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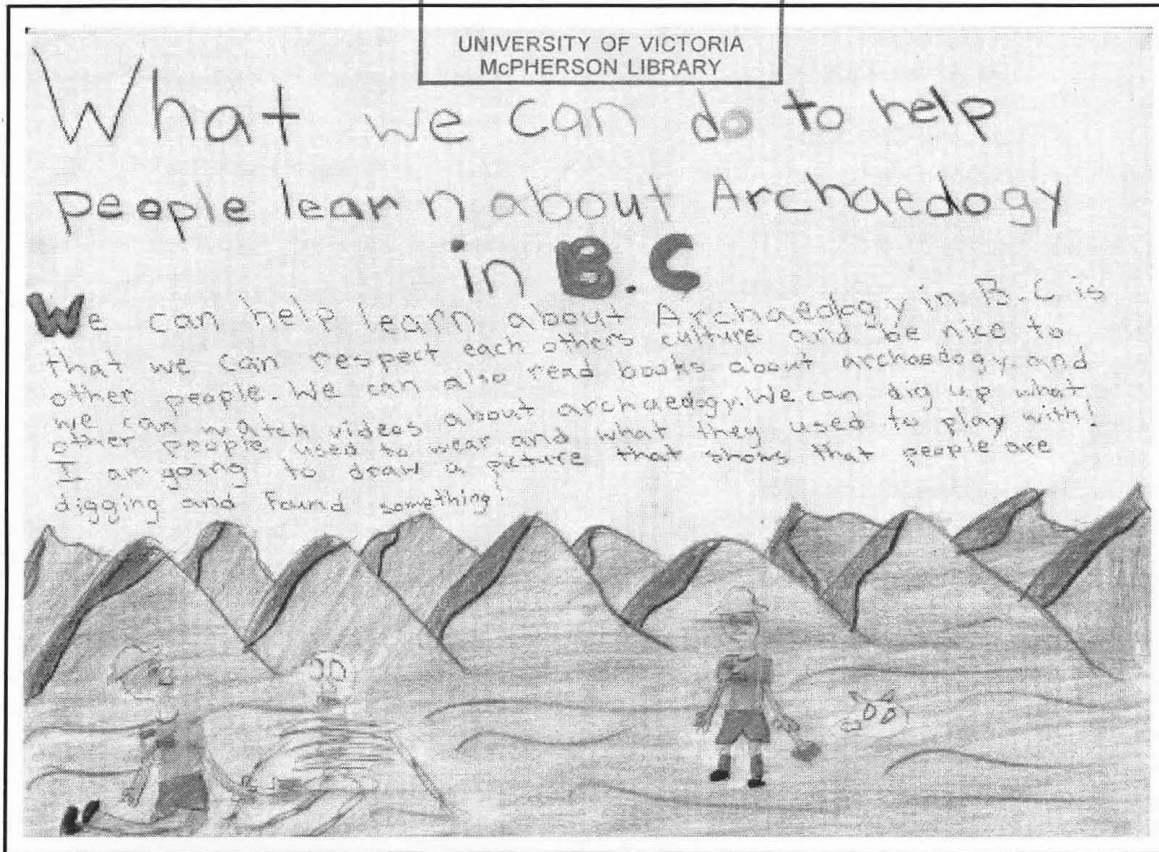
THE MIDDEN

Publication of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia

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HARLAN SMITH'S 1922 VISIT TO THE BEACH GROVE SITE

HILARY STEWART ART & ARCHAEOLOGY CONTEST WINNERS

UPDATES ON THE POETS COVE & WALKERS HOOK SITES

EMERGING FROM THE MIST



THE MIDDEN

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Archaeological Society of British Columbia

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Dedicated to the protection of archaeological resources
and the spread of archaeological knowledge.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA meetings in Vancouver featuring illustrated lectures are held on the second Wednesday of each month from September to June at 8:00 P.M. in the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre Auditorium (Planetarium) at 1100 Chestnut Street. New members and visitors are welcome. Admission is free.



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Check out the new website for the ASBC. It has been designed by David Sadler, our HRSDC intern. The most exciting feature of the redesign includes a forum for postings and discussion about current archaeological events and issues. Access the site and join the discussions at:

<http://www.asbc.bc.ca>

THE MIDDEN Subscriptions

Subscriptions to **THE MIDDEN** are included with ASBC memberships. For non-members in Canada subscriptions are available at \$14.50 per year—\$17.00 for addresses outside Canada.

Single copies of most previous issues are available at \$5.00 each. Subscription forms and membership application forms are available on our Web site.

Cover

Drawing by Shazeen Mahmood,
Winner of the Hilary Stewart Art & Archaeology Competition, 2005.

THE ASBC PAGE

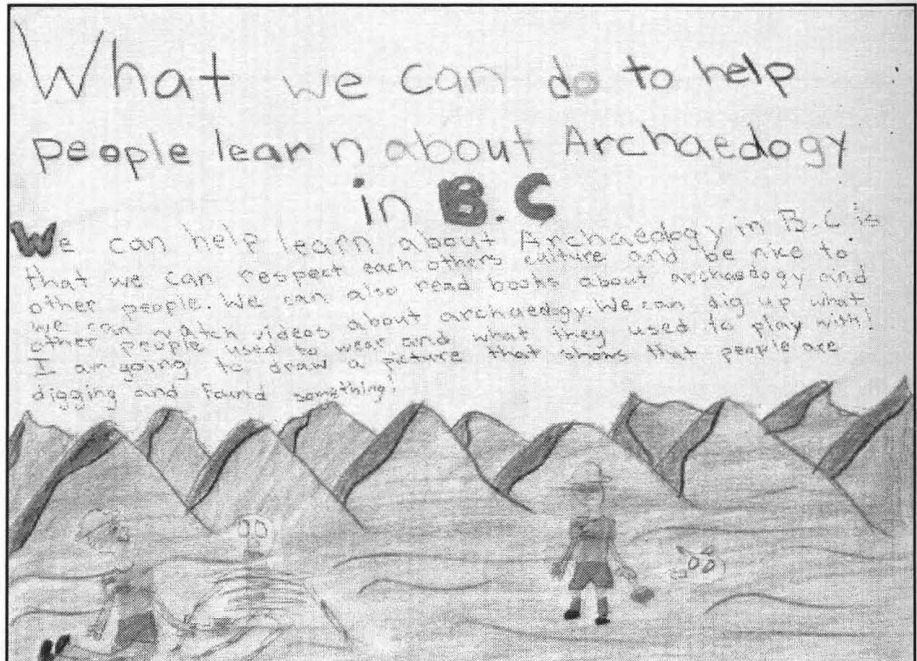
Letter from the President

Dear Readers,

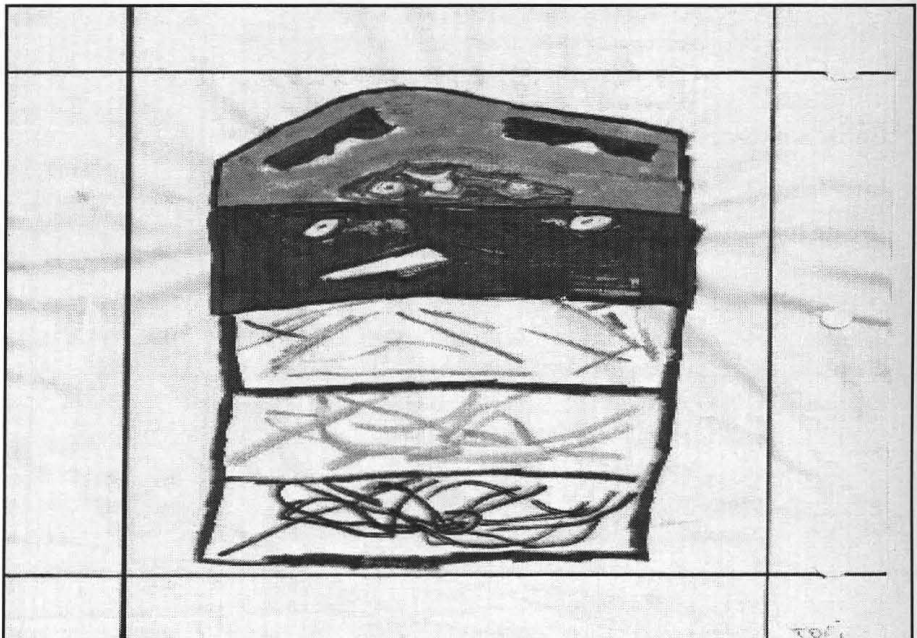
I have much to report to you since last I wrote. I mentioned previously the Artifact ID Night which I am pleased to say was a great success. On April 13th we were excited to have many great experts on hand, Dr. R.G. Matson, Dr. Lisa Cooper, Dr. Hector Williams, Dr. Eldon Yellowhorn, UBC Grad student Iggy Przybyla, and last but not least, Susan Rowley, our own Vice President. Folks from far and wide came in with artifacts, and we saw a small human face sculpture from Pakistan; a nephrite pipe piece from the Alberta plains; stone tools and basketry from the Northwest Coast and even an incredible collection of rare coins, one dating to shortly before Christ.

Also, I received some exciting news – the ASBC Executive’s Nomination of Hilary Stewart for the Canadian Archaeological Association’s Pendergast award was successful! The Nomination was put together by Sue Rowley, Nadine Gray and Patricia Ormerod, who did a fantastic job.

Sarah Ladd, President



First Place: Drawing by Shazeen Mahmood, Surrey (Grade 4).



Second Place: Drawing by Victoria Brawn, Kamloops (Grade 7).

Hilary Stewart Art & Archaeology Contest Winners, 2005.

See The Midden 37(1) for a description of the contest.

Calling All Members! Collecting Our History

The mandate of the ASBC has always included the education of the public on the preservation of archaeological sites and materials. We remind the public that all collecting should be done with a permit!

However, the ASBC Executive is now attempting to *collect* or gather together information about our own history. We have issued David Sadler, our HRSDC Summer Career Placement funded student, a "permit" to collect information from YOU, the members (and former Executive members) of the ASBC.

What, you ask, are we looking for?

- Stories about past ASBC activities
- Stories about the ASBC's beginnings
- Records or materials you may have in your possession related to the ASBC
- Members & Founders willing to be interviewed by David for our records, and for publication in *The Midden*
- Photographs and letters from ASBC events and activities
- And, anything else you wish to share and preserve for future ASBC Members

If you have something you wish to share, donate, or if you are interested in being interviewed, please contact David at sadler@asbc.bc.ca or call 604-737-7935 after 5:30 pm on weekdays.

We look forward to learning from you!

