen Culture: A Middle Woodland Manifestation in Southwestern Ontario" by William David Finlayson.
- No. 62 "The Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel site, Alberta" by James M. Calder.
- No. 63 "A Refinement of some Aspects of Huron Ceramic Analysis" by Peter George Ramsden.
- No. 64 "The Skeletal Biology of Archaic Populations of the Great Lakes Region" by Susan Pfeiffer.
- No. 65 "Archaeology and Ethnohistory in the Arrow Lakes" by Christopher J. Turnbull.
- No. 66 "Archaeological Survey of Canada: Annual Review 1975 and 1976" edited by George F. MacDonald.
- No. 67 "The Harder Site, A Middle Period Bison Hunters' Campsite in the Northern Great Plains" by Ian G. Dyck.
- No. 68 "The Estuary Bison Pound Site in Southwestern Saskatchewan" by Gary F. Adams.
- No. 69 "Beothuck Archaeology in Bonavista Bay" by Paul Carignan.

* * *

RETOUCHED FLAKES



PROBABLY
HAFTED LIKE
A SLATE KNIFE

SCALE 1:1

EXCERPTED FROM
"ARTIFACTS OF THE NORTHWEST
COAST INDIANS" by
HILARY STEWART © 1973

The process of making a flake tool resulted in an accumulation of waste flakes of all sizes. Some of the larger flakes with sharp edges were used as a cutting or scraping tool, while others were retouched by secondary flaking to sharpen or reshape the edge. A flake that has been utilized in its natural state will bear evidence of this by having the clean sharp edge nicked. In addition to these by-products of stone working, a flake could have been deliberately struck off for the purpose of making a simple tool from it by modification of one or two edges.

PRIVATE COLLECTOR GUARANTEES IMMORTALITY

The A.S.B.C. Private Collections Committee meets some interesting characters while seeking out privately-held pre-contact Indian artifacts to record and photograph them.

One elderly couple, with a small collection in the Lower Mainland, was found to be worrying mightily about theft. Apparently influenced by Neighborhood Watch publicity, they had engraved every item with her Social Insurance Number.

NATIONAL MUSEUM NAMES NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL CHIEF

Dr. Roger Marois has been appointed Chief of the Archaeological Survey of Canada, at the National Museum of Man in Ottawa.

Dr. Marois has an M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Montreal, his thesis being on the archaeology of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

He specialized in settlement patterns in late pre-history and early history in southern Quebec and obtained his Ph.D from the University of Calgary in 1973.

He has participated in a number of archaeological excavations for the Historic Sites Branch of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and joined the staff of The National Museum of Man in 1969. Since then he has continued his archaeological field work in the Province of Quebec.

TIME TO RENEW

If you enjoy reading The Midden and would like to continue to receive it, please ensure that you will by renewing your membership with the Treasurer, Shirley Veale at 1406 Paisley Road, North Vancouver, V7R 1C3.

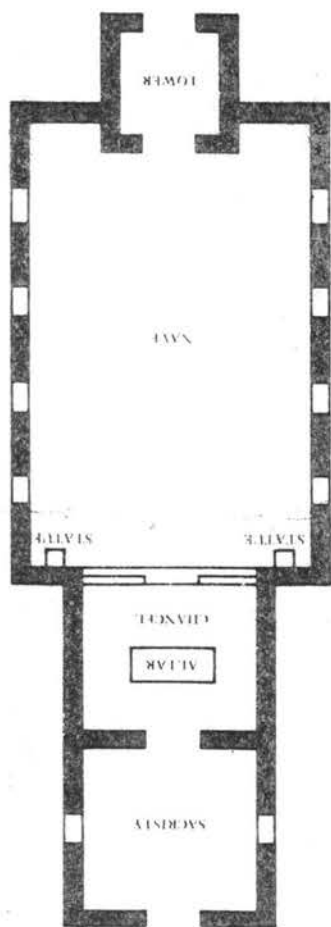
M I D D E N R E V I E W

Veillette, John, and White, Gary. *Early Indian village churches; wooden frontier architecture in British Columbia.* Vancouver, University of B. C. Press, 1977.

There has been great, if belated, interest recently in old buildings in B.C. Some efforts have resulted in the preservation of historic buildings, others, being too late for that, simply in the recording of departed structures. Veillette and White have compiled, with the aid of three other writers, a photographic and written record of early Indian churches in B. C. Some have long since vanished, while others are still in use; and in two instances the authors themselves supervised restoration of the buildings, as they record in a postscript.

