

The Midden

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The Midden

Publication of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia

Editor: Kathryn Bernick

Subscriptions and Mailing: Phyllis Norris

Submissions and exchange publications should be directed to the Editor. Contributions on subjects germane to B.C. archaeology are welcomed: maximum length 1,500 words, no footnotes, and only a brief bibliography (if necessary at all). Guidelines available. Telephone inquiries: 873-5958.

The next issue of *The Midden* will appear mid-April, 1988.

Contributors this issue: Kathryn Bernick, Grant Keddie, Phyllis Mason.

THE COVER: *Hand-mauls from southern British Columbia. Three on right from Arrow Lakes, two on left from lower Fraser River. Photo courtesy Royal B.C. Museum.*

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The Society

The **Archaeological Society of British Columbia** is dedicated to the protection of archaeological resources and the spread of archaeological knowledge.

Meetings featuring illustrated lectures are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 8:00 p.m. in the Vancouver Museum Auditorium. Visitors and new members are welcome!

NEXT MEETINGS:

Mar. 9

Apr. 13

President: Colin Gurnsey (980-7429)

Vice President: Helen Smith (224-1426)

Membership Secretary: Pam Adory (430-8327)

Membership year runs September 1 - August 31. Fees: single - \$17.00; family - \$20.00; senior citizen - \$12.00; student - \$12.00. Membership includes *Midden* subscription. Address to: A.S.B.C. Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 520, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2N3

Affiliated Chapters: Fraser Valley, Kitimat, Victoria.

Editorial

HCB report long overdue . . .

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED the steadily diminishing amount of news about B.C. archaeology reported in *The Midden* lately. This issue seems to have hit an all-time low. Possibly, another phone call or two would have elicited a few more bits, but the fact is, very little is happening.

Although I am concerned about the scarcity of copy for *The Midden*, I am much more worried about the future of archaeology in this province. There are huge gaps in our knowledge of B.C. prehistory and sites which might provide the missing information are being nibbled away, sometimes vanishing completely.

The Heritage Conservation Branch tries to see that proposed developments are checked out prior to construction and that any "unavoidable" disturbance is mitigated. In practice, salvage usually involves a few weeks, or days, of hastily planned excavation by an archaeologist who is already busy writing proposals to compete for the next job. Reports tend to be laced with management jargon, and are seldom if ever rewritten for an audience of ordinary people.

Forty-eight permits were issued in 1987—75% of them to consultants, mainly for small-scale impact assessment and evaluative testing. We never hear the results of these projects (nearly all funded with public money—directly or indirectly).

The Heritage Conservation Branch has not issued an annual report since 1978... What have they been doing in the past ten years? How much money has been spent in the name of archaeological preservation, and has the expenditure been worthwhile? Have we saved sites from destruction and learned everything we could from those that were doomed—or have we merely been keeping a handful of archaeologists in beer and trowels?

The Project Pride Task Force recommended establishing a five-year archaeological management plan for the province. A report covering the past decade seems like a good place to start. Not a glossy publication with colour pictures, but some honest words and numbers. It's called "accountability."

The alternative is to close our eyes and believe that no news is good news. □

- Kathryn Bernick

?

ARCHAEOTRIVIA

1. What ministry of the B.C. government looks after archaeology?
2. What was the original name of B.C.'s recently disbanded Volunteer Regional Advisor Program?
3. When B.C. archaeologists talk about "CMT's"—what are they referring to?
4. What is a "keekwilee"?
5. How many recorded archaeological sites are there in British Columbia?
6. What is the full title of the ASBC's photo display about the 1986 public interpretation program at the Point Grey site?
7. Ten individuals have held the office of president of the ASBC. How many of these are women?
8. Which Gulf Island has so many petroglyphs that it is sometimes called "Petroglyph Island"?
9. One pavilion at EXPO 86 featured a display about a Canadian archaeological site. Name the pavilion and the site.
10. When is Heritage Week?

Answers:

1. Tourism, Recreation and Culture.
2. Archaeological Wardens Program.
3. Trees with visible evidence of aboriginal logging or bark-stripping (Culturally Modified Trees).
4. "Pithouse" in Chinook: a semi-subterranean winter dwelling common in the B.C. Interior since about 2,000 B.C. "House pit" refers to the hole that was dug for a pithouse.
5. About 16,000.
6. "The Point and the Public—A Happy Collaboration."
7. Four (Helmi Braches, Marie Duncan, Sheila Neville, Shirley Veale Wallace).
8. Gabriola Island.
9. The Norwegian Explorers pavilion showed a diorama and artifacts from l'Anse aux Meadows, a 1,000-year-old Norse settlement on the Newfoundland coast.
10. Third week of February (Feb. 15-21, 1988).

