

The Midden

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The Midden

Publication of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia

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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-February, 1990.

Contributors this issue: Kathryn Bernick, Don Bunyan, Vicki Feddema, Deborah Hayles, Lee McFarlane, Yvonne Marshall, Andrew Mason, Phyllis Mason, Heather Moon, Lora-Lynn Oxenbury, Heather Pratt.

Production assistants: Toni Crittenden, Phyllis Mason.

THE COVER: *A well-defined house depression at the village of Owis, DkSp 2, in Nootka Sound. See story on page 6.*

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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!

COMING TOPICS:

January 10: Andrew Sherwood: underwater excavations at Caesarea Maritima, Herod's Harbour (Israel). Joint meeting with A.I.A.

February 14: Alan McMillan: the prehistoric and historic development of Northwest Coast Indian art. (Note: meeting location may be changed due to temporary museum closure).

President: Terry Spurgeon (464-1984)

Vice President: Bill Paull (980-5186)

Membership Secretary: Helen Smith (224-1426)

Membership year runs September 1 to August 31. Fees: single - \$20.00; family - \$25.00; senior citizen - \$15.00; student - \$15.00. Membership includes *Midden* subscription. Address to: A.S.B.C. Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 520, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2N3.

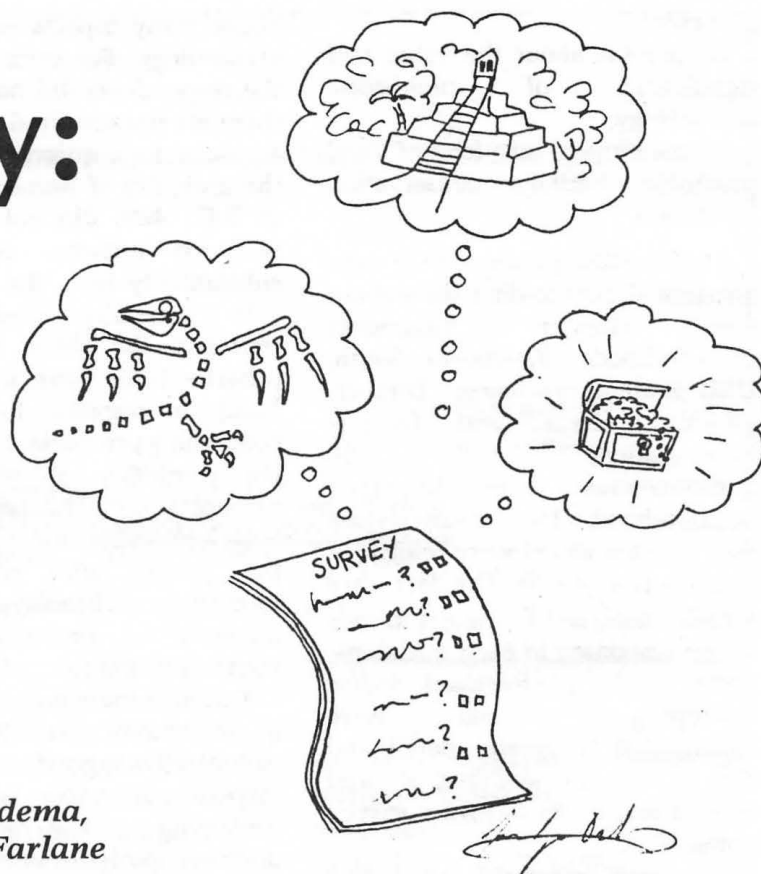
Affiliated Chapters:

Fraser Valley. Meetings featuring illustrated lectures are held on the third Tuesday of each month (September to May) at 7:45 p.m. on the Fraser Valley College campus in Abbotsford. President: Thelma McIntyre (853-1495). Membership Secretary: Andy Purdy (823-4920).

Victoria. President: Shirley Cuthbertson (c/o Royal B.C. Museum).

Archaeology:

fascinating,
but what is it?



by Andrew Mason, Vicki Feddema,
Deborah Hayles, and Lee McFarlane

"Why do people visit archaeological parks, monuments, excavations and museums in such droves, and what do they like and dislike about what they see when they get there?"

William Lipe asked this question in a 1977 article dealing with the rapidly increasing need for archaeological resource conservation. Lipe, recognizing the power of the public lobby, stressed the importance of gaining public support for archaeological conservation. Recent increases in the use of public hearings, opinion polls, and public lobby groups in the decision-making process, indicate that the public is becoming a more active and influential participant in such processes. If this is indeed the case, it is clear that the interests and concerns of the public

must be assessed before its lobbying power can be used to improve the case for archaeological conservation, education, and research.

It has been twelve years since Lipe posed his question. The archaeological resource base continues to disappear at an alarming and increasing rate, and we still know very little about public interest in, and awareness of, prehistoric archaeology. An initial step in addressing this potentially destructive gap in our knowledge was taken in 1987 by the Project Pride Task Force, which carried out an extremely successful review of heritage conservation policies and legislation in British Columbia. Public input was strongly encouraged and the final report reflects the opinions and observations of the people of British Columbia. One of the main findings was that British Columbians share a

deep pride in their province; they value their heritage and believe that its conservation is essential.

