



MIDDEN

Publication of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia

ISSN 0047-7222

Vol. 24, No. 4

October 1992

Pyramids? In B.C?



THE MIDDEN

Published five times a year by
the Archaeological Society of British Columbia.
The next issue will appear in December 1992

EDITOR

Joyce Johnson

CONTRIBUTORS THIS ISSUE

Robbin Chatan, Sandra Morrison and Heather
Myles, Ian Sumpter, Kimberly Wooten

CREW

Kitty Bernick, Vicki Fedemma, Richard Mackie

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Helmi Braches

Subscription is included with membership in the
Archaeological Society of British Columbia. Non-
member rates are \$14.50 per year (\$17.00 U.S.A. and
overseas) payable in Canadian funds to the A.S.B.C.

Send to:

Midden Subscriptions, A.S.B.C.,
P.O. Box 520, Station A
Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6C 2N3

Submissions and exchange publications should be
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UBC Archaeology, 6303 N.W. Marine Dr.,
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tions on subjects germane to B.C. archaeology:
maximum length 1500 words, no footnotes, and
only a brief bibliography (if required at all).

Guidelines are available.

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Publication of *The Midden* is financially assisted
by the Province of B.C. through the Heritage Trust.

FRONT COVER:

Large mound excavated at Scowlitz this summer
revealed a well-preserved burial of an adult male
complete with copper disks, a large copper ring,
abalone pendants and thousands of sliced dentalium
shell beads.

Photo credit: Heather Myles. (see article, page 2)

A.S.B.C.

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Fraser Valley

Meetings featuring illustrated lectures are held on the
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A.S.B.C. DIARY

All meetings are held at 8:00 pm in the auditorium of the
Vancouver Museum, unless indicated otherwise.

November 11, 1992 **Lionel Jackson**, Geological Survey of
Canada
"The Geology of the Ice-Free Corri-
dor"

December 9, 1992 **Alan McMillan**
recent work on Toquaht Project

January 13, 1993 (joint meeting with A.I.A.)
Roderick Millar
"Quarrying in Ancient Lesbos"

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This October issue completes my first year with *The Midden*. Thank you all for your encouragement and many positive comments on the new format.

We have been successful in some things - lining up a "crew" to gather and feed us information, help with the editing, and help to produce some of the lists of information which we hope that you have found to be useful. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped with the past five issues: the contributors for their cooperation and patience, and the crew who have given generously of their time.

We were not as successful in other things - mainly in the area of forthcoming, unsolicited articles. To address the problem I would like to suggest "themes" for each of the next four issues of *The Midden* this year. If you have anything that you feel would be appropriate, please submit an article. Submissions must be made by the first of the month previous to the issue.

Since so much has happened in the

Fraser Valley this summer, we would like to begin there and the Fraser Delta/Lower Mainland area for the December issue (submissions November 1st). Then in February we will move through the Fraser Canyon into the B.C. interior plateau (submissions January 2nd). From there, through northern B.C. out to the coast above Vancouver Island for April (submissions March 1st). Finally, June should bring us back through Vancouver Island and the lower B.C. coast (submissions May 1st).

If you have any articles you would like to submit which don't fit into any of these areas, please, by all means, do so. They can be accommodated in any issue. Guidelines are available on request. Remember, *The Midden* is a volunteer effort. We can only print the information we are given. Please let us know what you are doing, thinking, and what you would like to read about.

The Editor

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THANKS YVON!

Yvon Lantaigne, who gave *The Midden* its new look this past year, moved to Calgary this summer. Yvon brought his expertise and took time from his busy schedule to produce *The Midden* for us on his MacIntosh computer every two months. I, most of all, will miss him.

HELP!

As a result of Yvon's leaving, we find ourselves casting about once again for someone to help with the techni-

cal production of *The Midden*. If someone from the Society does not volunteer this service before the next issue, it is very unlikely that we will be able to continue with our publication. Surely there's someone out there with a computer who is involved in, or anxious to practise, a desktop publishing programme; or even the old fashioned typesetting and paste-up method. If you are concerned about the future of *The Midden* and would like to help us out in any way, please get in touch with me right away.

Joyce Johnson
Editor

THE SACRED MOUNDS OF SCOWLITZ

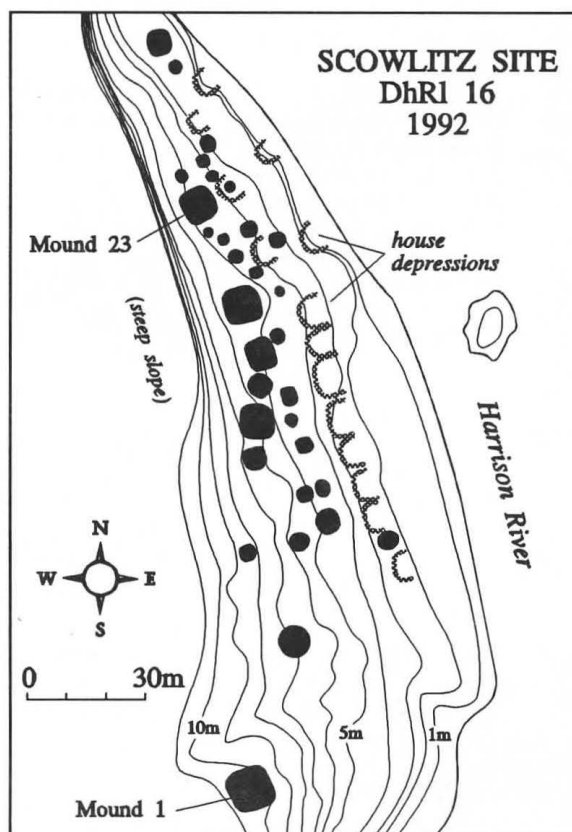
by Sandra Morrison and Heather Myles

THE 1992 U.B.C. ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL took place at the Scowlitz site (DhRI 16), which is located thirty kilometres east of Mission on Canfor Ltd property, across the Harrison River from the Scowlitz Indian Reserve. This picturesque site, covered with acres of lush greenery, consists of thirty burial mounds and the remains of an ancient settlement. It extends for 200 metres along a terrace which looks down upon the junction of the Harrison and Fraser Rivers.

The site's position at the confluence of these two rivers provided an excellent area for fishing, transportation, and trade. Pre-historically, the Scowlitz site must have been the location of a once prosperous and powerful village. Its importance did not fade during historic times, when it was used by fur traders and prospectors as a gateway to the Harrison Lake and beyond. Today, this site holds great importance for the Scowlitz people, both as sacred grounds of their ancestors and as a prime fishing location.

The Sto:lo Tribal Council and the Scowlitz Band invited U.B.C. archaeologists, under the direction of Dr. Michael Blake, to investigate the site, parts of which were being rapidly eroded away by the river currents. Over the years band members and others had collected stone artifacts and pieces of woven basketry and other organic materials which were being washed out of the muddy river bank.

In March of 1992 archaeologists from U.B.C. and the Sto:lo Tribal Council dis-



Scowlitz site, 1992

covered a large piece of basketry as well as a complete hafted ground slate knife, the first of its kind retrieved in the Lower Mainland. This exciting discovery, and awareness of the potential information to be gained from the adjacent village and its burial mounds, prompted the decision to return to this site in March for the U.B.C. archaeological field school. During the project, Gordon Mohs, Heritage Consultant for the Sto:lo Tribal Council, acted as liaison between the Scowlitz Band and the archaeologists.

The Scowlitz site (DhRI 16) is cov-

ered with maple, birch, and cedar trees and is choked with a mass of stinging nettles and salmonberry bushes which cloaks the many features of the site. On one side of the terrace the land slopes upward to meet the Harrison Knob. On the other side the edge drops steeply down to where the clear blue waters of the Harrison River meet the muddy Fraser.

