



# MIDDEN

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## AN EMERGING PICTURE OF THE NUU-CHAH-NULTH PAST



*See article on page 3.*

# THE MIDDEN

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Contributions on subjects germane to B.C. archaeology are  
welcomed: maximum length 1500 words, no footnotes and only a  
brief bibliography (if required at all). Guidelines are available.

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is dedicated to  
the protection of archaeological resources and  
the spread of archaeological knowledge.

Meetings featuring illustrated lectures are held on the  
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Meetings featuring illustrated lectures are held  
on the third Tuesday of each month, September to May,  
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## A.S.B.C. DIARY

All meetings are held at 8 pm in the Vancouver Museum  
Auditorium, unless otherwise indicated.

- April 8: **Dr. David Burley**  
The Archaeology of a Polynesian Chiefdom: Recent  
Research in the Ha'apai Islands, Kingdom of Tonga.
- May 13: **Dr. Louise Jackson**  
Work in the Northern Pacific—Alaska and Russia
- May 16: **Open Meeting: Projects Committee**  
Brian Thom, location T.B.A.
- June 10: **Annual General Meeting**  
**Andrew Mason** (tentative)  
On the Hatzic Site excavations.

## FRONT COVER:

Excavation at the bottom of a unit in the village portion  
of the T'ukw'aa site. A sample is being collected for  
radiocarbon dating.

See article on page 3.

# SUMMER FIELD RESEARCH WITH THE A.S.B.C.

IN RECENT YEARS, THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL Society of British Columbia has been faced with a lack of opportunities to take part in ongoing archaeological fieldwork and research. This spring, a group of young A.S.B.C. members agreed to form a Projects Committee, whose goal is to organize a continuing project in which volunteer members could take part in. The sort of research that could be done by the A.S.B.C. would be modest, but would contribute some new knowledge to B.C. Archaeology.

The Projects Committee feels that a site survey project in the Greater Vancouver area would be both achievable and useful. The close proximity of the survey area to the majority of the members, and the flexibility of time possible in doing such work would make it feasible for many to participate. Less mobile members could do archival research to determine the current status of existing site records, and to properly

record new ones filled out by survey workers as the project progresses. This scheme allows for the involvement of a wide variety of members.

Many ideas for survey areas have been suggested. The current list includes Stanley Park, Pacific Spirit Park (U.E.L.), or the Fraser River Estuary region. Site record forms at the Archaeology Branch for Stanley Park and Pacific Spirit Park indicate that these areas have not been reviewed to a large degree since 1986, and many of the sites even less recently than that. Updating these records and possibly adding to them would aid future impact assessment evaluations.

The intertidal areas of the Fraser River Estuary have not been surveyed to a large degree. This is partially due to the high water levels existing in the summer, which would cover up many possible deposits. However, this region could be studied in the fall, when the water levels are lower.

With so many ideas on the table, the Projects Committee is calling a meeting of everyone interested in participating. The meeting will be held on Saturday May 16th (specific time and place to be announced in Soc Notes). During this meeting, these ideas will be worked out, and new ones considered. We hope to have a solid plan of action for the summer months by the end of May. Everyone's input is welcome at the meeting. If you can't attend but want to get involved, write your ideas down and send them to the Projects Committee c/o the A.S.B.C.

Clearly, the central aim of Projects Committee is to get the A.S.B.C. active in research and fieldwork which will increase the knowledge of the history of our province and introduce new interest into the Society.

BRIAN THOM  
ASBC Projects Chairperson

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR . . .

As a contributor and subscriber to The Midden I want to congratulate you and your many supporters on your twenty-fifth anniversary of publication, and especially William Paull's open letter to Kitty Bernick. Kitty's editorial excellence, personal integrity, and high professional standards will be missed.

At the same time I want to register my disappointment at the narrowness of the issue. Surely the twenty-fifth anniversary of The Midden would have been the occasion to celebrate the achievements of B.C. archaeology and archaeologists over the last quarter century and over the whole province. The issue left me with the feeling that the

profession as a whole had not been served. Where is Wilson Duff in the issue? Where are the University of Victoria, the Royal British Columbia Museum, the Archaeology Branch of the provincial government, the many institutions and individuals around the province who have contributed to B.C. archaeology and to The Midden?

Finally, where are the Native people of the province?

RICHARD MACKIE  
Victoria, B.C.

*Well, where are they? We're waiting!*  
THE EDITOR

### ERRATA

In the February-March issue, the address for the Editor should have read:  
c/o UBC Archaeology  
6303 N.W. Marine Drive  
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 3R4

Apologies for the misspelling of Vicki FEDDEMA's name.

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# NEWS ITEMS

## CANADIAN ARCHAEOLOGISTS TO MEET

**T**HE 25TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE Canadian Archaeological Association will be held this year in London, Ontario from Tuesday, May 5th through Sunday, May 10th.

General sessions and symposia cover a wide scope of Canadian archaeology including areal studies, subsistence, historical aspects, artifacts and technology, scientific techniques, ethnicity, and "Canadian archaeologists beyond their borders."

The agenda includes full and half-day workshops scheduled throughout the conference, with tours on the weekend. A public session and panel discussion on Saturday will look at "Direct Participation: First Nations and Archaeology." Saturday evening's banquet features Dr. Alison Wylie speaking on "Fact or Fiction: Gender Studies in Archaeology."

Air Canada has been named official airline for the conference with savings up to 65% on fares. Advance registration before April 20th will be \$40 (\$30 for students); after April 20th, \$50.

For further information contact:

CAA Organization Committee,  
55 Centre Street,  
London, Ontario N6J 1T4  
Tel.(519)433-8401  
FAX (519)439-1696

## ANOTHER HATZIC?

**I**N SEARCH OF A SITE FOR U.B.C.'S FIELD school this summer, archaeology faculty were wandering around a farmer's cornfield just outside Chilliwack. The owner of the field had displayed a collection of artifacts plowed up over the years, and stated that the deposit was at least half a metre deep. The field exhibited lithics thickly scattered over the plowed surface.