In the spring of 1989, as a UBC class project, we conducted a survey in order to further address the preceding issues. The objective of the survey was to assess public knowledge of and attitudes toward prehistoric archaeology and heritage conservation legislation in British Columbia. We designed a questionnaire intended to assess people's knowledge and appreciation of prehistoric archaeology and to identify the sources of their information. The questions were grouped in four categories:

1. background information on age, education and length of residence in the province;
2. knowledge of prehistoric archaeology in general and British Columbia archaeology in

particular;

3. opinions about the value and significance of prehistoric archaeology;

4. awareness of federal and provincial heritage conservation legislation.

A total of 250 questionnaires were distributed door-to-door throughout five Greater Vancouver neighborhoods (Vancouver South, UBC student residences, Dunbar, Mount Pleasant, and Langley Municipality), with 50 questionnaires going to each neighborhood. Two hundred and nine questionnaires were returned—a return rate of 84%. The data were initially analyzed for major trends in the responses to each questions. Some of the predominant and/or interesting patterns were investigated in greater detail and the subsequent analyses showed several major trends in the survey population.

The most important trend that was apparent throughout the data analysis is the high level of interest in prehistoric archaeology among the majority of the respondents. Of the total number of respondents, 74% stated that they were interested in archaeology, and 82% felt that it is relevant to contemporary society. However, this high level of interest is offset by an apparent lack of knowledge

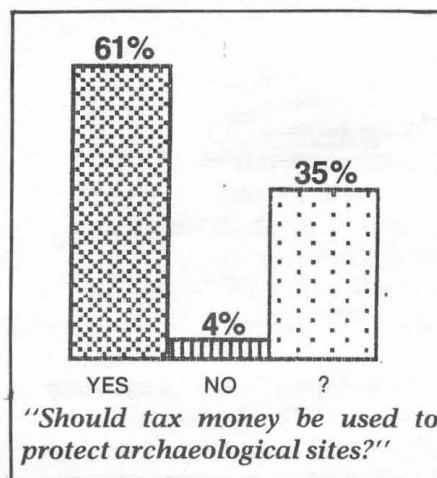
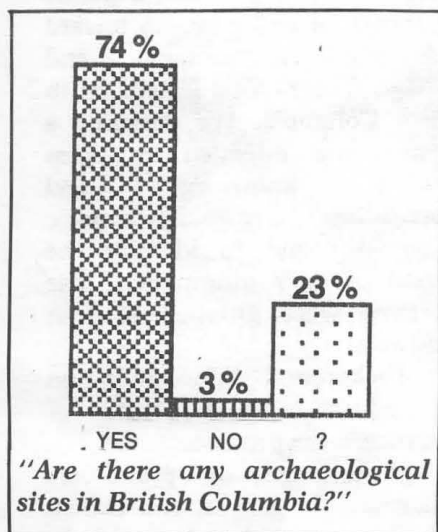
about many aspects of prehistoric archaeology. For example, 26% of the respondents did not know that there are prehistoric sites in B.C. In response to a question concerning the antiquity of human occupation in B.C., 48% did not respond or provided answers that deviate substantially from the 10,500 B.P. date generally considered to represent the oldest site in B.C. (Charlie Lake Cave near Fort St. John). In response to a question concerning provincial legislation for the protection of archaeological resources, 67% did not know that such legislation exists. Even among the people who professed an interest in archaeology, 54% were unaware of provincial heritage conservation laws.

Although there was a high degree of uncertainty about the existence of protective legislation, 89% of the respondents were in favor of protecting and conserving archaeological resources. Not only did they support the need for legislation, but 61% of the total number of respondents indicated that they were also *willing to pay* (through their tax dollars) for the preservation of archaeological resources. A large proportion of the respondents (90%) thought that there should be some form of penalty for anyone who knowingly destroys significant archaeological sites.

Another important trend is the general inefficiency of present means of transmitting information about archaeology to the public. There are still many people who are unaware of what archaeology is, what archaeologists do, and what kind of heritage legislation exists. How can we improve the level of public knowledge? The survey results indicate that one effective way is through the museum system. As 82% of the respondents have visited museums, these facilities should be considered an ideal medium for transmitting information to the public. This

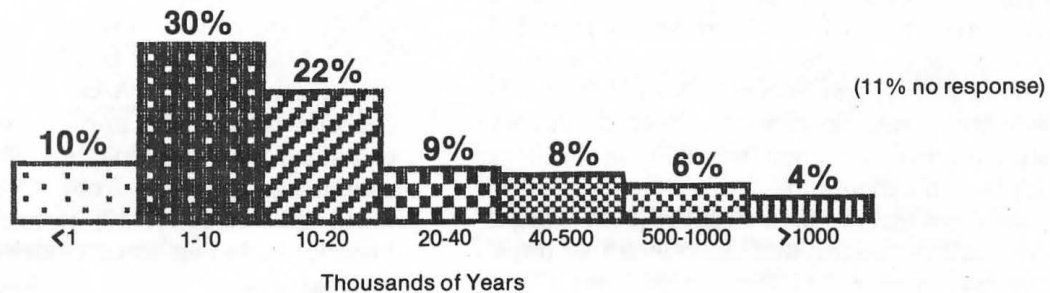
could be achieved through informative displays, videos, participatory workshops, free copies of pamphlets outlining the provincial heritage resource legislation, and other related materials.