ASBC-Nanaimo Branch Update

Welcome to Nanaimo Branch of the ASBC. So far, this year has been an eventful one in the realm of BC Archaeology and Heritage. With the continuation of Barkerville due to increased government funding and charges laid under the Heritage Conservation Act in Poets Cove, it seems that heritage issues are becoming increasingly front-page news in this province. But unfortunately, in cases such as the demolition of Crace Street School in Nanaimo, being in the headlines doesn't always mean that people are aware of the issues. It is up to organizations like the ASBC to advocate for heritage. We must work to ensure that heritage issues are in the forefront of the public mind, not just on the second page, easily missed next to the development in Nanaimo's downtown core. So I implore you to make heritage conservation and awareness a priority in BC. Make your voice heard at all governmental levels, both locally and provincially. Once our heritage is gone it is gone forever, be it by the bulldozer or more subtly through governmental cuts.

In response to the need for heritage conservation, the ASBC-NB executive has been busy drafting a proposal for the creation of the Nanaimo Chinatown Heritage Park (see article, p. 9), situated on the historical site of Nanaimo Chinatown Number Three that burned down in 1960. Currently the area is a hot spot for local pothunters and an area adjacent to the site is slated for development. The ASBC-NB proposes that the existing site and adjacent green space be made in to a heritage park with the archaeological site capped to protect the deposits and interpretive plaques erected, detailing the history of the area.

Also, the Cat Stream, an environmentally sensitive watershed, runs through the area and is currently overrun with garbage and invasive species. The creation of the park will see the stream restored, enhancing both the environmental and heritage stewardship goals of the project. We are currently seeking partners for our project before we present our proposal to the City of Nanaimo. Please see our website, www.asbcnanaimo.nisa.com for updates on our progress.

In addition, watchful ASBC-NB members have alerted the City of Nanaimo and the Archaeology Branch to the destruction of a known archaeological site in Hammond Bay in Nanaimo. Charges may be pending against the developer. Thanks to those members who have been keeping a sharp eye open.

Hands On Heritage! is still ongoing as there is still a lot of analysis to do. We are still looking for people to do research on some of the artifacts recovered from the site. If you would like to volunteer, the lab at 55 Haliburton is open every Sunday from 1 to 5 pm. For more information see our website or contact Colleen Parsley at handsonheritage@asbcnanaimo.nisa.com.

The ASBC-Nanaimo Branch Annual General meeting was held on June 4, 2005. This year we convened at the Dingy Dock Pub, followed by a walking tour of Protection Island and Newcastle Island. This was an opportunity to see what your executive has been doing over the last year and to partake in a great field trip. Our Executive is one of the most dedicated groups around and we are always looking for new members with fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

Keep in mind as well that the 4th Annual Discover Archaeology Interactive Bones Display will be taking place at the Nanaimo District Museum in August 2005. This event saw over 200 people last year in a 5-hour span and we hope to exceed that this year. The focus of this display will be forensic archaeology, together with our usual stone and bone tool making area (always a hit with the kids) and informational material.

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you at ASBC-NB events.

Julie Cowie, President
ASBC-Nanaimo Branch

ACTIVATE!

The ASBC is seeking volunteers to help compose *The Midden*. First, we are considering applicants with interests in graphic design for composition and layout of our issues. Jack Fletcher has produced his last issue for us with 37(1) and we thank him for his work.

Secondly, we would also like to attract regional contributing editors to provide and/or solicit news and articles from various regions and institutions in BC and the wider Northwest Coast and Interior.

If you are interested, please contact one of the editors.



ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS

Construction of Park to Commemorate History Stumbles on the Past

Washington State Transportation Department has had to delay some road work on Highway 101 near the Columbia River delta. Plans to straighten out a corner, and move the road for a new park, have been put on hold following a pre-construction archaeological survey. The park that is to be constructed will commemorate the westernmost camp of Lewis & Clark, where the expedition finally reached the Pacific Ocean. The artifacts found in the survey could be left over from first contact between the Indians that lived there and fur traders. Doug Wilson, Fort Vancouver National Historic Reserve archaeologist told the *Seattle Times*; "It's a wonderful window into the meeting of two cultures." The Chinook Indian Nation, whose ancestors had seasonal villages in the area, has been called in to consult and assist with the excavation. The discovery includes planks and posts, stone tools, arrowheads, glass beads, and other trade items such as Chinese coins, English ceramics, gun flints and musket balls.

Things to Do in the Yard

There are a wide variety of things that people do in their yards. There are effortless things like relaxing in the sun, and the lazy Sunday afternoon barbeque. Some more strenuous activities can include things like building the sundeck to relax on, or getting rid of that pesky blackberry bush. But how many people can say they spend their time in the yard making significant archaeological discoveries?

In Salt Lake City, Utah, three teenage boys were digging while building a backyard fort. When they found a bone, they quickly dismissed it as an old animal bone and tossed it aside. As the fort

construction continued, they found more bones, first part of a rib cage then a skull: a human skull. Finally the interruptions were enough to distract them from the fort project, and the police were called. When the remains were examined, it was discovered that they were of a prehistoric American Indian.

A gardener in Cringleford, England made a discovery during a landscaping project. He stumbled across what looked to be a stash of bronze tools. Archaeologists excavated the site and came up with 145 pieces in all. There was an assortment of Bronze Age axe and spearheads, sword parts, tools and ingots for trading. The items have been dated to approximately 800 BC and are considered to be the largest and most noteworthy finds in the area.

A few projects I have done in my own backyard were building a workshop and a couple of gravel pathways. All I found while digging were rusty old house nails, and a few bottle caps. Later this summer I plan to construct a new cobblestone patio. Maybe I will be fortunate enough to make a discovery of my own.

History Found in Planning of the Future

An aboriginal archaeological site has been discovered in Seattle on the banks of the Duwamish River. Sound Transit is planning to build a new elevated light rail transit line and has hired archaeologists to survey planned construction sites for archaeological impact. Near the rivers edge, where a support column is planned, they have found a site that yielded artifacts in every test excavation. These items range from tools, stone flakes and fire-altered rock to pieces of animal bone and shell fragments. Unlike other sites found along the same river, this one is remarkably well preserved and is plenti-

ful in artifacts. Within the the first few initial digs, the archaeologists uncovered over 900 artifacts. Although no human remains have been found, or are expected to be found, scientists speculate that they could uncover upwards of 11,000 artifacts. An excavation of a 39 square yard area is currently underway.

Study will Build Global Human Family Tree

A multi-international team of scientists, in cooperation with The National Geographic Society and IBM, is going to map out the genetic links among the global human population. The scientists will collect and study cheek swabs from hundreds of thousands of indigenous people around the world. The data obtained by studying the DNA samples will be combined with data already known from fossils, and will chart out the differences and similarities among the species. The study named The Genographic Project is expected to take five years, and will build a database that plots out the migration and movement of humans, as we evolved and spread out across the world.

The Hobbit was Human

The three-foot tall hominid skeleton, nicknamed "the Hobbit," has proved it is deserving of its entrance into the *Homo* lineage. Found on the tiny island of Flores, and given the name *Homo floresiensis*, the scientists who made the discovery believed they had found a new species of human. Using imprints on the inside of the skull and three-dimensional computer modeling, researchers have built a latex model of the Hobbit's brain. Study of the models show that *H. floresiensis* was not only capable of intelligent thought but

also had the brain functions for memory, emotions, and speech sounds. These characteristics are common in larger brains, but have not previously been discovered in such a small brain. The Hobbit's brain was approximately one-third the size of the average human adult.

Oldest Skull May be Earliest Human

A fossil skull found in the Sahara desert in 2001, is the oldest known hominid with an estimated age of 7 million years. Named Toumai, the skull has been a subject of controversy. Some scientists believe it is an ancient ancestor of modern humans, while others believe it is a female ape. Scientists have recently uncovered remains of tooth and jaw fragments. Armed with a little more than just a skull, they are now able to use computer models and reconstruct what Toumai might have looked like. Their findings have put forth new evidence that Toumai is indeed a human and not an ape. Marcia Ponce de Leon, a researcher at the University of Zurich-Irchel, told Reuters news that "The computer reconstruction shows the original anatomy of this specimen. In the anatomy you can read that this creature was a hominid but it was probably also bipedal."

Sandy Grant

Wayne Prescott Suttles

Wayne Suttles died May 9, 2005, at age 87.

Dr. Suttles was born April 24, 1918, in Seattle and earned his doctoral degree in Anthropology from the University of Washington in 1951. He first taught anthropology at the University of British Columbia in 1952 and was active there for more than a decade. He also taught at the University of Nevada and Portland State University, where he became professor emeritus.

His research interests included the cultures and languages of the Coast Salish area. All who have worked in the region are indebted to his work.

Some major works:

- 2004 *Musqueam Reference Grammar*. UBC Press.
- 1990 Volume Editor. *Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 7, Northwest Coast*, Smithsonian Institution.
- 1987 *Coast Salish Essays*. Talonbooks, Vancouver and the University of Washington Press, Seattle.
- 1951 *The Economic Life of the Coast Salish of Haro and Rosario Straits*. American Indian Ethnohistory Series: Indians of the Northwest. Coast Salish and western Washington Indians, 1. New York : Garland Pub. Inc. (1974).

Sacred Bowl Sold

This seated human figure bowl from Saltspring Island, was auctioned by Theodore Pappas of West Coast Estates who hoped it would sell for at least \$18,750. Despite misgivings among First Nations, the public, the press, archaeologists, the Archaeology Branch, and various legal advisors, the sale took place in Vancouver on April 30, 2005. The Semiahmoo First Nation, representing the Sencot'en Alliance, secured the sacred bowl for \$10,000.

A future issue of *The Midden* will describe the efforts made to prevent the sale and how a First Nation was the successful bidder.

The screenshot shows an eBay Live Auctions listing for a Native Artifact Human Stone Effigy Bowl. The page includes the eBay logo, navigation links (HOME, BROWSE, SEARCH, REGISTRATION, SERVICES, HELP), and a breadcrumb trail: Antiques, Art and Antifacts > eBay Live Auctions: Native & Ethnographic > Live Auction Seller > Antiques > Ethnographic > Other. The item title is "0870: Native Artifact Human Stone Effigy Bowl" with item number 6527523630. A "Sign Up" button is visible. The starting price is C \$3,750.00 (approximately US \$3,011.20). The estimate is C \$16,875.00 - C \$20,625.00. The auction date is Apr-30-05 12:00:00 PDT. The seller information shows a feedback score of 637 and a positive feedback of 99.7%. A "Larger Picture" link is also present.

DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES TO AFFECT GULF ISLAND SITES

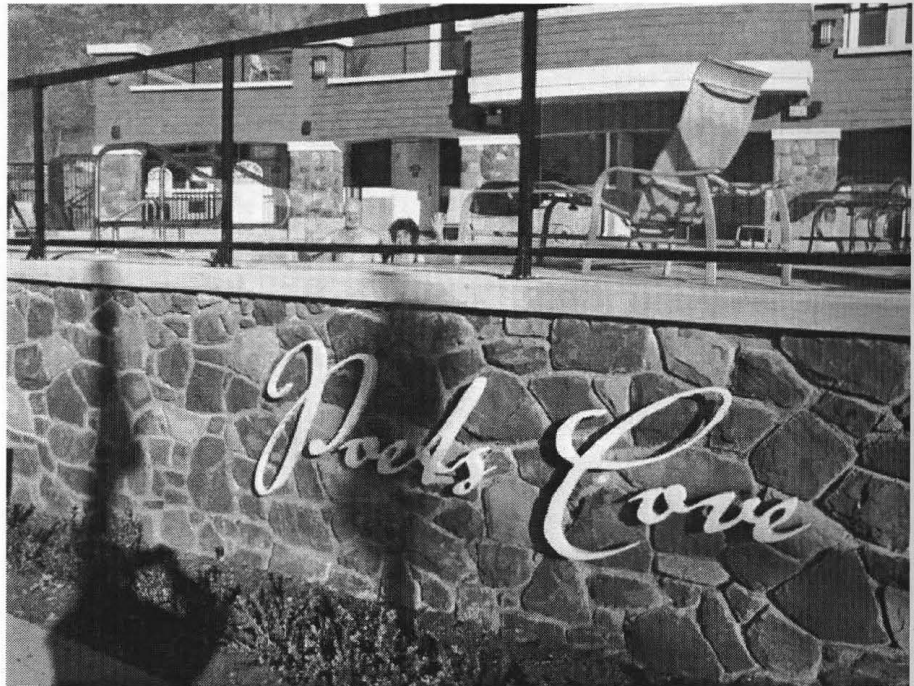
Poets Cove, South Pender Island

On February 10, 2005, Crown Counsel laid charges under the Heritage Conservation Act in provincial court against the luxury seaside resort, Poets Cove at Bedwell Harbour Limited Partnership, for their alleged destruction of an ancient Coast Salish village and cemetery on South Pender Island. During the construction of the \$40 million dollar luxury Gulf Island resort in January 2003, Poets Cove is alleged to have illegally excavated and removed a massive amount of archaeological deposits containing ancient human remains and artifacts from recorded archaeological site, DeRt-004, outside the terms of their received Heritage Site Alteration permit (HCA 2002-388).

Crown Counsel has filed charges against the development corporation, Poets Cove at Bedwell Harbour Limited Partnership; its local corporate partner, Bedwell Harbour Hotel Limited; and Poets Cove's project manager and permit holder, Mr. Bill James. Each party has been charged with two counts under the Heritage Conservation Act.

Count 1: Poets Cove at Bedwell Harbour Limited Partnership, Bedwell Harbour Limited and BILL JAMES, between the 1st Day of December 2002, and the 31st day of January 2003, inclusive, at or near Pender Island, in the Province of British Columbia, did unlawfully damage a burial place that has historical or archaeological value, contrary to Section 13(2)(b) and 36(1)(d) of the Heritage Conservation Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 187, as amended.

Count 2: Poets Cove at Bedwell Harbour Limited Partnership, Bedwell Harbour Limited and BILL JAMES, between the 1st Day of December 2002, and the 31st day of January 2003, inclusive, at or near Pender Island, in the Province of British Columbia, did excavate a site which con-



Swimming Pool atop DeRt-4, Poets Cove Resort and Spa, February 2005 (HTG).



Mechanical Gravel Sorter imported to Poets Cove to expediently sort Ancient Human Remains and Artifacts from Construction Backfill, February 2005 (HTG).

tained materials or other physical evidence of human habitation or use before 1846, contrary to Section 13(2)(d) and 36(1)(d) of the Heritage Conservation Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 187, as amended.

For an offence under s.13 (2) of the provincial law, an individual may be fined up to \$50,000, and corporations up to \$1,000,000 dollars. If convicted in court, the maximum penalty against all three parties in this case on both counts may reach

up to \$ 4.1 million dollars.

For the last two years, the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group has demanded that the RCMP and Crown Counsel enforce the Heritage Conservation Act against Poets Cove. With the public announcement of Crown Counsel charges, Chief Negotiator, Robert Morales stated, "It is a good day for British Columbians to know that the Crown is committed to uphold our provincial heritage legisla-

tion that protects our national heritage in Canada". It is hoped that Crown Counsel's charges against Poets Cove sends a strong message to other developers in British Columbia to conduct due diligence and be fully aware of their accountability under the Heritage Conservation Act to protect First Nations' archaeological heritage sites.

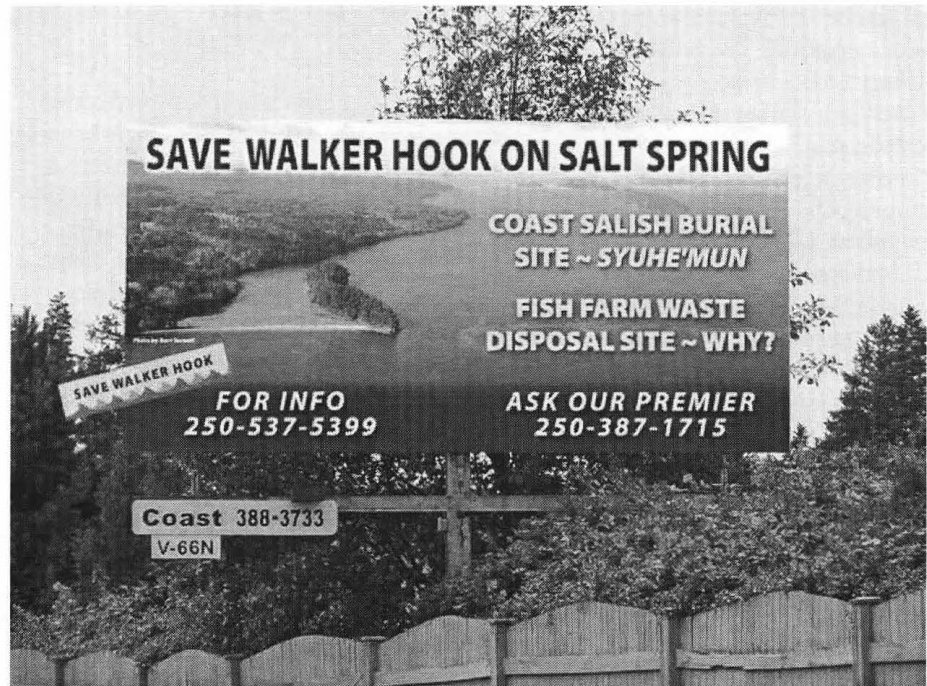
The preliminary pre-court date for Poets Cove is set for December 15, 2005. The 10-day trial period is scheduled on January 16, 2006, in Provincial Court, 850 Burdett Avenue, Victoria.

Note: Before we went to press, Poets Cove Resort & Spa was awarded the 2005 Award of Excellence for "Best Resort Development" by the Urban Development Institute and was featured in a spread of the Vancouver Sun. These honours were bestowed despite being charged for two infractions of the Heritage Conservation Act.

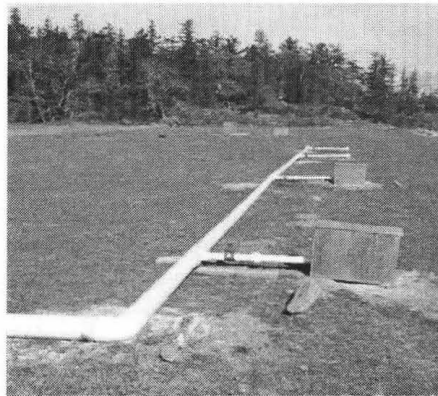
Walker Hook, Salt Spring Island

In 2004, the Penelakut Tribe Elders, the Salt Spring Islanders for Responsible Land Use, and the Canadian Sablefish Association separately appealed the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection's decision to grant Sablefin Hatcheries Ltd. temporary Waste Act Management Approval to authorize the discharge of its land-based fish hatchery's effluent into the ancient village and burial ground at Syuhe'mun, Walkers Hook (DfRu-002), Salt Spring Island.

In 2003, during construction of the fish hatchery's industrial well system and pipes through the DfRu-002 archaeological site, the ancient human remains of at least thirteen individuals were disturbed. The Penelakut Elders asserted before the Environmental Appeal Board (EAB), on behalf of all Coast Salish People, that there had been a lack of adequate consultation with First Nations in the process of granting the Approval. Secondly, the Penelakut Tribe argued that the Approval unjustly infringed upon certain Constitutionally-protected s.35 aboriginal rights, including the right to protect their Dead from desecration by land development.



Walker Hook Billboard, Patricia Bay Highway (HTG).



Utility pipes installed above ground by Sablefin Hatchery Ltd. at Walker Hook after rejection of Heritage Site Alteration permit amendment by Archaeology and Registry Services Branch, March 2005 (HTG).



Penelakut Elders, Laura Sylvester, August Sylvester and Myrus James, Syuhe'mun (Walker Hook), Salt Spring Island (HTG).

On November 17, 2004, the EAB dismissed the grounds for the appeal made by the three parties (see <http://www.eab.gov.bc.ca/waste/Wastsm04.htm>). Sablefin Hatcheries Ltd. has since received an Environmental Management Act Permit from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection that allows the fish hatchery to increase its maximum amount of effluent discharge into the ancient village and burial site.

Importantly, however, the Archaeology Registry and Services Branch, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, has rejected Sablefin Hatchery Ltd.'s applica-

tion for a Heritage Site Alteration permit amendment to excavate new trenches to install additional utility pipes at Walker Hook. In their decision, the Archaeology Branch accepted that the Penelakut Elders and Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group hold cultural values concerning the protection of this ancient heritage site and that, in their judgment, Sablefin Hatcheries Ltd.'s proposed development negatively impacts upon these cultural values. This marks one of a few times that the Archaeology Branch has rejected a permit application for development and has supported First Nations assertions of the 'cultural

significance' of a heritage site against the interests of private land owners. Sablefin Hatchery Ltd. is in the process of appealing the Archaeology Branch's decision. The Penelakut Elders are considering their options for a jurisdictional review of the Environmental Appeal Board's decision, as well as an appeal of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection's new Environmental Management Act permit. Many Salt Spring Island residents have offered their support to the Penelakut Elders. The Salt Spring Island Residents for Responsible Land Use has even surprisingly paid for a billboard to be posted on the Patricia Bay Highway to raise public awareness of the ancient burial site issue at Walker Hook. The Walker Hook billboard may be observed traveling on the southbound lane of the Patricia Bay Highway after an approximately 10 minute drive from BC Ferry's terminal at Swartz Bay toward Victoria.

Note: For more information about these sites, see the feature article, "Archaeological Heritage in the Gulf Islands," by Eric McLay, which appeared in The Midden last year, issue 36(3/4).



BC Field Schools

This summer contains a diverse range of archaeology field schools being offered at British Columbia's postsecondary institutions—just the University of British Columbia (UBC) alone offered four different field schools this year. These field schools can be taken by university students for credit and often have special days set aside for public visitation. This year's options range from testing of 2,400-year-old pithouse villages to foreshore surveys and even excavation at a historical logging camp. Field schools are being held on the west coast of Vancouver Island, on the province's north coast, and even in Nunavut and China, but most of the work is being conducted in the Greater Vancouver and Fraser Valley region.

