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# THE MIDDEN

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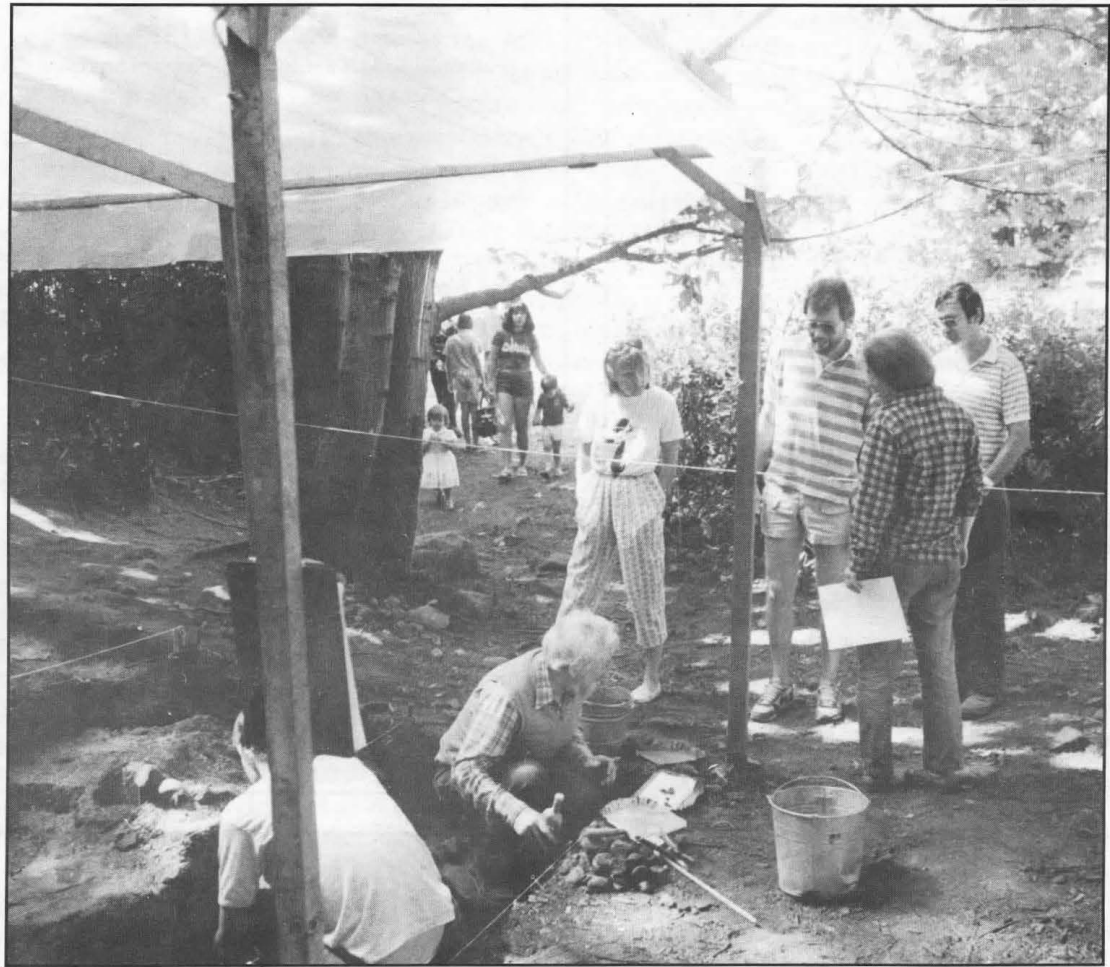
Vol. 28, No. 4 Winter 1996

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## 30 YEARS OF THE ASBC

# THE MIDDEN

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sions and exchange publications should be directed to the appro-  
priate editor at the ASBC address.

## Contributors this issue

Fred Braches, Helmi Braches, Don Bunyan,  
Robbin Chatan, Stan Copp, Robin Hooper, Dana Lepofsky,  
Alan D. McMillan, Hilary Stewart, Ron Sutherland

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# ASBC

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

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ond Wednesday of each month at 8:00 pm unless notified  
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**Nanaimo** President: Imogene Lim  
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sity College, Department of Social Science.

**Victoria** Contact: Tom Bown (385-2708)  
Meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm at the  
Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria.

## FRONT COVER:

Project director Gary Coupland (third from  
right), ASBC members Colin Gurnsey and  
Kitty Bernick (second from right), looking  
at ASBC member Fred Braches in excava-  
tion pit at the 1986 Point Grey (DhRt 5)  
project.

Photo credit: Terry Spurgeon.

## ASBC DIARY:

- Mar. 12 **Doug Brown, SFU**  
Somenos Creek Site
- Apr. 9 **Robyn Woodward,**  
**Underwater Archaeological Society of B.C.**  
Investigating shipwrecks
- May 14 **Prof. Phil Hobler, SFU**  
Three seasons at Tsini Tsini, an early site  
on the central coast of B.C.
- June 11 **Grant Keddie, Royal B.C. Provincial  
Museum**  
A recent overview of regional archaeology  
in Victoria



# MIDDEN

## 30th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

This issue of *The Midden* celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia by looking at the history of the Society, and thus its role within archaeology. Contributors to this issue include longtime ASBC members Ron Sutherland, Fred and Helmi Braches, Hilary Stewart, Don Bunyan and Robin Hooper. They, and many other members, have helped to establish a niche for amateur archaeology in B.C., and have witnessed changes in the role of avocational

archaeology over the years. The mandate of the ASBC, which includes dedication to the protection of archaeological resources and the spread of archaeological knowledge, is reflected in the contributions the Society has made over its 30 years. As the field of archaeology changes, the ASBC Executive and its members continue to shape and direct the Society's role in it. We look forward to a continued involvement in archaeology for many years to come.

### OBITUARY

#### Beth Hill

On January 24th, **Elizabeth Jane Hill** died at home on Saltspring Island after a long battle with cancer, at the age of 72. To archaeologists, Beth Hill is best known for her books on petroglyphs, partly written in cooperation with her husband Ray Hill. To ASBC members, Beth Hill is the warm and inspiring central figure of two visits to Saltspring in the 1970s. Beth guided the group to "her" petroglyphs on the beach and shared her thoughts about them with us; later she and Ray graciously welcomed us at their beautiful home, where the conversation about petroglyphs and other subjects continued over refreshments.

Nothing could characterize better what kind of person Beth Hill was than her own words written shortly before she died:

*Please send me off with joy on this journey. I am certain that my consciousness survives and my love will be with you still. Also, I am grateful for the good life I have enjoyed enormously, for my own family, for Ray and the children and grandchildren and for all the good friends. And now I have been given a relatively benign death, with time to savour the richness of my experience and my friendships.*

*We will meet again.*

*With Love,  
Beth*

We shall mourn and miss her, and our thoughts are with her husband Ray and her family.

### Reviews Errata:

In the last issue of *The Midden* (28.3, Fall 1996) there were errors in two of the book titles reviewed. These are:

**p. 8** *Paul Kane's Nor-West should read Paul Kane's Great Nor-West.*

**p. 10** *Captured Heritage: The scramble for west coast artifacts should read Captured Heritage: The scramble for northwest coast artifacts.*

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# COURSES

## **Cultural Resource Management**

### **University of Victoria, Division of Continuing Studies and Faculty of Fine Arts**

The following courses are being offered through the Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria, and may be of interest to practicing archaeologists, managers, First Nations, and other related participants.

#### **February 5-14      **Managing Archaeological Resources****

Approaches to the preservation and management of archaeological resources are evolving in response to significant changes in public values and attitudes. This course examines resource management concepts as they apply to archaeological sites, site collections, and methods of field inquiry, with an emphasis on North American approaches. Course topics include: the nature of archaeological resources; the history of archaeological resource management; legislation which governs archaeological resources and controls exploitation and preservation; the impacts of changing public values and attitudes on resource management; legal, ethical, preservation, access, ownership, and repatriation issues; approaches to First Nations' heritage resource management, including sacred sites, archaeological resources, burial places, and ethnological objects; control of archaeological field investigations on aboriginal sites; inventory and mapping using Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

*Instructor: Bjorn Simonsen, archaeological consultant and former BC Provincial Archaeologist*

*Location: University of Victoria*

*Early registration deadline: January 6, 1997*

*Fee: \$589 (credit and non-credit)*

#### **April 21-26      **Cultural Tourism****

Cultural and heritage resources help to define communities and make them special. They also provide a means to attract tourists and spur economic development. This course explores both the benefits that carefully planned cultural tourism initiatives can hold for communities or cultural organizations, and the drawbacks that can accompany tourism development. Course topics include: the concept of modern tourism and its links to culture, landscape, and places; international and local trends, issues, and policy directions; interpreting cultural landscapes; building community support; marketing approaches and product development; planning, management and evaluation strategies; First Nations issues in development, marketing, and partnerships; ethical issues relating to sustainability and authenticity. Lectures, guest speakers, field trips, case studies, and group projects will be featured.

*Instructor: Brian White, Strategic Advisor at the World Travel and Tourism Human Resource Centre, and Coordinator of the Tourism Program at Capilano College*

*Location: Capilano College, Vancouver, BC*

*Registration deadline: March 25, 1997*

*Fee: \$589 (credit and non-credit)*

#### **May 7-16      **Inventory and Evaluation of Historic Resources****

Inventory and evaluation of archaeological, architectural, and landscape resources is essential in conservation planning and resource management. This course examines methodologies for evaluated inventories of cultural resources including historic buildings, districts, landscapes, and traditional use and archaeological sites. Course topics include: planning the inventory; research methods; identification of styles; field survey techniques; principles of evaluation; development of evaluation criteria; scoring systems; computer applications; the relationship of inventory and evaluation to the resource management process. Field work and practical assignments are provided. No prior computer experience is required.

*Instructor: Dr. Hal Kalman, a consultant with extensive experience in the inventory of heritage buildings and cultural resources*

*Registration deadline: April 11, 1997*

*Fee: \$589*

*For further information on these and other courses contact Brenda Weatherston, Program Coordinator, Cultural Resource Management Program, Division of Continuing Studies, University of Victoria, PO Box 3030, Victoria, BC, V8W 3N6. Tel. (250) 721-6119; Fax (250) 721-8774; Email: [bweatherston@uvcs.uvic.ca](mailto:bweatherston@uvcs.uvic.ca); Web site: <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/>  
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# GRUBBING AMONG THE MIDDENS

by Don Bunyan and Helmi Braches

Don Bunyan first heard about the ASBC in May 1973, about six weeks after returning to Vancouver. He had come back, on retiring from the oil business in Iraq, to enjoy the mountains and the sea near Vancouver, and to learn something about archaeology. In Iraq he had acquired an interest in archaeology, and decided to ascertain what education in the subject he could find in Vancouver. First on Don's agenda, however, was a visit to his hometown, Nelson, B.C. It was during his return from that journey into nostalgia that he happened to hear, on his car radio, the end of an interview with a couple of members of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia. He had heard enough to gather that such a society existed, was active, and would shortly be holding its monthly meeting, at which the public was welcome.