Another means of increasing public awareness is through the general media—television, newspapers, magazines, and books. The survey results indicate that 77% of the respondents have seen programs related to archaeology on television. Articles in both magazines and newspapers have exposed many of the respondents to archaeology (67% in the former case and 50% in the latter), and 57% of the respondents have read books about archaeology. These results suggest that well-written, accurate, informative, and interesting reports could receive a higher profile if they were regularly transmitted through the very same media that reach the general public every day.



The singular most effective way to make as many people as possible aware of archaeology, however, appears to be through the education system. Sixty-six percent of respondents first became aware of archaeology in public school, and 30% became aware of it at college or university. When asked how archaeology could achieve a higher public profile than it presently has, 80% of the respondents replied that

"How long have people lived in British Columbia?"



it could best be done through education. Archaeology, taught in the public school system as a basic introductory course, probably has the potential to reach the greatest number of people.

The results of this study provide important information about the present state of public knowledge, awareness, and appreciation of archaeology and heritage resource conservation. The public has demonstrated high levels of interest in archaeology and concern about heritage resource conservation.

However, it is unaware of many basic and important aspects of archaeology and existing legislation. The results also suggest several means by which this knowledge could be effectively increased—in particular, the education system, museums, and the general media. The subject has by no means been exhausted, and this study is just an initial step. The results of the present survey are intriguing and certainly warrant further work. A larger-scale, more in-depth investigation is necessary before we

can hope to completely answer the question posed by Lipe twelve years ago. □

* * *

This article is the result of a class project for Anthropology 424, an applied archaeology course taught by Dr. David Pokotylo at UBC in the spring of 1989. We would like to thank Dr. Pokotylo for his assistance in the planning and analysis stages of the project and for reading earlier drafts of this article. We would also like to thank Lora-Lynn Oxenbury for the drawing, Catherine Bartl for helping to distribute the survey forms, and Jean Marchant for her kind assistance and support in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology PC center.

LOOK FOR/Article:

"Modified" Trees: giant cedars bear telltale marks of use by natives hundreds of years ago, by Patrick Michiel, in the Feb./March 1989 issue of **Canadian Geographic** (pp.63-65). Illustrated with drawing by Hilary Stewart and colour photos of since-logged "CMTs" recorded by Morley Eldridge in the Kelsey Bay area.

Kitkatla survey triples site count

AN UNEXPECTEDLY high density of sites characterizes Kitkatla territory, or at least the portion surveyed last summer. In six weeks, a small crew directed by David Archer recorded 40 new sites in the southwestern area of Porcher Island (near Prince Rupert). Another 25 sites had been previously recorded. Archer estimates that the total for Kitkatla territory may be in the thousands.

Site types include shell middens (both villages and small campsites) and stone-wall fish traps. One site, Archer told *The Midden*, has 6-7 m deep cultural deposits, which suggests considerable antiquity. Archer also noted that severe site erosion from wave action is evident throughout the area and this may indicate a rising local sea level.

The Kitkatla Heritage Survey Project will continue next summer. It is administered through the Tsimshian Tribal Council in conjunction with the Kitkatla Band, with summer student employment program funding and a grant from the B.C. Heritage Trust. □

Tsawwassen dig— preliminary results

LAST SUMMER'S excavations at the Tsawwassen Site (DgRs 2) yielded a considerable amount of data. According to Geordie Howe who directed the fieldwork for Arcas Associates and is now proceeding with the analysis, the "Area C" shell midden deposits (where the public tours were held) contained a mid-to-late Marpole phase assemblage. Material from "Area A" (on the north side of Hwy. 17) is proto-historic and historic, including some evidence of the early fur-trade era.

The excavations were undertaken following a detailed impact assessment that indicated probable destruction of cultural deposits by highway construction. Arcas partner Arnoud Stryd told *The Midden* that this fall, after the salvage excavations had been completed, a large and significant burial area (believed to date to the Marpole and Locarno Beach phases) was encountered during access road construction in an area that had been considered disturbed. Stryd said that construction has stopped and further developments await the decision of the Tsawwassen Band, which is involved in both the construction and the archaeological recovery. □

IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to report that Malcolm Francis McGregor died on November 16, 1989, after a lengthy illness with cancer. He was 79 years old. Prof. McGregor headed UBC's Classics Dept. 1954-1975 and lectured in Greek history at Vancouver Community College - Langara 1977-1988. He was a staunch supporter of archaeology in Vancouver and led numerous historical and archaeological tours to Greece.