Ranging in style from the simplicity of a hewn-log church at Shackan on the Nicola River, to the large and complex gabled and buttressed building at Metlakatla, the sites are presented in geographical sections, making it easy to compare styles in a given area.

The chief charm of the book lies in the many photographs, old and recent, showing exteriors, interiors and details, which accompany the discussion of each church. The pictures by themselves would tell the story of a remarkable and unique form of architecture, but they are enhanced by the thoughtful background articles and perceptive descriptions.



*Floorplan of a typical
Roman Catholic mission
church*

A.S.B.C. DIARY

Regular monthly meetings of the Society are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Centennial Museum, 1100 Chestnut Street in Vancouver.

- Jan. 11 - Joint meeting with the Archaeological Institute of America. Speaker: Dr. Hector Williams, Dept. of Classics, U.B.C., "The Great Gods of Samothrace: Excavating the Sanctuary of the Kabeiric Mysteries".
- Feb. 8 Dr. Herbert Alexander, Archaeology Dept., S.F.U., "The Villatoro Mastodon Site in Guatemala".
- Mar. 8 Dr. George O'Dell, Dept. of Anthropology, U.B.C., "Excavating a Site in the Netherlands".
- Apr. 12 Dr. Roy Carlson, Archaeology Dept., S.F.U., topic to be announced.

Tour of Archaeology Museum at Simon Fraser University on Wednesday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Rick Percy, Curator, will be on hand to give us a special tour of new collections including material from Indonesia. Room 3145, northeast corner of the Academic Quadrangle. (Signs will be posted.)

At the Centennial Museum

Fri. Jan. 13, 8 p.m. Auditorium. Lecturer Keith Buxton will share his knowledge of the many cultures of Papua, New Guinea. An expert on the prized Sepic River art, he has greatly contributed to the conservation of the local cultural heritage. Tickets: \$2.00 non-members, \$1.50 members.

Indian Fishing. A new exhibit based on research by author Hilary Stewart into traditional Northwest Coast fishing methods. The display includes artifacts and graphics. Until early 1978.

The River People. This exhibit on the archaeology and ethnology collections of the Museum tells the story of the Stalo, or "River People" who lived along the Fraser River from Yale to the Delta. Until Jan. 23.

Christmas Shopping at the Gift Shop, seven days a week from 9 a.m. till 9 p.m. If you're a member, you'll get 10% discount on your purchases - cards, calendars, prints, wall hangings, baskets, carvings, Indian jewellery and books.

Special Course coming in February-March: Four sessions on Northwest Coast Indian Fishing, with Hilary Stewart.

Centre for Continuing Education

FROM LAKE TITICACA TO LAKE ATITLAN

August 4-29, 1978 - via CP Air

INSTRUCTOR: FRANCES M.P. ROBINSON, Fine Arts Historian

TOUR DIRECTOR: HENRY M. ROSENTHAL, Director, Social Science Programs, Centre for Continuing Education, UBC

An Educational Travel program exploring pre-Hispanic civilizations of South and Central America. Itinerary includes Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador in South America and the San Blas Islands (Panama) and Guatemala in Central America. Among the highlights will be an overnight stay at Machu Picchu, a visit to the floating islands of Lake Titicaca, the ruins of Tihuanaco, the world famous market at Otavalo, and a visit with the Colorado Indians at Santo Domingo (Ecuador). Tours of the best museums and private collections (Larco Museum and Gold Museum) have been arranged.

The Central America portion of the tour will feature a visit to the San Blas Islands where the Cuna Indians produce their renowned applique tapestries, and a trip to the Chichicastenango market in the highlands of Guatemala.

Registration fee of \$2650 (subject to change) includes orientation course, air and ground travel, hotel (double accommodation), most meals, museum and site admissions, transfers, plus guide and escort service. Of the total fee of \$2650, the amount of \$600 is classified as tuition costs and is considered to be tax-deductible. A deposit of \$300 is required with application form (including an administrative charge of \$25 which is non-refundable unless we cancel the tour). The balance is due by June 1, 1978.

Cancellation charges on the following percentage of registration fee will apply as follows:

Between 75 and 50 days before departure	30%
" 49 " 32 " " "	50%
" 31 " 6 " " "	75%
" 5 " day of departure	100%

Trip Cancellation Insurance

We strongly recommend that passengers protect themselves against Cancellation Charges by taking out Trip Cancellation Insurance.