Perhaps the most interesting item on the menu is the Fraser Valley Archaeological Project entitled "Stó:lo Identity in the Past." The project, headed by Dr. Dana Lepofsky of Simon Fraser University (SFU), is entering its second season this summer. It is a large multidisciplinary project that brings together several researchers from different institutions. The objective is to investigate shifting interaction and changing social identities among the Coast Salish Stó:lo of the Lower Mainland. The SFU field school, led by Dr. Lepofsky is teaming up this season with (1) David Schaepe, Stó:lo Nation Archaeologist; (2) Michael Lenert and Anthony Graesch from University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA); and (3) Dr. Michael Blake's UBC field school. Historian Keith Carlson of the University of Saskatchewan is another member of the large research team. This summer, they are excavating at Katz and Welqamex, pithouse village sites in the vicinity of Hope (SFU, UCLA) and archaeological mapping of other sites in Stó:lo territory (SFU, UBC). Some of the objectives include creating 3-D maps and collecting samples for radiocarbon dating. The regional scope of the project is crucial for improving the veracity of archaeological inferences about site-level changes in social, cultural, and political interaction.

Closer to the coast, Stan Copp is heading the Langara College field school in the Pit Polder region of Maple Ridge, while Bill Angelbeck lead the main UBC

field school into the Gulf of Georgia to test and survey prehistoric defensive sites. Historical archaeology is the focus at Capilano College, where Robert Muckle will excavate a Japanese logging camp during the sixth season of the Seymour Valley Archaeology Project. In other corners of the province, Eric Forgeng's North Island College field school is working in Port Alberni this year, and David Archer is directing the Northwest Community College's field school in the Dundas Island Group, north of Prince Rupert.

Beyond the province, Dr. Sue Rowley and Dr. Zhichun Jing, both of UBC, are taking students to the Arctic and to China, respectively. Major Northwest universities south of the border are offering field schools in Idaho (University of Oregon) and in South East Asia (University of Washington).

Rastko Cvekic

Field School Details

Capilano College, North Vancouver: Excavation of early 20th century Japanese logging camp in the Seymour River Valley.

When: seven weeks in May and June.

Contact: Robert Muckle (bmuckle@capilano.bc.ca).

Web: <http://www.geocities.com/bobmuckle/index.html>

Langara College, Vancouver, in association with Katzie First Nation: Foreshore surveying of Pitt Lake and excavation of the Carruthers site (15 credit hours).

When: May 9 to August 5 (six weeks in the field).

Public Visitation: in negotiation with the landowner, individual visits are welcome.

Contact: Stan Copp (scopp@langara.bc.ca) and Tanja Hoffmann.

Web: <http://www.langara.bc.ca/anthropology/archaeology/index.html>

North Island College, Vancouver Island:

Eric Forgeng (eric.forgeng@nic.bc.ca) will be instructing a field school in Port Alberni.

Northwest Community College, Prince Rupert:

Excavations in the Dundas Island Group near Prince Rupert.

When: May 9 to July 15 (in the field from June 6 to July 8).

Public Visitation: groups of 5-10 can contact David Archer for more information

Contact: David Archer (darcher@nwcc.bc.ca; 250-624-6054 [local 5799])

Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, in collaboration with Stó:lo Nation:

Excavation of pithouse villages in the central Fraser Valley.

When: May 2 to July 29 (two months in the field).

Credits: 15 credits for Anth 433, 434, and 435.

Public Visitation: to be determined with the Stó:lo Nation.

Contact: Dr. Dana Lepofsky (dlepofsk@sfu.ca; 604-291-5403).

Web: <http://www.sfu.ca/archaeology/dept/fschool/fs2005/index.html>

University of British Columbia, Vancouver:

UBC will be offering four different field schools this summer. For further information, contact Patricia Ormerod (cbarc@interchange.ubc.ca; 604-822-2567).

UBC 1: Survey and Testing of defensive sites in the Gulf of Georgia.

When: May 24 to June 30.

Contact: Bill Angelbeck (angelbec@interchange.ubc.ca).

UBC 2: Archaeological mapping in the central Fraser Valley.

When: May 24 to June 24.

Contact: Dr. Michael Blake (tmlake@interchange.ubc.ca).

UBC 3: Survey and excavation at Anyang, capital of the Shang Dynasty, China.

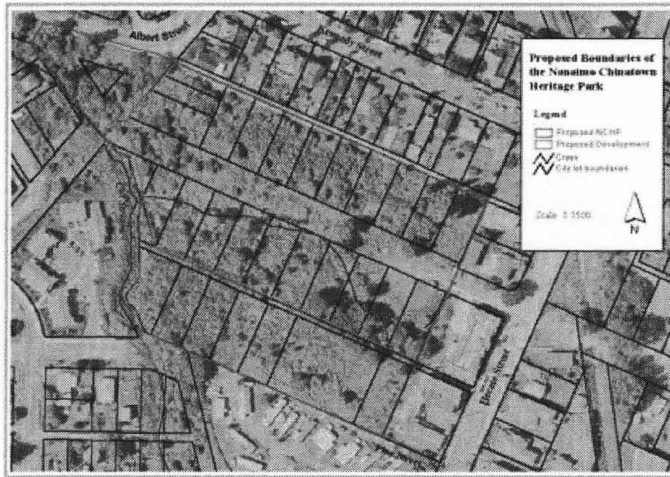
When: May 28 to July 31.

Contact: Dr. Zhichun Jing (jingzh@interchange.ubc.ca).

UBC 4: Survey and excavation in Nunavut, in collaboration with the Inuit Heritage Trust.

When: 4.5 weeks in July.

Contact: Dr. Sue Rowley (srowley@interchange.ubc.ca).



ASBC Nanaimo Branch Proposes *Nanaimo Chinatown Heritage Park*

This proposal was developed in response for the need to protect the heritage resources in the area known as Chinatown, situated between Machleary and Pine Streets, in Nanaimo, British Columbia. Currently, the area is slated for development and looting of archaeological deposits is well documented. Previous development of the area has impacted the site, destroying vital information and links to Nanaimo's past. Chinatown has played an important part in the development of Nanaimo and preserving it would allow future generations the opportunity to explore and celebrate the area's rich history.

In addition, the Cat Stream, an extremely sensitive salmon-bearing watercourse, runs through this area, which is presently overrun with invasive species, such as Himalayan Blackberry, and is threatened by garbage, the build up of silt, and water contamination. Without restoration efforts this area of the stream may be completely overrun with non-native species, limiting its salmon habitat potential. Removal of these species and riparian vegetation replanting may serve to improve the quality of fish habitat in the Cat Stream. Other areas of the Cat Stream have been successfully restored, bringing community groups together such as the Friends of the Cat Stream, Fairview Elementary School, and the Nanaimo Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada.

The Archaeological Society of British Columbia – Nanaimo Branch proposes

the establishment of a heritage park in this area that would allow for protection of the archaeological deposits, as well as protecting the fragile balance of the Cat Stream.

Paths marked with plaques depicting the history and natural features of the area would allow for educational and tourism opportunities. There is currently a proposed expansion to the Hecate Lodge (see above map, outlined in pink) to the north before the City of Nanaimo for approval. The ASBC-NB proposed that the area be transformed into the Nanaimo Chinatown Heritage Park in lieu of development. Few parks are found in Harewood and residents would have the opportunity to enjoy this green space and learn about the history of the area in which they live.

The current political climate in Nanaimo supports the creation of green spaces within city limits. The construction of this park could be linked to the adjacent Old City Quarter and would allow a space for local families, schools, and visitors to enjoy Nanaimo's natural beauty and rich historical past.

In conclusion, the establishment of the Nanaimo Chinatown Heritage Park would serve to protect Nanaimo's rich historical and ecological uniqueness, while increasing the value of the property both visually and economically. The Archaeological Society of BC – Nanaimo Branch is currently enlisting the support of interested parties and welcomes any comments or questions about our proposal.

Harlan Smith and the Houses at the Beach Grove Site

Don Welsh

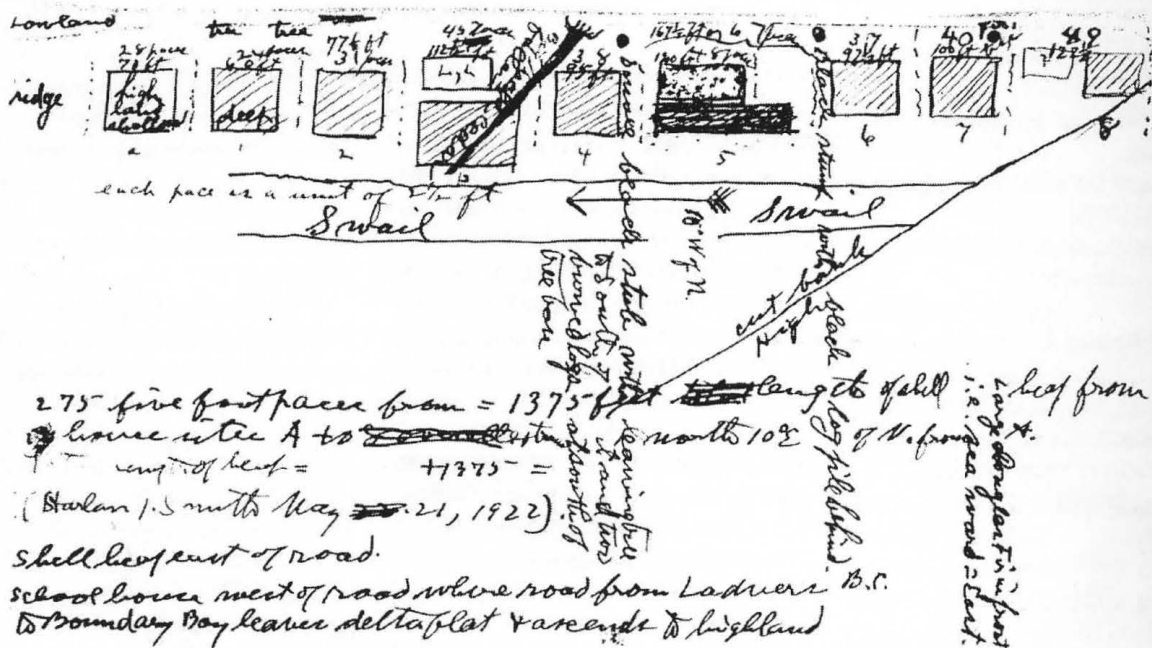


Figure 1. Harlan Smith sketch map of the "School House Road Site", May 21, 1922, (Smith Fieldnotes: Box 10, File 3, Page 58).