News Bits

Assessment clears thieves

The Guardian Spirit pictograph panel near Keremeos, found earlier this year face-down on the ground, apparently fell due to natural causes (possibly during a minor earthquake). A conservator and two engineers who assessed the damage saw no evidence of human interference and the Archaeology Branch has discarded its presumption of intended theft. Little damage to the figure occurred during the fall, however, it is now in danger from rockfall and may be relocated.

Victoria keeps lips sealed

The Archaeology Branch is contracting an "unnamed party" to conduct a detailed impact assessment of waterlogged deposits at the Glenrose Cannery Site (*DgRr 6*). Project Officer Steve Acheson told *The Midden* that one week of fieldwork is scheduled to take place in March with a crew of six and that a professional hydrologist will be involved. He declined to reveal further details. A 3995 ± 90 B.P. radiocarbon date on basketry recovered from the site by a collector last year indicates that the Glenrose perishables are the oldest yet found on the Northwest Coast.

Asbestos forces ASBC relocation

The Vancouver Museum will close for asbestos removal January 31 to April 30, 1990, requiring the ASBC to meet elsewhere in February, March, and April. For information on alternate locations, please consult meeting announcements or phone the Vancouver Museum switchboard (736-4431).

Historical archaeologists dig prehistory

Excavations last summer at Fort Langley uncovered a prehistoric occupation with a radiocarbon date of 4390 ± 90 B.P. Stone artifacts, post holes, and possible hearths were found in an area outside the palisade. The project, undertaken jointly by Lower Mainland colleges and the Canadian Parks Service, was designed to recover information about the historic fort.

ASBC appoints treasurer

Midden readers who like to be up-to-date should amend the list of ASBC executive committee members on page 13 of the October 1989 issue: Toni Guffei is now the society's treasurer. Also, please note the correct phone numbers for Guy Mageau (980-2012) and Greg Humphrey (435-5870).

Debitage

Simon Fraser University's Archaeology Department has a new M.A. graduate **David B. Maxwell**; his thesis is titled *Growth Coloration: A Method for Determining the Season of Collection of Archaeological Shellfish* . . . ASBC member **Geordie Howe** is the B.C. representative on the Canadian Archaeological Association's public writing award committee—entries for 1989 should be sent to him c/o Dept. of Archaeology, SFU . . . **Joyce Johnson**, a graduating UBC student in anthropology-archaeology has been hired to run the UBC Laboratory of Archaeology in the position formerly held by Moira Irvine.

In the latest provincial cabinet shuffle, **Lyall Hanson** became Minister of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Culture responsible for the Archaeology Branch, Heritage Conservation Branch, and Royal B.C. Museum . . . The provincial archives (Ministry of Provincial Secretary) underwent a little-publicized name change last year and is now called the **B.C. Archives and Records Service** . . . **CBC Radio** aired an excellent Ideas program on October 3, 1989 - *Peopling the Americas* by **Christopher Moore**. Transcripts can be ordered for \$7.00 from CBC Transcripts, Box 500, Station A, Toronto, Ont. M5W 1E6 .

Fieldwork in Nootka Sound

by Yvonne Marshall and Heather Moon

NOOTKA SOUND is an area with a rich and diverse history. Friendly Cove, or Yuquot, as it is also known, has been occupied by ancestors of the Mowachaht-Muchalat Band for over 4,000 years. It is the oldest dated archaeological site on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Friendly Cove is today occupied by the Williams family and two lighthouse keepers and their families.