Several metres off the shoreline, the water eddies around the "Transformer" rock which, according to Scowlitz legend, is where one of their first ancestors fell to earth. Along the upslope border of the terrace thirty mounds are visible. These range in size from small rock cairns to huge pyramid-like masses of earth. Sizable trees with deeply penetrating roots grow from the tops of many of the larger mounds. On the river side of the terrace is a series of at least twenty-four shallow, rectangular house depressions, an indication of the presence of an ancient village.

Approximately 100 metres north of this terrace, eroding out of the bank of the Harrison River, is an extensive waterlogged component which contains a well-preserved layer of organic materials. This possible extension of the village was not tested during the project because of the high water level. Adjacent to the wet site is a small island (DhRI 15), 200 metres long and 50 metres wide, upon which four circular pithouses are located. These measure four metres in diameter, and are characteristic of Interior Salish dwellings.

Both DhRI 15 and 16 were extensively mapped with the help of a sur-

veying class from the Fraser Valley College, supervised by Bud Bowes. In addition, a detailed contour map of DhRl 16 was produced by Dr. Gary Coupland, a visiting professor from the University of Toronto.

The project began in late May and was finished in the last week of June. The first week was dedicated to clearing the heavy brush on the terrace in order to expose the site's features. Two mounds

were then selected for excavation. Mound 1, the largest and most impressive of all the mounds, is three metres high and twelve metres on each of its four sides. Mound 23 is somewhat smaller, measuring two metres in height and ten metres on each side. Both, however, are similar in many respects. Buried under the centre of each is a cairn constructed from boulders and surrounded by perimeter rock walls defining the mounds' square shapes. A carefully prepared clay floor underlies the rock features in both mounds, acting as a surface for their construction.

In Mound 23, an oval-shaped cairn, constructed from forty large rocks and measuring one and a half metres in diameter, was placed on top of the clay floor. This cairn was surrounded by an outer wall which was composed of rubble and was one metre high with its corners aligned to the cardinal points.

The mound matrix consisted of dark, sandy midden fill containing a wide variety and abundance of lithic artifacts. These included basalt projectile points, serpentine adzes, ground slate tools, and a large quantity of quartz cores, flakes, and microblades. Because the artifacts were found in redeposited midden material which was used to construct the mound, their actual context reveals limited information about their relation-

ships to one another and to the mound. However, the various styles of projectile points, which include large leaf-shaped, tapering stem, corner-, basal- and side-notched points, suggest that the site was continuously occupied from at least the Charles phase (ca 4,500 BP) until the time of historic contact.

Because of the acidic nature of the soil, no human skeletal or faunal remains were preserved. However, the presence of an oval-shaped pit, directly below the rock cairn, strongly indicates that human remains were here at one time.

Excavations in Mound 1 (see cover photo) revealed an even more elaborate mound construction. After digging a trench through two and a half metres of fill, which was relatively sterile in contrast to the artifact-rich deposits in Mound 23, excavators exposed a central concave cist composed of over two hundred angular boulders. Although only half of this cist was excavated, it appears to be square, measuring four metres on each side. As in Mound 23, the cist was surrounded by a square perimeter rock wall, but this was constructed not from rubble but from the same kind of large rocks that form the cist. The one exposed corner of the wall was marked by a metre-high pillar of stacked rocks.

This mound structure is similar to

that of the mounds in the Hatzic area which were excavated and described by Charles Hill-Tout in 1899. The construction sequence of both mounds appears to be similar and as follows:

1. The body was placed in a shallow pit dug into sterile soil.
2. The clay floor was prepared as a surface for the features of the mound.
3. The cairn was constructed over the burial.
4. The perimeter rock wall was built up around the cairn, outlining the edge of the mound.
5. Fill from the surrounding area was deposited over the rock features forming the structure of the mound.

The construction of these sacred monuments would probably have required a highly organized labour force and may have included the use of slaves. The mounds' stratigraphy suggests that they were built immediately following the individuals' deaths, and within a short period of time.

On the final day of excavations an exceptionally well-preserved skeleton was uncovered within the cist in Mound 1. The bones were analyzed in the field by Dr. Brian Chisholm, a U.B.C. archae-

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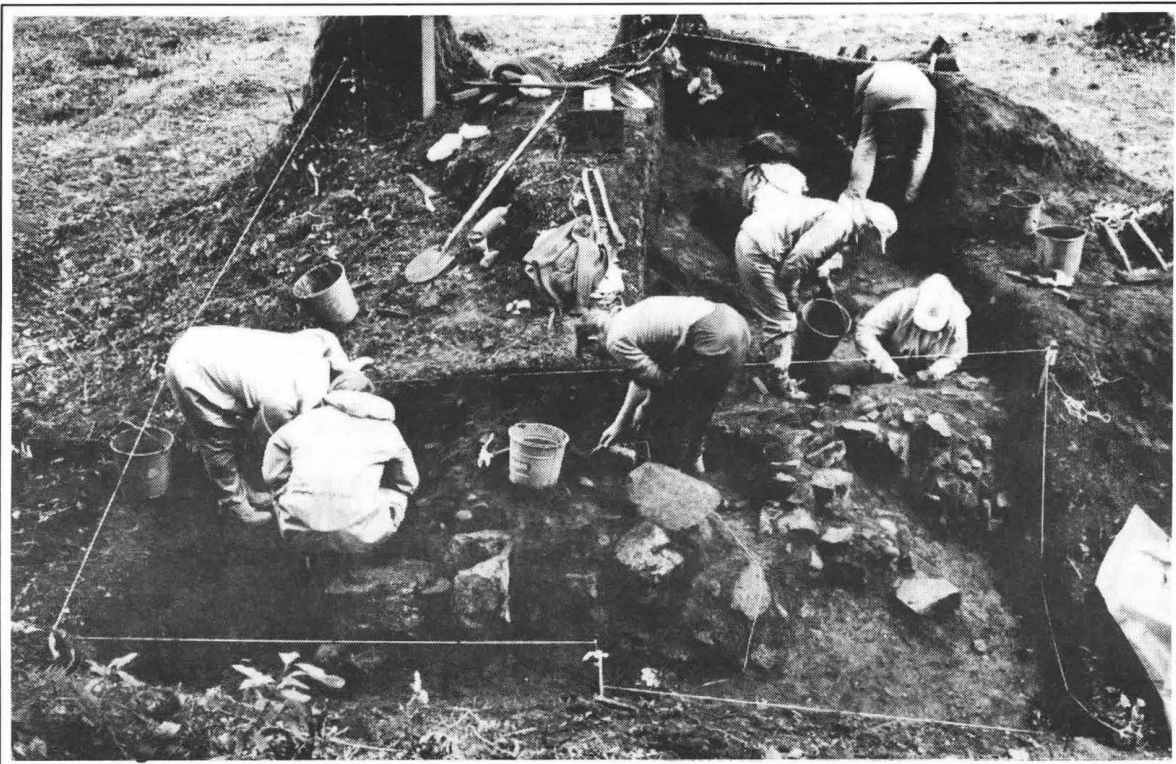


Photo credit: Brian Thom

Mound 23 showing the contour and size and some features

Evidence of a complex society . . .

continued from page 3

ologist, who determined that the individual was an adult male. He had been placed on his right side in a tightly-flexed position, facing northeast. Recovered organic material indicates that he was wrapped in cedar bark or leather blankets before his interment.

Four perforated copper discs, one large copper ring, four abalone pendants, and approximately seven thousand beads of sliced dentalia shell were found around his neck. Closer observation revealed fragments of leather still attached to the copper discs and strung through several of the beads. This collection of burial items strongly suggests that this was a person of high social status.