Now, 24 years later, Don doesn't remember in what month he attended his first meeting. But join he did, by writing to the then ASBC President, the late Sheila Neville. He also went to UBC and met Dr. R.G. Matson, who informed him the summer UBC archaeological field school would be held at the Glenrose Cannery site near Vancouver, and the ASBC would provide volunteers to assist in the work. By becoming an ASBC member, Don was able to join the regular UBC work force, spending every weekday at the site for the duration of the field school.

By this time, many members of the ASBC had several seasons of digging under their belts. From its inception in 1966, the ASBC had participation in archaeological projects written into its mandate. In those days, volunteer help was generally welcomed by excavation directors, who were usually affiliated with universities, museums, or the government. The late Dr. Charles E. Borden himself, in

the summer of 1967, first invited ASBC members to join the UBC excavation at Marpole (DhRs 1), a site which he had extensively investigated during the preceding years. ASBC volunteers were usually only available only on weekends, but in those days archaeological projects would often run seven days a week during the field season. It was therefore no problem to give volunteers the necessary training and supervision on Saturdays and Sundays.

The next project in which ASBC members actively participated was a salvage excavation at Musqueam (DhRt 4), under the direction of the late Moira Irvine of UBC. The work was carried out during the summer of 1968, with ASBC member Art Davies coordinating and directing the ASBC contingent.

Early 1969 saw ASBC volunteers out in the field again, this time to help with the excavation at the St. Mungo Cannery Site (DgRr 2). The dig was run by the Centennial Museum (now Vancouver Museum), with Gay Calvert, the Museum's archaeologist, as director. Although lack of funding put a premature end to this operation, by the end of March twenty-four Society members had put in a total of 35 days of work at the site. It was during this dig that Gay Calvert obtained a carbon sample yielding a date of 2,360 B.C.  $\pm$  110, which made St. Mungo the oldest known midden in the Fraser Delta by at least 1,000 years.

By this time, the ASBC had become something of an archaeological "watch dog". Whenever the Society became aware of the impending threat to an archaeological site, we would try to hold off development until a salvage excavation, or at least a survey, had been carried out.

This was the situation in 1969, when a midden area on the edge of English Bluff

in Tsawwassen was endangered by residential development. Fortunately the owner was willing to delay construction, and the ASBC obtained the necessary permits to conduct its own excavation at the Tsawwassen Bluff (DgRs 11). The ASBC also had professional guidance from Dr. Borden and Moira Irvine: Moira in particular helped conduct the site survey and established the datum point.

During the entire summer, a dedicated team of ASBC volunteers, including Ron and Eileen Sutherland, Bill and Betsy Lane, Hilary Stewart, Jim Garrison, Vera Ransom, Brian and Isabel Byrnes, Nick and Sharon Russell, Gladys Groves, and Shirley Veale, spent every weekend at the site, excavated pits, filled in level sheets, recorded artifacts, and discussed the possible analysis of their finds. (See also Bill Lane's article in *The Midden* Vol. 1 No. 5, Sept. 1969.) It was also the consensus that the site consisted of a single component with two periods of occupation, and it was a Marpole type culture, although some artifacts did not seem to tie in with the Marpole phase.

Much lab work and analysis went on after the dig, and in order to write the site report in a professional manner, Eileen Sutherland took archaeology courses with Dr. R.G. Matson at UBC. She received valuable comments and suggestions from SFU's Dr. Roy Carlson as well. The report also included the description and analysis of an excavation that took place the following year of a small site on the beach below DgRs 11, the Tsawwassen Beach Site (DgRs 9). This dig was also undertaken by the ASBC, again under the guidance of Dr. Borden and Moira Irvine. All artifacts from those two projects, as well as field notes and related materials, were donated to the Archaeology Laboratory at UBC.

The two seasons at Tsawwassen gave the ASBC much confidence. We had gained considerable expertise, shown we could conduct our own excavation, but we also knew when to ask for professional advice. We knew what we were doing. Over the next few years, most members of the academic and government archaeological communities rewarded this demonstration of expertise by continuing to invite us to help with their projects. During the winter of 1969/70, we assisted UBC at the Liquid Air Site (DhRr 19); in 1971, were at SFU's Crescent Beach (DgRr 1) salvage operation and the Belcarra Park excavation.

In September 1970, impending highway construction threatened the largest known pit house village site (DiRi 1) in the Fraser Valley at the Katz Indian Reservation near Hope. Again Dr. Borden asked for the ASBC's assistance. Hilary Stewart recorded in the Society's log book: "Over the Labour Day weekend, 18 of our members turned out to help, some camped for the full three days, others returned each day. Experienced from working at the Society's summer digs, their knowledge and abilities proved invaluable in salvaging much of the site, and their enthusiastic work brought high praise from Dr. Borden." Work at Katz continued next summer, again with ASBC volunteers joining the UBC team under Gordon Hanson. Katz must have been a very special dig for everyone who participated. It may have been the distance from the city and the panorama of majestic mountains surrounding the site, or the hot summer weather which prevailed during most of the time, or the nearby lake which refreshed the crews after work. Whatever it was, whenever Katz is mentioned it will still produce a spaced out, happy look in the eyes of the former participant!

Other projects involving ASBC assistance were the Glenrose Cannery (DgRr 6) site excavation under the direction of Tom Loy, in 1972 and 1973; Musqueam, directed by David Archer, in 1972, 1973 and 1974; Noons Creek, directed by SFU's Rick Percy; and Crescent Beach again in 1976 and 1977, with an excavation run by Leonard Ham, and a salvage screening operation by Rick Percy. The ASBC Chapter in Abbotsford was also busy lending assistance at sites in the Fraser Valley, among others the Pitt Meadows Golf

Course, and the Maurer site (DhRk 8) near Agassiz. Brian and Isabel Byrnes were among the most active volunteers on those digs.

As the 1970s drew to a close there seemed to be fewer excavations in which we were able to participate, and several summers went by without us having any field project. Then, in 1982, news reached us about a substantial archaeological project on the banks of the Fraser River. The provincial government decided to build a new bridge to connect Annacis Island with the south bank of the Fraser. The southern supports of the bridge were to be constructed exactly on the St. Mungo Cannery site and would almost totally destroy it. However, the Department of Highways agreed to delay construction to allow for an archaeological excavation, and was also going to pay for it. The contract, in the words of Art Charlton, then Provincial Archaeologist, constituted at the time "the most money ever spent on a single site in one year." It was funded jointly by Highways, the B.C. Heritage Conservation Branch, and the B.C. Heritage Trust. The project went to Provenance Research Inc., with work starting in the fall of 1982 and scheduled to continue for six months.

The ASBC rejoiced. It had been years since the last opportunity for active participation in an excavation, and we were looking forward to a good field season. However, in some ways we were to be disappointed. Provincial legislation had been revised in 1976. Under the new law, if an archaeological site was threatened by development, the government had much more power to oblige the developer not only to allow for the necessary time for an archaeological salvage excavation, but to fund it as well. In practice this meant archaeologists, who in the past had mostly worked on shoestring budgets, were now able to draw up proposals based on hourly wages and a five-day work-week. It also meant the help of volunteers was not included in archaeological proposals. Technology too, had become more refined by this time. The 1982/83 St. Mungo dig was done entirely in natural levels, which doubtless requires greater skill and care than a technique based on arbitrary levels. Still, the St. Mungo contract did include a component of "extensive public involvement", but it obviously did not



*ASBC dig at Tsawwassen Bluff, 1969. Photograph courtesy of Special Collections, UBC.*

mean letting volunteers participate in the excavation. ASBC members who had had training in earlier excavations were disappointed. All we were allowed to do was screen back dirt originating from several trenches that had been dug across the site by backhoe, the artifacts from this screening not being part of the main research. There was no distinction made between the ASBC and the general public: the screening of the back dirt was open to the public at large.

By this time, there was a noticeable public interest in archaeology, and St. Mungo became a well frequented attraction for all of the Lower Mainland. A public interpretation centre, including a photographic display, had been set up, guides for site tours were hired and trained, and the number of visitors from February to April was astounding. In view of this success the Heritage Trust decided to extend the public program beyond the conclusion of the excavation to the end of August, and approached the ASBC to run it. If we hadn't been able to participate in the excavation proper, this offer was the next best opportunity to fulfil one of the aims laid down in our charter: to further public knowledge of and education in archaeology. We were not quite comfortable with the set-up, because we were obliged to

use the infrastructure and even the staff of the research company, and our acceptance of the Trust's offer did indeed lead to some acrimony. But the continuation of the public interpretation program was a bigger success than anyone had ever imagined. The screening proved to be the main attraction, but demonstrations of artifact manufacturing were also popular. Until the end of June, school classes visited during the week and were given the chance to try their hands at a real dig - a small pit lying outside the research area. The media helped to make the St. Mungo site known. 18,000 visitors were recorded at the site over the entire period, with the last day alone - a miserable, rainy day - accounting for almost 1,000 people. ASBC members Colin Gurnsey and Helmi Braches handled the administration of the project, and Mary Britten must have the prize for hands-on involvement. During the summer months she came almost every day and helped with the screening. (For a more detailed account of the public interpretation program, see *The Midden* Vol. 15, No. 4, Oct. 1983.)

What has St. Mungo 1983 meant for the ASBC? It was definitely a useful learning experience. We saw that we could play a meaningful role in helping to further the public understanding of archaeology. On the other hand, did it signal the end of any excavating for ASBC volunteers? Well, it didn't. Three years later, in 1986, we had an opportunity once again to participate in a dig.

That summer, Dr. Gary Coupland took the UBC field school to Point Grey (DhRt

5), and he accommodated participation by the ASBC. There were two aspects of ASBC involvement: 1) the ASBC was given its own trench for excavation, the results of which formed an integral part of the overall research, and 2) the ASBC ran a public interpretation program. Coordinator of the public program was archaeologist and ASBC member Kitty Bernick. Her full-time involvement as well as the other costs for the program, such as the photographic display, were covered by a grant from the Heritage Trust. But this time the tour guides were all ASBC volunteers. Again the public program drew crowds. Over the six-week duration of the project, 1,373 visitors came to the site and saw the excavation. Close to 40 ASBC volunteers took part in the project. Among the people working primarily in the trench, Jack Grey, Helen Smith, Mary Britten and Terry Spurgeon stood out as particularly active, while Bill Goodson, Gladys Groves, and Helmi Braches spent more time giving tours. (For more on the Point Grey project, see *The Midden* Vol. 18, Nos. 3 & 4, 1986.)

In 1988, we were called to help with a salvage operation at a golf course in Tsawwassen, where, in the process of digging a small lake to serve as a water hazard, bulldozers had brought up water-logged material (hence Water Hazard Site, DgRs 30). It was summer, the weather was hot and dry, and in order to prevent decay of the fragile materials on contact with air, speed was of the essence, and obviously no advance notice could be given. ASBC volunteers responded generously with

their time, and quickly learned how to remove the mud from basketry fragments with water hoses, using the utmost care so as not to destroy what was left of the artifacts.

Opportunities for volunteer participation in archaeological excavations have otherwise been few and far between over the last decade. In the light of the changes that have taken place in archaeology, it looks as if we cannot expect things ever to return to the days when volunteer diggers could count on being welcome, and we'll have to live with that. However, there are other ways in which we can be active and helpful. As Professor Richard Pearson of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at UBC told us a short while ago, in these days of shrinking university budgets, volunteers can be very useful in helping with all kinds of things such as certain types of lab work or inputting data into computers.