Pioneer archaeologist Harlan I. Smith first visited the Beach Grove Site (DgRs 1) in 1898 while working as part of the Jesup Expedition, in response to information from a Dr. Walker about shell heaps at Point Roberts (Smith to Boas, Oct. 5, 1897). However, although his work is included in his *Archaeology of the Strait of Georgia* published by the Jesup Expedition, the Beach Grove site is barely mentioned. He had collected several artifacts which he listed in his field notes as from the "Schoolhouse Road Site," his name for the Beach Grove site. He continued to visit the site in his later job as archaeologist for the National Museum of Canada. In the spring of 1922 he visited the site with his friend, Dr. Ralph Roys, a Vancouver resident with an interest in archaeology. It was during this visit that he prepared a sketch map of the house depressions remaining on the site (Figure 1) and took three photographs (Plates 1 – 3).

The reproduction of these Harlan I. Smith photographic plates from the Canadian Museum of Civilization archives was in part made possible through a small grant to the author by the ASBC.



Plate 1. Harlan I. Smith photograph no. 56859: Panoramic view of site, southern end.

The photos have a lot of spots on their surface, which is probably the result of the deterioration of the surface gelatin on the old photographic plates. Smith, as well as being a pioneer archaeologist was also a pioneer photographer. He complained bitterly about the quality of photographic plates he received during the Jesup Expedition in a letter to Franz Boas (Smith n.d.). This fact explains why there are so few photographs of the lower mainland portion of the Jesup Expedition as compared to the Lytton area—the plates just never turned out.

Smith wrote descriptions of two panoramic photographs in his journal. His picture, no. 56859, of the southern end of the midden is reproduced as Plate 1 and the north end; his picture 56860 is Plate 2. He wrote:

56859 and 56860. Left of southern end, and right of northern end, respectively, of panoramic view from the east and south of east of the southern end of the shell-heap on the east side of the main road south from Ladners, B.C., to Point Roberts and Boundary Bay.

The school house is opposite the shell-heap at a point near the right or north part shown in 56860. The road within the scope of these views leaves the lowland which is on the same level as the foreground of this picture, and ascends the cut bank which can be seen beyond the shell-heap at the left.

This cut bank follows towards the right turning westward about where the trees show thickest in the background near the right edge of 56860. This cut bank marks the northern edge of the highland of the tied-on island known as Point Roberts.

These views show depressions marking ancient house sites. The shell-heap is lowest in the middle of the eastern of foreground side of each of these depressions. There are ten depressions in a row, two of which have depressions behind them. The two trees on the extreme right are to the foreground side or in front of the second depression, numbered 1 on the plan. The dark roots of the upturned tree near the center of 56860 are in front of the 5th depression, counting from the north, numbered 4 on the plan. The top of this tree lies across the rear one of two depressions, fourth from the north, numbered 3 on the plan.

(6 1/2 x 8 1/2 negatives by Harlan I. Smith, on Anthropological Expedition of the Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa, Canada. May 21, 1922. [H.I. Smith Field notes: Box 10 File 3 Page 70]).

This view shows high ground to the left and is the most southerly view. It is hard to discern if the mounds in the foreground are midden mounds, tree throws or the result of clearing the forest to provide pasture for livestock. This area is now a



Plate 2. Harlan I. Smith photograph no. 56860: Panoramic view of site, northern end.

golf course.

This is the more northerly of the two panoramic shots. Smith mentions a road constructed just past the trees on the right, most likely Hurd Road. Today, the area shown in this view includes areas of the golf course to the left and the two lots preserved by the Archaeology Branch to the right.

The third photograph (Plate 3) shows Smith's friend, Dr. Ralph Roys, posed beside a tree stump and is the most interesting as Smith has noted it in several ways. The spot where Dr. Roys is standing is where the archaeological deposits intersect with the old beach deposits. We now know that the cultural deposits extended at least two meters below the last beach deposits. Water-rolled shell mixed with fire-cracked rock indicates earlier use of the foreshore when water levels were lower.

Harlan Smith wrote:

56961 Looking north at a stump of a large Douglas Fir tree standing on the northern end of the shell-heap on the eastern side of the main road south from Ladners, B.C., to Point Roberts and Boundary Bay. This is a little to the north of opposite the school house. The school house is where the road leaves the low delta deposit and ascends to the highland of the tied-on island known as Point Roberts. Mr. Ralph Roys of Vancouver is standing so that his feet

mark the place where the shell-heap rests upon the old sand spit upon which it is built. This Douglas Fir stump is 6 feet, 6 inches measured east and west; 6 feet 3 inches measured north and south; 19 feet, 7 inches in circumference at the top. The annual rings were counted by both Smith and Roys and numbered 420. A wood pile may be seen to the right of the middle of the picture in a space from which the shell-heap has been excavated. The shell material has been taken away to use in making roads and for chicken feed. This view is looking towards a barn which may not show and which is far beyond.

The next stump south of the one shown in this picture and which is not shown is of a Douglas Fir, 4 feet, 7 inches in diameter from north of west to south of east; 3 feet, 5 inches in diameter from west of south to east of north. The shell-heap here reaches a height of 9 feet, 3 inches and nearby is nowhere less than 5 feet, 5 inches in height, possibly more. The greatest depth was measured from the natural sand of the sand spit. The annual rings on this stump not shown in this picture were counted by both Smith and Roys. Smith made the count 243, Roys 238.

(6 1/2 x 8 1/2 negative by H. I. Smith, on Anthropological Expedition of the Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa, Canada. May 21, 1922. [H.I. Smith Fieldnotes: Box 10,



Plate 3. Harlan I. Smith photograph no. 56861: Dr. Ralph Roys on old beach deposits.

File 3, Page 71]).

Smith used this same picture as one of the illustrations of an article published in *Saturday Night* July 21, 1923. The title of the picture reads:

Where Canadian Sculpture Many Hundreds of Years Was Found. The caption reads: Tree stump over 400 years growth on top of seven feet of Indian village refuse under which was found the largest unbroken sculpture of the human form ever unearthed in Canada, found on south side of the Fraser delta near Vancouver.

The caption in *Saturday Night* indicated this was the spot where the sculpture of the so-called "hunchback man" was found. A careful inspection of the panoramic view photos fails to locate a similar combination of stumps, mounds and trees. This confirms the notation, which places the view in Plate 3 in the area on the north side of Hurd Road, now 16th Avenue where shell mining for feed and road construction was taking place. Recent archaeological investigations indicate cultural deposits in this area predate the Marpole age house depressions. The sculpture could, therefore, have originated in the older Locarno Beach Culture deposits or even earlier in Charles culture deposits.

The following illustration (Figure 2) has been extensively

processed through Adobe Photoshop. The two panoramic shots have been combined, the contrast balanced and much of the surface deterioration retouched. Significant landmarks on the sketch map have been linked to their image on the photos. Both photos show lens distortion common on panoramic views. The images in the center of the photo are larger than the images on the margin. This is most noticeable on the right or north side. The image could have been further processed, by distorting the panorama until the house spaces equaled the measurements on the sketch map. This was not done as it goes a little further than the Museum of Civilization policy that no image can be distorted, altered or modified except for minor correction or the removal of technical defects.

Ham and Broderick's Reconstruction of Smith's Field Notes

The Ham and Broderick map was prepared by Mike Broderick after a visit to the site with Len Ham (Ham 1981: 21; Matson and Coupland 1995:207). The legend on the map cautions that this is an approximate map and contains "possible" house depressions. Broderick's map covers 1489.8 feet while Smith's map covers 1375 feet. In fact, Ham and Broderick have hypothesized one more house than Smith, which could account for the differing length although Smith's field sketch indicates

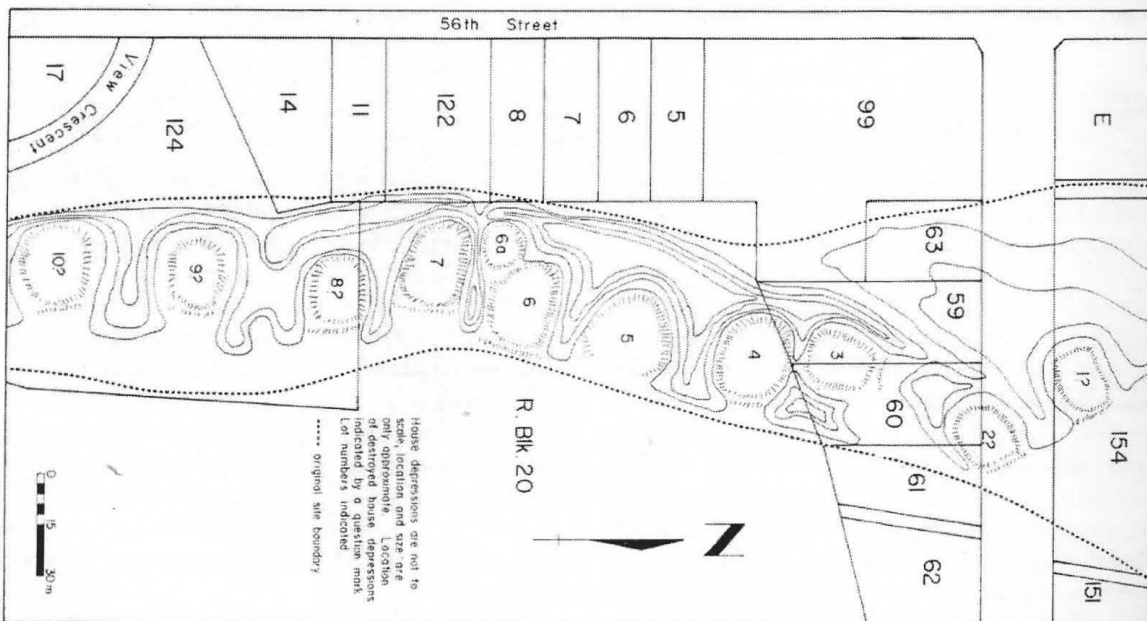
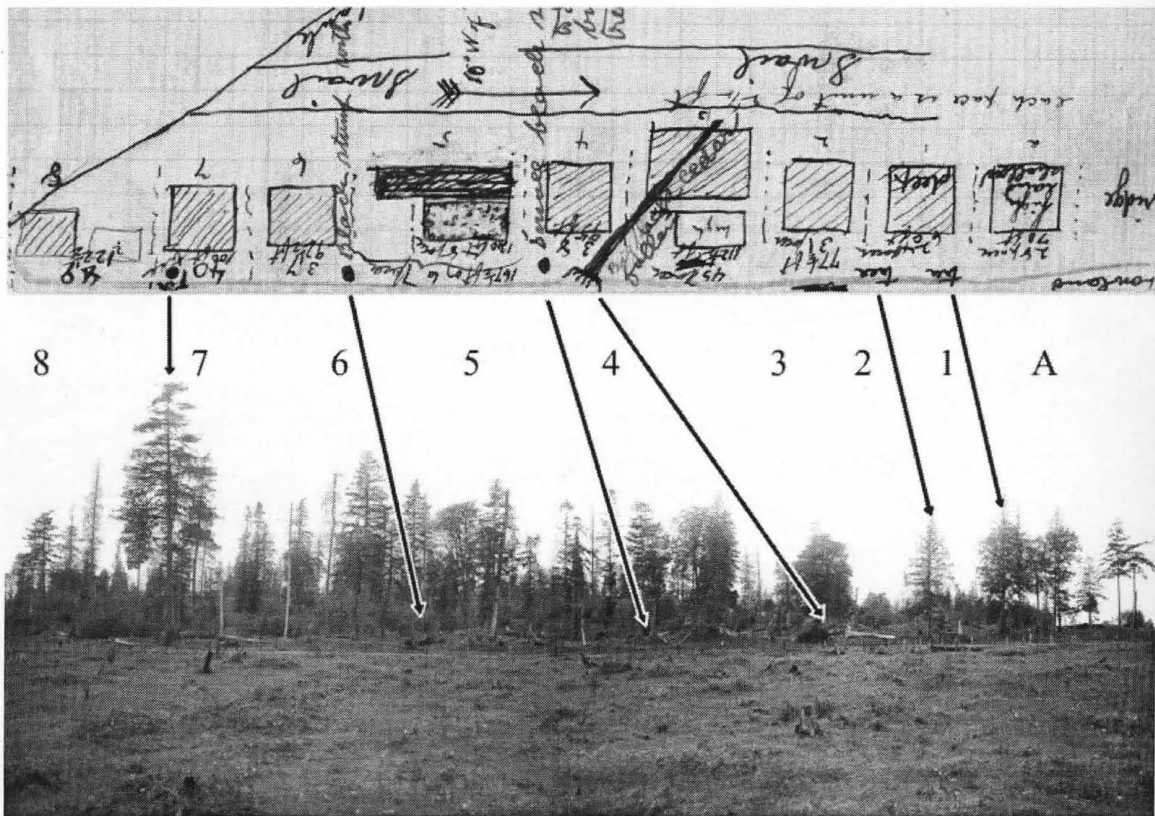