Immediately following excavation of the burial, and in the presence of the archaeologists and elders from the Scowlitz community, Mr. Vince Stogan of the Musqueam Band performed a reburial ceremony. With silence the skeleton - complete except for a few small samples of bone which were retained for radiocarbon dating and analytic purposes - was returned to its original position. New copper and abalone offerings arranged in the burial replaced the artifacts taken for study.

Even though no human skeletal material was recovered from Mound 23, a reburial ceremony was conducted there as well, using a sample of soil from the pit below the cairn which presumably once contained human remains.

The field school spent the last two days reconstructing the boulder cairns and backfilling the excavated trenches. With the close of the project was a traditional burning ceremony at the site. This was followed by a feast hosted by

Immediately following excavation of the burial, and in the presence of the archaeologists and elders from the Scowlitz community, Mr. Vince Stogan of the Musqueam Band performed a reburial ceremony

the Scowlitz Band to celebrate the end of the excavation. Our participation in the reburial and burning ceremonies helped to foster a greater understanding and admiration for the ancient traditions of the Scowlitz people.

The elaborate burial in Mound 1, along with the other mounds and cairns at the Scowlitz site, provide evidence for a complex society that existed in the Fraser Valley some thousand years ago. More precise dates are pending results of analysis of charcoal and other organic materials. This site is not an isolated case in British Columbia. Other mounds are known to have survived the rapid settlement and farming activity of the past century. The last one excavated was in 1944 at Cowichan Bay by A.E. Pickford. Although it was one of the few mounds to be studied in the 20th century, this work was inadequately documented except for a brief description of the mound's construction. No human remains or artifacts were found, and no dates were obtained.

In the Fraser Valley, several mounds located on the Pretty Estate at Harrison Mills were noted by T.P.O. Menzies in 1933. One of these contained only fragments of human skeletal remains. Further down the Fraser at Hatzic, five kilometres east of Mission, another cluster of mounds was excavated by Hill-Tout and described in 1930.

Most ancient burial sites exist alongside large settlements like the one at DhR1 16. Based on this pattern, an undiscovered village may still lie beneath the surface near the demolished Hatzic mounds. However, during Hill-Tout's initial study, no mention of a village was made. Through excavation he determined that there were five different types of construction involved in the circular earthen burials, and that inner cists and small circular stonewalls were common. The copper artifacts which he recovered from the various mounds resemble those found in Mound 1 at Scowlitz.

The Scowlitz site has emerged as an important focus of study because of its rich archaeological remains—the burial mounds, the house depressions, and the wet site. In particular, the site has yielded important information concerning prehistoric mound construction. Moreover, the burial mounds provide strong indications of a hierarchical system, and that the community functioned according to a stratified social structure. Because the village appears to have been occupied from about 4500 BP, before the development of stratified society, study of its cultural sequences may help us to understand some of the processes involved in the evolution of complex societies.

Undoubtedly, this is a site which will provide opportunities for years of future research. Another team of investigators from U.B.C. is currently planning to return to the site this fall to carry out test excavations in the waterlogged component and in the habitation zone adjacent to the mounds.

ARTIFACT IDENTIFICATION CLINICS

November 24, 1992; January 26, 1993; March 30, 1993 - 7:00-8:30 pm

**Museum of Anthropology
6393 N.W. Marine Drive, UBC Campus,
Vancouver.**

On the last Tuesday of every other month, professional staff from the Museum of Anthropology will be on hand to help to identify objects brought in by the public, and provide conservation advice. Just take in the artifacts that you have questions about (Tuesdays evenings are free). Check in at the admissions desk to find out where the clinic is located.

Sandra Morrison and Heather Myles, third year students in anthropology at U.B.C., participated in the field school at the Scowlitz site.

A BASIC FIELD AND LAB MANUAL

THERE WAS A TIME when, faced with the task of analysing an archaeological fish bone collection, the only references available were the works of Casteel and a variety of articles in an obscure publication or journal. Generally, in the considered zooarchaeological texts fish bone analysis was largely ignored or simply mentioned as an aside. The appearance of *Fishes* by Wheeler and Jones is most welcome to us who are interested in archaeoichthyological analysis and research. Now any excuse for sloppy methodological work concerning archaeological fish bone analysis is no longer valid.

This publication is the fifth in the Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology Series and the authors represent a relatively up-to-date and very readable account of archaeological fish bone analysis. The importance of this manual to zooarchaeologists and archaeologists who work on the Pacific Northwest Coast is fairly obvious, allowing comparison of our methodology with a British and European point of view. Developments of archaeological fishbone analysis from other parts of the world are also mentioned.

Wheeler and Jones include discussions of diverse topics on methodological and interpretive issues which an analyst faces when dealing with "zillions" of fish bones. The first chapter is a general introduction for the manual, concentrating on the history of archaeological fish bone research and the importance of using proper methodology. The next chapter focuses on research questions such as prehistoric economy, diet and trade, paleoenvironment, past fish taxa distributions, and fish taxonomy. In the following chapter the authors look at fish ecology (fish population and faunalistic zones) which can add to our understanding of the data.

Chapter 4 discusses methods of recovery - developing sampling strategies, methods of fish bone extraction from deposits, storage of samples, and determining "diagnostic" elements for identification and quantification. Chapter 5 looks at the taphonomic factors that affect the survival of fish bone elements in archaeological deposits.

In chapters 6 and 7 the authors examine the osteological identification of elements from cartilaginous and bony fishes, and the establishment of a useful nomenclature for archaeologists. A chapter follows dealing with fish bone identification, recording of data, determining the season of capture, and methods of analysis such as element analysis and bone size, that the archaeologist can use to answer questions.

Chapters 9 and 10 deal with the issues of fish bone quantification, namely the estimation of fish size and minimum number of individual counts. The chapters following look at the interpretation of fish bone data in terms of seasonality estimation and the reconstruction of prehistoric fishing behaviour. In the final chapter, the authors describe how to go about establishing a good fish bone reference collection.

On the whole this publication is an excellent reference manual on archaeological fish remain analysis, illustrated throughout with line drawings, graphs, tables and photographs. Such a text is long overdue. I cannot recommend it highly enough. Unfortunately, little mention is made of the work that has been done on the Northwest Coast, probably due to the fact that those analyses are confined to thesis dissertations and local journals which are not readily accessible.

Despite the fact that this publication will become the basic field and lab manual on this topic, it is very expensive (as are all Cambridge hardcovers). Perhaps eventually Cambridge University Press will put out an affordable soft-bound edition.

Robbin Chatan

Fishes

by Alwyne Wheeler and Andrew K.G. Jones. 1989. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. 210 pp., ill., index. \$71.40 (hardcover).

ASBC member Robbin Chatan is an MA grad student in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Calgary, and has just completed his thesis on a late prehistoric fish bone collection from Motupore Island, Papua, New Guinea. He has also worked on fish bone from the Point Grey site (DhRt 5), and did an oxygen isotope study on mollusc shell from Crescent Beach (DgRr1).