The ASBC was founded because there were people who were interested in archaeology and cared. Even if we can no longer excavate, we are still here, our interest is still alive. It is up to the academic and museum communities to use us.

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#### Helmi Braches and Don Bunyan

**Helmi Braches has been active on the ASBC executive committee for over 20 years. ASBC member Don Bunyan is an avocational archaeologist with numerous publications in archaeology to his credit. For a profile on Bunyan see *The Midden* Vol. 27 No. 4, Winter 1995.**

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# LOOK FOR

This section is dedicated to annotated listings of both articles and chapters in edited volumes pertaining to the archaeology of the Pacific Northwest, particularly British Columbia. Any authors who have recently published articles in academic journals or book chapters are invited to send reprints or copies to: The Publications Editor, *The Midden*, A.S.B.C., P.O. Box 520, Bentall Station, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2N3.

Acheson, Steven R.

1995 In the Wake of the Iron People: A Case for Changing Settlement Strategies Among the Kunghit Haida.

*The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (N.S.)* 1(2): 273-299.

In this article the author examines the variability in the settlement patterns of the Kunghit Haida of southern Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands). Through the combination of archaeological data and the ethnographic and historical records, he is able to reinterpret the temporal change in settlement behaviour. The prehistoric record indicates that small, nucleated, year-round occupied sites found on the exposed outer coasts were common. He believes that these are associated with a unilineal social organisation. On the other hand, the large, seasonally occupied, multilineal village sites of the ethnohistoric period appeared after the outset of European contact.

Hill, Beth.

1992 Small Painted Stones from Salish Territory.

*Northwest Anthropological Research Notes* 26 (1): 89-99.

Beth Hill discusses the significance of Salishan painted stones from both the Coast (Jervis Inlet and Kuper Island) and Interior (Nlaka'pamux-Thompson) Salishan culture areas. Based on the existent ethnographic evidence and the known archaeological provenience, the author infers that these artefacts were "implements of power" in traditional Salishan culture. Due to their sacred and powerful nature, they are generally hidden or buried, and this artefact class tends to be archaeologically invisible and under-represented.

James, Malcom A., Jeff Bailey, and John M. D'Auria.

1996 A Volcanic Glass Library for the Pacific Northwest: Problems and Prospects.

*Canadian Journal of Archaeology* 20: 93-122.

This article deals with the Simon Fraser University reference library of volcanic glass source characterisations. Throughout the Pacific Northwest several volcanic glass types were used as raw materials for prehistoric stone tools. The authors have used the energy dispersive x-ray fluorescence (XRF) technique to characterise the volcanic glass trace elements from a number of lithic sources in the Pacific Northwest (Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, California, Washington, British Columbia, Yukon, and Alaska). They are in the process of developing an extensive standardized database of volcanic glass chemical characteristics and source locations that can be used for inter-regional comparisons.

Kusmer, Karla D.

1994 Changes in Subsistence Strategies at the Tsawwassen Site, A Southwestern British Columbia Shell Midden.

*Northwest Anthropological Research Notes* 28 (2): 189-210.

In this article Karla Kusmer presents the results and interpretation of faunal remains excavated from the Tsawwassen site (DgRs 2) by Arcas Consulting Archeologists Ltd. in 1989 and 1990. The faunal data are comprised of molluscs, fish, bird, and mammal remains. The assemblage exhibits an apparent temporal shift in the prehistoric subsistence economy between the Marpole (ca. 2350-1550 BP) and Gulf of Georgia (ca. 1550-150 BP) phases in the local archaeological culture sequence. She notes that the change in the taxa exploited and seasonality of occupation may be due to environmental changes resulting from the expansion of the Fraser Delta, and the maturation of salmon technology.

Lyman, R. Lee.

1995 On the Evolution of Marine Mammal Hunting on the West Coast of North America.

*Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 14(1): 45-77.

R. Lee Lyman discusses the zooarchaeological evidence for prehistoric pinniped (seal, sea lion, and sea otter) exploitation along the western coast of North America. Traditionally, the recovery of sea mammal remains from coastal archaeological contexts has resulted in interpretations of the use of watercraft and sophisticated technology in the procurement of these animals. However, during the breeding season, pinnipeds are readily accessible for exploitation at their terrestrial rookery and haul out locations. In this article the author reviews the interpretative history of sea mammal exploitation, he critically evaluates the archaeofaunal data, and presents new zooarchaeological data from two sites in Oregon. This paper was primarily written in response to the interpretation of sea mammal over-exploitation presented earlier by Hildebrandt and Jones (in *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 11[1992]:360-401).



# THE PRIVATE COLLECTIONS PROJECT

by Fred and Helmi Braches

In the early days of the ASBC, when universities, colleges and museums gratefully accepted volunteer support for their excavations, many members of the ASBC took an active part in authorized digs. "You couldn't PAY people to work like that," Dr. Borden had said about these volunteers. That certainly also applies to a small group of volunteers who spent hundreds of hours on the ambitious Private Collections Project.

The idea was developed by Brian and Isabel Byrnes from Whonnock, ASBC members since 1969. The objective was to record local archaeological artifacts held in personal collections in order to preserve any information still available about them. An indexed photo record of these artifacts would become a useful research tool. It plainly seemed a task for the ASBC, operating as a link between the general public and professionals.

In October of 1972, the ASBC executive formed for that purpose a "Personal Collections Committee", with Ron Sutherland as Committee Chairman. The Project worked on a shoe-string budget. From mostly scrap materials, Brian Byrnes built three collapsible and portable light tables that enabled three teams to work. The Society owned only one camera and throughout the project continued to make use of members' cameras with the other light tables. For the purchase of equipment, film and cost of processing, the Project originally depended entirely on the ASBC's own funds.

Initially only the Whonnock team operated, and then other members joined. The first step was locating collections through word-of-mouth, letter writing, an occasional mention in the newspapers, and

joining in at community fairs. Next, collectors were contacted and their approval to record the artifacts was obtained. Finally the collections were recorded. At the collectors' homes these teams set up their light table and arranged the artifacts on a glass sheet. Numbers were added and the plate photographed. The team identified

Most collections were photographed in one session but some took three or more days. Aside from the pleasure of handling and seeing these artifacts, volunteers enjoyed meeting so many people with a similar interest. Team members shared their enthusiasm and expertise with the collectors while also informing them of the ethical and legal aspects of collecting.

In the first years the volunteers photographed, measured and recorded more than 2,400 artifacts in private collections. In 1974 the B.C. Cultural Fund gave a small grant but the total expenditure of those first years was no more than \$500 in total. By the beginning of 1977 the small group of dedicated volunteers had increased the output to some 340 photos of approximately 3,300 objects in 23 private collections.

Lack of money continued to hamper any larger scale effort, but that changed in 1977. On behalf of the ASBC, Don Bunyan, then chairman of the Committee, successfully applied for a Canada Council grant of \$3,210 for the expansion of the Private Collections Program. The application was backed by Bjorn Simonson, Thomas Loy, and Dr. Charles Borden. The Canada Council grant allowed the Society to hire one qualified person to administer the work and organize the records. Suzanne Clouthier, an anthropology student,

accepted the part-time assignment between her 1977 and 1978 summer jobs at Upper Hat Creek. Don continued to administer the funds conscientiously and after Suzanne's departure assumed the administration of the Project.

Through that winter of 1977-1978 three photography crews operated. The original team of Brian and Isabel Byrnes in



*Vocational archaeologists and initiators of the Private Collections Project, Brian and Isabel Byrnes, in the early days of the ASBC.*

each item on the plate, recorded material type (i.e., stone, bone, antler, and shell), measured the dimensions with callipers, took note of the condition of the artifacts, and if known the artifact's provenience. One photo matched one data sheet. Both carried the same number, a combination of the collector's and the recording team's identification and a catalogue number.

Whonnock, now including members of the Abbotsford branch, covered the Fraser Valley. Derek Scrivener and Shirley Veale worked on the North Shore, and Don Bunyan headed teams in southern Vancouver. Dr. Richard Pearson of the UBC Department of Anthropology made workspace available to Suzanne Clouthier and arranged that the records be kept at the Museum of Anthropology.

In his final report to the Canada Council in December 1978, Don reported over 1,100 photographs of nearly 10,000 objects on file. That was more than anticipated in the Canada Council grant application but less than could be done. There were still possibly more than 100 collections to deal with, but perhaps not surprisingly, the initial enthusiasm had somewhat cooled.

Only the Upper Fraser Valley team remained fully active and their work continued until 1981. In 1980 *The Midden* reports that the Private Collections Project teams had taken 1,236 black-and-white photographs and recorded 110 collections with a total of 11,564 items. The Upper Fraser Valley team in 1981, accounted for 793 photos and 7,268 artifacts, representing approximately one third of the work. In a 1985 article in *The Midden*, Pam Adory, one of the last who worked on the collection, praises the collection and says a special thanks to those in the past who set this project in motion.

It has now been 15 years since the last item was added to the Private Collections files. The ASBC expected the standardized record of these collections would be a useful tool to archaeologists, and in the 1970s, archaeologists in this province seemed to share that view and supported the project. Why then is the private collection hardly used today? Don Bunyan thinks the main reason is the obsolete punch-card system, reluctantly adopted at the time, tempting by its cheapness and simplicity. To meet today's information format requirements, the ASBC volunteers would have to access the original record sheets and photographs, reclassify the objects in the collection consistent with the national inventory standards, and enter the revised descriptions in the electronic file. This, as Don says, is a major undertaking, and only today's professionals can judge its feasibility.

At the same time we raise the question

to the professionals whether archaeology in the province might profit from a revival of the Private Collections Project? The Project can be started up again at any time. The light tables and camera are still there. But the question is whether it should. Has it been worth it in the first place? We think it has. Recording the existence of archaeological artifacts—an "extinct species"—must always be worth it, even if the information related to the artifacts is in many cases incomplete. A record is of particular importance for items in private hands, which are often unknown or not accessible. At least they are now documented, and that information is available. We also know there are many more collections not yet recorded.

The ASBC executive would like to hear from you regarding the future of the Private Collections Project.

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#### Fred and Helmi Braches

**Fred Braches is a longtime ASBC member, currently in charge of *The Midden* subscriptions. Helmi Braches is also a long-serving member of the ASBC executive, and is presently Vice President of the Society.**

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## PLATEAU MICROBLADE TRADITION OCCUPATIONS - STIRLING CREEK BRIDGE SITE

by Stan Copp

Archaeological excavations of the Stirling Creek Bridge Site (DiRa 9) near the village of Hedley were conducted in 1995. These, and earlier test excavations, revealed the presence of a multi-component site containing diagnostic cores and microblades of the Plateau Microblade Tradition. Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) radiocarbon assays on culturally-modified ungulate bones help place these occupations in time. A Late Period Plateau Microblade Tradition component is now dated to  $1810 \pm 90$  BP. An Early Period component, commencing some 40 to 50 cm below this is now dated between  $6920 \pm 100$  and  $7400 \pm 90$  BP. The AMS dates were run at the Nagoya University Tandem Accelerator Centre, in Japan.