A bit of stone the size of an apple protruding from the surface did not move when nudged. Closer examination revealed a large zoomorphic stone bowl about a foot long by 8 inches wide and 6 inches deep, representing a frog-lipped figure. Though zoomorphic stone bowls exist in public collections, few, if any, have been obtained directly from a known site.

The bowl held soil containing carbonized material. This material is currently being examined at U.B.C.

The obvious patterning of artifacts on the surface suggests that this might be a village site. The apparent number of artifacts and silty matrix indicate a factory site with the raw material imported. In comparison with the depth of deposit at Hatzic last summer, this is likely a late prehistoric site, but definite answers will have to wait until the site is excavated. The site has been registered with the B.C. Archaeology Branch.

## MONTE CREEK REVISITED

**F**URTHER RADIOCARBON DATING FROM the salvage excavations exposing three dwellings at Monte Creek (EdQx 43) near Kamloops last fall reveals consistently an age of over 4000 years. Cones from a smudge pit outside the structures dated  $4260 \pm 90$ ; two samples from the roof layer of structure 2 came in at  $4350 \pm 100$ , and  $4450 \pm 120$ ; and two from floor deposits provided dates of  $4200 \pm 90$  and  $4250 \pm 90$ .

A drilled olivella shell, 12 keyhole limpet beads (8 in direct association with a drilled and polished elk canine pendant), and an abundance of red ochre were recovered in addition to the 93,000 pieces of lithic debitage and 17,500 tools, including about 100 of bone. The report by I.R. Wilson Consultants Ltd. is tentatively due at the end of April.

## RECENT RESEARCH IN BARKLEY SOUND

# THE TOQUAHT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

By Alan D. McMillan

**T**HE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY of the Toquaht people, one of the bands of the Nuuchah-nulth (formerly known as the Nootka) of Vancouver Island's west coast, encompassed all of western Barkley Sound, near modern Ucluelet. Today a small group, the Toquaht were once a large and powerful polity in Barkley Sound before being greatly reduced by warfare and disease early in the historic period.

A project was initiated with the cooperation and participation of the Toquaht band to investigate their culture history and document the archaeological resources. This was carried out through a combination of archaeological survey, excavation, and informant research.

Eight weeks of fieldwork, co-directed by the author and Denis St. Claire, was undertaken in the summer of 1991 as the first phase of the project. Greg Monks, of the University of Manitoba, joined the project with responsibility for analysis of all faunal remains. The capable field crew consisted of students from Simon Fraser University and Douglas College, and members of several native bands from the local area. Primary financial support was generously provided by the British Columbia Heritage Trust.

One of the research issues being investigated involves the antiquity of the ethnographic pattern of seasonal movement between sites. Recent studies of the Barkley Sound Nuuchah-nulth groups suggest that the late prehistoric socio-political and subsistence systems

were markedly different from those recorded in the ethnographic literature.

Extensive warfare and other disruptions in the early historic period resulted in greatly reduced populations and forced amalgamations of independent local groups into larger political units. The expanded territories held by these large social groups were exploited by adopting a pattern of seasonal movement between sites, rather than by extracting resources from a year-round base throughout a smaller territory as is suggested for the earlier period. Our excavations at both the summer and winter villages of the Toquaht should cast light on this issue. The large quantity of faunal remains recovered from these sites will play a vital role in assessing site seasonality.

Barkley Sound is the location of large village sites immediately adjacent to steep-sided, rocky bluffs which could be used as defensive or refuge areas. Ethnographic traditions of early historic warfare in Barkley Sound recount the use of large logs placed at the top of these defensive

sites, ready to be rolled down the slopes to crush attackers. Our excavations at T'ukw'aa, a large village site with an associated defensive area, were the first extensive research on such sites in Nuuchah-nulth territory.

**... of interest is the importance of warfare in Nuuchah-nulth culture history ...**



A major part of the 1991 fieldwork involved a comprehensive inventory of archaeological resources throughout Toquaht traditional territory. This included all shoreline plus the offshore islands and lower reaches of the major

rivers. Survey was conducted by boat with crews of two or three persons. All accessible areas were searched by walking, and soil probes were used to detect buried deposits. Rocky areas were investigated for burials, rock art, and defensive sites. Intertidal areas were checked for fishtraps and other features. Forty-one new sites were recorded. In addition, the eight previously known sites for this area were revisited and new

site forms prepared [See table on page 4].

The survey results provided a greatly different picture than did previous records. Not only were more sites recorded, but they were different types.



*T'ukw'aa, showing the western end of the village and the rocky promontory with the defensive area.*

Another area of interest is the importance of warfare in Nuuchah-nulth culture history, as seen through ethnographic information and the use of defensive sites. A common pattern in

**RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES  
IN TOQUAHT TERRITORY**

SITE TYPE	PREVIOUSLY RECORDED	RECORDED IN 1991	TOTAL
Village or camp site	4	7	11
Defensive or lookout site	1	3	4
Burial site	3	7	10
Fish trap	1	19	20
Historic site	-	2	2
Pictograph	-	1	1
Isolated find	-	2	2
	9	41	50

*N.B. Only 49 sites have actually been recorded; T'ukw'aa (DfSj 23) is listed here as both a village and defensive site.*

Large villages and a few burial caves had attracted earlier attention, while this survey added smaller camp sites, lookout sites, and other less obvious remains. Most common (comprising almost half the site total) were rock-wall fish traps and similar features in the intertidal zone.