CAA comes to Whistler

THE CANADIAN Archaeological Association's 1988 conference will be sponsored by the ASBC and the Dept. of Archaeology, SFU. Sessions will take place May 12, 13, and 14 at the Whistler Conference Center, Whistler Mountain, B.C.

Jon Driver (SFU), in charge of the conference program, told *The Midden* that there will be about 15 sessions with a total of 90 presentations. Papers on British Columbia archaeology will be given at symposia sessions on early man [sic] in B.C., archaeology of the Canadian plateau, Canadian rock art, and underwater archaeology.

A plenary session on archaeology and cultural tourism will feature three invited speakers, still to be confirmed. One is likely to be a representative of the York Archaeological Trust in the U.K. Topics will focus on the philosophy of making archaeology commercial, from an administrative perspective. Interpretation of archaeological sites will be dealt with in a

separate session chaired by Bjorn Simonsen and Brian Spurling.

Highlights include a banquet on Friday evening (May 13) with guest speaker Jacques Dalibard, Director of the Heritage Canada Foundation. The ASBC is organizing field trips—one to the Lillooet area and another to see petroglyph sites on Gabriola Island.

Participants who register before April 15 will be able to attend the entire conference for \$40.00 (students - \$20.00), or a single day for \$15.00—banquet and field trips extra.

CAA members should note that the annual business meeting is scheduled for Friday afternoon, May 13.

For further information about the conference, including arrangements for accommodation and childcare facilities at Whistler, please contact Jon Driver, Dept. of Archaeology, SFU, Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6. Tel: 291-4182. □



Anyone available to help out with conference registration, bookroom supervision, field trip arrangements, etc., please contact Colin Gurnsey at 980-7429.

News Bits

Directors read Midden

The B.C. Heritage Trust recently awarded \$1,800 to *The Midden* for assistance with publication costs in 1987-88. This year, in addition to the usual 3 copies sent to the office in Victoria, the Trust requested a complimentary subscription for each member of the board of directors.

Archaeology goes downtown

In Vancouver, Heritage Week will be observed with displays at Robson Square. The ASBC plans to be on hand with its photo display on the 1986 interpretation program at the Point Grey site. About 30 organizations will participate. Open for public view Feb. 15-19, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Book Reviews:

History in motion

Historical Atlas of Canada, Volume I: From the Beginning to 1800, edited by R. Cole Harris. Geoffrey J. Matthews, cartographer / designer. Univ. of Toronto Press, Toronto. 1987. \$95.00 (cloth).

IT'S BEAUTIFUL. The concept, the content, and the look of the first volume of the **Historical Atlas of Canada** are an impressive undertaking and a huge success.

There are 69 full-colour plates, composed by some 250 researchers from across the country. Not surprisingly, there are nearly as many types of maps. The combination works, in a way that emphasizes the cultural diversity that is Canada.

Although the **Atlas** focuses on economic and social history, there are enough environmental maps to remind one of the setting, and enough names and dates to form a context for those who learned event-oriented history.

The plates include maps with explanatory notes and often also pictures and graphs. In addition, there are six essays, each introducing a group of plates that constitutes a chapter in the history.

Dr. James V. Wright, an archaeologist at the national museum in Ottawa, took on the ambitious task of synthesizing in maps the prehistory of the entire country. His catalogue of 44 cultures—from 9500 B.C. to European contact—may well become one of the most consulted references in the volume.

Wright contributed much of the archaeological input, though other researchers (including several from B.C.) prepared specialized plates.

Even with all that scholarship, however, there are some errors. It's misleading, for example, to

illustrate (Plate 9) a labret as a typical Northwest Coast Late Period artifact (true for the Prince Rupert area, but labrets are **not** found in components dating after A.D. 500 in the Gulf of Georgia region). Another error I spotted appears on Plate 18: the "Subsistence archaeological data" map shows incorrect distributions for stone and wood fish weirs in British Columbia. Perhaps corrections can be made for the next edition.