Figure 2. Comparison of Harlan I. Smith's 1922 Sketch map and photographs (upper) with Ham and Broderick's reconstruction of Smith's field notes superimposed on the Lot Plan (lower).

a cut bank and high ground immediately after House 8. Smith does mention ten houses in a row in his text while his sketch shows eight houses with an additional house (House A) at the far right. Smith's sketch appears to show two structures at each of the locations he numbered Houses 3, 5 and possibly 8. Ham and Broderick show double houses at 3 and 6.

If the double House 5 from Smith's map is taken as a starting position, it could correspond with House 6 on Broderick's map. Running south, we have Houses 6, 7 and two spaces within which to place the double House 8. Running north, we have Houses 4, 3, 2, 1 and "A". Unfortunately, there is no double house indicated at depression 3. Looking at Smith's sketch however, a rectangle encloses the word "high" at House 3. The actual house depression is shaded. If Smith meant that there was an area of high land immediately in front of House 3, this interpretation would correspond to the actual situation. This interpretation also is compatible with Smith's statement that the road construction was to the north of the house sites.

Ham's reconstruction fits the Corporation of Delta lot map (Figure 3) but the double house depressions numbered 3 and 5 by Smith are either not clear or in the wrong location. Even if this reconstruction is not correct, it can only be out by one house site. Smith speculated that further house depressions existed to the south and had been destroyed by shell miners. Tentative house outlines have been added in this area on the Ham and Broderick map. Further excavations and destruction of the site have taken place since Ham prepared this map in 1981, however, his map accurately locates the 1957 excavations.

Grier's Mapping of Remaining Depressions at the Beach Grove Site

During March of 2000, Colin Grier, with a crew from UBC, prepared a wire frame map (refer Figure 4) of the remaining house depressions using a total station (Grier 2003:185-86). This map recorded the actual situation on the ground in 2000. Grier's numbering system differs only in naming the unnamed depression House 2b. He measured House 3 at 13 m x 10 m (43' x 33') and House 4 at 11 m x 11 m (36' x 36'). From Figure 4, House 2b appears to measure 30 m (98') along the north-south axis (or 32 m and 105' skewed 45° west). These measurements do not correspond with Smith's measurements. Smith measured House 3 at 112' and House 4 at 95'. Other measurements provided by Smith include: House "A": 70'; House 1: 60'; House 2: 77 1/2'; House 3: 112'; House 4: 95'; House 5: 167 1/2'; House 6: 97 1/2'; House 7: 100'; and House 8: 122 1/2'. If it is assumed that Smith was measuring the distance between the peaks of the ridges, a better fit can be imagined but still no one-to-one correspondences occur. Ridge peak distances in 2000 are interpolated as 65', 92' and 105' for Houses "A", 3, and 4, respectively.

Discussion of the Size and Type of Houses at the Beach Grove Site

In an effort to find correspondences with Grier's measurements based on the area of each house calculated from measurements reported by Smith, each single house depression was assumed to be square with the following results: House "a" =

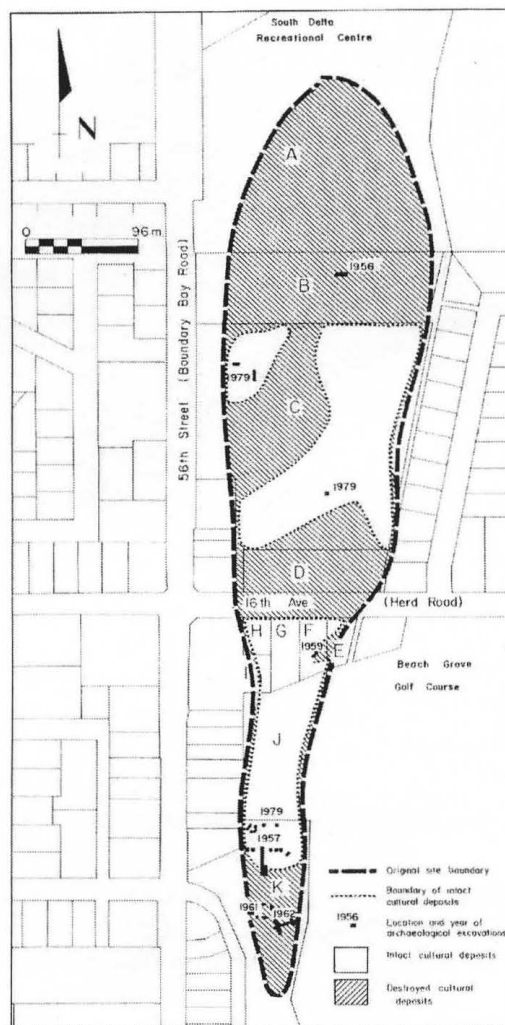


Figure 3. Beach Grove houses and intact deposits after Ham (1981).

4900 ^{±2} (453.7m²), House 1 = 3600 ^{±2} (334.9 m²), House 2 = 6006 ^{±2} (557 m²), House 3 = 12,544 ^{±2} (1165 m²), House 4 = 9025 ^{±2} (900 m²), House 5 = 14,400 ^{±2} (1338 m²), House 6 = 8556 ^{±2} (795 m²), House 7 = 10,000 ^{±2} (929 m²), and House 8 = 1464 ^{±2} (136 m²). The average house area is 7173 ^{±2} (676 m²). All of these figures are substantially larger than Grier's figures and are in fact larger than the depressions at Dionesio Point, which Grier assumes to be larger than those at Beach Grove. The assumption of "squareness" made here (that because the hole is square therefore the house is also square) could account for these larger figures.

If we assume that the Beach Grove site house were plank houses of ethnographic dimension, we would expect them to be about 8 to 10 m wide and roughly rectangular. If we take Smith's measurements to be the length of the house and we first multiply each by a ten foot width and secondly by an eight foot width, we get the floor area of equivalent ethnographic houses in two size ranges. Smith's lengths by ten metres results in the following: House "A" = 213 m², House 1 = 183 m², House 2 = 236 m², House 3 = 341 m², House 4 = 289 m², House 5 = 278 m², House 6 = 282 m² and House 7 = 304 m² and House 8 = 372 m² with an average of 228 m². Remultiplying Smith's lengths by eight metre width results in the following: House "A" = 170 m², House 1 = 146 m²,

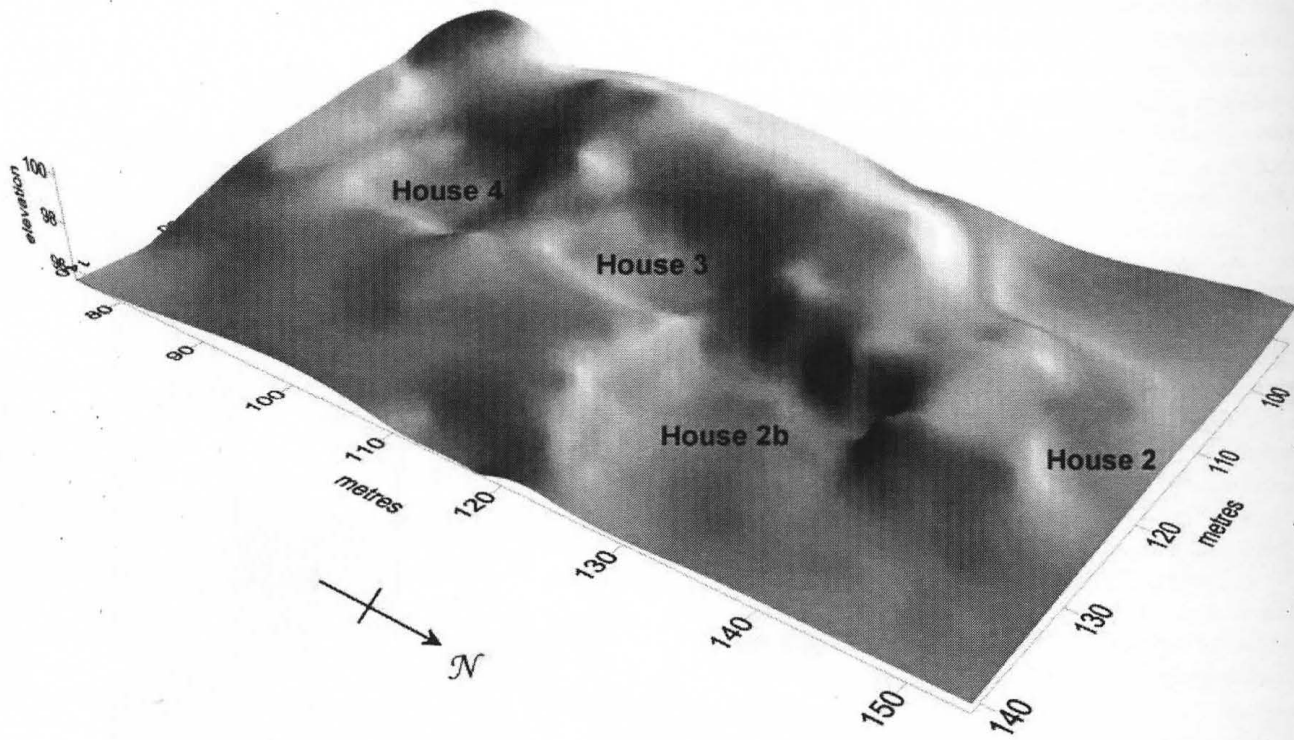


Figure 4. Surface map of remaining depressions at the Beach Grove Site (after Grier 2003).