Late Period artifacts include corner-notched projectile points similar to Northern Columbia Plateau sequences as well as variants of "Shuswap Horizon" types from the Thompson - Fraser region. Early Period projectile points include "Cascade"-like leaf-shaped types with serrated blade margins. Of particular interest is the large sample of microblades (>2000) and microcores manufactured primarily of local cryptocrystalline silicates. Of note is the presence of quartz crystal microblades in both components, although microcores of this material are limited to deposits situated stratigraphically below the Late Period materials.

Ongoing analysis of these materials will provide information about the nature of the Plateau Microblade Tradition from pre-Mazama [ash fall] times to the Late Period of Plateau prehistory -- a time span of over 5000 years. Funding for this research was provided by the Ministry of Transportation and Highways.

Stan Copp

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**Stan Copp is associated with Langara College and works with Itkus Consulting Archaeologists.**

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# CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

by Ron Sutherland

This is the type of question we who are members of the ASBC are inclined to ask ourselves from time to time. However, looking back and realizing the changes which have taken place, I feel the answer would be a resounding "yes"!

We could "trot out" many examples, such as the ASBC's pressure on all levels of government, particularly at the provincial level, during the 1968-1970 period. This resulted in the official informing of all RCMP detachments throughout the province, all department heads of the Surveys and Mapping Branch, Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, and B.C. Land Surveyors (approximately 200 at that time), about the existence of the *Archaeological and Historic Sites Protection Act*. It became their responsibility to report the discovery of any middens encountered in their day-to-day work. A number of sites were reported in this way, including one valuable site at Masset on Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands), which resulted in the re-routing of the projected highway around the site.

One of the most interesting examples, at least for me personally, of how the ASBC has made a difference was the investigation of the Katz site. This site was threatened by the relocation of the CPR's right-of-way and the construction of the #7 Highway between Agassiz and Highway #1 north of Hope. The Katz site is situated on the north side of the Fraser River, just south of where the natural gas pipeline crosses the river. Dr. Charles Borden of UBC contacted the ASBC about the destruction of a pit house site which had taken place at Katz. We offered to assist in any way we could in order to have the provincial government postpone the highway construction until an adequate archaeological excavation, financed by the provincial government, had taken place. Hon. Wesley Black, Provincial Secretary (responsible for archaeological matters at the time), flatly refused to consider our request or any delay to the highway project.

Annoyed and frustrated by the provincial government's intransigent position, we decided to write to N.R. Crump, Chairman of Canadian Pacific Railway Co. on

August 7, 1970. We expressed the opinion that "to knowingly destroy an archaeological site, particularly one of such importance, would be nothing less than an act of vandalism, and it is inconceivable that the C.P.R. would be a party to such an act." In addition, we pointed out the C.P.R.'s unique place in the history of Canada and B.C.. We suggested all work in the area of the pit houses stop immediately pending a reappraisal as to whether the work which would destroy the site was absolutely necessary, and that an archaeological excavation take place to secure an adequate record of the site.

In less than one week, I received a brief memorandum from Mr. Crump.

*August 13, 1970*

*Mr. R.R. Sutherland  
President,  
Archaeological Society of British Columbia*

*Dear Mr. Sutherland:*

*I have your letter of August 7th in regard to the alleged destruction of 4 house pits in the Katz area.*

*I did not realize that archaeological work was being done in this area and I am making some enquiries. I shall be in touch with you further.*

*Sincerely yours,  
N.R. Crump*

Almost simultaneously with receiving this memo, my telephone at the office never stopped ringing and I found myself speaking with a Vice-President or Department Head of the C.P.R.'s Pacific Region. I said to one caller I was amazed by the reaction of the C.P.R. executive and he replied: "Mr. Sutherland, when you work for the C.P.R. and you receive a memo from Mr. Crump, you drop everything else and act on the memo."

I am sure the telephones of the Provincial Secretary, Highways Department, and other provincial cabinet members were also ringing at the same time, because I too suddenly began receiving solicitous phone calls from a number of provincial government departments.

We received a further letter from Mr. Crump, stating that he considered himself "as an itinerant amateur archaeologist."

This was undoubtedly a feature in his interest in the Katz site.

Dr. Borden arranged for a crew headed by Gordon Hanson to carry out a two and a half week salvage dig. The ASBC supplied volunteers to assist in excavating on the Labour Day weekend and the following weekend. This was the only archaeological work done at the site in 1970.

We do not know exactly what took place between the C.P.R. and the Highways Department, but the results would suggest the C.P.R. refused to allow their railway tracks moved until the archaeological interests were satisfied. Construction in the vicinity of the pit houses was postponed and the government of B.C. funded the excavation. The work began on weekends in the spring of 1971, and once university classes were over it became full time throughout the summer. Gordon Hanson was in charge and he had an excellent crew. The ASBC provided numerous volunteers mainly on weekends, but some such as Brian and Isabel Byrnes were also often there during the week. Eileen and I, together with our daughter Carol, participated most weekends. Certainly all ASBC members who volunteered had a most interesting and satisfying time, and are left with many happy memories.

The Katz site excavation was the basis for Gordon Hanson's MA thesis, and a wealth of knowledge about the province's prehistory was discovered and recorded, thanks in part to the ASBC.

My correspondence with N.R. "Buck" Crump continued for a while, often in the form of a hand written memo signed "Ron" or "Buck" respectively. In 1972, I was very pleased to be invited to his retirement reception at the Hotel Vancouver, where we met for the first and only time. I felt privileged to have had the opportunity of being in direct contact with one of Canada's industrialist giants who was also just another man with an interest in archaeology.

We can make a difference!

**Ron Sutherland**

**Ron Sutherland, a retired shipping executive, was president of the ASBC from 1968-1970 and 1978-1980.**

# FIELD NOTES

## ITKUS CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGISTS

**Stan Copp** writes that he, **Doug Hudson**, and **Mary Quirolo** of Itkus Consulting Archaeologists have worked on a total of seven projects in 1996, of which three represent continuations of investigations that began in 1995. Of their projects, four were impact assessments -- two associated with forestry developments, one with a highway construction project, and one with park improvements at the Derby Reach Heritage Complex. Stan conducted further test excavations of cultural features at the Chuchuwayha Village Site near Hedley, and also continued with his analysis of archaeological materials from the Stirling Creek Bridge Site near Hedley.

## ARCAS CONSULTING ARCHEOLOGISTS LTD.

**Richard Brolly** reports that Arcas Consulting Archeologists employed a total of 150 people throughout the year, of which 19 were full-time salaried personnel (including four administrative staff), 19 were seasonal or casual personnel, and 112 were First Nations assistants who were employed for varying periods of time.

Approximately 93 projects were undertaken during the past year, of which about seven were carried over from previous years. These include completion of the analysis and reporting for a 1995 excavation at the Beach Grove Site in Tsawwassen, progress toward completion of the fourth volume of the Tsawwassen Site excavations, and preparation of a field manual for the identification and recording of culturally-modified trees (CMTs). Of the projects carried out in 1996, 65 were archaeological impact assessments, nine were archaeological overviews, and 19 represented other types of projects (including research for legal cases, site surveys for land claims research, historical land use research, construction monitoring, and field reconnaissance).

Of Arcas' 1996 projects, 64 (or 69%) were associated with forestry developments, notably on Vancouver Island and

in the Central and Southern Interior of the province, but there were also a number of office-based overviews. This trend toward dominance of the workload by forest companies appears to be fairly consistent with the experience of other consultants in this province, and reflects the continuing influence of the provincial *Forest Practices Code Act*. Another distinctive trend observed in 1996 was Requests for Proposals to conduct archaeological overview assessments are now insisting that GIS-based modelling systems be used to generate site potential maps of entire forest districts or watershed units.

## EQUINOX RESEARCH AND CONSULTING LTD.

**Ian Franck** writes that 1996 was the first full year of operation for Equinox. Equinox employed a total of 17 people throughout the year, three of which were full time, four as part time office assistants and field researchers, and ten were First Nations field assistants. They conducted 11 field impact assessments as well as six studies confined to the office and various archives. Less than 35% of these projects were conducted for clients associated with the forest industry, with most being undertaken either for private developers or various government agencies. Equinox does not intend to expand greatly during the next year, as two of their three company directors are still involved in graduate studies. Currently Equinox has two full time employees who are members of the B.C.A.P.C.A.

## GOLDER ASSOCIATES LTD. (BURNABY)

**Jeff Bailey** writes that Golder Associates Ltd. expanded its Environmental Group in May 1996 to include two full-time archaeologists. In January 1997 they added a third archaeologist to their staff. Since last May, Golder's Burnaby archaeologists have completed or are working on a total of 27 projects, including impact assessments, overviews (both field and office based), development monitoring,

traditional use studies and First Nations training programmes. Most of the projects have been completed by Golder's archaeologists with the help of First Nations field assistants, but some other archaeologists have also been employed. In total, 37 people have been hired to work on their projects this year.

Golder's 1996 field projects resulted in the location and recording (or re-recording) of approximately 60 archaeological sites, including isolated artifacts, lithic scatters, subsistence features, an historic refuse dump, rockshelters, villages, trails, and historic mining features. Projects were completed or are ongoing in the Central Coast, Sunshine Coast, Vancouver Island, Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, Fraser Canyon, Mid-Fraser, Central Interior, Shuswap, Okanagan, and Peace River areas, as well as southern New Mexico.

## POINTS WEST HERITAGE CONSULTING LTD.

**Jean Bussey** writes that in 1996, she and **Gabriella Prager** of Points West Heritage Consulting Ltd. directed studies in B.C., Alberta, and the Northwest Territories. Conducting archaeological investigations near the Arctic coast as a continuation of a study initiated in 1995 for a proposed gold mine, 30 new archaeological sites were recorded, including one possible palaeo-eskimo and three possible Thule sites. Two archaeologists and an Inuit assistant were involved in this field work. An archaeological inventory conducted 300 km northeast of Yellowknife was a continuation of work originally undertaken in 1994 and 1995 for a proposed diamond mine. A total of 25 new archaeological sites were discovered, bringing the project area total to 87. Two archaeologists and two assistants, one representing the Yellowknife Dene and the other the Dogrib, were involved in this study.

In B.C., one new site was recorded as part of a multifaceted study for the Penticton Forest District. Field investigations were conducted at a variety of locations between Kelowna and the U.S. border. Assistance was provided by representa-

tives of the Westbank First Nation, Pen-ticton Indian Band, and Osoyoos Indian Band. Research and assessment, the major focus of this study, was conducted by Jean and Gabriella. Work undertaken near Atlin represented a continuation of investigations initiated in 1995 for a proposed mine. Although no new archaeological sites were recorded in 1996, a number of cultural and sustenance sites and trails were identified; a number of field assistants and elders from the Taku River Tlingit First Nation assisted with this study. No new archaeological sites were located during the other surveys conducted, which included: (1) field investigations for a number of gas and oil companies in northeastern B.C., including one project that extended into Alberta; (2) two land development projects in Fort Nelson, and; (3) three logging blocks on the Liard River near the Yukon border. Two archaeologists and representatives from the Blueberry River, Doig River, or Fort Nelson Indian Bands were involved in these studies.