The 18 prehistory plates are followed by chapters titled "The Atlantic Realm," "Inland Expansion," "The St. Lawrence Settlements," "The Northwest," and "Canada in 1800." Most of these depict white settlement, trade, and exploration, though native cultures are not neglected.

The end notes list bibliographic sources for each plate, a thoughtful and useful adjunct. An index, or gazeteer, is sorely missing; and location insets on the plates with large-scale maps would greatly comfort those of us who are not completely familiar with Canadian geography.

The colour-coding doesn't always work well, particularly when the maps are busy with many dots and circles and arrows. Yet, simplification would deny the complexity and dynamism that are part of the historical picture. The **Atlas** succeeds because it shows history in motion—truly an achievement.

Personally, I like the first map best, the one with purple ice sheets covering the country. It was all so much simpler without people!

- Kathryn Bernick

Midden Editor Kathryn Bernick has an MA in anthropology/archaeology and does freelance research, writing, editing, etc.

Exciting stuff at Nootka

The Adventures and Sufferings of John R. Jewitt, Captive of Maquinna, annotated and illustrated by Hilary Stewart. Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver. 1987. 192 pp., ill., bibl., index. \$29.95 (cloth).

JEWITT'S NARRATIVE of the years he spent as Maquinna's slave has seen some twenty editions. It might be reasonable to suppose that another edition could hardly matter. In this instance, one would suppose wrongly. Stewart's additions greatly enhance what is already an intriguing incident in British Columbia's colourful past. For example, her discussion of her meetings with Maquinna's and Jewitt's descendants reminds us that this is no piece of dead history. Instead, it is an adventure story with trails that lead to the present.

The section called "Beginnings" explains how Jewitt and his shipmates came to be in Friendly Cove in the Year of Our Lord 1803 (the lucrative trade in sea otter skins), and why the rest of the crew was massacred while Jewitt and Thompson were taken captive (an explosion of rage over years of accumulated insult and injustice). Stewart visited the site in the course of her research. Her description of a walk from the spot where the Boston grounded to Jewitt Lake where the captives washed Maquinna's clothes evokes a sense of continuing consequences of 185-year-old events. Here also is a wonderful passage about Spanish vs. English claims to "Nootka" which Stewart skilfully uses to gently proselytize about Indian ownership of the land.

Jewitt's book was originally illustrated with three inaccurate and poorly executed

engravings. This edition illuminates the text with Stewart's superb drawings of people, places, and things that Jewitt sketched in words. Her liberal use of explanatory margin notes complements the narrative and adds interesting information.

The "Endings" section is a brief biography of Jewitt's life after he was rescued. Back in "civilization" he married, appeared in a short-run play based on his west coast adventures, and spent years on the road selling copies of his book.

If there is any weakness in this book it lies in Stewart's analysis of Jewitt's conversation with his rescuer, Sam Hill, about the natives' disregard for any form of law. Aware that Hill was considering violent revenge, he may, in fact, have been playing the advocate in order to secure Maquinna's safe release and the survival of the people among whom he had lived so intimately.

Be that as it may, Stewart's hope that this embellished version of Jewitt's narrative provides new and thoughtful insight for its readers is well realized. She leads us beyond the passive academic voice to reveal an important truth about this particular event. That truth is—this is very exciting stuff! □

- Phyllis Mason

Phyllis Mason is an ASBC member and a library technician who works at Vancouver Community College - Langara library.

Photographs courtesy Royal B.C. Museum.

The Kootenay Lichen Pounder

by Grant Keddie



Figure 1. Paddle-shaped hand-aul from Arrow Lakes area.

FLAT, PADDLE-SHAPED, stone hand-auls are found in some large prehistoric village sites in the southeastern interior of British Columbia. Many people have been curious as to what they were used for and how old they are. The specimen shown in Figure 1 seems to me to represent the native artisan's "mental template" or perfect idea of what a hand-aul of this type should look like.

The specimen is one of several hundred hand-auls collected by Keith and Ellen Edgell from intermittently flooded sites along the Arrow Lakes. This particular specimen does not appear to have been used. Many similar artifacts are worn down almost to their handles; the bottoms are often curved, implying a pounding and rolling motion when using the tool. They are often made from natural stone slabs or flat, waterworn cobbles and vary considerably in amount of intentional shaping.