GITAUS REVISITED

RIVER EROSION ALONG THE SKEENA

by Ian Sumpter

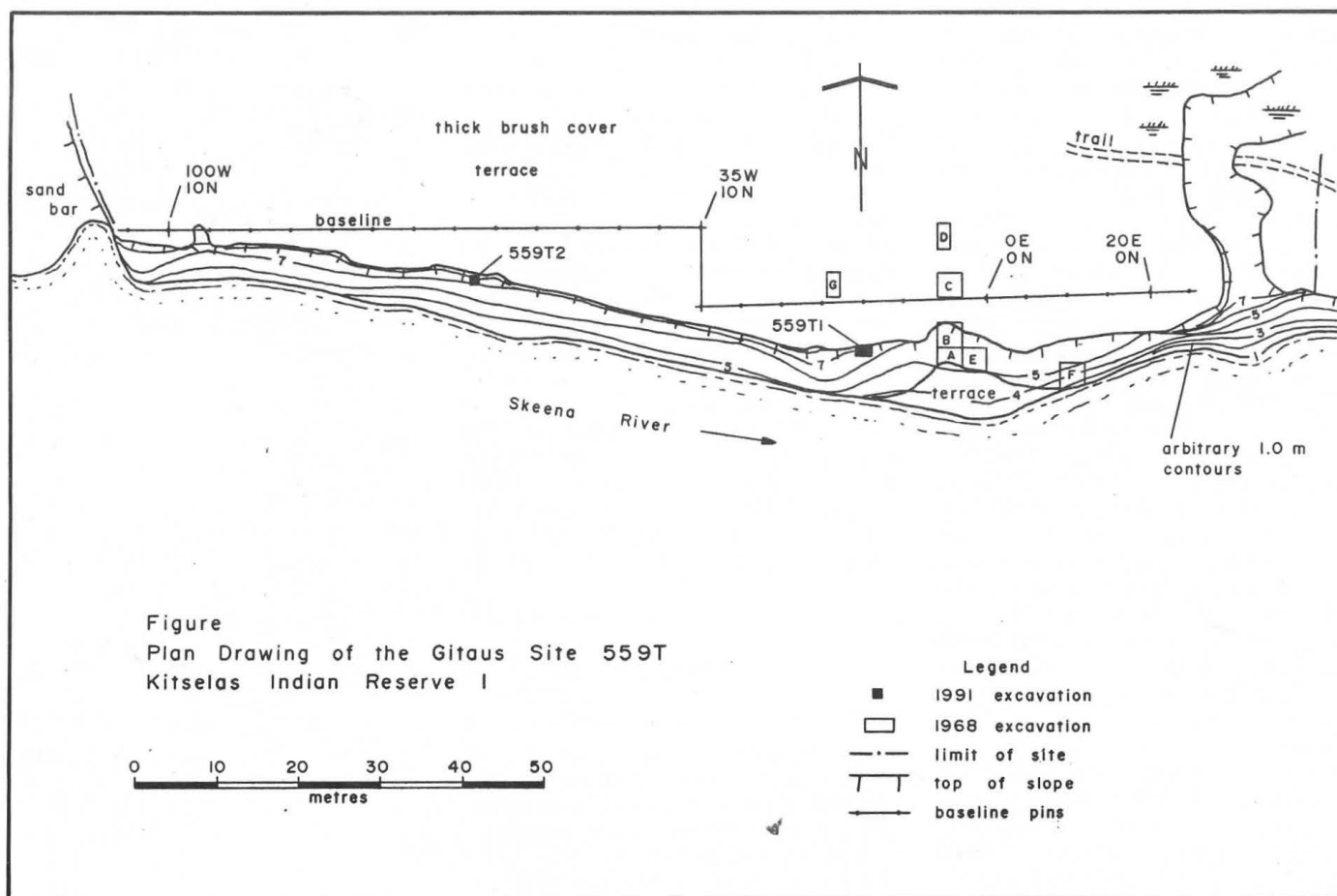
THE CANADIAN PARKS SERVICE (CPS) and the Kitselas people are currently in the preliminary stages of establishing a National Historical Site on the band's Reserve No.1. The reserve is situated at Kitselas Canyon on the Skeena River 16 km east of Terrace. The new National Historic Site would be owned and operated by the Kitselas people in cooperation with the Canadian Parks Service. At

present the two parties have signed a Memorandum of Understanding and are working toward a cooperative agreement. One component of the agreement will be the priority placed on the protection and management of cultural resources.

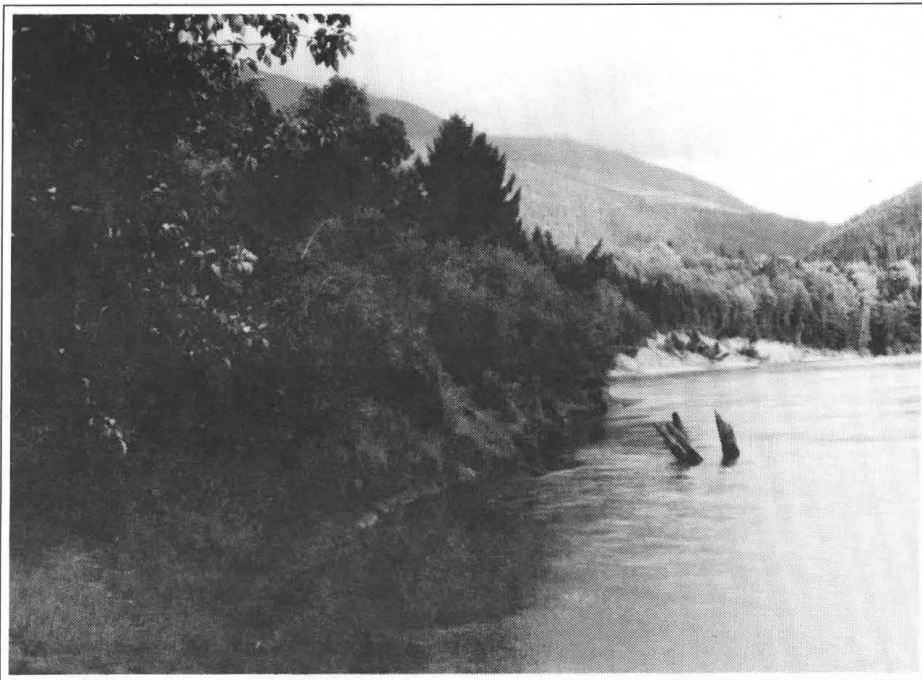
To date five village sites have been recorded at the Kitselas Canyon: Tsunyow, Gitaus, the Paul Mason site, Gitlaxdzawk (the "Fortress"), and

Gitxtsaex. All are considered extremely significant with regard to their ethnic value, scientific research potential, and their contributory roles in the interpretation of aboriginal lifeways not only at the canyon, but the northern coast of British Columbia.

One of the five villages, however, is extremely vulnerable to fluctuating river levels and stream flow: Gitaus (GdTc 2, CPS designation 559T), meaning "people



Plan Drawing of the Gitaus site, Kitselas Canyon



View of western portion of the Gitaus site, Skeena River

of the sandbar". This 4100 year old site is located on a two to eight metre high fluvial terrace immediately downstream from the south end of the canyon on an eroding bend of the Skeena River. It seems that the locale has always been susceptible to natural deterioration. Kitselas oral tradition informs us that Gitaus was abandoned during prehistoric times because of the undermining of the site by beaver. Periodic flooding at Gitaus has always occurred, and will continue to do so.

In 1968, the National Museum of Man (now Canadian Museum of Civilization) under the direction of Dr. George MacDonald, conducted a small scale salvage-oriented archaeology programme at Gitaus in response to local concerns over the loss of cultural material to river erosion. Restricted to the central front part of the site, the investigation encompassed about 54 square metres of excavation, revealing cultural deposits to a depth almost three metres below ground surface. Approximately 2800 artifacts and 13,000 pieces of lithic debitage were collected. Since then concerns have continued regarding erosion of the estimated 4000 square-metre site, and the irretrievable loss of Kitselas heritage.