One unique find, located high up a prominent rock bluff at the head of the sound, was a red ochre pictograph of a human face (DgSh 7), the first pictograph recorded in all of Barkley Sound. The intensive survey techniques mean that the results are now comparable to those obtained in other recent fieldwork, such as the Pacific Rim Project in the islands of central Barkley Sound, and the Ohiaht Ethnoarchaeology Project on the eastern shores of the sound.

Our excavations began at the site of Macoah (DfSi 5) on upper Barkley Sound. This was the major winter village of the Toquaht in historic times, and featured prominently in ethnographic myths and traditions. After a long period of abandonment, Macoah is once again becoming the major Toquaht village.

An active program of house construction is providing opportunities for band members to return to their ancestral home, but is causing considerable destruction of the archaeological remains. One of our first tasks was to

assess the disturbance of the site and record artifact collections held by reserve residents. Historic glass beads were most common, but the band's collection also included a whale bone image of the thunderbird carved in typical Nuu-chah-nulth style and almost certainly the broken handle of a whale bone club of the type collected by such early explorers as Captain Cook.

Five 1 x 2 metre units were excavated during our stay at Macoah, yielding a total of 47 catalogued artifacts, plus a considerable number of recent historic items and a large quantity of faunal remains. The stratigraphy is somewhat disturbed, but one radiocarbon date from the base of the site suggests that initial occupation occurred over 500 years ago.

The second half of the summer was spent at T'ukw'aa (DfSj 23), on the outer coast near the entrance to Ucluelet Inlet. Although ethnographic traditions state that this was only a summer fishing location, extensive archaeological remains suggest that this was once the site of a large village.

The village extends along the beach for about 250 metres, and has two distinct terraces at its western end. At one end of the site, midden deposits extend up to the top of a high rocky bluff which would have served as a defensive area for the village. House platforms are still visible on the surface in both areas of the site. In addition to the size of this village, the fact that the Toquaht (literally "people of T'ukw'aa") take their name from this site indicates its former importance. Lack of any historic debris on the surface and the near-absence of historic artifacts from the excavated sample, as well as the lack



*Red ochre pictograph of a human face (DgSh 7).*

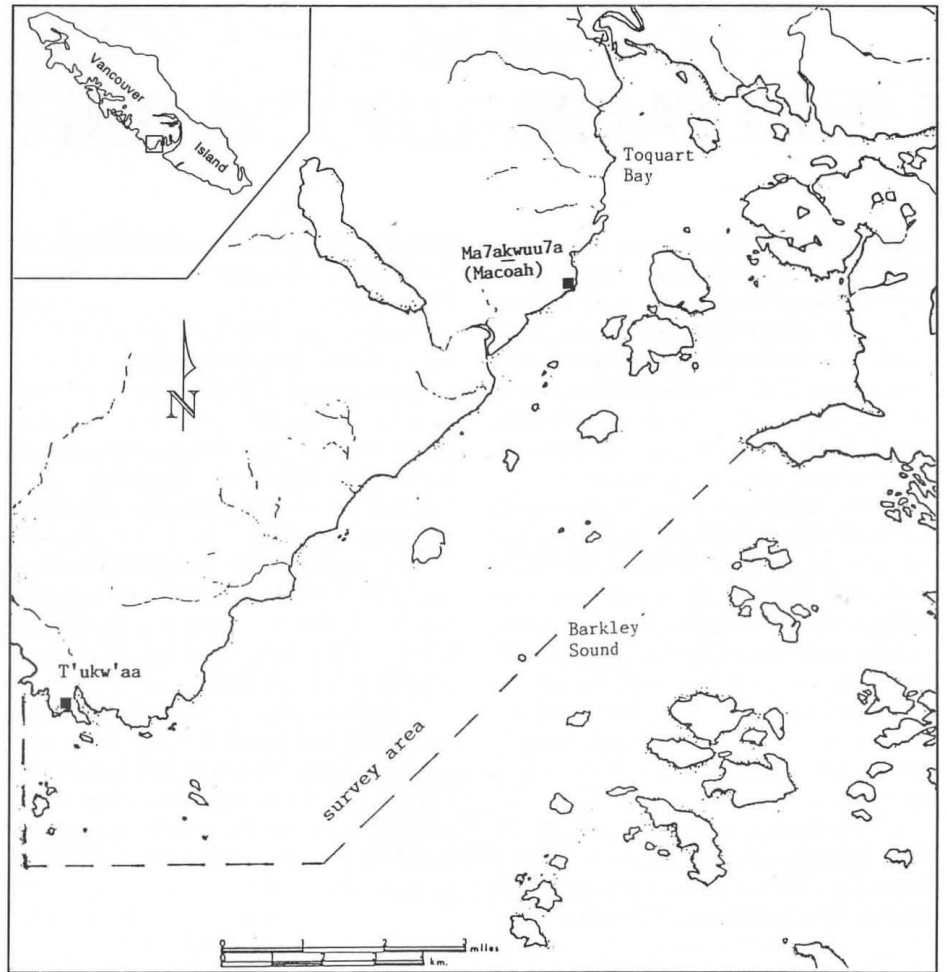
of references to this site in the extensive ethnographic traditions, suggest that its decline in importance had begun by early historic times.

Excavation units were laid out on both terraces of the village and on the defensive area. In the latter, shell midden had built up over highly irregular bedrock, with a maximum depth of deposit of just over one metre. In the village area, concentrated shell deposits continued down for nearly three metres.

Faunal remains were abundant in all areas of the site. Bones of large whale and sea lion were strewn across the site surface and occurred in abundance in the excavated deposits. The extremely numerous fish bones ranged from large halibut and tuna to whole layers of tiny herring. Bird and land mammal bones were less numerous but still common.

The artifact sample of nearly 400 items is overwhelmingly dominated by small bone points of various types, which appear to have served as gorge fishhooks, barbs on composite fishhooks, and as arming points on composite harpoon heads. The great depth of deposit in the village site appears to have accumulated rapidly. Our oldest radiocarbon sample so far, taken from the base of one upper terrace unit, is  $870 \pm 50$  years.