Other hand-auls—those with flat and round flanged (expanding) bases, and long, gradually tapering specimens without distinctly formed bases or tops—are found at the same sites as the

Paddle-shaped hand-mauls from the Edgell Collection.



paddle-shaped mauls. In fact, if you line up all the hand-mauls in the Edgell collection, there is almost an evolutionary continuum. Some short, paddle-shaped specimens are almost round, whereas some long, tapering mauls are flat.

The nature of the raw material seems to play an important role in the ultimate shape. The flatter specimens are often made of metamorphic schist or gneiss. The more rounded hand-mauls are made of harder, igneous rocks such as diorite, granite, and andesite.

There seems to be a correlation between the distribution of paddle-shaped hand-mauls and the availability of suitable metamorphic raw material in the interior plateau of British Columbia. Paddle-shaped mauls also occur in the upper Columbia River area and in the middle Columbia near the boundary of the Interior Plateau and Northwest Coast culture areas. Some of the stone material used on the American Plateau may have originated in southeastern British Columbia.

Function

Whether the several types of hand-mauls had different uses, is uncertain. A.E. Pickford (an assistant in Anthropology at the B.C. Provincial Museum from 1944 to 1948) states that among the Kootenay "the most common tools were unshaped stone hand-hammers, roughly shaped stone clubs for pounding in teepee pegs, and paddle-shaped stone implements for beating the hairlike tree moss." Pickford describes how "the hairlike tree moss was gathered in large quantities and was eaten after being left in the ground under a hot fire for some days. Another method was to dampen the moss, pound it into flat cakes, and bake it."

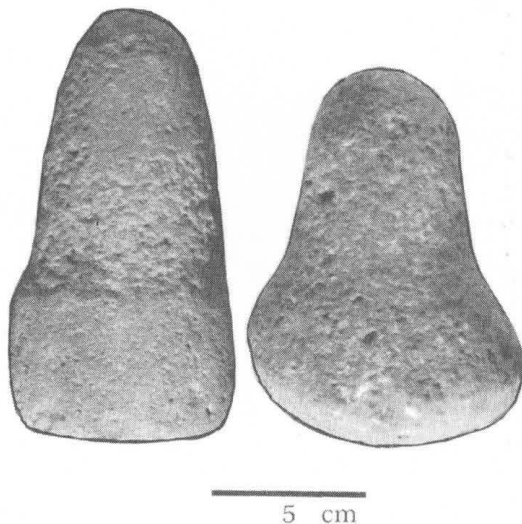
Pickford spent his younger years in the Nelson area collecting artifacts. The only record of where Pickford obtained his information is in a letter written in 1947, in which he refers to the "spade-like-stones" he had collected in the Kootenay Lake area: "I spoke of them to a very old Indian whose English was not too good; from him I gathered their principal use was in the

preparation of the well-authenticated moss bread prepared from the tree lichen *Alectoria Jupata*."

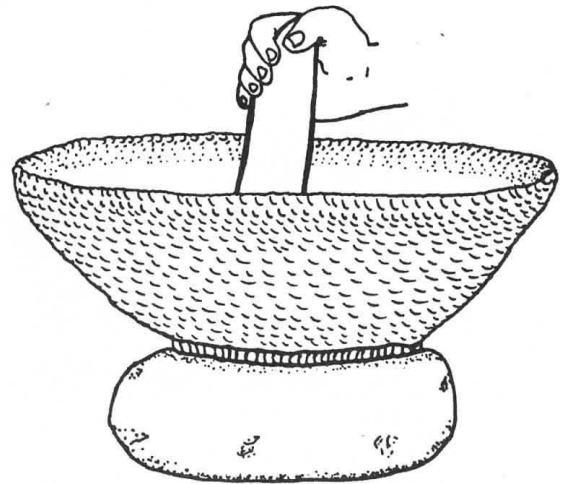
This lichen is now known as *Bryoria fremontii*. Nancy Turner gives an excellent overview of the native use and distribution of the species in her article "Economic Importance of Black Tree Lichen (*Bryoria fremontii*) to the Indians of Western North America" (*Economic Botany* 1977, Vol.31:461-470).

Although lichen pounding may have been one of the functions of the paddle-shaped hand-mauls, the evidence of use-wear suggests some additional pounding functions.

A slightly concave base would indicate probable use for pounding wedges or wooden stakes; a convex base would suggest a pounding-grinding activity. The use-wear on most of the paddle-shaped and the tapering, slightly-flanged-base specimens indicates extensive grinding, and, therefore, probable use for food processing. Some, however, have concave centres on the bottom and pecking on the sides of the base suggesting quick pounding rather than a pounding-grinding action. The large, heavy, tapering mauls with flat bases could have



Short rounded hand-mauls with flanged bases.