In September 1991 archaeological staff from the CPS Western Regional Office (Calgary) conducted a preliminary assessment of river erosion at Gitaus. Over a five day period the brief field programme focussed on two objectives: 1) to establish the amount of site loss since the National Museum's archaeological work in 1968, and 2) to

recommend viable actions, programmes, and measures (both immediate and long-term) pertaining to the protection, conservation, and management of the Gitaus site. The 1991 programme included re-establishment of the 1968 archaeological baseline grid; profile and plan drawings of the embankment; excavation of two exploratory test units; and revision of the site plan.

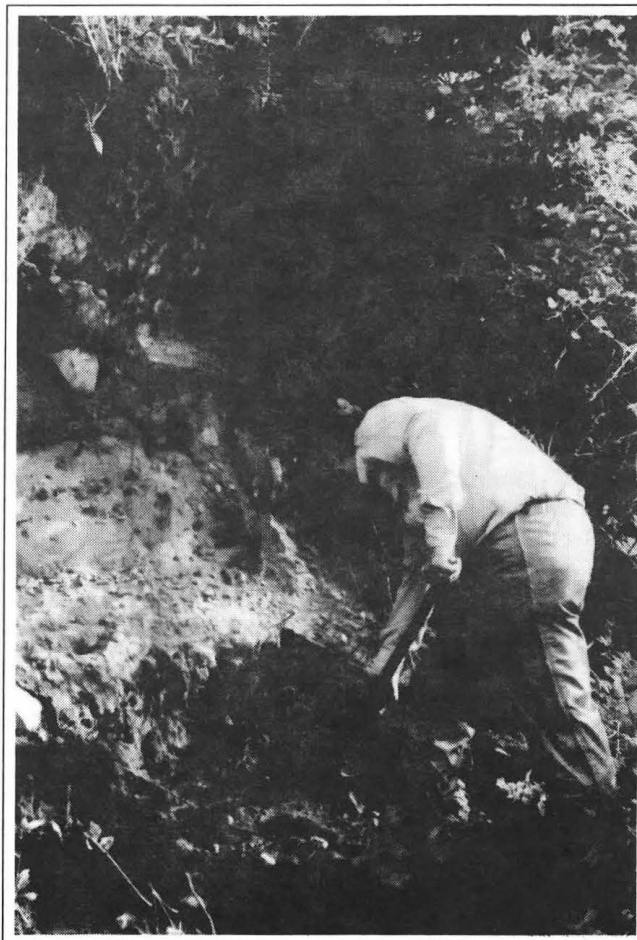
The two test excavations at the base of the embankment consisted of a 50-cm wide, 2-metre long, and 60-cm deep unit (1A), and a 1-metre square by 2.25-metre deep unit (2A). The two units were judgements placed at locations where slumpage accumulation was minimal. Each unit required the removal of approximately 50 cm of slumped embankment sediments.

Unit 1A, situated two metres below the top of the embankment and adjacent to the 1968 excavations failed to yield any un-

disturbed culture-bearing deposits. Excavation of Unit 1A was terminated at the base of a rusty-coloured, medium-grained sand overlying fluvial gravels. Cultural material recovered from the unit included seventeen stone tools and sixty waste flakes. Sixty percent of the unit's assemblage was recovered in a disturbed, secondary context, while the remainder was collected while profiling the embankment exposure.

Unit 2A was located 46 metres west of Unit 1A and 75 cm below the top of the embankment. Once below the slump debris, excavation proceeded through a number of stratified, culture-bearing sand lenses containing charcoal and moderate quantities of fire-broken rock. Due to time constraints excavations were terminated at a depth of 3 metres below the top of the embankment before completion. While closing the unit, lithic items and concentrations of fire-broken rock were encountered. Unit 2A produced 70 lithic tools, two worked bone tools, and 257 waste flakes. Seventy-four percent of this total was collected from disturbed slumpage.

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Excavation of disturbed embankment slump debris at test unit 1A

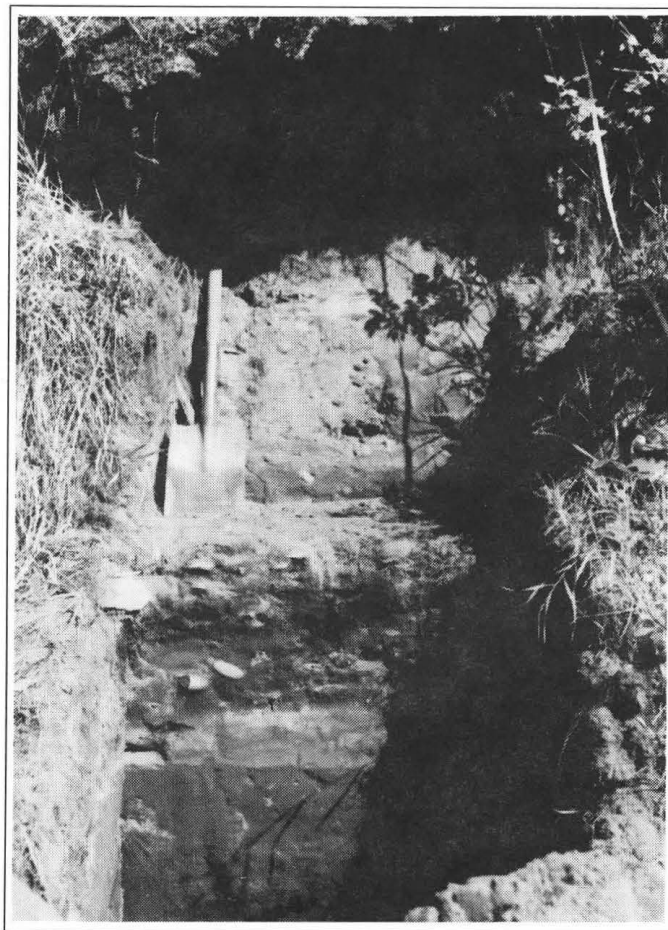
Mitigative actions and programmes recommended

continued from page 7

In total the 1991 tool assemblage comprised 52 cobble and flake tools, six ground stone items, 11 chipped stone implements, and two miscellaneous worked bone objects. The four tool industries are typical of prehistoric toolkits occurring in northern coastal sites. The faunal sample, encompassing both land mammals and salmon, was extremely small at 4.84 gm—a result of acidic soils. Fire-broken rock was abundant at Gitaus with approximately 87 kg recovered from both units.

Preliminary investigations at Gitaus in 1991 revealed two significant factors. First, cultural deposits in the western portion of the site appear to be deeper than those excavated in 1968. Secondly, and more importantly, since 1968 an approximately 3-metre width of the bank (possibly 480 square metres of site) has been lost to river erosion.

The Canadian Parks Service has recommended a number of mitigative actions and programmes to the Kitselas Band Council. Implementation of these recommendations will be subject to further detailed technical studies, funding sources, and constraints. Should the Kitselas peoples request that additional archaeological investigations be conducted at Gitaus by the CPS, emphasis of study will be to address details regarding archaeological mitigation require-



Post-excitation view of test unit 2A

Ian Sumpter is a Senior Research Assistant with the Canadian Parks Service's Archaeological Research Services Unit in its Western Regional Office. He has been conducting archaeological work with the Parks Service since 1983. Ian acquired his B.A. in Archaeology from Simon Fraser University in 1981.

ments, in conjunction with additional exploratory excavations. These studies would also include a Native training component in field archaeology.

The author would like to thank Chief Councillor Ralph Wright and Deputy Chief Councillor Brian Seymour of the Kitselas Band, and Pat Inglis, Area Superintendent, B.C. Mainland North, Fort St. James National Historic Park for their support of our brief study at Gitaus.