For further information 228-2181, local 237, 252.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, VANCOUVER V6T 1W5 CANADA (604) 228-2181

MORE BOOKS

Aldine Publishing Co. is currently producing a series called Aldine Manuals on Archaeology. Titles include:

Human Skeletal Remains: Excavation, Analysis, Interpretation, by Douglas Ubelaker, approx. \$12.50;

Prehistoric America, by Betty J. Meggers, paper, \$3.96;

Ancient Europe From the Beginnings of Agriculture to Classical Antiquity, by Stuart Piggott, cloth, \$5.98.

Information from Aldine, 529 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

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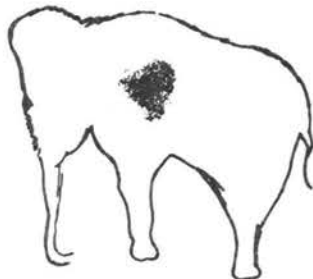
ADDITIONS TO OUR LIBRARY

Early Indian Village Churches
Wooden Frontier Architecture in British Columbia
John Veillette and Gary White

Archaeological Data Recording Guide
Heritage Record No. 3
B. C. Provincial Museum
by T. Loy and G. R. Powell

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GLORIOUS TOURS AVAILABLE, AT A PRICE



Elephant in red outline with red patch, often referred to as its heart, Pindal, Spain.

1. Cave Paintings of Spain and France, September 1978. 30 persons maximum. \$3,500.
2. Sahara's Secret Art Gallery, March-April 1979. 20 persons. \$3,000.

Information: Gallery of Prehistoric Art
20 E. 12th Street
New York, N.Y. 10003

Describing Artifacts, No.9

(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.)

MANUFACTURE & WEAR

In describing artifacts, a two-part entry is needed to cover manufacture and wear. The function of this series of adjectival elements is to permit evaluations to be made, which are based on the observable manufacture and wear, that would further delimit the identification as to "type".

Manufacture examples:

abraded
carved
drilled
flaked

incised
pecked
polished
punched

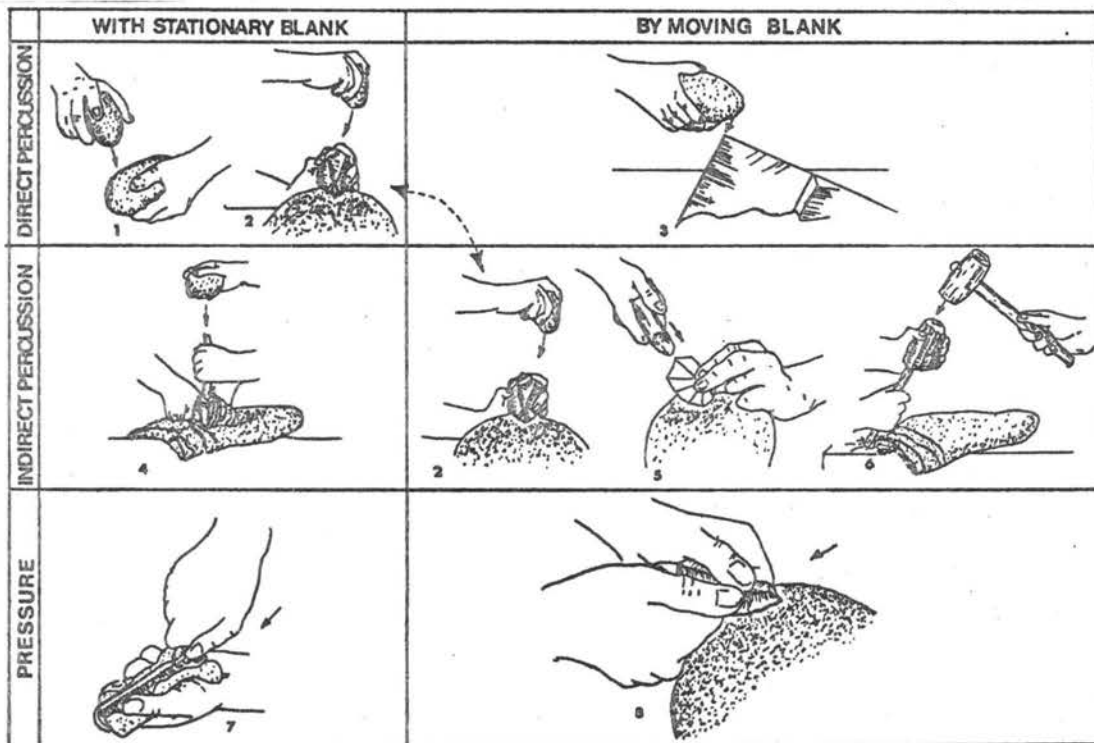
retouched
sectioned
shaped
strung

Wear examples:

battered
blunted
broken

chipped
pitted
worn

Three methods of manufacture



Modified after a drawing in Bordaz, 1970 (p.14)