#### **TRACES ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND CONSULTING LTD.**

**Arne Carlson** wrote that over the 1996 year Traces Archaeological Research and Consulting Ltd. conducted 21 projects. Several of these are currently in the final reporting stages. Of these, 11 were archaeological impact assessment studies conducted under four separate permits. All but one of these projects were associated with forestry developments, and involved surveys of logging cut blocks in the Vanderhoof, Lakes, and Morice Forest Districts. A total of 31 archaeological sites were found during these projects, 12 of which were pre-Contact period cultural material/subsistence feature sites, and the remainder were CMTs or trails. Of the other projects, four were archaeological overview studies in the aforementioned forest districts, and two were small-scale reconnaissance surveys associated with forestry developments.

In addition to these cultural resource management studies, Traces also carried out a variety of archaeological research projects. The first of these was a site inventory survey in the Vanderhoof Forest District, during which 15 new archaeolog-

ical sites were identified and recorded. Secondly, Traces financed and conducted two projects involving test excavations at seven different sites -- two on Hallett Lake and five in the vicinity of the Nechako Canyon. These projects were geared toward collecting data to address basic questions of chronology, site content, and settlement - subsistence patterns for the late pre-Contact period in the Nechako Plateau region. Lastly, as a follow-up to an impact assessment of a logging cut block near Fraser Lake, and in co-operation with the Nadleh Whut'en, the Ministry of Forests, and Fraser Lake Sawmills, Traces recorded and collected a sample of approximately 50 historic CMT stem-round disc samples from a proposed road right-of-way, in order to provide a baseline study on management, recording and analytical methods, morphology, age, and distribution of historic CMTs in the Central Interior. The reports on this study and the other research projects are still in preparation.

#### **I.R. WILSON CONSULTANTS LTD.**

**Ian Wilson** writes from Vancouver Island that I.R. Wilson Consultants Ltd. conducted 68 archaeological projects in 1996. Of these, 22 represented overview, site inspection, or surveillance and monitoring studies, 43 were impact assessments, and three were mitigation projects. This appears to reflect a growing trend for site avoidance and a marked decrease in excavation projects over the past several years.

Of the 46 field projects, 25 were related to forestry developments, 12 involved land or housing subdivisions, while the remaining nine were associated with a variety of projects such as pipelines, roads, and industrial developments. Again, the trend is clear, with forestry now accounting for about half of their work, whereas it previously represented less than 10% of their projects.

In terms of staff, I.R. Wilson Consultants employed 11 people full time and perhaps double this in peak field periods. They also employed about 50 First Nations field assistants for varying amounts of time throughout the year.

The highlight of the year for the firm, in terms of substantive archaeological re-

sults, was a basal radiocarbon date of 4100 BP recovered from a site near Port Renfrew, in a region where very little previous archaeological research has ever been carried out. The artifact assemblage from this site, though small, is comparable to other sites of similar age on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, including Little Beach (Ucluelet), and seems markedly different from early assemblages from Nootka Sound to the north.

#### **THE BASTION GROUP HERITAGE CONSULTANTS**

**Bjorn Simonsen** reports that the Bastion Group Heritage Consultants was involved in a number of field-oriented projects in 1996. These included a five-month long archaeological impact assessment and salvage excavation project on the Kamloops Indian Reserve within a 450 acre area, slated for a housing and golf course development. A crew of 10 to 12 people was employed -- about half of who were Band members. A total of 30 archaeological sites, (of which 27 had been previously identified by George Nicholas and his Secwepemc Field School), were tested and evaluated. Salvage excavations were carried out at the Government Hill Site, and future excavations are planned for five additional sites -- ideally with the help of the Secwepemc Field School group, over a number of years.

A number of archaeological overview studies were carried out for various forest companies, the Ministry of Forests (100 Mile House), the Haisla and Heiltsuk First Nations, and the Quatsino Indian Band. A total of 25 archaeological impact assessment projects were conducted, ranging from half-day reconnaissances to projects of considerable scope. The latter category included an assessment of a proposed new highway connection between Greenville and Kincolith along the north side of the Nass River. Work completed on this project during 1997 was preceded by an overview study, carried out by **Rick Garvin** in 1995/1996, which included a comprehensive inventory of Nisga'a place names and legends that are associated with the new right-of-way.

A brief project carried out on behalf of the Quatsino Indian Band included the involvement of a large group of "explorers" from the British Schools Explorations

Society (based in London, U.K.). A total of 20 individuals carried out an archaeological site survey and reconnaissance of portions of Quatsino Sound and Holberg Inlet in late July and early August of 1996, under the direction of Bjorn Simonsen. 16 previously unrecorded archaeological sites were identified and briefly documented, increasing the existing site inventory for this locality by 50%. A companion project to document and repair a large grave house at the traditional Quatsino village of **Quattishe** -- situated just west of Quatsino Narrows -- was directed by **Jerry Cybulski** of the Canadian Museum of Civilization, also with the assistance of people from the British group and the Quatsino Band.

### MILLENNIA RESEARCH CONSULTING

**Morley Eldridge** writes that some of the highlights of the year included excavation of a number of inland shell middens near Victoria that were adversely impacted by highway developments. About 22 sites were found along a 10 km-long section of highway right-of-way. Millennia found a pattern of large sites dating to the Locarno Beach period and 11 sites dating to the Marpole and Gulf of Georgia periods. The Locarno Beach sites were notable for their low artifact densities, but a high proportion of exotic items, such as steatite ear spoons and "whatsits", and a copper-cover whalebone were recovered.

Another interesting Millennia project was a survey of subalpine and high montane forest blocks near the headwaters of the Bridge River, at a place aptly called Paradise Valley. A very high density of archaeological sites were found (14 in an area of about 160 ha), comprised of culturally-modified pine trees, roasting pits (one containing charred whitebark pine nutlets), storage pits, traditional trapping sites, trails, and turn-of-the-century camps.

Millennia also wrapped up its major Heiltsuk Traditional Territory Overview. During 20 days of fieldwork for this project, they doubled the number of recorded CMTs in the area, identified about 76 new sites, and revisited 25 others. Subsequent work in this area on the Central Coast is beginning to provide data on the distribution of inland sites in the region.

Millennia is also in the final stages of creating GIS maps of archaeological site potential for the Squamish Forest District. The models adopted use a sophisticated Digital Terrain Model and other variables to predict site locations.

Millennia inventoried a large number of CMTs in many areas of the province, including some where CMTs had not previously been recorded. They identified and recorded over 600 CMTs during one Woodlot Program impact assessment in the Kalum Forest District. They also produced new guidelines for assessing CMT significance and managing this challenging cultural resource, and provided ongoing assistance to Arcas Consulting Archeologists in creating the new CMT Handbook, which is now widely available.

Morley reports that Millennia Research conducted a total of 45 individual projects in 1996, of which 27 were impact assessments, seven overview assessments or traditional use studies, two site inventory projects, eight excavation or monitoring projects, and two miscellaneous research or policy-development contracts. Millennia Research employed a total of 56 persons in 1996, of which 33 were First Nations assistants and consultants.

### LEONARD C. HAM, ARCHAEOLOGIST AND HERITAGE CONSULTANT

**Len Ham** writes that his 1996 field investigations were concentrated in the Lower Mainland of B.C. Two new archaeological sites were identified during a survey in the lower Nicomekl River Valley. On the south side of the river, complex site DgRr 26 was found at the mouth of Chantrelle Creek. This site consists of a small shell midden, bark-stripped red cedar trees, possible burial mounds, and surface artifact finds. This site is within the Elgin Heritage Park (City of Surrey). On the north side of the valley in the neighbourhood of Colebrook, a shell midden of undetermined extent was also identified.

Shovel testing at site DhRt 22 on Sea Island revealed the site was more extensive than previously documented. It was also determined the application of agricultural lime to the site successfully increased site pH. It is hoped that maintaining a soil pH close to 8.0 will encourage preservation of these deposits. Also on Sea Is-

land, investigations at DhRs 26 established that the cultural deposits are not *in situ*. It is possible that the deposits were imported from DhRs 1 as road bed material when the original bridges to the island were built in 1889.

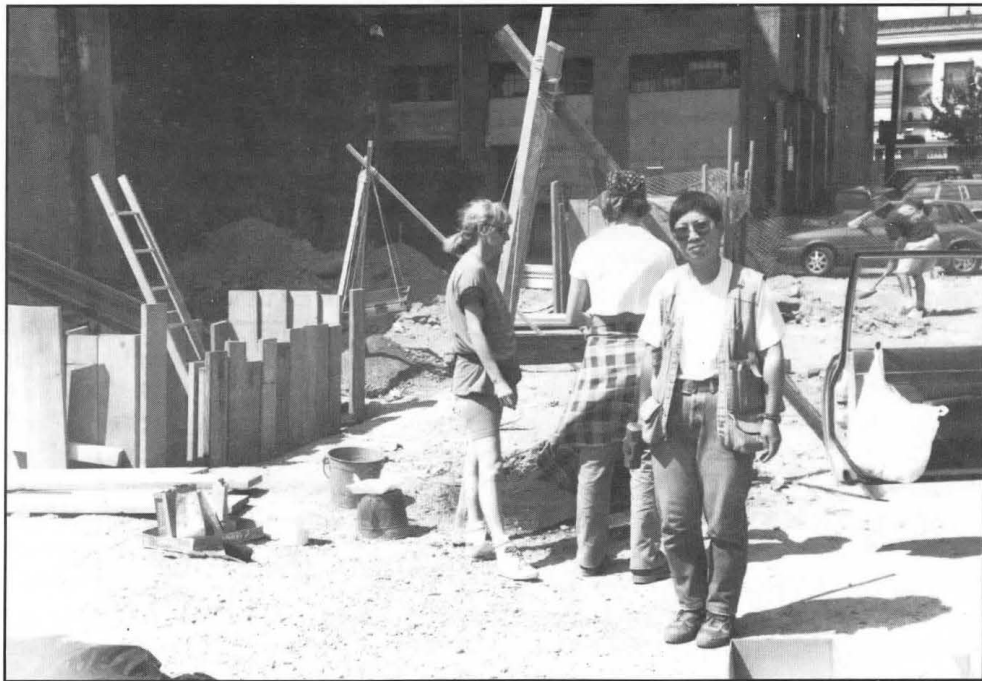
Lastly, shell midden site DhRt 36 on Lulu Island was capped with fill and successfully incorporated into the new Terra Nova Park (City of Richmond).

### ANTIQUUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS LTD.

**Mike Rousseau** reports from Antiquus Archaeological Consultants that his company conducted most of its studies in 1996 for the forest industry. Specifically, timber harvesting blocks and associated access roads in the Chilcotin, Kamloops, and Quesnel Forest Districts were assessed. A few Antiquus projects were impact assessments of residential subdivisions or commercial developments referred from private or governmental agencies. One mine-site development was also inspected. All of their projects were carried out in the Interior of B.C. or the lower Fraser River area. Most Antiquus projects were impact assessments, although a few archaeological overview assessments and a program of archaeological monitoring were also carried out. They encountered a fair number of sites in the past year, most of them small, pre-Contact period lithic scatters and historical Euro-Canadian and/or traditional First Nations land use sites. A few larger "field camps" and clusters of storage depressions were also found. No detailed excavation projects were undertaken in 1996, as the sites Antiquus archaeologists identified were easily avoided by proposed developments.