Fieldwork will continue in the summer of 1992, when we will concentrate



Survey area (Toquaht Traditional Territory), showing location of two excavated village sites.



Whale bone club handle depicting the thunderbird found at Macoah.

our efforts at T'ukw'aa. A three-month field season will be spent on extensive excavation across all portions of the site, including both the village and the defensive areas. In addition, we will continue to monitor the site disturbance at Macoah as new houses are built. The excavated data from these two sites, plus the information from our archaeological survey throughout Toquaht territory, will be integrated with the results of ethnographic and oral history research. This emerging picture of the Toquaht past will greatly increase our knowledge of a people who were nearly destroyed by the catastrophic events of the early historic period.

**Alan McMillan is an instructor of Anthropology at Douglas College and an adjunct professor in Archaeology at Simon Fraser University.**

# DEBITAGE

More than 200 papers are scheduled to be presented at the **Northwest Anthropology Conference** at SFU during Easter weekend. Papers specific to archaeology will be presented at all sessions with the highest concentration on Friday morning, April 17. A group of native dancers from Prince Rupert will perform at the banquet on Friday evening . . .

Then, on Sunday, April 19, there will be a "self-drive" field trip to the excavation of B.C.'s largest pit house at Keatly Creek near Lillooet. Maps and directions will be available from the conference registration desk on Friday or Saturday of the Conference . . .

**Brian Hayden** of SFU will continue his quest for status with further investigations of the Keatly Creek site this summer . . .

Achieving her own status, on March 12th, **Diane Lyons** successfully defended her PhD thesis entitled "Men's Houses, Women's Spaces: Ethnoarchae-

ological Study of Household Styles in Northern Cameroon." Congratulations Dr. Lyons! . . .

**Stan Copp**, just back from conducting an extended tour of Africa, will prepare to direct a field school at Fort Langley during May and June. The field school will be comprised of students from Kwantlen, Douglas, Capilano, and Vancouver Community College (Langara) . . .

Also in the Fraser Valley this summer the UBC Field School will be taught by **Michael Blake** somewhere in the Hatzic/Mission/Chilliwack area from mid-May through June . . .

For three months this summer **Alan McMillan** will be continuing his investigations of the Toquaht on Vancouver Island. Besides native band members, assisting him will be a crew of approximately a dozen students from SFU and Langara . . .

Further afield, the SFU field school departs on May 15 for Tonga with stops at Hawaii and Fiji. **David Burley** and **Richard Shutler** will direct twelve students and lab assistants in archaeological investigations of this island kingdom in the southwest Pacific . . .

Meanwhile, in the Lower Mainland, **Andrew Mason** was just out at Beach Grove monitoring removal of over two truckloads of rubbish and construction materials that had "mysteriously" been accumulating there since the widening of the nearby road . . .

And, back in town, **Kitty Bernick** is preparing a report on basketry from Masada which she examined and photographed while in Israel recently . . .

Finally, dates recently received from the clay-lined burial cairn (**DfRu 74**) on Galiano Island, place the basal component at 2510 BP, and the upper component at 850 BP . . .

## ARCHAEOLOGY ADVENTURE DAY

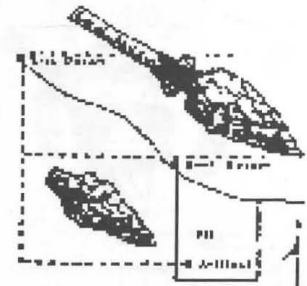
Saturday, June 6th,  
12 noon-4:30 pm

### Family Drop-in

Dress as your favourite archaeologist and be prepared to uncover layers and layers of Langley's past.

Meet at the Langley Centennial Museum or the Fort Langley National Historic Site in Langley, British Columbia.

Call 888-3922 for further details.





## SURVEYING IN NOOTKA SOUND

# THE MAN IN THE SUN AND OTHER STORIES

By Yvonne Marshall

**I**N 1989, THE MOWACHAHT/MUCHALAT ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT BEGAN AN intensive coastline survey of the Nootka Sound area on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The results of the first year's survey, conducted in 1989, appeared in *The Midden* in December 1989. Two further seasons of fieldwork conducted in 1990 and 1991 completed all fieldwork planned as part of the project. Detailed mapping of sites, and limited surface collecting restricted to the intertidal beach zone, was conducted in addition to the intensive site survey.

The objective of the survey was to obtain detailed settlement pattern data which could be analyzed in conjunction with the results of earlier excavations, oral histories and historic records to produce an account of changing political organization in Nootka Sound. However, as always happens with fieldwork, some interesting discoveries occurred which were not directly relevant to the central objectives of the research but are nevertheless important, besides being of general interest. This article discusses some of these particular discoveries from Nootka Sound.

### General Survey Results

A total of 171 sites related to native occupation, and an additional 6 sites related to non-native occupation were recorded [See table p. 8]. The intensive survey methods aimed for comprehensive identification of coastal habitation, fish trap and pictograph sites. Because few inland areas were examined, the number of burial caves and tree resource areas identified probably represents only a small proportion of the total of these sites present in Nootka Sound.

Two features of the archaeological survey results stand out. First, and most striking is the density of occupation. Virtually any reasonably flat, inhabitable location, and others of less inviting aspect, have evidence of occupation. The overall impression is of a "full" landscape. Second, very few new habitation sites were established during the historic period, and no large habitation sites were com-

pletely abandoned until well into the twentieth century.