"Hand-maul" used with basketry hopper and stone mortar.

been used for either food crushing or heavy construction pounding.

In the Interior, hand-mauls are known to have been used to macerate berries and seeds. A more common use was for pulverizing dried meat, which was mixed with berries and oil. As late as 1901 a woman was observed on the Columbia River grinding dried salmon in a wooden bowl using a large, tapering hand-maul with an animal-style top.

On the American Plateau hand-mauls were used with a basketry hopper on a stone mortar to crush acorns. In the Edgell collection there are some large, round stones with shallow concavities, which resemble mortars.

Dating, Distribution, and Evolution

In the middle Columbia River area, the paddle-shaped hand-maul is a diagnostic trait for the time period 1500 B.C. - A.D. 500. In the Arrow and Kootenay Lakes region, both paddle-shaped mauls and tapering mauls with straight to slightly flanged bases are found with collections characteristic of this same time period. Near the end of the period, some of the basal flanges were wide and well made. In the mid-Fraser and

Thompson river regions, animal-head style mauls appeared by 400 B.C. (possibly as early as 1000 B.C.).

The finely shaped conical, nipple-topped, and grooved (ring-topped) hand-mauls seem to have first occurred on the southern coast of British Columbia about 300 B.C., continuing until about A.D. 400. There are no earlier developmental prototypes on the Coast as there are in the Interior. The common, well-formed, coastal style mauls did not appear in the interior of British Columbia until after about A.D. 400. This suggests more rapid technological development on the Coast.

Along the middle Columbia River, hand-mauls with shaped heads in conical, grooved, or animal-head style occur after A.D. 500. Around the same time, or later, the southern coast styles are found in small numbers on the Queen Charlotte Islands and in southern Alaska on the Alexander archipelago. After A.D. 500 we see the local expansion of hand-mauls in coastal Oregon and California. The latter case is an adoption of more elaborately shaped tops of long, tapering mauls that first appeared in central California about 1000 B.C.

The evidence found in southeastern British Columbia and farther down the Columbia River, shows hand-mauls evolving from simple hammerstones. The first hand-mauls were natural, oblong cobbles that were sometimes shaped to give them more even tapering or narrower tops, to serve as handles. Some round, water-smoothed specimens were apparently pecked along the sides to provide a better grip. Gradually, more formal shaping of shafts, bases and tops was undertaken. Animal-head style tops developed first, followed by conical, grooved, and nipple-topped styles. Flat-topped mauls developed on the coast after A.D. 500 and later spread to parts of the Interior.

Conclusions

The evidence suggests initial use of formed hand-mauls mainly for food processing in the Interior Plateau, and a later emphasis toward refined, spool-shaped hand-mauls, used primarily for woodworking, on the Coast and adjacent areas of the Interior.



Early highly-developed hand-mauls from the southern coast of British Columbia.

Most paddle-shaped mauls date to an early time period and may not have been the type of maul documented historically as being used by the Kootenay to pound lichen. I suspect that Pickford showed a specimen to a native elder who made an educated guess as to its use. However, lichen pounding along with other food processing activities is one of the most likely uses of the paddle-shaped maul, as well as of several other related styles of hand-mauls from southeastern British Columbia.

Much more work needs to be done before we can precisely date and understand the technological development and uses of these interesting artifacts. □

ASBC member Grant Keddie is an archaeologist at the Royal British Columbia Museum.

Spring Conferences:

Northwest Anthropological Conference

March 10-13, 1988 at the Sheraton Tacoma Hotel, Tacoma, Washington. Further details from Greg Guldin, Dept. of Anthropology, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington 98447.

Society for American Archaeology

April 27 - May 1, 1988 in Phoenix, Arizona. For more information see the April 1987 issue of *American Antiquity*.

Canadian Archaeological Association

May 11 - 14, 1988 at the Whistler Conference Center, Whistler Mountain, British Columbia. Program information from Jon Driver, Dept. of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6.

Heritage Society of British Columbia

May 26-29 in Prince Rupert, British Columbia. Conference sessions at the Hiliner Hotel. Special field trip to see shell midden site and petroglyphs on Tugwell Island. For further details contact the Heritage Society, Box 520, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2N3. Tel: 688-9590.

