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HIGHLIGHTS:

- * The Old Musqueam dig: a new report by Dr. Charles Borden.
- * Bella Bella: notes on a University of Colorado search which found 100 Indian sites.
- * A rescue dig: first announcement of a dig called for February.

N. Russell,
Editor

Excavations at Old Musqueam, 1967-68

By Dr. Charles E. Borden

Old Musqueam (site designation: DhRt 3) was discovered in the fall of 1950 when the University of British Columbia began its extended program of teaching digs at nearby Stselax Village (DhRt 2) on the Musqueam Indian Reserve at the mouth of the North Arm of the Fraser River. While Stselax is a recent site, Old Musqueam dates to a much earlier period. Prior to cultivation, which began about 1910, the site locality was covered with old forest which included huge coniferous trees.

During recurrent visits to Old Musqueam, the writer and his students collected nearly 800 artifacts from the cultivated shell-midden surface, virtually all of them characteristic of the Marpole phase, an indication that the site would probably be around 2000 years old. Early in 1959, when the Shaughnessy Golf Club was developing the western portion of the Reserve, a trenching machine dug a pipe trench through the full length of the site. House floor deposits, from three to four feet deep, and numerous hearths were exposed along the trench faces, suggesting that the site had been a winter village with permanent dwellings. One of the hearths yielded a good charcoal sample which was subsequently radiocarbon dated under the Paleochronology Program of the National Museum of Canada, Ottawa. The determined date of 400 B.C. is the earliest reliable date so far obtained on a Marpole phase component of the Fraser delta region.

On learning that the land on which Old Musqueam is located had been designated for real estate development to begin in 1968, permission was obtained from the Musqueam Indian Band to excavate the site. In the winter of 1967/68 sixteen students from the Anthropology 420 class, U.B.C., aided at times by members of the Archaeology Club, U.B.C., excavated some 175 square feet of the site as part of their course project. The work produced much valuable information on food remains, raw materials used, manufacturing processes, burial practices, settlement pattern and structural details. Some 210 artifacts were added to the collection.

Because of the excellent results obtained and the threatened imminent destruction of the site, the Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation allowed a grant which permitted work to continue as a salvage project after termination of the Spring term. Volunteers, mostly from the Archaeological Society of B.C., worked initially under the guidance of

experienced archaeology students. Later, when the students had to join archaeological projects in various parts of the province, the field direction was taken over by Miss Moira Irvine of the U.B.C. Laboratory of Archaeology. Thanks above all to the valuable assistance rendered by members of the Archaeological Society, the salvage project was extremely productive. An additional 600 square feet of the site were excavated and a great amount of information added to the record. The recovery in the course of systematic excavation of another 560 artifacts brought the total count from the site to 1554.

The finds of the 1967/68 excavations confirmed the earlier conclusion that the Old Musqueam site was a village of the Marpole phase. The habitations, probably plank houses, were aligned parallel to the edge of the bluff overlooking the Strait of Georgia. Animals hunted included deer, wapiti and bear. The presence of numerous bird bones suggests the inhabitants were expert fowlers. Fish of various species were taken in great numbers, and mussels gathered at low tide from rocks along the seashore formed an important part of the diet. Culture elements diagnostic of the Marpole phase included:

- Barbed antler harpoon heads with tang and lateral line guards
- Barbed fixed points of antler
- Perforated pebbles (probably net sinkers)
- Thin ground slate knives
- Chipped projectile points of basalt
- Heavy duty wood working tools
 - nephrite adze blades
 - antler wedges
 - pestle shaped hand mauls
- Bone awls
- Bone needles (including needles with eye in distal end)
- Pecked and ground stone vessels (including one large zoomorphic bowl)
- Zoomorphic club head (or atlatl weight?)

Among the more spectacular finds of the summer were two exquisite antler carvings, so characteristic for the Marpole phase, an antler comb (the earliest comb from the Northwest Coast!), and the burial of a youth with copper stains around the mouth (probably the remains of an ornament) and wearing a composite necklace made

up of more than 180 large dentalium shells and uncounted segmented dentalia.

Potentially of great significance finally was the discovery of a pebble tool industry in the orange sand underlying the Old Musqueam village deposits. According to geological evidence, the locality is part of a raised beach dating to early post-glacial time. Since most of the pebble tools are strongly water worn (from wave action?) it is possible they date to an early occupation some 8 to 9,000 years ago when the beach was still active.

100 SITES FOUND IN BELLA BELLA AREA

(Synthesis of a full report by Prof. James J. Hester to the B.C. Provincial Museum; a copy of the full report may be found in the Society library.)