Shifts in settlement pattern during the historic period in Nootka Sound appear to have been restricted to the nature of occupation at already established settlements. This is in contrast to other parts of the west coast, particularly Hesquiat Harbour and the Broken Island Group where a num-

**Umiq's father is  
...visited by a chi'ha,  
a supernatural spirit,  
who gives him  
ceremonial names...**



ber of new, entirely historic settlements were established, and where many large midden sites have no ethnographic or other record of historic occupation. The archaeological data therefore suggest that communities in Nootka Sound were subject to less disruption, and were able to maintain greater continuity during the historic period than many communities in other parts of the west coast.

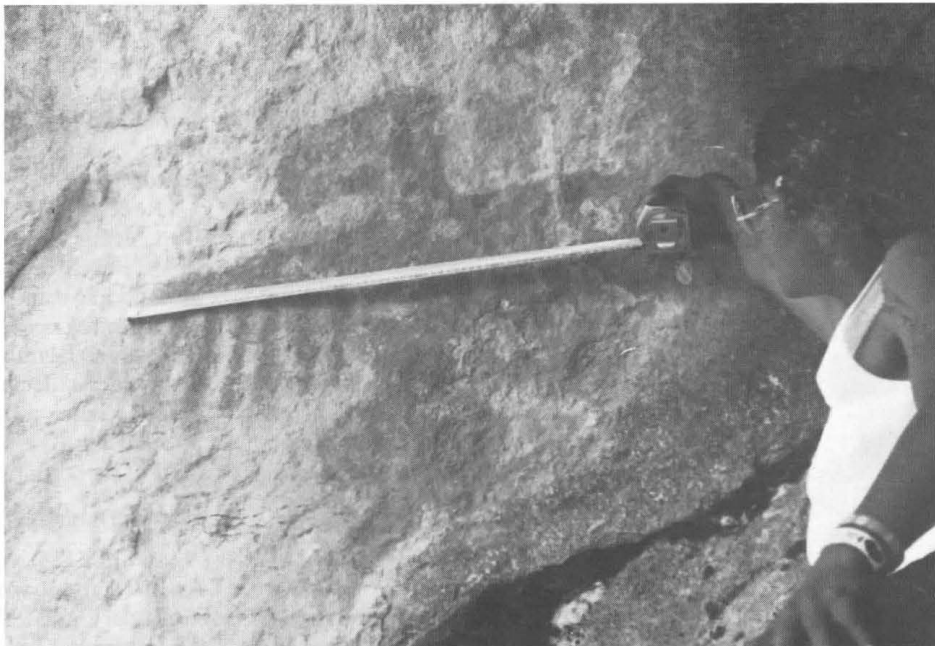
### Sites of Unique Interest

Nine rock paintings, all executed in red ochre, were recorded. No clear image is distinguishable for five of the drawings. Of the other four, the only example with an historic subject (DjSm 1) is in Matchlee Bay and depicts a person on a horse. Another site (DjSo 1) pictures a bird, possibly a thunderbird. In Hisnet Inlet is a classic Nuuchah-nulth thunderbird (DkSp 8).

A second Hisnet Inlet pictograph, located close to DkSp 8, depicts what appear to be two sun figures.

They may illustrate events from the story of Umiq, the heroic founding ancestor of the Umiqta-kamlath, the people of Hisnet Inlet.

Umiq's story is recorded in an oral history in 1916 by Edward Curtis published in the appendix of *The North American Indian, Volume 11*. In the early part of the story Umiq's father is supernaturally impregnated with a child. He is then visited by a *chi'ha*, a supernatural spirit, who gives him



The thunderbird pictograph, DkSp 8, from Hisnet Inlet being recorded by Mowachaht/Muchalat Band member, Sharon Williams.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN NOOTKA SOUND

SITE TYPE	NUMBER
Habitation Sites	
- general activity site	82
- rock shelter	5
- defensive site	5
Fish Trap	18
Burial Place	24
Pictograph	9
Tree Resource Area	21
Whaling Shrine	1
Rock Cairn	1
Trail	5
European	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>177</b>

ceremonial names for his child. Curtis records,

*The chi'ha had given four names for the child, two for girls and two for boys. The boys' names were Hupablutha ["originating from the sun"] and Uppibtsu ["in the centre of something round," again referring to the sun]; the girls' names were Hupablainnaka and Hupablaksa. The child was a boy, and they named him Uppibtsu. His face was of dazzling brilliance.*

These names describe the pictograph so well it is difficult to believe it was not drawn to depict Umiq's story.

A unique rock cairn consisting of a circular pile of rocks about one metre in diameter and piled two-high, resembled a giant doughnut. Well-established lichens on the outer surfaces of the rocks suggest

unexpectedly encountered during a break as the crew scouted for a good "coffee shop" location. The tools consisted of several wedges or axes, a broken piece of a cross-cut saw and a sledge hammer wrapped in burlap sacking.

## Surface-collected Stone Artifacts

In the course of surveying, crew members noticed stone artifacts in the intertidal beach areas at sites located within Nootka Sound and along the inlets, but not in those along the outside coast. Samples collected from all sites at which lithic artifacts were noted resulted in a total of 242 stone artifacts from 21 sites: 178 flakes and cores, 13 flaked pebbles, 6 bifaces or biface preforms, 27 adzes or chisels, and 18 miscellaneous pecked or ground stone artifacts. Most, if not all, were made from local raw materials available as cobbles from numerous beaches throughout the sound.

Flaked artifacts were collected from 15 of the 21 sites. Considering the extensive distribution of the flaked stone material it seems surprising that almost no flaked stone was recovered in the large excavations by John Dewhirst and William Folan at Yuquot (DjSp 1) where occupation dates back to at least 4300 BP; or in the smaller excavations by Alan McMillan at Kupti (DkSp 1) where occupation dates back to at least 3000 BP. Flaked stone was, however, surface-collected from the beach at Kupti.

It is probable that the flaked stone recovered in Nootka Sound is evidence for an early occupation by people who used a pebble tool technology similar to that found in other southern parts of British Columbia, and ancestral to the later Vancouver Island West Coast Culture.