DEBITAGE

Diana French spent her summer holidays up by the Tatshenshine River in the very northwestern corner of B.C. fighting the devil's club and alder for three weeks in August. She worked with three Native people conducting a preliminary archaeological survey for the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.

... Further south and east near Quesnel in the Cariboo Deva Heritage Consulting (Sandra Zaccharias) has been working with the Canim Lake band in an on-reserve inventory and archaeology-training project funded by Access to Archaeology. Watch for the video!

... On the academic front Malaspina College in Nanaimo is offering an archaeology course for the first time in several years. Students taking the course under the direction of Cal Ritchie provided voluntary labour for Ian Wilson at Departure Bay this summer. Cal has just come to Malaspina fresh from completing his M.A. in Ontario and is working on starting up a branch of the A.S.B.C. in Nanaimo. Welcome to B.C., Cal.

... Al McMillan and Stan Copp, who have been offering archaeology courses at Douglas College, will begin in the doctoral programme at SFU this year.

... And this year Norm Easton will move from Yukon College to be in the doctoral programme at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks continuing his investigations into subtidal deposits along coastal areas.

... Meanwhile, back at U.B.C. Heather Pratt presented a successful defense of her thesis, "The Charles Culture of the Gulf of Georgia: A Reevaluation of the Culture and Its Three Subphases." Congratulations Master Pratt!

... A more complete site inventory is being developed by the Archaeology Branch in cooperation with the Ministry of Forestry. A pilot study on Vancouver Island will map all cultural resources, including sites of traditional importance to First Nations peoples. Comprehensive recording and mapping of these sites should inform land-use decisions, especially with respect to the protection of heritage resources. . .

NEWS ITEMS

IN THE INTERIOR

RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION – THEN AND NOW . . .

Antiquus Archaeological Consultants Ltd. recently conducted detailed mitigative excavations at two medium-sized winter pithouse village sites (EfQw 2 and EfQw 21) on the southern shores of Adams Lake near Chase in south-central B.C. The excavations were funded by a private landowner who is presently developing two residential subdivisions. The investigations revealed that EfQw 2 contained short-term occupations belonging to the Kamloops Phase (ca 1200-200 BP), while EfQw 21 was occupied earlier and at various times during the Shuswap Phase (ca 3500-2400 BP), the Thompson Phase (ca 2400-1200 PB), and the Kamloops Phase (ca 1200-200 BP).

EfQw 21 is somewhat unique in that several of the larger houses are rectilinear in plan rather than the more conventional round forms. A sparsely represented pre-pithouse component at EfQw 21 during the middle prehistoric period (7000-3500 BP) contained microblades. The results of the investigations at these two sites will be available next spring.

ON THE QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS

THE GWAI-HAANAS ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT . . .

The Queen Charlotte Islands witnessed a busy summer of archaeology. In July and August Morley Eldridge and Al Mackie of Millennia Research, with Bert Wilson of the Haida Nation, co-directed the Gwaii-Haanas Archaeology Project on South Moresby Island.

Their contract from the Canadian Parks Service called for a shoreline survey and inventory centring on Juan Perez Sound. Millennia worked closely with six Haida trainees in cultural resource management. This was a con-

tinuation of collaborative archaeological work between the Haida people and the Canadian Parks Service.

For a time the Millennia crew shared their camp on Ramsey Island with Daryl Fedje and Ian Sumpter of the Canadian Parks Service, who were investigating raised shorelines on South Moresby Island.

ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

LISTEN. THE TREES ARE SPEAKING . . .

The most spectacular discovery of the summer on Vancouver Island occurred at Heal Lake in Saanich where Dr. Richard Hebda of the RBCM, and the University of Victoria recovered above the glacial till at the lake bottom, a complete floral sequence dating from 13,000 years ago to the present. The entire lake is being destroyed to make way for a garbage dump. Hebda is heading a research project to sample the sediments and to reconstruct the environmental history of the region in detail. His research is being supported by the Capital Regional District, Environment Canada, Forestry Canada, and the RBCM.

Working with the University of Washington, Hebda is analyzing the carbon isotopes found in the wood and in other organic remains. Sediments will be sampled and preserved at the RBCM and at Forestry Canada. Of particular interest is the preservation of thousands of logs with the potential of a long sequence of tree-ring dates.

Look for an article by Hebda on this spectacular site in a future issue of *The Midden*.

ON THE WATERFRONT . . .

Rapid development in other parts of Saanich, particularly on the waterfront, kept archaeologists busy throughout the summer. In June Morley Eldridge

and a crew from Millennia Research conducted salvage excavations at the North Saanich site (DeRu 1) on Tseheum Harbour.

From the path of approaching bulldozers Millennia salvaged burials containing copper ornaments and haiku shells (dentalia).

Later, in August a Millennia crew led by Al Mackie monitored construction on part of the Bazan site (DdRu 4) near Sidney. Quentin Mackie, who analyzed thousands of celts for his M.A. thesis but had never excavated one himself, had the pleasure of excavating two in this project. A protective covenant now applies to part of this site.

ON THE CREEK . . .

At the end of July the Archaeology Branch hired I.R. Wilson Consultants to examine a previously unrecorded site at Somenos Creek near Duncan where a developer recently uncovered burials while levelling ground for a housing subdivision. Wilson's excavations revealed the remains of ten individuals buried with copper ornaments in what appears to be a burial mound. Dubbed the "Somenos Burials" by the press, they have been dated to the Locarno Beach Phase (ca 3500-2500 BP). Chief Wesley Modeste of the Cowichan band worked closely with the Archaeology Branch and the developer.

POSSIBLE BARGE LANDING SITES . . .

Millennia Research archaeologists, working on contract to the Archaeology Branch, spent part of the month of July in Bamfield. The town's rapid development over the past decade has threatened many archaeological sites. Morley Eldridge and Clinton Coates surveyed the line of a proposed road to West Bamfield and examined eighteen possible barge landing sites on both sides of Bamfield Inlet.

They also conducted an impact assessment of a village site (DfSg 2) adja-

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A BASKET CASE

by Kimberly Wooten

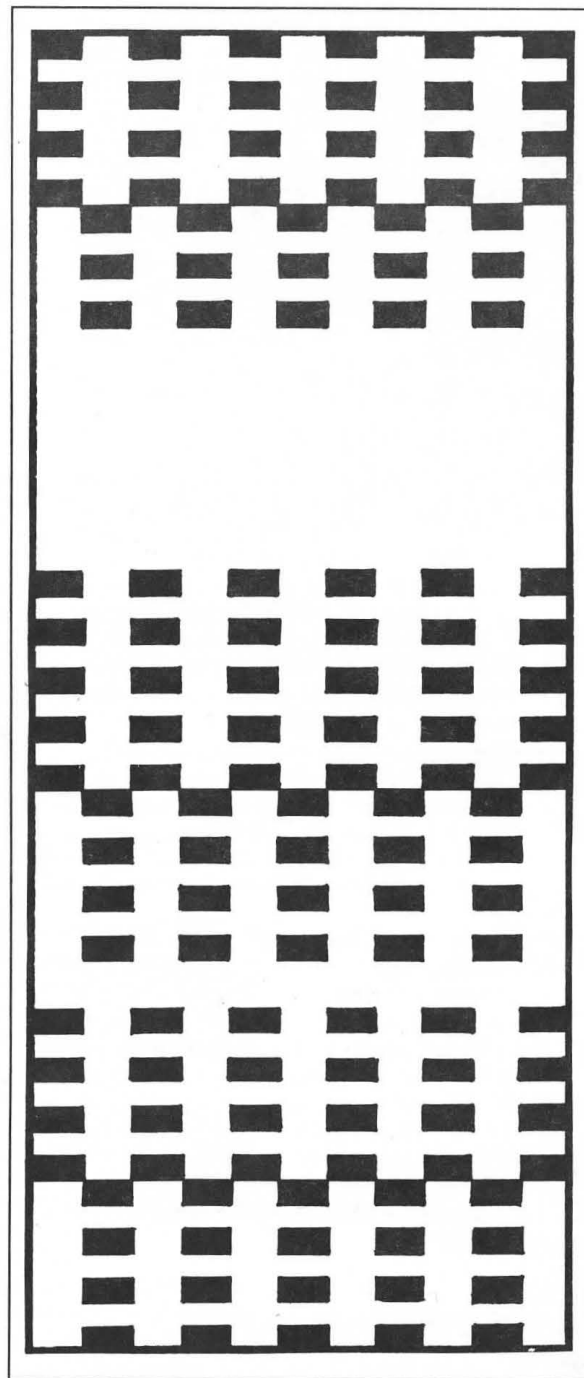
LAST APRIL U.B.C. ARCHAEOLOGISTS FOUND a basket fragment eroding out of an exposed water-saturated component in a bank along the Harrison River near its confluence with the Fraser. The site, DhRl 16, located within traditional Scowlitz band territory is called the Scowlitz site. The basket has several important intact features including two handles, the selvage (rim finish) and one corner. The fragment measures approximately 35 cm square.