During June and July, 1968, a party from the University of Colorado began investigations of the archaeology of the Bella Bella region of British Columbia. The purpose of the work was to locate prehistoric sites in the area which would be suitable for future excavations, and approximately 100 sites were recorded. Directed by Dr. James Hester of the Anthropology Department, the group included Payson Sheets, a graduate student; J. Anthony Pomeroy, instructor in Anthropology at Lehman College, New York City; and members of their families. Funds were provided by the University of Colorado Council on Research and Creative Work.

The primary method of site location was through interviews with local Bella Bella Indians who knew the sites and plotted their location on navigation charts. The archaeologists then systematically investigated each site taking notes, collections of artifacts, and photographs for later study.

Five kinds of sites were located. The most common sites were refuse mounds or middens containing trash from human occupation including shellfish remains, food bones, blackened soil, and artifacts. Other kinds of sites included rock walls built between high and low tide which functioned as fish traps, rock carvings or petroglyphs, rock paintings (pictographs), and burial caves containing wooden burial boxes.

Methods utilized in site location included the use of a 30-foot power boat on which the party lived. Once a site area was located the party went ashore by means of a small outboard for the actual site inspection.

The party base camp was established in Ocean Falls, B.C., a paper-making town owned and operated by Crown Zellerbach of Canada, Ltd. Through courtesy of the company, a vacant bunk-house was made available to the archaeologists for laboratory and living space. Boats were chartered from local residents including Thomas Robertson and Rene Grant. Ken Smith, another local resident, donated his services as a professional diver in the search for early sites which might be beneath the present sea level. While the diving produced no evidence of such earlier sites it is probable the search will be continued in future years.

In addition to the survey, test pits were dug in two sites. The most important of these was a shell midden approximately 100 x 200 feet by 8.5 feet in depth which is located within the fish cannery town of Namu, B.C., operated by B.C. Packers Ltd. The 6 foot square test pit revealed approximately 100 artifacts, primarily bone fish-hook barbs and harpoon points. The type of artifacts suggests relationships with the cultural material from the San Juan Islands some 300 miles to the south. The intervening area is not well known archaeologically so it is possible the distribution of this prehistoric culture was continuous in the past. The general time period represented by the Namu midden is approximately 1000 - 1800 A.D.

The 1968 season was a joint effort as an archaeological party headed by Professor Philip Hobler of Simon Fraser University utilized the same base camp from which they initiated a study of the adjacent Bella Coola region.

The two teams, who are closely co-operating, plan to return to the area this summer.

(It is hoped to have a report on the SFU survey of Bella Coola in a subsequent Newsletter.)

Museum Tour

Thirty members of the Society were given a guided tour of the Museum of Anthropology at U.B.C. on November 26.

Eric Waterton, assistant curator, explained the function of the museum on campus, and pointed out that because of the cramped quarters four-fifths of the collection was kept in storage.

The museum concentrates on Oriental and West Coast Indian cultures, but despite the interesting Japanese and Chinese exhibits, members spent most of a very pleasant evening in the Indian section.

The displays are divided into areas of interest--basketry, food-gathering, the potlatch, the shaman, the winter dance ceremonies, and the influence of the white man.

Throughout the displays there are many outstanding photographs of Indians by early photographers.

The U.B.C. museum, in the basement of the library building, is open daily, free of charge, and stays open late on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

A. S. of B. C. Diary

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| Jan. 19 | 11:30 a.m.: Tour of Lipsett Collection of historic B.C. Indian artifacts. Meet in the lower level of the B.C. Building inside the P.N.E. grounds. Centennial Museum archaeologist Miss Gay Calvert will be the guide. |
| Feb. 10 | Dr. C. E. Borden of U.B.C. will give a talk on Fraser River Archaeology, as part of a lecture series at the Centennial Museum. |
| Feb. 12 | 8:00 p.m.: U.B.C. anthropology professor Wilson Duff guest speaker at regular A.S. of B.C. meeting. His topic: Symbolism in Haida Art. |
| Feb. 26 | Miss Calvert on Archaeology of Northern B.C., at Centennial Museum. |

- Mar. 10 Dr. Roy Carlson of S.F.U., on last summer's excavation at Mayne Island, at the Centennial Museum.
- Mar. 12 8:00 p.m.: Dr. Borden, guest speaker at regular A.S. of B.C. meeting, on: New Evidence of Prehistoric Cultural Relations between Eurasia and Western North America.
- April A tour of Dr. Carlson's archaeology laboratory at S.F.T., postponed from Feb. 19.

UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES LECTURES

Two new series of anthropology lectures of special interest to members will be started by the U.B.C. Extension Department shortly.

They comprise eight Wednesday evenings on The Art of Primitive Cultures by Miss Madeline Bronsdon; six Tuesdays on Kwakiutl Ritual and Mythology, by Mrs. Susan Reid.

The courses begin in early February, the first at the Centennial Museum and the second on the U.B.C. campus. For details, call the Extension Dept.