THE EGYPT SERIES: THREE THOUSAND YEARS OF HISTORY THROUGH ART

HANNA E. KASSIS, PhD, Associate Professor,
Dept. of Religious Studies, UBC

A three-part program of study of the art and architecture of Ancient Egypt from the beginning of the third millennium to the rise of Islam (circa 3000 BC to AD 640). The program will consist of lectures, a film-discussion series and a weekend tour in October to the exhibition of the Treasures of Tutankhamen at the Seattle Art Museum. Participation in the weekend tour is limited to 100 persons and is only open to those who register for either the lecture or film series *before February 8.**

Suggested reading:

J. R. HARRIS, editor, The Legacy of Egypt (Oxford University Press)

I.E.S. Edwards, The Treasures of Tutankhamen (Pelican)

(1) LECTURE SERIES: Introduction to Egyptian Civilization

A series of illustrated lectures concentrating on the art and architecture of Ancient Egypt.

Daytime section - DA 1005-178

in co-operation with the Museum of Anthropology, UBC

8 Tuesdays, Jan 31-March 21, 1:30-3pm

Auditorium, Museum of Anthropology, UBC

\$35, includes admission to Museum; (\$30 for members of the Museum)

Information 228-2181, local 273

Evening section - PA 1560-178

8 Thursdays, Feb 2-March 23, 8-9:30pm

Lecture Hall 3, Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, UBC

\$35

Information 228-2181, local 212, 253

The Old Kingdom - the age of the pyramids

The Middle Kingdom - the age of the dawn of conscience

The New Kingdom - the age of the empire

The Amarna Period and Akhenaton - the age of the philosopher-king

The Ramessid Period - the age of false glory

The Late Period - the age of the 'broken reed'

The Ptolemaic and Roman Period

The Coptic Period

(2) FILM-DISCUSSION SERIES: 'Tutankhamen's Egypt' - PA 1566-278

One of the discoveries that captivated the attention of the world was the tomb of the young pharaoh Tutankhamen. This BBC film series will focus on the various objects discovered and analyze their significance. Each film session will be introduced and followed by a discussion.

The films, prepared in conjunction with the 'Treasures of Tutankhamen' exhibition in London in 1972, were scripted by Prof. Cyril Aldred, Cambridge University, one of Britain's most prominent Egyptologists and historians of Egyptian art. He was a student of Howard Carter who discovered Tutankhamen's tomb in 1922.

7 Tuesdays, May 2-June 13, 8-9:30pm
Lecture Hall 4, Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, UBC
\$30
Information 228-2181, local 212, 253, 273

May 2	The Pharaoh and The Land
May 9	The Nile Fleet and The Temple
May 16	Death and Burial and The Warrior Pharaohs
May 23	The King's Councillors and The Scribes
May 30	Science and Technology and Art and Artisans
June 6	War and Trade and The World of the Gods
June 13	The Life and Time of Tutankhamen

(3) Visit to the 'Treasures of Tutankhamen' Exhibition, Seattle Art Museum

Sunday evening, October 22, 1978 - PA 1567-478

*Registration due before February 8**

Dr. Kassis will lead this Sunday tour of 100 persons to visit the 'Treasures of Tutankhamen' exhibition at the Seattle Art Museum. Participation in this tour will be open only to those who register for at least one of the above series.

Present plans call for departure by bus at approximately 11 am from Vancouver, an evening meal, and introduction and tour of the exhibition beginning at 7 pm. The group will be back in Vancouver by midnight. (Special group reservations at the Museum can only be made from 7 pm onward.)

Fee \$40 (includes tuition, bus transportation Vancouver-Seattle return, dinner and entrance to the exhibition.)

Information 228-2181, local 212, 253, 273

* Please note that registrations including the Tour are due before February 8 in order to meet the requirements of the Seattle Art Museum.