Recent excavations by Arcas Consulting Archaeologists Ltd. at the Little Beach Site in Uchuelet also suggests people using this type of lithic technology once occupied the west coast of Vancouver Island. At Little Beach several stone artifacts recovered had affinities to the Alberni Inlet site of Shoemaker Bay and other sites in the Gulf of Georgia region.

## Surface-collected Ceramics

A total of 1435 sherds of European and Asian ceramics were collected from the intertidal zone in front of 18 village sites. The purpose of collecting these artifacts was to gather archaeological information



*Pictograph in Hisnit Inlet appears to depict the ceremonial names of Umiq.*

it was constructed quite some time ago. The cairn's placement on the southwest side of a small off-shore island, where it commands an excellent view of the western side of Nootka Sound and the entrance to Tlupana Inlet, appears to be a strategic choice. The cairn, not especially visible from the water, was unlikely to have been used as a landmark to aid navigation. It may, however, have served as a territorial boundary marker.

At a very small habitation site in Zuricarte Channel, a third unusual find was a neatly bundled set of logger's tools



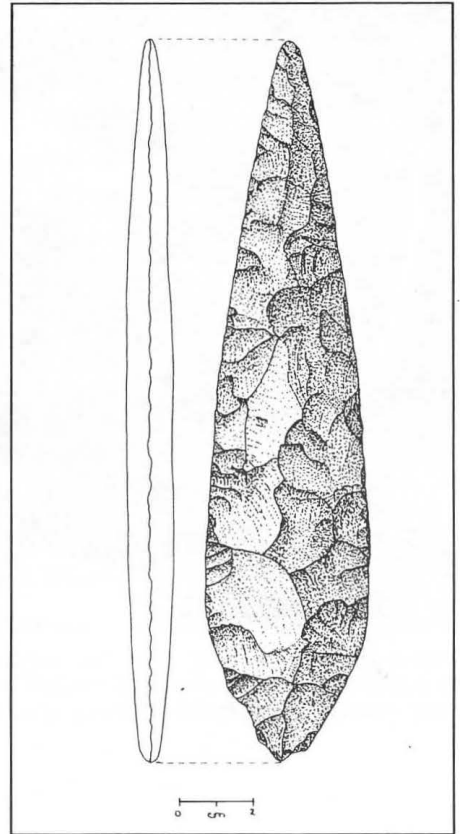
A logger's tool kit, abandoned at a tiny camp site in Zuricarte Channel, was tidily bundled in burlap sacking.

on the date and nature of occupation at village sites during the historic period. With rare exceptions all the ceramics postdate A.D. 1880, with the vast majority from the twentieth century. This indicates that the use of ceramics by the native people of Nootka Sound did not become popular until nearly one hundred years after direct contact with European traders.

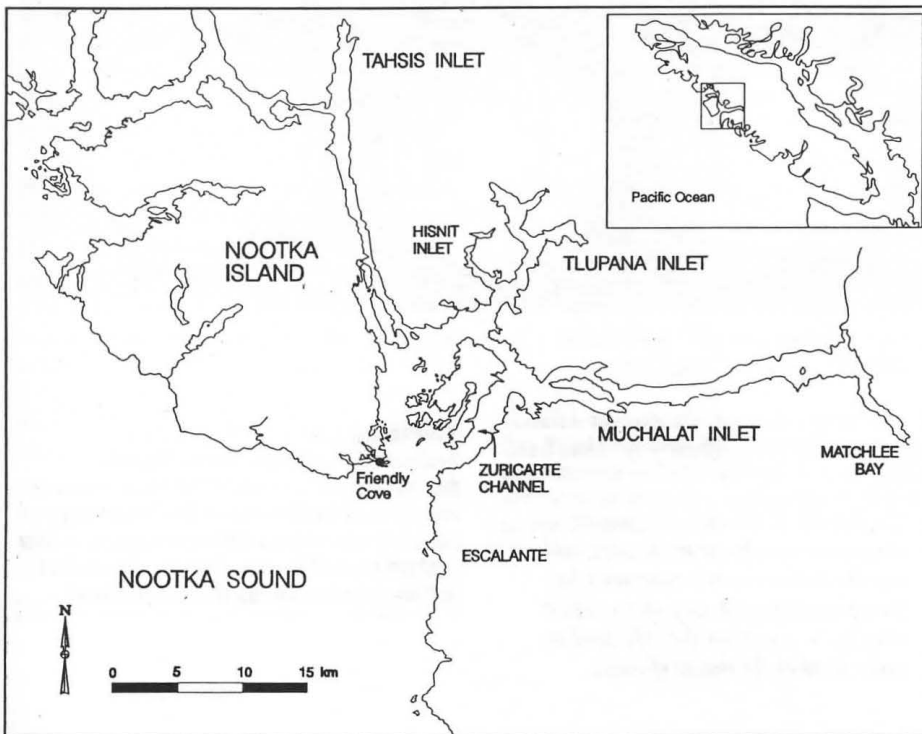
The Mowachaht and Muchalat people were selective in their adoption of

ceramics. The surface collections are dominated by cups and saucers, and small bowls. A small number of sherds from old-fashioned English soup plates occur at some sites. These numbers are curiously at odds with the historic records of ceramic purchases.

Walter Dawley, who established a shop at Yuquot in 1896, found his stock of cups moved slowly off his shelves while English soup plates were a quite different matter. In her journal of early settlement



Fine grained, grey-brown basalt point from the beach at DkSo 6 near the entrance to Muchalat Inlet.



The Nootka Sound study area.