Body-construction techniques

The weave of the body is checker-plaiting in which weft elements are narrower than warp elements (unequal checker). Plaiting is simply the interlacing of the vertical elements (warps) and horizontal elements (wefts) over and under one another. The plaiting technique is reported in most wet-site basketry assemblages from the Northwest Coast. The Scowlitz fragment features a symmetrical design created by using a series of alternating dark and light coloured wefts. The dark colour results from leaving the bark on the lighter inner cambium surface of the splint instead of stripping it off.

In her 1989 report on the Water Hazard site (DgRs 30) baskets, Kathryn Bernick mentions colour contrast as a common decorative technique for plaited baskets. This is also the case with the Scowlitz basket. It is not possible to tell at this point if the weft and warp elements of the basket are splints of split cedar roots or branches. In the Water Hazard baskets the bark-covered splints were generally used as warp elements with the bark facing outwards. In the case of the Scowlitz basket the bark-covered surfaces oriented toward the outside are weft elements and not warps.

Twining, a tighter technique than plaiting, is often used as prepara-



Schematic drawing of plaited design on Scowlitz basket.

tion for the rim selvage. In twining the warps remain stationary while two or more wefts wrap around them. The rim of this basket fragment is preceded by one row of two-strand twining slanted up to the right (/). This right-hand pitch is typical of twining in the Salish area, as opposed to twining along the north coastal region which slants to the left (\). The Scowlitz basket's selvage is a wrapped type with the ends of the vertical warps bent 90 degrees to the right and incorporated into the structure of the selvage. The resulting bundle of warp elements is then wrapped with a spiralling strand of bark. Each warp element is bent into the bundle after two stitches of the selvage wrapping strand.

Attachments

The basket fragment contains two different handles, both made of "z-lay" cordage where the strands twist to the left. One of the handles attaches horizontally just below the selvage. The second handle attaches vertically at the corner. Dale Croes reports similar vertical handles, or "tumpline loops" on the corners of a 2500 year-old burden basket from the Hoko River site. These loops, or handles, likely used as guides for the basket's carrying strap, were known ethnographically.

Shape

It is not possible at this point to reconstruct the size and shape of the Scowlitz basket, but the insertion of extra warps at the one existing corner indicates expanding walls. It seems from the four attributes present that the fragment resembles ethnographic Coast Salish burden baskets which varied in size but had an expanding form. The handles also suggest a burden basket, especially the

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BASKETS

continued from P. 10

vertical handle that resembles Croes' tumpline loops.

Discussion

Aside from the woven design, the tumpline loop on the Scowlitz basket is probably its most interesting attribute since loops for tumplines are not reported in either Musqueam Northeast (DhRt 4) nor the Water Hazard site, although checker-plaited utility baskets were present in large numbers in both assemblages. Such loops are, however, reported for the Ozette and Hoko River sites on Washington's Olympic Peninsula where checker-plaiting is not the predominate utility basket weave. The difference in basket construction could reflect a difference in function of the baskets, or it might simply reflect the limited number of basketry remains so far recovered.

Perhaps one of the most important aspects concerning basketry has to do with its possibilities for revealing ethnicity--the ways in which a group of people define themselves either consciously or unconsciously. Bernick explains in a 1987 article in *Ethnicity and Culture* (p.251) that, although incom-

one of the most important aspects concerning basketry has to do with its possibilities for revealing ethnicity – the ways in which a group of people define themselves

plete, a basketry fragment can still yield a great deal of information.

Basketry is probably the most useful artefact type on the Northwest

Coast in terms of information on ethnicity. It is technologically complex, stylistically sensitive and relatively abundant when present. Even small fragments can be instructive, especially if they include finished edges, ornamentation or appendages.

Designs incorporated into baskets can additionally reveal ethnicity through kinship. Such information can offer a "face" to archaeology.

This summer the Scowlitz site was investigated by the U.B.C. field school. Since water levels were too high during the summer months, the water-saturated component, which is threatened by erosion, was not investigated. If excavations of this component do take place it will be extremely interesting to see what more is revealed about Scowlitz traditions and weaving.

Kimberly Wooten has just completed a year as an unclassified student concentrating on anthropology at U.B.C., and has been accepted into the Masters programme.

NEWS ITEMS

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cent to the fortress at Aguilar House, which was excavated in the 1960s by Judy Buxton as part of her M.A. thesis at the University of Calgary.

THE TOQUAHT REVISITED. . .

Denis St. Claire of Victoria and Alan McMillan of Douglas College completed another summer's field work on the Toquaht Archaeology Project on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Working closely again with Bert Mack, Chief of the Toquaht, they excavated for 12 weeks at T'ukw'wa, the main village site of the Toquaht people, and at the village of Ch'om'at'a, where they reached a depth of 4.75 metres in cultural deposit.

Funding from the B.C. Heritage Trust, and from the federal government's "Challenge 92" and "Access to Archaeology" programmes, allowed St. Claire and McMillan to put a large crew of eighteen into the field. They report very rich artifact assemblages and, of course, abundant sea mammal remains which will be analyzed by old coastal hand, Greg Monks of the University of Manitoba.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Integrated Lithic Analysis: The Significance and Function of Key-Shaped Formed Unifaces on the Interior Plateau of Northwestern North America.

by Mike K. Rousseau.

Department of Archaeology Simon Fraser University
Publication No. 20, 1992 SFU, Vancouver. \$18.00.

Deciphering a Shell Midden

edited by Julie Stein.

Academic Press, San Diego. 1992
375 pp. US\$89.95 (hardcover)

Provides a detailed history of shell midden research and a description of the latest analyses and procedures using an example of a Northwest Coast shell midden.