House 2 = 189 m², House 3 = 273 m², House 4 = 231 m², House 5 = 222 m², House 6 = 226 m², House 7 = 243m², House 8 = 296 m² with an average of 197 m². These figures are quite close to Grier's estimate of 200 m² for houses at Dionisio Point.

Comparisons with Other Archaeological Houses

King reported house outlines at Cattle Point (King 1950:73). Although he noted no post moulds to support the assertion of houses, he did assume two depressions were habitations that had been constructed, while other depressions represented natural blowouts, which were later inhabited. The two assumed houses were 65.3' x 34.05' and 56.5' x 31.3'. In area, these house outlines were 2223.5'² (206.8 m²) and 1768.5'² (164.5 m²). These figures are in line with Grier's figures for the house sizes for Dionisio Point.

Harlan Smith also reported pit features from the Whalen Farm Site (DfRs 3), south of the Beach Grove Site on the Canada/US border on Point Roberts. He reported them as 10 m² and 5 m deep with stone linings and burials (Smith 1907: 393). These features, at 10 m², are smaller again than the examples preserved at Beach Grove. From what little information Smith provided and from the size, these are most likely grave houses rather than habitations.

It should be noted that the house depressions at Beach Grove have been excavated only by Abbott and there is no certainty that there were post moulds to support the assumption that these are house locations. The depressions at Beach Grove may represent temporary mat lodge locations used over and over. Abbott (1962:13-14) notes:

In their shape and arrangement the hollows suggest strongly the appearance that would result from the decay or removal of square wooden houses built in a row along the spit. Midden accumulated around the houses would have slumped down onto the edges of the former floors of the houses once the support of the house walls had gone. There are, however, facts which argue against this interpretation. First of all, the loose nature of the material in the bottoms of the hollows is quite unlike the typical, hard-packed, dirt "house floor" of dwellings previously excavated in this area even though its apparently high organic and low shell content is exactly what would be expected in house floor accumulations. Perhaps it is inevitable that this deposit should remain unpacked since it rests directly on sand and itself consists principally of sand particles. Roots and burrowing animals may also have contributed to keeping this soil loosened. Less easy to explain is the height of the midden ridges surrounding the square depressions, which would appear, in some cases, to be too great to have been piled against house walls. Difference in elevation is in some cases ten feet. The correct interpretation of these depressions will have to await further excavation. No attempt was made to solve this problem in 1961 and, although pits were dug in the third depression from the south in 1957, as I remember, no definite evidence was found which would settle the question of its origin.

As such, the Beach Grove site depressions may be similar to Cattle Point rather than Dionisio Point. King's assumption is that the Cattle Point evidence suggests these were temporary

dwellings reoccupied over time. Abbott also discussed the possibility that the Beach Grove site represented a seasonal camp rather than a winter village.

While it remains difficult to make conclusive determinations for the Beach Grove evidence following this discussion, we should proceed with caution in assuming house size or type from the limited data available. The data presented above indicate similar size houses at Beach Grove, Cattle Point and Dionisio Point and the possibility of houses considerably larger also being present.

Although Grier's data from Beach Grove comes from the actual size of two remaining depressions on the south of Hurd Road, there is no conclusive way to find correspondence between Smith's 1922 sketch and the remaining depressions, although Smith's notes do suggest that all the depressions were south of Hurd Road. As there is no clear correspondence between the two sets of data, we must assume modifications to the lot since Smith's time.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Martin Villeneuve and Frederic Paradis, both from the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa, for locating the images and expediting their release for publication. In accordance with the stated museum policy, they are presented in unmodified form.

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Drawing of Harlan I. Smith by Hilary Stewart that was originally published in The Midden in 1979, alongside an article about his legacy. See Don Bunyan's article "Harlan I. Smith: Pioneer Contributor to Western Archaeology," 11(3):5-8.

BOOK REVIEWS

Emerging from the Mist

Studies in Northwest Coast Culture History

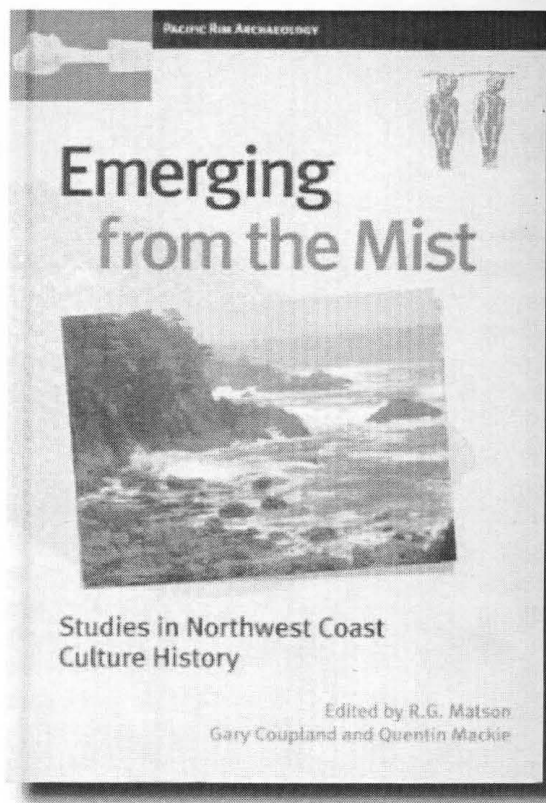
Matson, R.G., Gary Coupland, and
Quentin Mackie, editors.

University of British Columbia Press, Vancouver, 2003.
xiii + 380 pp., illus., maps. Hardback \$95.00. 0-7748-09818-7.
Paperback \$49.95 0-7748-0982-5 (July 2004).

This edited volume began as a festschrift symposium for Donald Mitchell at the Victoria Canadian Archaeology Association meetings in 1998. Its title, *Emerging from the Mist*, reflects the editors' belief that Northwest Coast archaeology is emerging from its long obscurity relative to other regions in North America and particularly relative to Northwest Coast ethnography. The pace of publication and range of publication venues is increasing, although edited volumes, such as this one, are uncommon unlike other regions where they function almost as journals. The subtitle, *Studies in Northwest Coast Culture History*, reflects the volume's contents and Don Mitchell's interests. The editors' goals are to represent the range and quality of archaeological research on the coast and our current understanding of the ethnographic pattern.

There are thirteen chapters, a preface and an "epilogue." In the useful opening chapter Matson introduces the volume's themes: (1) the coast as environment and culture area; (2) the evolution, driven by archaeology and ethnohistory, of our thinking about Northwest Coast sociopolitical organization during the past 40 years; (3) households and household archaeology; (4) integration of archaeology, ethnography and ethnohistory and (5) unique aspects of Northwest Coast culture that make it an important exception to many anthropological generalizations. In all of these, archaeology plays crucial roles as the only means of testing generalizations based on the ethnographies and ethnohistory.

In the second chapter, Martindale analyses the rise of a Coast Tsimshian paramount chiefdom during the fur trade era using his own archaeological field work, ethnohistorical sources and the *adawx*, traditional Coast Tsimshian histories. Following Martindale, Croes continues exploring wet-site artifact distributions along the coast, examining here the temporal and spatial distributions of fishing tackle, including wooden harpoons, stor-



age baskets and knob-topped hats.

In his own chapter, Matson describes excavations of a shed roof house at Shingle Point, discussing the taphonomy of these structures, their variability, and resulting challenges in their excavation and interpretation. Alexander Mackie and Laura Williamson reconstruct house forms at *kix7in*, a small village on the southern edge of Barkley Sound. The reconstructions are based on maps of house depressions and fallen house timbers. The houses were far more variable in form than one would expect, given our stereotypes of Northwest Coast architecture.

Gary Coupland and his co-authors, Roger Colton and Rebecca Case, discuss recent results of Coupland's important on-going excavations at McNichol Creek in Prince Rupert Harbour. McNichol Creek was a two row village dating between c. 1500 and 2000 B.P where Coupland has tested theories about

the development of stratification as marked by the appearance of very large houses. Also addressing social complexity, Colin Grier, using data from the Dionisio Point site, argues increased complexity during the Gulf of Georgia's Marpole phase resulted from intensifying regional interaction. Gregory Monks examines the taphonomy of whale bone assemblages with data from Ozette and Toquaht. Although hampered by small sample sizes he establishes that while whale bones were used in myriad ways, the prestige economy was probably the most important factor affecting the butchering and use of whales.

Precontact metallurgy on the Coast is an old nagging issue. In his chapter, Acheson assesses current evidence, demonstrating metal working was widespread and ancient. In addition to copper use, which is quite ancient, there good evidence in late precontact context for iron working. Bernick uses a single, apparently unique basket to explore material culture variability and the use of basketry as an ethnic marker. Explicitly drawing on Donald Mitchell's work, Alan McMillan reviews Mitchell's hypothesis that migrations by Wakashan speakers caused abrupt technological changes in Johnstone Strait around 2000 B.P. Integrating linguistic and archaeological evidence including his data from Barkley Sound, McMillan concludes there may indeed have been population shifts around 2000 B.P.

In a methodologically intriguing paper, Mackie uses a spatial interaction model to explore relationships among site size and site distribution on the southern two-thirds of Vancouver Island's west coast. He concludes site distributions cannot be explained using what he terms "straight-forward decision making terms." Rather, he argues, correctly I think, the social landscape shapes subsequent site distributions even as they evolve. I suspect his results also display multiple scalar effects; i.e. there are large regional scale as well as sub-regional and very local site distributions merged in his data.

In the final paper, Donald contributes to the long, ongoing discussion of what, exactly, is the Northwest Coast culturally and environmentally? What are its boundaries? What features define the culture area? How do we cope with variation? One method, of course, is defining subregions although recent work shows as much variation within subregions as between them. This paper is an important contribution to this issue. In the epilogue, Donald briefly discusses what he views as the volume's themes and their relationships to the broader issues in his chapter. He identifies five such themes: boundaries, whaling, stratification and big houses, social and economic interaction spheres, new kinds of data and new kinds of analyses.