Debitage

Arcas Associates' on-again-off-again dig at Tsawwassen is reportedly happening this month (February), though at press time the dates haven't been set. Phone Melanie Carfantan at 941-2656, to volunteer . . . **Gary Coupland's** report on excavations at the Paul Mason site in Kitselas Canyon (his Ph.D. dissertation) has just been accepted for publication in the national museum's *Mercury Series* . . . The University of Calgary Archaeological Association's **Chacmool Conference** will be held Nov. 10-13, 1988—the theme is "Households and Communities."

* * *

So far, archaeologists at the **Heritage Conservation Branch** haven't heard that they will be affected by Decentralization—in any case, there aren't enough of them to assign a

whole archaeologist to each Development Region . . . Rumor has it that **Art Charlton** will not be coming back to the HCB—his office space has been given over to **Brian Apland** who's been Acting provincial archaeologist since June . . . However, **Steve Acheson**, on leave for the past couple years from his HCB position as an Impact Assessment Officer, will return in April, bumping his temporary replacement **Bob Powell** back to Anthropological Collections at the museum. Fortunately, Powell's temporary replacement **Bob Hogg** is off to graduate school in Australia . . . **Tom Loy** is also in Australia, working at ANU in Canberra; he's unlikely to return to the Royal B.C. Museum, which was called the B.C. Provincial Museum when he was let go last summer.

New Publications

Coast Salish Essays by Wayne Suttles. Talonbooks, Vancouver. 1987. 320 pp., ills., bibl., index. \$14.95 (paper).

A collection of 16 articles written by anthropologist Wayne Suttles over the past 30 years and published in various journals; updated with comments by the author.

The Chilliwacks and their Neighbors by Oliver N. Wells. Edited by Ralph Maud, Brent Galloway, and Marie Weeden. Talonbooks, Vancouver. 1987. 226 pp., ills., index. \$14.95 (paper).

Transcriptions of selected interviews conducted in the 1950s by amateur ethnographer and Chilliwack River valley farmer Oliver Wells.

The Raven's Tail by Cheryl Samuel. UBC Press, Vancouver. 1987. 167 pp., ills., bibl. \$24.95 (paper); \$45.00 (cloth).

Detailed analysis and description of the 11 surviving Chilkat blankets, now in museums around the world. Profusely illustrated.

An Error in Judgement: The Politics of Medical Care in an Indian/White Community by Dara Culhane Speck. Talonbooks, Vancouver. 1987. 281 pp., ills., bibl. \$12.95 (paper).

The account of a recent, tragic incident in the Kwakiutl village of Alert Bay, viewed from the inside and exposing the racism native people live with.

Marine Fish Osteology: A Manual for Archaeologists by Debbi Yee Cannon. Dept. of Archaeology, Simon Fraser Univ., Burnaby, B.C. 1987. Publication No. 18. 133 pp., ills., bibl. \$12.00 (spiral).

Drawings of the skeletal elements of salmon, cod, rockfish, and halibut, representing four families of marine fish commonly taken in the northern hemisphere.

PERMITS • PERMITS • PERMITS • PERMITS • PERMITS

Permits issued September through December 1987:

- 1987-44 Morley Eldridge: impact assessment of transmission line from Dunsmuir substation to Gold River, Vancouver Island.
 - 1987-45 Bjorn Simonsen: evaluative testing, *DcRv 11*, Roche Cove, Sooke.
 - 1987-46 Ian Wilson: impact assessment of proposed gas well near Pink Mountain, northeastern B.C.
 - 1987-47 Leonard Ham: impact assessment of bridge replacement at Sayward, Vancouver Island.
 - 1987-48 Arne Carlson: impact assessment of road access, Saltry Bay, Sechelt Peninsula.
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Annual Index to *The Midden*, Journal of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia

Volume 19, 1987 (Published February, April, June, October, December)

(★ indicates illustrated articles)

Compiled by Phyllis Mason

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Fladmark, K.R. <i>Two atlatl weights from the southern interior</i> . XIX:1:7-8 ★ F'87.	<i>Deep storage</i> . XIX:2:11 A'87.
Gargett, Rob H. <i>Prehistoric resource use on Cornwall Hills summit</i> . XIX:5:6-9 ★ D'87.	<i>Dugout canoe raffle</i> . XIX:1:6 F'87.
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