In 1996, Antiquus employed a total of 14 full-time or seasonal archaeologists. In addition, many First Nations people were hired as assistants, from the Bonaparte, Fort Ware, Lakahahmen, Matsqui, McLeod Lake, Nazko, Tsi Del Del (aka Alexis Creek), Tatla Lake, Tsay Keh Dene, Ulkatcho, and Xeni Gwet'in (aka Nemaiah Valley) Bands.

# ASBC PARTICIPATION IN THE CHINATOWN DIG, 1996



*Imogene Lim with volunteers at the Gim Lee Yuen Chinatown Dig Site, May 1996.*

by Robin Hooper

In February 1996, Dr. Imogene Lim, an Anthropology instructor at Malaspina University College, advised the ASBC in Vancouver of a planned archaeological excavation in Vancouver's Chinatown. Dr. Lim, who is also President of the Nanaimo ASBC Branch, requested volunteer help from the ASBC for the excavation scheduled to commence in March 1996. Support was also to be supplied by the City of Vancouver and the Chinese Cultural Centre. During the course of this project students from four Lower Mainland colleges and Malaspina University College who were enrolled in an archaeological field school that was co-directed by Stan Copp of Langara College and Dr. Lim, took part in the Chinatown excavations.

By March, 43 volunteers were signed up and ready to start digging, but the project was postponed. During this time concerns were raised about liability insurance and the ASBC explored various options to obtain the necessary insurance

coverage for the volunteers. Although the Minister of Small Business, Tourism and Culture, Hon. Bill Barlee, offered to cover the cost of this insurance, in the end it was paid for by both Malaspina and Langara colleges. The Chinatown excavation project was postponed again in April due to problems with the Vancouver City Planning Department.

The first excavation was undertaken at a site known as Canton Alley, currently an Impark lot on Pender Street. It marks the location of where a warehouse and Chinese stores, dating from the 1880's, once stood. A second excavation was proposed for the location of a three-storey general merchandise building, built in 1908 by the Gim Lee Yuen Company. The building was destroyed by fire in 1987. This site, designated by a provincial heritage registry number DhRs 27, had seen no previous archaeological excavations. It was felt these investigations would provide data for comparisons to excavations conducted in other Chinese urban sites in

Canada and the United States.

Finally on April 24, the project got underway with the breaking of ground at the Canton Alley site. City workers using jackhammers and backhoes removed asphalt and subsurface cement layers with support from the college volunteers. It was not long before the many bricks covering the site were removed exposing artifacts and cement warehouse foundations.

On April 30 excavation was started by ASBC volunteers under the direction of Dr. Lim. They excavated with trowels and picks in the hard-packed gravelly matrix, screening the back dirt in cold and wet conditions. Artifact sorting was based on a material typology. Due to time constraints exact proveniencing was not employed; rather, artifacts were recorded by three stratigraphic layers: surface, cultural, or sterile levels.

By the middle of May students from the field school joined the work on the Can-

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*Cont'd on page 20*

# BOOK REVIEWS

## CHASING THE NUANCES OF NORTHWEST COAST ARTIFACTS

### *Stone, Bone, Antler & Shell: Artifacts of the Northwest Coast*

by HILARY STEWART

Douglas and McIntyre, Vancouver, 1996. xi + 160 pps., illus., bib., glossary, index. Price: (Hc) \$35.00 CDN.

In 1973 Hilary Stewart published *Artifacts of the Northwest Coast Indians*, the first of eight highly acclaimed popular books on the material culture, art, and history of the Northwest Coast peoples written by this author and published by Douglas & McIntyre. This book was unique, not only in that it emphasised prehistoric artifacts - their manufacture, function and style, but also in the combination of text, photographs, and more importantly, Stewart's own drawings. The formula she established in this first book was subsequently reproduced in her other publications, notably *Indian Fishing: Early Methods on the Northwest Coast* (1977) and *Cedar: Tree of Life to the Northwest Coast Indians* (1984). For many years *Artifacts of the Northwest Coast Indians* has been out of print, being sporadically available only at local second-hand book sellers. The revised edition of this book with a new title, makes this significant source accessible to a new generation of students and the general readership interested in indigenous First Nation cultures of the Pacific Northwest Coast.

Like the title, the text has been rewritten and revised to reflect current attitudes towards peoples of the Northwest Coast First Nations. The original Preface by Dr. Charles Borden in the 1973 edition of this book has been replaced by one written by Nuu-chah-nulth (Opechesaht) artist and anthropologist, Ki-ke-in (Ron Hamilton). In this section he (p.vii) states that: "Hilary Stewart has responded to the urgent need among First Nations in this part of

the world to name ourselves and to shed the yet persistent and insulting misnomer 'Indian'."

Like all her books, this publication is lavishly illustrated, both with black-and-white photographs, and with her own drawings of the artifacts. Although most of the 50 photographs used in the book were taken by the author, she has also included some archival pictures by noted ethno-photographers and ethnographers Edward S. Curtis, C.F. Newcombe, and Harlan I. Smith. This edition contains over 1000 illustrations drawn by Stewart herself, depicting a wide range of artifact types from various sites on the Northwest Coast. These show several manufacturing techniques and tools used to make the artifacts, the assembly of composite implements, such as toggling harpoon heads, etc., how these items were originally used, as well as the artifacts themselves. Each artifact illustration is accompanied by its measurement (in centimetres), its known provenience or cultural affiliation (i.e., Haida, Coast Salish, etc.), and its present museum or collection location. The drawings with minor labelling describing the process or artifact type, readily interpret these decontextualised objects. In this book Stewart has adequately captured the proverb: "A picture is worth a thousand words".

The book is organised into five chapters, the first two being introductory in nature. Chapter 1 outlines the ethnographic cultures of the Northwest Coast First Nations with a brief discussion of the region's environment and major natural resources. In chapter two the author describes an archaeological excavation, based on her own experience in 1971 at the mitigation of the Katz Site (DiRj 1), a Late Prehistoric pithouse village site in the Fraser Valley. The next three chapters pertain to the descriptions of the Northwest Coast artifacts themselves, being arranged by material type and discussed by artifact type (i.e., adzes and chisels, mauls, projectile points, abraders, wedges, awls, net gauges, barbs, tines, rings, beads, pendants, "whatsits", etc.). Chapter 3 deals with stone artifacts, and discusses both

flaked and ground stone tools. In the following chapter Stewart describes bone and antler artifacts, and in the final chapter shell artifacts are examined. In this text, the author purposely does not give the chronological association of the artifacts.

The book is provided with several sections to aid the reader. An explanation of the alpha-numeric system for measurements, artifact provenience, and artifact location used by the author, is found in the "How to Use This Book Section" (pp. x-xi). A Glossary (pp.135-136) and an Index of Artifact Illustrations (pp.137-138) are found at the back of the book. The author also provides a limited number of references in the Bibliography (p. 134). This section does not appear to have been updated or revised as the most recent reference dates to 1970.

All in all, this work is a valuable reference to the types and variation of Native Pacific Northwest Coast artifacts. This revised edition still maintains the integrity and uniqueness of the original book published in 1973, while at the same time reflecting contemporary political correctness. Written with a clear and easy to read text, *Stone, Bone, Antler & Shell* will be a welcome, if not mandatory, addition to any library of those interested in Northwest Coast prehistory and its material culture.

Robbin Chatan

ASBC member Robbin Chatan completed his M.A. in 1992 and has taken a leave of absence from the Ph.D. programme in Archaeology at the University of Calgary. He has worked as an archaeological researcher for Millennia Research, and is now retained by Golder Associates Ltd. as a crew chief in the archaeological resource inventory of Clayaquot Sound. Since 1995 he has held the position of Publications Editor for *The Midden*. He has an interest in Northwest Coast prehistory and coastal archaeology.



## TEXT OR GUIDEBOOK?

### *Exploring Ancient Native America: An archaeological guide*

by DAVID HURST THOMAS

Macmillan, New York, 1994.

314 pp., illus., recommended readings,  
index. Price: (Hc) \$25.00 US/\$32.50  
CDN.

In this book addressed to the avocational archaeologist, Thomas offers his readers a "personally guided tour" through ancient native America. Aimed at "armchair archaeologists" as well as travellers planning to explore archaeological remains, Thomas attempts to provide both an up-to-date synthesis in terms of places and artifacts you can see for yourself, directing his readers "to sites and museums that are available to the travelling public. . . provide interpretation, and can ensure adequate protection for both the visitor and for the surviving archaeological record." This focus on specific sites and museums provides a unique approach to what Thomas terms "the real, hands-on archaeology and history of native North America."

The term "America" in the title is restricted to the United States and Canada, with relatively minimal attention paid to the latter. Events and issues throughout are primarily drawn from the United States. Although the listing of museums and sites at the back of the book is by Canadian province as well as American state, few Canadian examples appear in the text. Some of the major sites in northern Mexico could also have been included to provide a more balanced coverage of North American archaeology.

After a short (and somewhat unnecessary) discussion of human origins and the spread from Africa, the book turns in the following two chapters to the arrival and lifeways of the earliest Americans, and to the spread of human populations throughout the continent during the Archaic stage. Major chapters on the agricultural societies of the American Southwest, the mound-building Adena and Hopewell cultures of the Eastern Woodlands, and the complex Mississippian communities in the

American Southeast make up much of the rest of the book. Thomas then examines the archaeological record of the period of contact between indigenous Americans and outsiders ("Colliding Worlds"). In a welcome final chapter ("An Enduring Encounter") Thomas reminds us of the continuing close ties between Native peoples and the archaeological traces of their heritage. He raises such important issues as conflicts in the interpretation of the native past, the nature of sacred sites in archaeology, and the growth of Native-run museums.

In such a broad approach, not all areas are covered equally, or even at all. Surprisingly, little attention is paid to the Iroquoians, particularly in Canada. This is a puzzling absence as there are a number of important museums and reconstructed villages open to the public. Canada's Arctic and Subarctic areas are almost totally ignored, although this is understandable in light of Thomas' goal to direct the reader to locations where evidence of the past is immediately visible. It does, however, detract from any use of the book as an introduction to North American archaeology.

The final section of the book is a 50 page appendix listing archaeological sites and museums open to the public. The entry for British Columbia consists of only four museums, two of which (at Alert Bay and Quadra Island) are Native-run. Thomas' lack of familiarity with Canada is evident in a few errors, such as listing Labrador as a separate province rather than with the rest of Newfoundland. Port au Choix National Historic Park in Newfoundland is also erroneously placed in Nova Scotia.

The book is well-illustrated, with numerous black and white drawings and photographs throughout the text, in addition to two sections of colour photos. It is also easy to read, in quite an engaging style. Thomas clearly intends this for the general public, taking care to explain all technical aspects. Numerous side-bars throughout the text take the reader into more specific studies, or present Native American perspectives to counterbalance the scientific archaeological picture presented by Thomas. In places, however, the side-bars are so numerous that they impede the flow of the main narrative. Occasionally Thomas' attempts to make his writing interesting to the general public become

irritating (as in "the mammoth steaks sizzled on the Paleoindian barbecue"), but such lapses are fortunately rare.