Emerging from the Mist is a valuable contribution to Northwest Coast archaeology. Its value lies in the individual paper's overall quality and their subject matter, although some are stronger than others. However, it does not fully succeed as an assessment of Northwest Coast archaeology. Many topics are absent, most notably research on the Late Pleistocene/Early Holocene. This is a consequence of the book's origins as a set of papers reflecting Don Mitchell's research interests. Additionally, and despite the editors' and Leland Donald's best efforts, the book is not tied together by its themes; it has too many of them. Finally, the book has an inward looking quality; the authors talking to other Northwest Coast specialists more than to the broader disciplinary audience the editors hope to reach. However, the

book does succeed in the way an exceptional journal issue does; the papers are all useful and timely, some are quite important; it materially moves the field along, and there is the promise of many more such issues to come.

Kenneth M. Ames

Kenneth Ames is the President of the Society for American Archaeology and a Professor of Anthropology at Portland State University in Oregon.

The Bone Woman

A Forensic Anthropologist's Search for Truth in Rwanda, Bosnia, Croatia, and Kosovo.

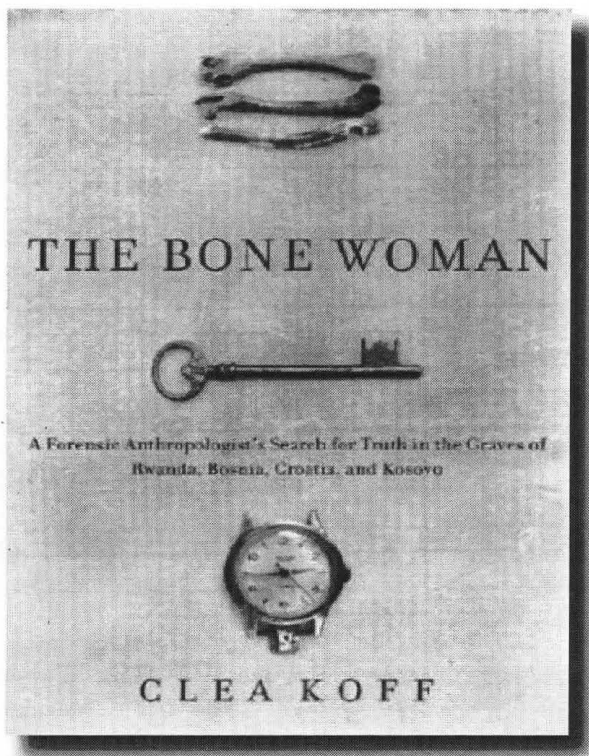
Knopf, Toronto, 2004. x + 271 pp., illus. ISBN Hardback 1400060648; Paperback 0812968859 (February 2005).

Since the Nuremberg trials in the 40s, and particularly in the last two decades, the increasing willingness of governments to prosecute war criminals has led to the rise of a new discipline within the field of archaeology. This new discipline, dubbed forensic anthropology, is an application of archaeological and physical anthropological techniques to the remains of the recently dead. The primary goal is to provide prosecutors at war crimes tribunals with evidence about the age, sex, identity, and cause of death of suspected genocide victims.

Clea Koff's *The Bone Woman* is a dynamic narrative of post-genocide forensic anthropology in Rwanda and the Balkans. The bone woman herself—author and nominal subject of this work—is a forensic anthropologist trained at Stanford and the University of Arizona. At the age of 23, she left for Rwanda to help exhume five-hundred victims of the 1994 genocide, a journey that is the first of the five missions described in this book.

Koff's work is an attempt to transcend the oft-glamorized labour of forensics by focusing on the stories that emerge from the evidence. Going beyond the archaeological details of exhumation and taphonomy, she describes her emotionally-demanding journey through the thickets of the post-conflict landscape; she becomes intimately acquainted with the fates of genocide victims, the struggles of their survivors, and the bureaucracies responsible for reorganizing this painful geography. *The Bone Woman* is equally an account of Koff's private motivations and her professional experience. As such, it is the subjective experience of the author that drives this "search for truth," and is as much a personal journey of self knowledge as it is a query after the victims of 1990s genocides. *The Bone Woman* is the memoir of a passionate professional, not a textbook in post-conflict forensics.

For the non-specialist, Koff's story provides a direct and detailed account of the process and practice of large-scale, judicially-mandated forensic anthropology. Many pages are



spent detailing the various archaeological tasks involved in the exhumation of mass graves, describing in suspenseful detail the exact steps taken to find, recover, and analyze the large number of corpses encountered on her investigations. Readers become acquainted with the range of techniques for finding a grave, delineating its boundaries, removing its contents, preserving and protecting the gravesite, and analyzing the bodies for age, sex, dentition, and cause of death. Writing for a wide audience, Koff keeps jargon to a minimum. When the occasional technical term is included, Koff includes full, if somewhat pedantic, explanations.

Aside from the direct practice of forensic anthropology, Koff provides a participant's view into the vast, and often confounding, array of authority, hierarchy and bureaucracy that both cripple and enable the work of those seeking answers from the victims' bones. Koff gives humorous, frustrated, and occasionally bitter insight into the bureaucracy of United Nations, Nato, and other regulatory bodies. In her view, many are the hassles and hold-ups of doing forensic work in post-war territory under constant military escort and supervision. And equally prolific are the frictions that exist between the overworked—and frequently intense—individuals responsible for ground-level archaeological work. The tensions that arise from ill-equipped quarters, long days, and inevitable differences in personality and technique among diverse personnel provide a continuous and evolving subtext to the overall narrative. Although this subtext occasionally slips into the realm of soap opera, it does so infrequently enough so as to be interesting rather than irritating.

Critique aside, it is these inclusions that make *The Bone Woman* a personal memoir. Clea Koff doesn't shrink from view to simply play raconteur, but as the book's title suggests, places her own consciousness as the primary narrative element. As

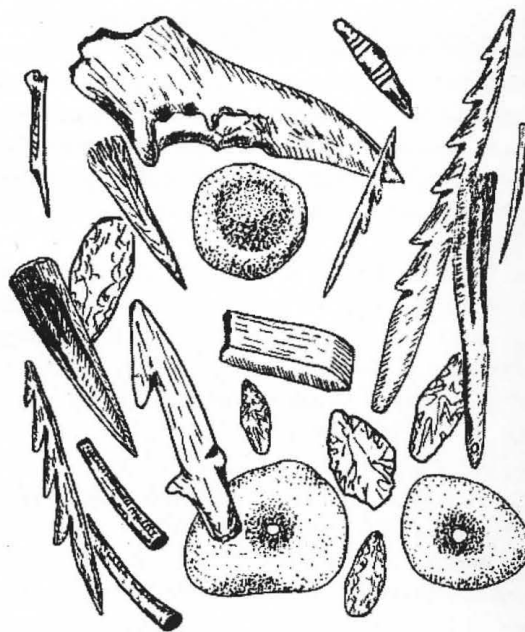
such, this is not merely a book about forensic anthropology, but a text documenting Koff's spiritual and corporeal journey undertaken as part of various post-genocide investigations. She explains the cognitive dualism inherent in forensics: the need for scientific detachment to successfully exhume and analyze the grave of five-hundred civilians; and the concomitant instinct to be a human being, and relate to the bodies as those of fellow humans—forced to imagine their last moments due to the very scientific skills that create and require such detachment.

While the dead tell their stories, in Koff's eyes, it is not just the dead, but also the living, for whom she is working. It is the victims' relatives who often watch over her as she works, and who can at first be strangely ambivalent—or even anathema—to the goals of the investigation. As she continually stresses, this work is an account of her application of forensic anthropology as a tool of truth and justice. While her motivations for the work are admittedly partly intellectual—something that comes across in her descriptions of taphonomic analysis—they are also based on deep moral conviction, and a desire to bring solace to the bereaved and justice to the perpetrators.

As a whole, *The Bone Woman* is detailed and very personal—something that will provide a poignant connection for some, while being gratingly self-absorbed for others. Whatever may be said, this text is certainly honest and straightforward. It is narrative-driven, opinion-laden, and theory-free: a recommended read for anyone interested in a trowel-on-bone account of the character and characters of international forensic anthropology.

D'Arcy Nichol

D'Arcy Nichol graduated from UBC anthropology in 2004 and is currently teaching in Korea. His interests are the archaeology of warfare, religion, and ecstatic states of consciousness.



FROM THE LOWER STRATA OF *THE MIDDEN*

5 Years Ago

The Heritage Conservation Act (HCA) was amended to extend the time limit for reporting offences from six months to two years after the facts first came to the knowledge of a police officer or official designated in writing by the provincial minister.

Volume 32, No. 2, (2000).

15 Years Ago

The Case of the Wandering Walrus.

Bjorn Simonsen reported the recovery of a vertebra from a Pinnoped walrus at the Comox Harbour Site, DkSf 4. The find presented a mystery—as it was the only firm record of Pacific walrus south of the Aleutian Islands.

Volume 22, No. 2 (1990).

20 Years Ago

ASBC takes Stone Bowl Campaign to Winnipeg.

At the Canadian Archaeological Associations meeting in Winnipeg, Don Bunyan and Colin Gurnsey of the ASBC discussed the ASBC's campaign to change federal legislation so that permanent export of all archaeological artifacts would be prohibited.

Volume XVII, No. 2 (1985).

30 Years Ago

News Item: "Antique dealer offers Indian labret for \$250."

Midden Editorial: "To reduce wholesale pillaging, the demand for 'over the counter' artifacts must be reduced. This requires a major attitudinal change. When nobody in B.C. wants to buy or sell artifacts anymore, then archaeology will indeed be strong and healthy, and the Archaeological Society will have won its toughest fight."

Volume VII, No. 2 (1975).

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

NANAIMO BRANCH 4TH ANNUAL "DISCOVER ARCHAEOLOGY" INTERACTIVE DISPLAY:
"THE DEAD DO TELL TALES"

Nanaimo, BC, August 13, 11 am to 4 pm.

Info: <http://www.asbcnanaimo.nisa.com>

7TH BIENNIAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN ANTHROPOLOGY CONFERENCE

Park City, Utah, September 15-18.

Info: <http://www.history.utah.gov/RMAC2005>

Submissions: rrood@utah.gov

BC ARCHAEOLOGY FORUM, HOSTED BY THE UPPER SIMILKAMEEN INDIAN BAND

Hedley, BC, October 15-16.

63RD ANNUAL PLAINS ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

Edmonton, Alberta, October 19-23.

Info: <http://www.ou.edu/cas/archsur/plainsanth/meeting/meeting.htm>

AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 104TH ANNUAL MEETING

Washington, D.C., November 30-December 4.

Theme: Bringing the Past into the Present

Info: http://www.aaanet.org/press/an/0501Call_for_Papers.htm

Inquiries: [Alisse Waterston \(awaterston@aol.com\)](mailto:awaterston@aol.com)

NORTHWEST ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

Seattle, Washington, March 29-April 1, 2006.

Info: http://www.washington.edu/burkemuseum/NWAC/NWAC_Index.htm

SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY, 71ST ANNUAL MEETING

San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 26-30, 2006

Info: <http://www.saa.org/>

Inquiries: meetings@saa.org



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