*Collapsed slab hearth at a village site at Escalante, on the Hesquiat Peninsula is mapped by Mowachabt/Muchalat Band member, Jamie Jack. A flaked obsidian cobble, unique to sites on the west coast of Vancouver Island, lies just to the right of the tape measure.*

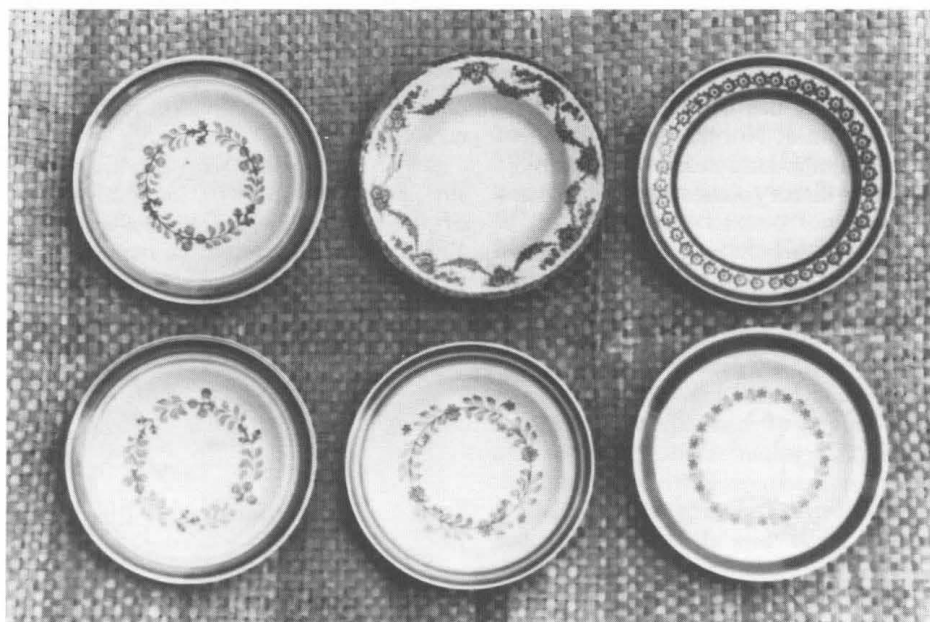
This suggests that cups and bowls were everyday ware and therefore frequently broken and discarded, whereas the soup plates were special and curated.

In the 1960's large collections of these soup plates were still in the possession of older women at Nootka Sound, and were reserved for use at potlatches both for serving food and as gifts. During the closing decades of the nineteenth century when these ceramics began to form a dynamic new element in potlatch material culture in Nootka Sound and on the west coast of Vancouver Island, potlatches were already illegal. The banning of the potlatch does not appear to have inhibited its vitality on the west coast.

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*Research for this project has been supported by grants from the British Columbia Heritage Trust, The Mowachabt/ Muchalat Band and by the Department of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University.*

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*Six plates originally part of a large collection of potlatch plates from Nootka Sound are now in the private collection of Mason Davis, Victoria.*

on the west coast of Vancouver Island, Lone Cone (1961), Dorothy Abraham recalls,

*The late W. T. Dawley, who was one of the pioneer merchants on the coast, told me the Indians would sometimes buy hundreds of English soup plates, which they have a passion for. He used to order them by the dozens of crates.*

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**Yvonne Marshall is Ph.D. student in Archaeology at Simon Fraser University. Her doctorate will report the results of her research in Nootka Sound. She expects to complete her degree and return home to New Zealand later this year. Yvonne has worked in Polynesia and on the Northwest Coast.**

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# BOOK REVIEW

## *Only in Britain you say?*

**S**USAN PEARCE'S *ARCHAEOLOGICAL Curatorship* is not a "how to" book outlining the methods of collections management and interpretation for archaeologists. It is principally concerned with the contemporary issues facing museum archaeologists and how these issues reflect on professional practice. This book looks at the ways in which archaeological theories and philosophies may influence the curation and use of archaeological collections, and in turn, how these developments affect relations between curators and other professionals, as well as direct relations with the public.

This slim volume is divided into thirteen chapters under three major headings. Part I: "Contemporary context" discusses the historical development of museum collections and the evolution of legal, political and ethical issues facing museum archaeologists. Part II: "Curating the archive" outlines the scope of contemporary professional practice, including a definition of what constitutes the archaeological archive, principles of collections management, and guidelines for developing storage and information management systems that optimize both preservation and access. Part III: "Museums, the public and the past" is concerned with interpretation and education.

The most serious drawback to *Archaeological Curatorship* is its exclusive reliance on British archaeology and museum experience. Although the development of archaeological collections and curatorship in Canada parallels Britain's, there are significant differences. For example, while British museums face repatriation requests from foreign governments, Canadian museum archaeologists must address First Nations' concerns. Whereas, questions of past class relations fuel critical examination of archaeology in Britain, the history of ethnic relations is more significant for archaeology in Canada.

However, this book deserves to be read by all museum archaeologists who

are interested in the philosophical issues that are central to contemporary museum practice. The value of this book for archaeological curatorship is in the wide range of topical issues discussed. Dr. Pearce's emphasis on the archaeological archive, which she defines as the "whole product of excavation organized in an accessible form, which renders it capable of critical re-examination," is a strong theme throughout the book. This definition emphasizes the importance of curating all aspects of the archaeological record, and the book outlines common-sense strategies for achieving practical collections management systems. Another important contribution is outlining the curator's role as active and responsive to the changing goals of archaeology, and to the increasing demand that cultural agencies themselves justify in the market-place.

The concepts and techniques of archaeological exhibitions are neatly defined in this book and recent trends in exhibition development are well covered. However, there is a paucity of evaluative studies done on archaeological exhibitions. Case studies would be a useful follow-up to the theoretical approach outlined here. The discussion of open-air archaeological presentations is, again, of limited applicability beyond the British context.

Even though this book is concerned mainly with archaeological curatorship in Britain, there is considerable thought-provoking discussion that illuminates the nature of current museum practice and its relationship to the contemporary concerns of archaeology in general.