No archaeologist can be an expert on all areas, and Thomas' treatment of the Northwest Coast seems particularly weak. Only the spectacular discoveries at Ozette in Washington are covered in the main text. Thomas repeats the outdated estimate of 500 years ago for the mudslide which preserved the remains of several wooden houses and their contents, although this is now known to have been an early-18th century event, only slightly before contact with Europeans. It is the accompanying illustration, however, that really shows lack of familiarity with the area. Titled "Tobacco-smoking pipes from the Northwest Pacific Coast," this is apparently intended to show typical artifacts, even though tobacco smoking was not a pre-contact trait in this region. One of the images is a Haida argillite pipe, which was a 19th century innovation, while below is an inlaid steatite pipe which almost certainly comes from the Plains or Eastern Woodlands. Beside them is a larger object which is neither a pipe nor from the Northwest Coast, but is a stone bowl from the Kamloops area.

Despite its flaws, I liked this book. It makes a great deal of information readily available to the general public in a form that is interesting and easily understood. It has a unique approach, interpreting the archaeological record through specific sites open to the public. This approach, however, is also its major weakness. The book is not sufficiently detailed to serve as a guide to take along on your travels, yet it is too focused on specific sites and museums to compete as a textbook or general introduction to North American archaeology.

Alan D. McMillan

Alan D. McMillan teaches anthropology at Douglas College in New Westminster. He is also an adjunct professor in the Department of Archaeology at Simon Fraser University. He has conducted archaeological research at various locations on the B.C. coast, particularly among the Nuu-chah-nulth people of western Vancouver Island.

# SALMONBERRIES AND CHOKECHERRIES

## *Food Plants of Coastal First Peoples*

by NANCY J. TURNER

Royal British Columbia Museum Handbook. UBC Press, Vancouver, 1996. xi + 164 pps., illus., refs., index. Price: (Pb) \$24.95 CDN.

*Food Plants of Coastal First Peoples* represents over 25 years of ethnobotanical experience in British Columbia on the part of Nancy Turner. In that time Turner has worked with numerous elders and combed the ethnographic and ethnohistoric literature. She has gathered a huge body of information on plants used for food, technology, medicines, and rituals among the Coast and Interior Peoples of British Columbia. This book is a summary of the plant foods used by Coastal First Nations. Except for minor changes, it is a re-issue of *Food Plants of British Columbian Indians*, published in 1975 by the (then) British Columbia Provincial Museum. The original had become a classic, sadly out of print in the last few years.

The book is well-organized, easy to use, and full of useful information. It begins with a succinct summary of the role of food plants among the indigenous groups of coastal British Columbia. The main body of the book describes 86 native plants that were used by Coastal First Nations for food. The ethnobotanical summary of each plant includes descriptions of the plant itself, its habitat, distribution in British Columbia, and its Aboriginal use. The two appendices include shorter descriptions of non-native food plants named and used by Coastal First Nations, and some plants considered to be poisonous by indigenous peoples on the coast. The photographs of all the plants are beautiful and clearly reproduced. Although not intended for this purpose, the volume can be used as a field guide to identify unknown plants.

The importance of plant foods in the traditional coastal diet is clear from this volume. Although animal foods far outweighed plants in quantities consumed,

plants provided nutritional diversity that was essential to survival. In areas where they were abundant, such as the southern coast, blue camas and other lilies were an important source of carbohydrates. Isotopic analyses by Brian Chisholm and Erle Nelson demonstrate that protein needs were met almost entirely by the consumption of marine animals. These analyses indicate little difference in protein consumption among people of different age, rank, or place of origin, but I suspect that if we could accurately measure carbohydrate intake in prehistoric populations we would see some interesting differences along these lines.

Many of the harvesting and preparation activities discussed in the book are of particular interest to archaeologists. For instance, Turner discusses tools associated with harvesting of plant foods, such as digging sticks, baskets, and wooden boxes. Several of these have been recovered from archaeological sites on the coast (e.g., the Lachane site). Turner also discusses the traditional ownership and management of plant resources. Berry and root-digging grounds were owned in some areas of the coast and many of these were regularly burned to enhance productivity. Archaeologists have recorded the remains of a root harvesting patch in the tidal flats of the Nimpkish River which was divided into small individually-owned plots. The evidence for burning should also be retrievable in the archaeological record.

Methods of preparing plant foods can also leave archaeological remains. Turner discusses how berries were cooked over red-hot stones and then dried over racks for winter consumption. The remains of several blueberry drying camps have been recovered in high elevation areas in Washington State and there is every reason to believe that we will find similar sites in British Columbia. The book also covers the preparation of root-foods and other plants that were steam cooked in subterranean fire pits ("earth-ovens"), as well as more shallow hearths. The remains of these have been recorded on Vancouver Island, where camas used to grow in abundance, and in the Fraser Valley. Clearly, the ethnobotanical information in this book should be used as a starting place for finding evidence of prehistoric plant use.

There are a few, but important changes in this volume from the 1975 edition. The language has been updated to reflect current preferences for Aboriginal self-designated names, and an extensive list of references on aboriginal culture and traditional plant use in British Columbia published since 1975 has been added. The photographs in the new edition are smaller than those in the first volume, but in all cases the reproduction quality is considerably improved. Several of the photographs appearing in the first volume have been replaced with better images, and those plant descriptions that had no illustrations in the early edition now have photographs with them. Finally, the older version is stapled and glued together whereas the newer one is bound in signatures. My old copy of the *Food Plants* is falling apart, and I am pleased that the new edition will be able to withstand my passion for the subject a bit better.

As is typical of Turner's other work, this volume is meticulously researched, well organized, and beautifully written. Although the target audience of the book was intended to be non-professionals, I know archaeologists, botanists, and ecologists who have well-worn copies of the 1975 edition on their shelves. I highly recommend this new edition to all B.C. archaeologists.

Dana Lepofsky

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**Dana Lepofsky is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Archaeology at Simon Fraser University. Her research interests include paleoethnobotany, household archaeology, and the relationships of prehistoric humans to their environment. She is currently conducting research in the Fraser Valley.**

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# A DEEP APPRECIATION OF THE ASBC

*Hilary Stewart is perhaps most well-known for her illustrated publications on Native Northwest Coast art, material culture, and technology. She has also been a long-time member of the ASBC. In the early years she was considered the "artist/writer" of the Society, by providing her creative ideas and inspiration to the membership. The house-front logo, found on our membership cards and stationery, was designed by and given to the Society by Hilary. Since leaving Vancouver for Quadra Island her interest in the ASBC continues unabated. On the occasion of the re-release of her first book now entitled **Stone, Bone, Antler & Shell**, she has made a generous monetary donation to the Society. In gratitude of her long standing service to and support of the ASBC she was given an honorary life membership by the Executive at her book-signing on October 9, 1996, at the Vancouver Museum. In a letter dated June 20, 1996, Hilary expresses her relationship and appreciation to the ASBC. With her permission, the Executive and the Midden Committee felt that we should share her words with our readership in the 30th anniversary issue.*



**HILARY STEWART**  
writer · artist · lecturer

**P.O. BOX 5 · QUATHIASKI COVE · QUADRA ISLAND · B.C. V0P 1N0**  
**PHONE: (604)285-2805**  
June 20th. 1996

Joyce Johnson,  
President, A.S.B.C.  
P.O. Box 520, Bentall St.  
Vancouver. B.C.  
V6C 2N3

Dear Joyce,

I am aware that this year will see the Archaeology Society of British Columbia celebrating its 30th anniversary. Congratulations!

It is extraordinary for me to look back and recall the Society's early beginnings, and to look at photos of a handful of us (oh, so young looking!) working on salvage digs in sunshine and in mud. I remember our mini-dig at Marpole, the more extensive Tsawwassen Bluff dig, the Crescent Beach salvage digs and several others, and in particular the 1970/71 Katz dig on the bank of the Fraser River, west of Hope.

I well recall how involved I became in the Katz dig of '71. Not content to work there only on weekends, with ASBC members, I got a leave of absence from my job - I was the Art Director for CHAN-TV, now BCTV - and spent several weeks as part of the crew of 14, volunteering my time. It was during that dig that I saw the need for a small booklet on artifact identification and technology, and set about writing and illustrating this.

As the booklet began to expand into a bigger book, my enthusiasm for it increased at the same rate that my interest in television decreased. Ten months into the book I gave up my TV career to stay home and concentrate on this work. After 2 years of research, writing and illustrating, which took me up the BC coast and into many Canadian and U.S. museums, the book was published in Canada and co-published in the States. Entitled ARTIFACTS OF THE NORTHWEST COAST INDIANS, this large format, hardcover book had over 1,000 illustrations and diagrams, and many photographs, a lot of them mine. It was well received on both sides of the border.

Flushed with success, I researched and illustrated INDIAN FISHING: EARLY METHODS ON THE NORTHWEST COAST, published by Douglas & McIntyre, who also accepted two books on Northwest Coast art and design, one on WILD TEAS, COFFEES & CORDIALS, another on native use of the CEDAR, a book on JOHN R. JEWETT, CAPTIVE OF MAQUINNA, and one on LOOKING AT TOTEM POLES. All were co-published by the University of Washington Press, Seattle. Eight books in all, plus several for which I did the illustrations.

In connection with these publications I did a lot of lecture/ demonstrations for schools, colleges, universities, museums, art galleries and even prisons, plus a variety of field trips and educational organizations. Also I curated 3 exhibitions, on the subjects of my books, for the UBC Museum of Anthropology and the Vancouver Museum, and wrote the labelling for a major, permanent exhibition on Northwest Coast cultures for the Field Museum in Chicago. In addition I did the research, photography and illustrations for the catalogue of the IMAGES:STONE:BC travelling exhibition, written by Wilson Duff.

Now, supposedly retired (ha!) I am busy living on Quadra Island. This year, having completely re-written, re-designed and updated that very first book on artifacts - now entitled STONE, BONE, ANTLER & SHELL, and which includes a fond recollection of the Katz dig - I feel I have come full circle!

Looking back over those 24 years I realize that just about everything I have done with my life and career, since leaving television, has had its roots in the Archaeological Society of British Columbia and my affiliation with it. All my interests, my books, various commissions, projects and exhibitions and all the lecture presentations have, in fact, been a direct or indirect result of my having joined the A.S.B.C. in 1966.

And so - in recognition and deep appreciation of all that the Archaeological Society of B.C. has meant to me, and to help mark its 30th Anniversary, I am happy to make a donation to further the progress and aims of the Society.

With warm wishes and good luck for continued successes in the years ahead!

Sincerely,

# LECTURES

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

**March 18**  
7:30 pm  
**Ancient Israel and the Sea**  
Professor Robert Stieglitz, Rutgers University (New Jersey)  
*Theatre at the Museum of Anthropology, U.B.C.*

**April (TBA)**  
**Research in Ancient Yemen**  
Dr. William Glanzman, University of British Columbia  
*Theatre at the Museum of Anthropology, U.B.C.*

## TOMBS AND TREASURES OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

*Presented by UBC Continuing Studies in cooperation with the Vancouver Chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America*

An illustrated lecture series with four UBC archaeologists that looks at some of the great ancient tombs uncovered around the world. These talks will describe the tombs and their discoveries, and place them in the context of the society that created them. Lectures will be held Wednesday evenings, February 26 - March 19, 7:30 - 9:00 pm, Rm. 105, Lasserre Bldg., University of British Columbia. Fee: \$45, seniors \$35.