CALGARY HOSTS ARCHAEOLOGY WORKSHOP

A one-day course on Post-Pleistocene Man and His Environment on the Northern Plains is being held by the University of Calgary on Saturday, January 25.

The day will comprise six lectures--ranging from the problems of the bison to aboriginal plant use--plus a panel discussion and a banquet, all for \$4.00. If you cannot attend but would like to know what happens, the Archaeology Dept. of the university will publish a report in March, for \$3.25.

SYESIS

A new journal has been announced by the British Columbia Provincial Museum. Named from a Sooke Indian term for "our own history from away back", the journal will appear twice a year, starting about now.

Syesis will be aimed at professionals specializing in natural and human history, and will concentrate on B.C. Some possible areas: ecology, morphology, taxonomy, archaeology, ethnology, history, linguistics and sociology.

Editor: Robert F. Scagel, Department of Biology, U.B.C.

RESCUE DIG PLANNED

Few details are so far available, but Miss Gay Calvert of Centennial Museum has asked the Society's help for a dig in February, possibly extending into March.

The site: the south side of the Fraser River near St. Mungo cannery.

SAMARITAN TEMPLE FOUND

For our January meeting Dr. Lawrence E. Toombs, Professor of Old Testament Studies, U.B.C., very kindly came to us on short notice when Dr. Kassis was unable to attend due to illness. Dr. Toombs gave an illustrated talk on "Recovering the Samaritan Temple on Mount Gerizim".

THE INSTITUTE

The Archaeological Institute of America welcomes prospective members to attend their monthly lectures by eminent guest speakers. Memberships are \$7.50 for meetings only, or \$15.00 for meetings plus a subscription to "Archaeology". Next meeting is at U.B.C. on Jan. 29 when Dr. Malcolm McGregor will speak on his work in Greece. Further details can be obtained from Dr. James Russell at U.B.C.

NEW MEMBERS

The society welcomes the following new members who have joined since November:

Rev. Canon & Mrs. F.A. Ramsey	Mrs. Shella Ward
G.W. Archer and family	Sean Johnston
Mr. & Mrs. R.B. McInnis	Mrs. Coryn Gooch
Miss M.A. Middleton	Mr. J.G. Sarles

SUGGESTED REFERENCES

All the publications listed here may be obtained from the publisher, or at your local bookstore or library (main branch).

"TOTEM POLES" by Marius Barbeau 1950
Bulletin No. 119, Anthropological Series No. 30, Volumes 1 and 2,
National Museum of Canada, Ottawa. Softbound \$2.50 per vol.

Volume 1 discusses totem poles according to crests and topics as derived from mythology. Volume II deals with totem poles according to location and illustrates nearly all the poles on the Northwest coast, except those of the Gitksan.

"NATIVE ARTS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST" by Robert Tyler Davis 1949. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California. Hardbound \$12.50, 165 pp.

An excellent selection of art objects from the Rasmussen collection, Portland Art Museum. Introduction by author.

"TO MAKE MY NAME GOOD" by Philip Drucker and Robert Heizer 1967 University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, Calif. Hardbound \$5.00, 157 pp.

A re-examination of the Southern Kwakiutl Potlatch.

"THE TSIMSHIAN: THEIR ARTS AND MUSIC" by Viola E. Garfield and Paul S. Wingert 1950, University of Washington Press, Seattle, Wash. Hardbound \$6.50, Softbound \$2.95, 108 pp.

Contains a description of Tsimshian cultural and historical background by Garfield, Tsimshian sculpture by Wingert, and Tsimshian music by Barbeau.

"ART OF THE KWAKIUTL INDIANS" by Audrey Hawthorn 1967 University of Washington Press. Hardbound \$26.00, 472 pp.

With over a thousand illustrations, many in colour, this study examines in rich detail the elaborate ceremonial arts of the people of the region, with emphasis upon the contributions of Kwakiutl artists.

"THE TLINGIT INDIANS" by Aurel Krause, translated by Erna Gunther 1956 University of Washington Press, 310 pp.

A standard early study of the Tlingit Indians. The original study was done by German geographer Krause and was published in 1885. Dr. Erna Gunther is a distinguished anthropologist, at present Chairman of the Anthropology Dept. at the University of Alaska College, Alaska.

"THE QUINAULT INDIANS" by Ronald L. Olson 1961, University of Washington Press. Hardbound \$6.95 with "Adze, Canoe and House Types" 234 pp.

Long recognized as definitive in form, method and content is this distinguished anthropologist's analysis of the Quinault society of the Olympic Peninsula. The tribal culture has now so completely broken down that scarcely anything remains of it but its memory in the minds of some of the oldest members of the tribe. Although the author does not claim to have preserved the totality of their social heritage, this is the only work that presents a systematic description of their cultural traditions. The research work was done between 1925 and 1927.

(Art Davies)

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