ANN STEVENSON

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**Ann Stevenson is Collections Manager at the UBC Museum of Anthropology. She has a BA in archaeology from SFU, and an MA in anthropology from UBC.**

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## Archaeological Curatorship

by SUSAN PEARCE.

1990. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.  
223 pp., illus., bibl.,  
US\$ 35.00 (cloth).

# NEW PUBLICATIONS

## **Dictionary of Evolutionary Fish Osteology**

by ALFONSO L. ROJO

CRC Press Inc: Boca Raton, Fla. 1991.

c. 280 pp, illus, glossary, index, bibl. US\$ 74.95/ Outside US \$95.00

This dictionary presents fish skeleton nomenclature, synonyms and preferred terms used in fish osteology, emphasizing the evolution and variability of each bone in modern fishes; includes methodologies for preparation of fish skeletons for study, over 200 illustrations of bones, more than 300 references.

## **Protecting the Past**

GEORGE S. SMITH and JOHN E. EHRENHARD, editors

CRC Press Inc: Boca Raton, Fla. 1991.

c.420 pp. US\$ 49.95/ Outside US \$59.95 (50% discount to students, professors)

Presents some of the current thinking and ongoing work in the United States regarding archaeological resource protection; contributions from 48 authors organized into six chapters address archaeology and the law, archaeological site destruction, protecting archaeological sites through education, archaeological site protection programs, and the future of protecting the past.

## **Text-Aided Archaeology**

by BARBARA J. LITTLE

CRC Press Inc: Boca Raton, Fla. 1991.

US\$ 59.95/ Outside US \$59.95 (50% discount to students, professors)

Explores the relationships among documents, oral testimonies, and ethnographic description; addresses how various types of historical documentation are used in archaeology.

# PERMITS

## **Permits issued by the B.C. Archaeology Branch, January-February, 1992**

- 1992-1 Lindsay Oliver: recovery of human skeletal material and associated artifacts.
- 1992-2 H. Krentz: recovery of human skeletal material and associated artifacts.
- 1992-3 Jean Bussey: impact assessment, proposed wellsites and associated developments (Esso Resources Canada) in northeastern B.C.
- 1992-4 Jean Bussey: impact assessment, lease locations (Canadian Hunter Exploration Ltd.) in northeastern B.C.
- 1992-5 Morley Eldridge: impact assessment, Nanoose Bay, Vancouver Island.
- 1992-6 Ian Wilson: impact assessment, proposed logging operations, Tzartus Island, Barkley Sound.
- 1992-7 Ian Wilson: impact assessment and inventory, highway passing lanes near Kennedy Lake, Vancouver Island.
- 1992-8 Richard Brolly: impact assessment and inventory, Chilliwack.
- 1992-9 James Baker: systematic data recovery, EfQu 17, near Scotch Creek, Shuswap Lake.
- 1992-10 Jean Bussey: inventory, Royal Vancouver Yacht Club parking lot, Hastings Mill Park, Vancouver.
- 1992-11 Morley Eldridge: impact assessment, proposed developments at DfRu 44, Long Harbour, Saltspring Island.
- 1992-12 Ian Wilson: impact assessment, proposed natural gas pipeline right-of-way, Coast District.
- 1992-13 Sandra Zacharias: impact assessment, proposed parking lot expansion, Langdale Ferry Terminal.
- 1992-14 Jean Bussey: impact assessment, proposed highway reconstruction, near Ladysmith.
- 1992-15 John Dewhirst: impact assessment, proposed subdivision, Bowser, Vancouver Island.
- 1992-16 Morley Eldridge: data recovery, DeRu 1, North Saanich, Vancouver Island.
- 1992-17 Ian Wilson: impact assessment, DjSf 19, Comox District.
- 1992-18 Keary Walde: impact assessment, minor petrochemical developments in northeastern B.C.
- 1992-19 Ian Wilson: impact assessment, proposed loops of existing Westcoast Energy Pipeline between Fort St. John and Vancouver.
- 1992-20 Jean Bussey: impact assessment, Savona Bridge replacement (Ministry of Transportation and Highways).
- 1992-21 Brian Hayden: continued excavations at Keatley Creek (EeRl 7), near Lillooet.
- 1992-22 Ian Wilson: impact assessment, Balmer Westar Mine expansion, near Elkford.
- 1992-23 Ian Wilson: impact assessment, DkSf 29, Comox District.
- 1992-24 Geordie Howe: impact assessment, proposed sanitary sewer forcemain (B.C. Ferry Corporation), Tsawassen.
- 1992-25 Richard Brolly: impact assessment, Pitt Meadows.

# DATES TO REMEMBER:

## LECTURES

### U.B.C. MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Free Tuesday Evening Programs, 7:30-9:30 pm

April 21

#### **Hatzic Rock: Rallying Point for Collaboration.**

Panel: Gordon Mohs, David Pokotylo, Chief Frank Halloway;  
moderated by Michael Kew.

## EXHIBITIONS

### U.B.C. MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY

To May 31

#### **A Fish to Cure Humanity.**

A demonstration of the traditions associated with the fishing of eulachon, and technology used to render its oil which was traded along vast routes known as the Grease Trail.

To May 24

#### **Ancient Cloth . . . Ancient Code?**

Looks at cloth in ancient Peruvian societies as an abstract model for organizing and recording information.

## CONFERENCES

April 16-19

#### **N.W.A.C.**

Northwest Anthropological Conference  
Dept. of Archaeology  
Simon Fraser University,  
Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6  
Tel.(604) 291-3135

May 5-10

#### **C.A.A.**

Canadian Archaeological Association  
55 Centre Street  
London, Ontario N6J 1T4  
Tel.(519) 433-8401  
FAX (519) 439-1696

 **THE MIDDEN**

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