**February 26**  
**The Catacombs of Rome**  
Dr. James Russell, Department of Classical Near Eastern and Religious Studies and Director of UBC's excavations in Turkey

**March 5**  
**Burials of the Han Dynasty of China**  
Dr. Richard Pearson, Department of Anthropology and Sociology

**March 12**  
**Royal Tombs of the Maya**  
Dr. Michael Blake, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Director of UBC's excavations in Mexico

**March 19**  
**Vergina and the Royal Tombs of Macedon**  
Dr. Hector Willams, Department of Classical Near Eastern and Religious Studies and Director of UBC's excavations in Greece

## THE ANCIENT MAYA AND THEIR ANCESTORS

*Presented by UBC Continuing Studies in cooperation with the Vancouver Chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America*

This series will provide an introduction to some of the exciting new discoveries of the ancient Mesoamerican civilizations. The lectures will explore the ancient lifeways of the people who were the ancestors of the Olmec, Maya, and Zapotecs, and look at the ballgame, an important aspect of ancient Mesoamerican life that has its roots far back in antiquity. The series will be held Monday evenings, March 3 - 17, 7:30 - 9:00 pm, Rm. 107 Lasserre Bldg., University of British Columbia. Fee: \$35, seniors \$30.

**March 3**  
**Before the Maya: Mexico's Earliest Villages**  
Dr. Michael Blake, Department of Anthropology and Sociology

**March 10**  
**The Roots of Civilization: The Early Maya of Belize**  
David Cheetham, MA candidate, Department of Anthropology and Sociology

**March 17**  
**Sport and Ritual: The Ancient Mesoamerican Ballgame**  
Warren Hill, doctoral candidate, Department of Anthropology and Sociology

## THE UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The UASBC is a non-profit society for people interested in BC's underwater heritage. In Vancouver, the society meets on the last Wednesday of every month (except July and December) at 7:30 at the Vancouver Maritime Museum, 1905 Ogden Avenue. Admission is free and non-members are welcome.

**April 30**  
**The Hudson's Bay Company on the West Coast**  
David Hill-Turner, Fort Langley National Historic Site

**May 28**  
**Recent Work of the Parks Canada Underwater Archaeology Unit**  
Charles Moore, Parks Canada

**June 25**  
**UASBC's 1996-97 Expeditions: Northeast Vancouver Island and Beyond**  
Jacques Marc, UASBC Explorer Director

## BRITISH COLUMBIA MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

The following seminars are being offered by the BCMA as part of their 1997 training program, and may be of interest to archaeologists, cultural resource managers, and First Nations. For further information, contact the BCMA Professional Development Coordinator at 514 Government St., Victoria, BC, V8V 4X4; Tel. (250) 387-3315; Fax (250) 387-1251; Email: PD@MuseumsAssn.bc.ca

March 18	<b>Care and Mounting of Textiles and Leathers</b> Kelowna
May	<b>First Nations Issues and Museums</b> Various Locations
June	<b>Basic Museum Studies</b> Various Locations
October	<b>Identifying and Understanding Logging Artifacts</b> Location TBA
October 27	<b>Conservation of Photographs</b> Nanaimo

## CMT HANDBOOK

The Vancouver Forest Region has issued a handbook on culturally modified trees (CMTs) in British Columbia. The Handbook is called: *Culturally Modified Trees of British Columbia: A Handbook for the Identification and Recording of Culturally Modified Trees*. The handbook is concerned with CMTs in all parts of British Columbia. It consists of 133 pages in a 7.25 x 4.5 inch format intended for 6-ring field notebooks. The handbook was written by Arnoud Stryd of Arcas Consulting Archeologists Ltd. The recording standards in the handbook were set up in consultation with the Archaeology Branch and have been endorsed by the B.C. Association of Professional Consulting Archaeologists. Copies of the handbook may be obtained from the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Vancouver Forest Region, 2100 Labieux Road, Nanaimo, B.C. V9T 6E9.

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### **Chinatown Dig, Cont'd from page 13**

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ton Alley site during the week, with ASBC volunteers continuing the work on weekends. At this time, city crews opened and shored up two deep excavations at the Gim Lee Yuen site. ASBC volunteers and others screened and sorted the material from these excavations.

As this site was located in the centre of Chinatown, there was a great deal of interest in the work to locals and tourists alike. Considerable interest was also shown by the local media, which provided exposure for the field school and the ASBC. Numerous accounts of the excavations were aired

in Chinese, English, and French languages. Reports on the excavations, provided by an ASBC member, were used on the CBC-French TV network.

The archaeological project was completed by the end of June. The collected artifacts and other samples, consisting of 28 boxes, were removed to Malaspina University College for cataloguing and analysis.

Overall, the Chinatown project was a success for the ASBC. However, it was unfortunate that the start of the excavations was delayed and rescheduled so of-

ten that many volunteers were unable to take part. For the seven who did it was a rewarding experience. They felt they had learned a great deal, and considered the project worthwhile as the first urban historical archaeology project in the City of Vancouver.

**Robin Hooper**

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**Robin Hooper is a member of the Vancouver ASBC chapter, and is a retired marine surveyor with an avocational interest in historical archaeology and early BC Chinatowns.**

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# CONFERENCES

1997

April 2-6

**SAA, Society for American Archaeology, 62nd Annual Meeting, "Celebrating National Commitments to Archaeology"**  
NASHVILLE, Tennessee, USA

The 1997 SAA annual meeting will look at federal programs that oversee the conduct of archaeology and laws that protect archaeological sites. The plenary session will focus on the accomplishments of archaeological programs throughout the Americas and what remains to be done. Also explored will be the increasingly active role played by Native Americans in archaeological work. A wide variety of paper topics are to be presented including cave archaeology, rock art studies, political boundaries in ancient Mesoamerica, new research on the Clovis, human response to natural disasters, human migration, historical archaeology, paleoethnobotanical studies, and numerous other subjects, as well as sessions on archaeology in Asia and Europe.

**Further information:** *Society for American Archaeology, 900 Second Street NE #12, Washington, DC, 20002. Tel. (202) 789-8200; Fax (202) 789-0284.*

Direct any comments or questions concerning proposed ideas or content of presentations to: 1997 Program Chair, David G. Anderson, E-mail: [danderso@seac.fsu.edu](mailto:danderso@seac.fsu.edu)

April 5

**Underwater Archaeological Society of BC, 12th Annual Shipwrecks Conference**  
VANCOUVER MARITIME MUSEUM, Vancouver, BC

UASBC's annual symposium on underwater archaeology and maritime history features a full slate of speakers and slide shows. An optional dinner and awards night follows. Keynote speaker is Jerry Ostermiller, Director of the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria, Oregon. He will discuss the museum's ongoing survey of the *Isabella*, a Hudson's Bay Company sailing ship wreck on the notorious Columbia River Bar in 1830.

**Further information:** *The Underwater Archaeological Society of BC, 1905 Ogden Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6J 1A3. UASBC President Robyn Woodward: (604) 877-1342.*

April 10-12

**Alaska Anthropological Association, 24th Annual Meeting**  
WHITEHORSE, Yukon

First call for papers and session organizers.

**Contact:** *Ruth Gotthardt, Program Coordinator, Heritage Branch, Dept. of Tourism, Government of Yukon, Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6; Tel. (403) 667-5983; Fax (403) 667-8023; Email: [yukonarc@yknet.yk.ca](mailto:yukonarc@yknet.yk.ca)*

May 7-10

**CAA, Canadian Archaeological Association, 30th Annual Meeting**  
SASKATOON, Saskatchewan

Suggested sessions: Public Archaeology; Women in Archaeology; Canadian Archaeologists Abroad; Native People and Archaeology; Forestry Industry and Archaeological Resource Management; Pottery Technology in Northern Plains and Boreal Forest; Contact Archaeology; Historical Archaeology; Development of Archaeological Interpretive Centres; Developments in Saskatchewan Archaeology.

Submissions accepted until March 15, 1997.

**Conference Coordinator:** *Margaret Kennedy, Dept. of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, S7N 5A5; Tel. (306) 966-4182; Email: [kennedym@duke.usask.ca](mailto:kennedym@duke.usask.ca)*

**Program Chairs:** *Urve Linnamae & David Meyer, Dept. of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, S7N 5A5; Tel. (306) 966-4177 (Linnamae), (306) 966-4178 (Meyer); Email (Meyer): [meyerd@duke.usask.ca](mailto:meyerd@duke.usask.ca)*

May 22-24

**THE STÓ:LO - PEOPLE OF THE RIVER**

STÓ:LO NATION, Chilliwack, BC

The Stó:lo Nation, which represents and provides services to nineteen member First Nation communities located along the lower Fraser River, will be hosting an interdisciplinary conference on the Stó:lo. The conference will be a forum for academics to present new scholarship dealing with issues pertaining to the Stó:lo, as well as an opportunity for health care workers, government representatives, community development workers, and Stó:lo people to discuss Stó:lo history, contemporary issues and views of the future.

**Conference Coordinator:** Sarah Eustace, Stó:lo Nation, Bldg. #1 - 7201 Vedder Rd., Chilliwack, B.C. V2R 4G5; Tel. (604) 858-3366; Fax (604) 824-5226.

November (TBA)

**SIXTH ANNUAL BC ARCHAEOLOGY FORUM**

STÓ:LO NATION, Chilliwack, BC

**Contact:** Heather Myles, Stó:lo Nation, Bldg. #1 - 7201 Vedder Rd, Chilliwack, B.C. V2R 4G5; Tel. (604) 858-3366; Fax (604) 824-5226.

November 13-16

**CHACMOOL, 30th Annual Conference, "The Entangled Past" Integrating History and Archaeology**

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY, Calgary, Alberta

Archaeologists and anthropologists who study culture contact around the world have recently sought to integrate archaeology with history as a means of understanding significant cultural transformations, within the context of large-scale, long term traditions in cultures. Researchers have increasingly turned to historical sources in order to re-construct the transition from a pre-contact to a post-contact world. This approach has begun to impact archaeologists investigating all forms of culture change. The recognition of the numerous historical sources, such as oral history, folklore, art, and photography, has also been implicit in this approach. This new synthesis of history and archaeology has allowed the discipline of archaeology to play a leading role in the critical reappraisal of historical events and culture change around the world.

Suggested Sessions: Colonialism and Culture Contact; Oral History; Maps; Museums and the Presentation of History; Photography as a Historical Resource; Perceptions of Time; Multivocality in History; Critical Analysis of Historical Sources; etc.

Call for papers: Paper abstract deadline, March 15, 1997.

**Contact:** Nancy Saxberg, Chair, 1997 Conference Committee, Dept. of Archaeology, University of Calgary, 2500 University Drive N.W., Calgary, AB, T2N 1N4; Tel. (403) 220-5227; Fax (403) 282-9567; Email: njsaxber@acs.ucalgary.ca

**THE MIDDEN**

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