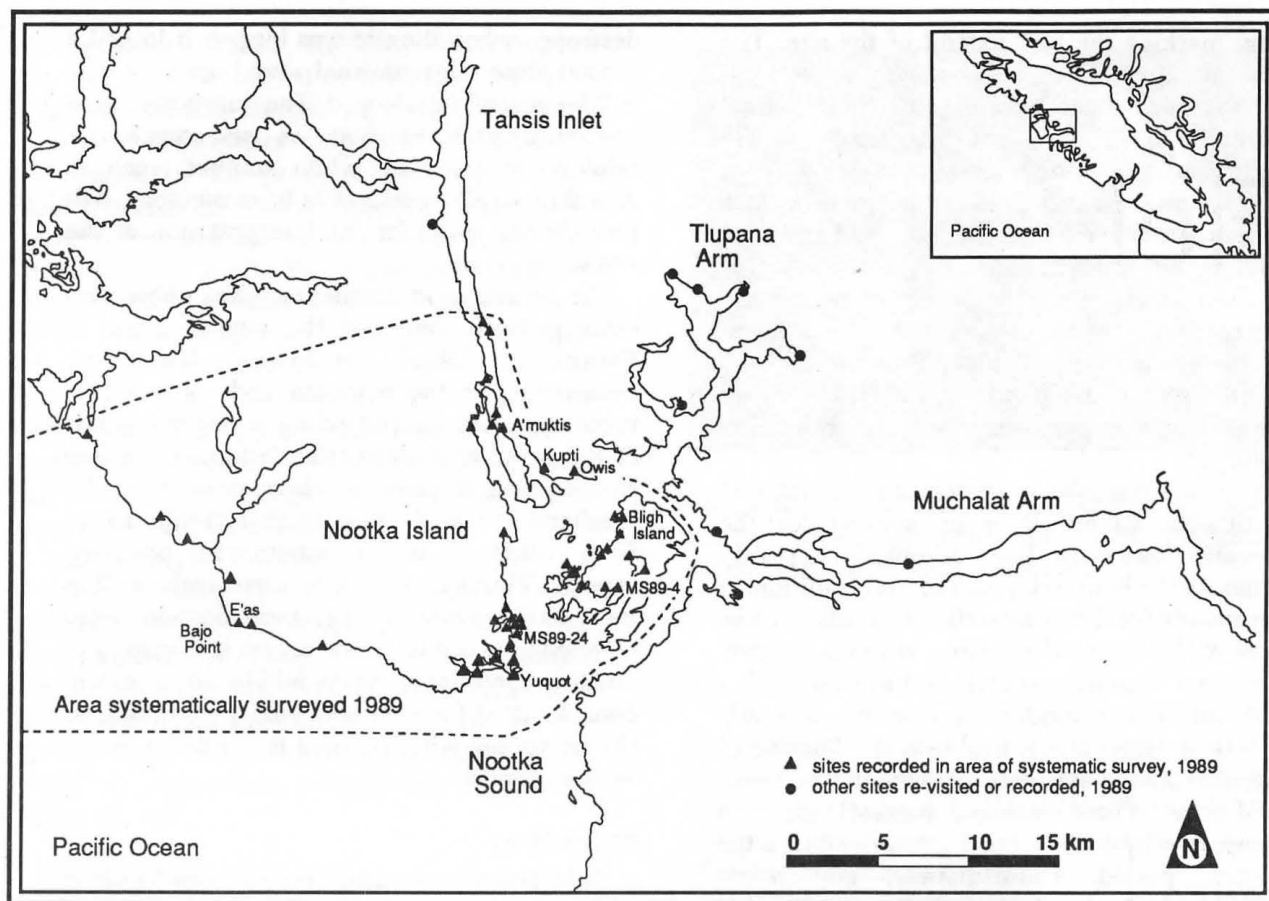
Two previous archaeological projects have taken place in Nootka Sound. In 1966, William Folan and John Dewhirst conducted extensive excavations and ethnographic research at Yuquot (*DjSp 1*). Two years later, Alan McMillan excavated at the village of Kupti (*DkSp 1*). Charcoal samples from McMillan's excavations were radiocarbon dated this year, and the results show that occupation at Kupti began before 3,000 B.P.

The recent history of the Nootka Sound area is no less fascinating. When Captain James Cook entered Nootka Sound in 1778 complex local political changes were taking place. At this time, and possibly earlier, a political confederacy was forming as the independent local groups of Nootka Sound combined into a single political body. The confederacy was centered at Yuquot. During the late 18th century, extensive contact between native people and European explorers, fur traders, and diplomats had a considerable impact on the emerging confederacy and on the fortunes of local political aspirants.

The Mowachaht Archaeology Project

The formation of the Nootka Sound confederacy is the focus of the Mowachaht Archaeology Project. It seeks to understand how and why a confederacy of local-groups came to be formed in Nootka Sound, and how this political structure, once established, was maintained and reproduced through time. To address a research problem focused on political change, it is necessary to collect intensive survey data. Detailed site surveys are needed to establish the distribution of sites and the range of site types within the research area. Detailed site maps, particularly of habitation sites, are then required to establish each site's internal organization and occupation history. Curiously, in view of its historical importance and the considerable archaeology that has taken place, Nootka Sound had never before been systematically surveyed. Establishing a site inventory for the Nootka Sound area, therefore, became the first priority of the Mowachaht Project. The area to be surveyed included the outside coast of Nootka Island, Escalante coast, Nootka Sound, Tahsis Inlet, Tlupana Inlet, and Muchalat Arm.

Fieldwork was planned in two phases. Phase I took place this past summer with a primary emphasis on establishing site locations. Phase II, next summer, will complete the site survey and concentrate on producing high quality maps of the major village sites.



Mowachaht project study area.

Survey Methods

The 1989 field season was seven weeks long, from August 18 to October 8, and was blessed by sunny skies and mild weather. During the seven weeks, we were able to cover about half of the Nootka Sound area using the intensive methods we felt were necessary to ensure comprehensive coverage.

The survey was carried out primarily by boat. The crew cruised along the rugged coastline stopping at any available location to probe for evidence of occupation. All beaches in the area, including the long outside coast of Nootka Island, were surveyed on foot. William Folan's ethnogeography of Nootka Sound helped us considerably. Drawing on interviews with elders, Folan recorded the names and locations of more than 50 sites used by or remembered by members of the Mowachaht-Muchalat Band. These locations were examined with particular care and almost always yielded some form of archaeological evidence for human activity.