PERMITS

Permits issued by the B.C. Archaeology Branch, May to August, 1992:

- 1992-39 Sandra Zacharias: inventory, Canim Lake Indian Reserves No. 1 - 6 and non-reserve lands, Canim Lake.
- 1992-40 Arnoud Stryd: inventory and evaluation, Scheidam Flats, Kamloops District.
- 1992-41 Keary Walde: impact management, GJR 1, Swan Lake Provincial Park, northeastern B.C.
- 1992-42 R.M. Gilbert: inventory, proposed campground/marina, McLeod Lake.
- 1992-43 Ian Wilson: impact assessment, Captain Cove, Pitt Island.
- 1992-44 Gloria Fedirchuk: post-construction impact assessment of three Home Oil Co. Ltd. wellsites.
- 1992-45 Michael Blake: research excavations, DhR1 15 and 16 (Scowlitz Site), near Harrison Mills, Fraser Valley.
- 1992-46 Alan McMillan: site investigations, DfSj 23, DfSi 4, FgDk 30, Toquaht Territory, Clayoquot District.
- 1992-47 Beth Bedard: impact assessment, gas pipeline right-of-way, Kootenay District.
- 1992-48 Mike Rousseau: impact assessment, Kamloops District.
- 1992-49 Karen Preckel: impact assessment, north bank of Fraser River in Cannery Channel, Steveston.
- 1992-50 Alison Landals: impact assessment, proposed wellsite (Amoco Canada Petroleum Co. Ltd) near Carbon Creek, Peace River District.
- 1992-51 Phil Hobler: inventory, portion of Section 1, Saturna Island.
- 1992-52 M. Kennedy: test excavations, north side of Keatley Creek.
- 1992-53 Mike Rousseau: impact assessment, cutblocks (Weldwood of Canada Ltd.) near Wells.
- 1992-54 Mike Rousseau: impact assessment, cutblocks (West Fraser Mills Ltd.) near Wells.
- 1992-55 Sandra Zacharias: impact assessment, proposed bridge at No. 2 Road and River Road, Richmond.
- 1992-56 Ian Wilson: impact assessment, proposed cable crossing between Breakwater and Gabriola Islands.
- 1992-57 Jean Bussey: inventory and impact assessment, MOTH project, Prince George/Cariboo region.
- 1992-58 Jean Bussey: inventory and impact assessment near Princeton.
- 1992-59 Keary Walde: impact assessment, MOTH projects, Peace region.
- 1992-60 Bjorn Simonsen: research excavations, Scheidam Flats, Kamloops Indian Reserve No. 1.
- 1992-61 Ian Wilson: impact assessment, Galiano Island.
- 1992-62 Arnoud Stryd: impact assessment, DfSr 16, Little Espinosa Inlet, Vancouver Island.
- 1992-63 Robert Muir: systematic data recovery, EfQw 2, Woolford Point.
- 1992-64 Jean Bussey: impact assessments, district lots and unsurveyed Crown land, New Westminster Land District.
- 1992-65 Richard Brolly: impact assessments, MOTH projects, Thompson-Okanagan region.
- 1992-66 Ian Wilson: impact assessments, MOTH projects, Vancouver and Salt Spring Islands.
- 1992-67 Morley Eldridge: impact assessments, MOTH projects, Bamfield, Vancouver Island.
- 1992-68 B. Reeves: evaluative test excavation, DhPs 4, Elk River, Kootenay District.
- 1992-69 Jean Bussey: impact assessment, Scuzzy Creek Hydro and Power project.
- 1992-70 Rebecca Balcom: impact assessment, golf course development, Barnston Island, New Westminster District.
- 1992-71 Mike Rousseau: impact assessment, cutblocks in Quesnel District.
- 1992-72 Mike Rousseau: impact assessments, MOTH projects in southern B.C., south coast, Thompson-Okanagan and Kootenays regions.
- 1992-73 Keary Walde: impact assessment, south shore of Babine Lake, Coast District.
- 1992-74 Ian Wilson: impact assessment, DcRt 42 and 76, Gordon Head, Victoria District.
- 1992-75 Mike Rousseau: impact assessment, property development at McLeod Point, Adams Lake.
- 1992-76 Mike Rousseau: impact assessment, subdivision at Olalla, Similkameen District.
- 1992-77 Ian Wilson: overview and reconnaissance, Ministry of Forests project near Crawford Bay, Kootenay Lake.
- 1992-78 Ian Wilson: impact assessment of two proposed natural gas wellsites, Langley.
- 1992-79 Mike Rousseau: systematic data recovery, EpQw 21, Kamloops District.
- 1992-80 Rebecca Balcom: impact assessment, Lakefront Realty property, Okanagan Lake.
- 1992-81 Bjorn Simonsen: impact assessment, lots in Renfrew District.
- 1992-82 Rebecca Balcom: impact assessment, B.C. Gas Inc. pipeline near Armstrong.
- 1992-83 Arnoud Stryd: impact assessment, property developments on Cortes Island.
- 1992-84 Stan Copp: impact assessment, DgRn 25, near Clayburn, New Westminster District.
- 1992-85 Bjorn Simonsen: inventory of cutblocks near Fish Egg and Illahie Inlets, Coast District.
- 1992-86 Norm Easton: intertidal and subtidal excavations, DfRu 7 and 13, Montague Harbor, Galiano Island.
- 1992-87 Sandra Zacharias: impact assessment, B.C. Hydro project, Barnes Creek Diversion.
- 1992-88 Ian Wilson: impact assessment, Timbercrest Estates, Duncan.
- 1992-89 Arnoud Stryd: inventory within traditional Squamish territory.
- 1992-90 Diana French: inventory, Tatshenshini River basin, Cassiar District.
- 1992-91 Morley Eldridge: impact assessment, property development in North Saanich.
- 1992-92 Ian Wilson: systematic data recovery, MOTH bridge replacement, EeSu 13, Glenlion River, Port Hardy.
- 1992-93 Sandra Zacharias: impact assessment, proposed subdivision at Lesser Fish Lake, Lillooet District.
- 1992-94 Bjorn Simonsen: impact assessment, southwest shoreline of Lillooet Lake.
- 1992-95 Robert Muir: systematic data recovery, MOTH bridge replacement at Bull River, Kootenay District.
- 1992-96 Bjorn Simonsen: inventory, Merrill and Ring Timber Co. logging areas, Quadra Island.
- 1992-97 Geordie Howe: impact assessment, subdivision at Penrose Bay (Okeover Inlet), New Westminster District.
- 1992-98 Morley Eldridge: monitoring, residential construction, DdRu 4, Sidney.
- 1992-99 Keary Walde: investigations at Pink Mountain, Peace River District.
- 1992-100 Morley Eldridge: investigations in North Saanich.
- 1992-101 Ian Wilson: inventory, cutblock near Kelsey Bay, Sayward District.
- 1992-102 Mike Rousseau: impact assessment, proposed resort development, Melvin Creek Valley, Lillooet District.
- 1992-103 Robert Muir: impact assessment, proposed hydro-electric project at Similkameen River, south of Princeton.
- 1992-104 Arnoud Stryd: impact assessment, Steep Island, Sayward District.
- 1992-105 R. Gotthardt: impact assessment, proposed campground, Swan Lake, Cassiar district.
- 1992-106 John Dewhirst: impact assessment, proposed residential development at DcRu 19, Victoria.



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DATES TO REMEMBER

EXHIBITIONS

to January 3

The Transforming Image.
UBC Museum of Anthropology

Hundreds of faded, often invisible, traditional paintings of Northwest Coast cultures have been recovered by infra-red photography and reconstructed by First Nations artists. This exhibition presents the process and results.

LECTURES

R.B.C.M. - NEWCOMBE PROGRAM
Newcombe Theatre, 675 Bellevue St., Victoria

October 30

Tales of a Cordilleran Geologist (slide lecture)

Dr. Hugh Gabrielse, a member of the Geological Survey of Canada since 1947, uses early means of travel in the field—canoes and packhorse trains (no helicopters were available then)—to bring to life early personalities of geology, their hardships and survey routes. He also describes the fascinating story of the development behind the evolution of geoscience, the scientific approach used in surveying and mapping the vast areas of the Cordilleran of northern B.C., the Yukon and the N.W.T.

CONFERENCES

November 12-15

Chacmool. University of Calgary, Alberta.

"The Archaeology of Contact: Processes and Consequences"



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