When sites were located, they were recorded and photographed. Smaller sites were mapped with tape and compass. It is anticipated that

larger villages will be mapped next year by Diane Lyons using an electronic transit to produce computer generated maps.

Survey Results: Habitation Sites

A total of 61 sites were recorded or re-visited. The results are summarised in Table 1. Villages include all habitation sites with clear internal features indicating an ordered site layout and the presence of house structures. Village size varies from large villages with 10 or more house depressions or platforms, to those with only one or two. Camps/middens include habitation sites with midden evidence, but without surface features. Their size is sometimes difficult to determine, but most appear to be small.

One village site of particular interest is E'as (*DjSq 1*), located on the outside coast of Nootka Island at Bajo Point. Oral traditions record E'as as the origin-site of the Yaluactakamlath local-group, which by 1778 was established as the highest ranking local-group of the Mowachaht confederacy. Preliminary mapping at E'as reveals a large, tightly structured site. It has a deep and continuous midden ridge, at least 200 m

long, marking the rear extend of the site. The size and depth of this ridge suggest occupation at E'as has considerable antiquity. Well-defined ridges outline at least 10 large house depressions indicating occupation by a large group. An unusual feature is the presence of a shallow, but well-defined, house depression behind the rear midden ridge. This might suggest a major increase in village population during the final period of occupation. Instrument mapping of this site during the 1990 field season should provide the basis for more detailed interpretation of this site's occupation history.

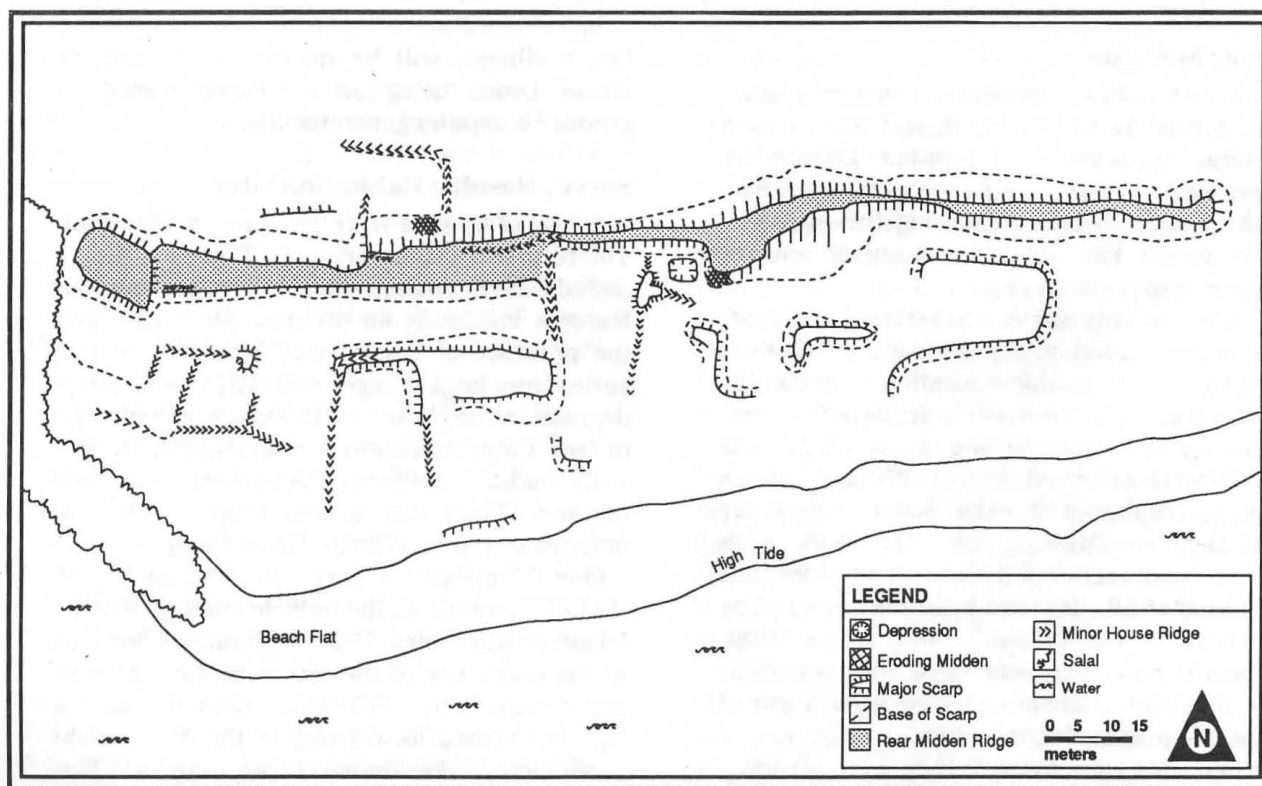
A'muktis is a village located at the north end of Strange Island. It is of interest for the opposite reason to E'as. A'muktis is poorly remembered both today and in oral tradition. It is probably for this reason that A'muktis, unlike most of the large village sites, is not a reserve. Yet it is a large site, at least 300 m long, with a deep continuous midden ridge (in this case only a few metres from the beach). Sherds of ceramics and glass were present in the intertidal zone. These features suggest long-term occupation by a fairly large group well into the historic period. Unfortunately, any house depressions that might have been present were

destroyed when the site was logged. If logged a second time, this unusual and important site will be virtually destroyed. The question of how one site, such as E'as, is self-consciously retained in histories, while another, such as A'muktis, is allowed to fade from memory, will provide one focus for the interpretation of the site survey data.

The locations of habitation sites show two clear patterns. Sites on the outside coast of Vancouver Island, including E'as, are consistently at the northern ends of beaches, protected from the prevailing northwest winds of the summer months. Habitation sites inside Nootka Sound show a clear preference for headland or island locations that permit access from either of two beaches with opposing aspects. This may be a defensive feature. It is more likely, however, that these locations were selected to facilitate canoe access in a variety of weather conditions. This would be an important consideration for sites occupied year round, as the prevailing wind changes to southeast in the winter months.

Other Sites

Defensive sites located on rocky headlands or small islands are common along the west coast



E'as (DjSq 1), a large village site at Bajo Point with at least ten house depressions.

of Vancouver Island. The only non-European defensive site identified in Nootka Sound is an extensive midden deposit on a rocky headland at Yuquot. The choice of location was probably influenced by the presence of a major fresh water source in a large underground cavern directly beneath the site and accessible only from the site itself. The apparent absence of defensive sites in Nootka Sound is interesting in view of its political history. An intensive search of possible defensive locations will be conducted next summer to establish whether this pattern is indeed accurate. If it is, it suggests that formation of the confederacy may have been accomplished by peaceful, rather than purely coercive, means.

Another type of site not previously recorded for Nootka Sound, but common in other parts of the west coast of Vancouver Island, is the stone-walled fish trap. A typical example identified this summer consists of a complex of stone walls that enclose two tidal ponds that drain and fill independently. One pond has an especially well-preserved stone-walled channel at its entrance.

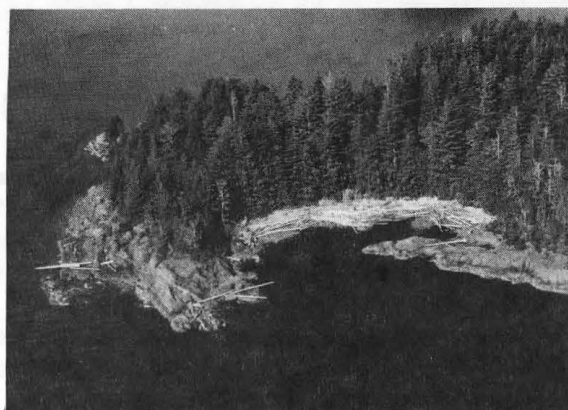
Table 1

Mowachaht Sites

Site Type	Recorded 1989	Recorded Pre-1989	Total
Village	19	14	33
Camp/midden	6	3	9
Fish trap	6	0	6
Burial	3	2	5
Tree resource area	3	0	3
Pictograph	0	4	4
Whaling shrine	0	1	1
Total	37	24	61

All burial sites recorded were historically used burial caves and rock shelves. In some cases there was also evidence for possible prehistoric deposits. All four pictograph sites are well-known and have been recorded for some time. They are probably all historic. Several stands of culturally modified trees were also located. Most are the result of recurrent bark stripping in preferred stands by the Williams family of Friendly Cove.

The whaling shrine site is located on an island in Jewitt's Lake behind Yuquot. The entire shrine structure and its contents were collected by George Hunt in 1904 for the American



Village site with access from two beaches. The site lies behind the log-strewn beach and continues across the island to the beach behind.

Museum of Natural History. This site and its spectacular carved figures are currently being studied by Richard Inglis of the Royal B.C. Museum and Aldona Jonaitis of the American Museum of Natural History.

Although a great deal was accomplished this summer, there remains a considerable amount of area still to survey and many site maps to draw. Completing this work will make for a busy summer in 1990. Meanwhile, completion of site inventory forms, compilation of a permit report (Permit 1989-84), and analysis of the 1989 data are in full swing. □

* * *

Assisting this summer were Diane Lyons, a specialist in archaeological mapping; Ray Williams of Friendly Cove; researcher Heather Moon; and Andrew Crosby, a Ph.D. student at the University of Chicago. The support of the Mowachaht Band and financial assistance from the B.C. Heritage Trust and the Archaeology Department at SFU made this summer's fieldwork possible. The figures for this article were prepared by Shannon Wood, Archaeology Dept., SFU.

Yvonne Marshall came to Canada from New Zealand in 1987 on a Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship. She is a Ph.D. candidate in archaeology at Simon Fraser University and director of the Mowachaht Archaeology Project. Yvonne's previous archaeological work has been in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

Heather Moon is a graduate in archaeology from Simon Fraser University. She now works as a contract archaeologist and is based in Vancouver.

New Publications

Heroes & Heroines, Tlingit-Haida Legend by Mary L. Beck. 1989. Alaska Northwest Books, Seattle. 113 pp., bibl. \$18.95 (paper).

Nine traditional stories from the natives of southeastern Alaska, each preceded by a summary that points out parallels to Greco-Roman mythology.

People of the Totem: The Indians of the Pacific Northwest by Norman Bancroft-Hunt with photographs by Werner Forman. 1989 (1st Am. edition). Peter Bendrick Books, N.Y. 128 pp., ill., index. \$26.50 (hardcover).

The way of life, artifacts, and beliefs of Northwest Coast Indians seen through beautifully reproduced colour photographs and accompanying text. Previously published in London, 1979.

All about Arrowheads and Spear Points by Howard E. Smith, Jr. 1989. Henry Holt, N.Y. 56 pp., ill., index. \$19.95.

For young readers—how projectile points are made and the different types found in North America. Illustrations by Jennifer Owings Dewey.

The Same as Yesterday: The Lillooet Chronicle the Theft of their Lands and Resources by Joanne Drake-Terry. 1989. Lillooet Tribal Council, Lillooet, B.C. 341 pp., ill., bibl., index. \$29.95 (paper).

A documented historical account of the Lillooet, focussing on the past 100 years.

Write it on Your Heart: The Epic of an Okanagan Storyteller by Henry Robinson. Compiled and edited by Wendy Wickwire. 1989. Talonbooks/Theytus, Vancouver. 319 pp. \$16.95 (paper).

One of the last old storytellers recounts traditional Interior Salish tales as well as stories about changing times and the coming of Europeans.

Senewélets: Culture History of the Nanaimo Coast Salish and the False Narrows Midden by David V. Burley. 1989. Royal B.C. Museum. Memoir No.2. 132 pp., ill., bibl. \$8.00 (paper).

Technical report of material excavated in 1966-67 from the False Narrows site (DgRw 4). This descriptive analysis comprised part of Burley's Ph.D. research on the Marpole culture type.

Households and Communities: Proceedings of the Twenty-First Annual Conference of the Archaeological Association of the University of Calgary edited by Scott MacEachern, David J.W. Archer, and Richard D. Garvin. 1989. Univ. of Calgary Archaeological Association, Calgary. 550 pp., ill., bibl. \$19.00 (paper).

Selection of papers read at the 1988 Chacmool conference, including several on Northwest Coast topics.

Indians of the Northwest Coast by Peter R. Gerber with photographs by Maximilien Bruggmann. 1989 (1st Am. edition). Facts on File Publications, N.Y. 232 pp., bibl., index. \$50.00 (hardcover).

Traditional and contemporary art and culture of the Tlingit, Tsimshian, Haida, Kwakiutl, Nootka, and Coast Salish lavishly illustrated with colour and black-and-white photos. Previously published in Switzerland, 1987, in German.

BOOK REVIEWS

Labour of love

Hammerstone, the Biography of an Island by Olivia Fletcher. 1989. Apple Press, Hornby Island, B.C. 148 pp., ill., bibl., glossaries. \$17.95 (paper).

OBVIOUSLY A LABOUR OF LOVE, **Hammerstone** follows the story of Hornby Island from its molten birth in the South Pacific 350 million years ago up to the present. The book is divided into two parts. The first is geological biography. The second tells the story of the native people who settled in the Gulf of Georgia area and who used Hornby as part of their seasonal round.

The geological section is packed with information on the different stages of Hornby's evolution. The descriptions of changing flora, fauna, climates, and geographic locations are particularly fascinating. I do, however, have trouble with the author's use of the continuing present. Instead of creating a sense of immediacy and unfolding drama (which I believe was the intent), it minimizes and compresses what are cataclysmic events that occurred over truly awesome time spans. The text would have benefited from the inclusion of several maps showing Hornby's shape and location over the eons.

Part two is somewhat more successful. Using a wide variety of sources ranging from archaeological reports to ethnography of the Gulf of Georgia, Fletcher paints a clear, though generalized, picture of the Pentlatch and their predecessors. Her use of the seasons as the focus around which she organizes her data works well.

Hammerstone has some real problems. Unintentionally funny florid language, the occasional interjection of material meant to add dimension but which merely adds bulk, poor placement of the two existing maps, spelling errors and/or typos; all these could have been

corrected by judicious editing. On the other hand, **Hammerstone's** great strength lies in having made difficult geological and academic anthropological data very accessible indeed. As such, **Hammerstone** is a valuable addition to the body of popular writing on these themes.

The proof of its worth to me came while I was ferrying toward Active Pass. Gazing out over Galiano, Mayne, and Saltspring, I was suddenly struck with their dynamism. No longer mere static lumps of rock, I could see them continuing their imperceptibly slow march northward. □

- Phyllis Mason

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

Cutting edge archaeology

Microwear Patterns on Experimental Basalt Tools by Thomas H. Richards. British Archaeological Reports, International Series 460. 1988. 283 pp., ill., bibl. £18.00.

STONE TOOLS are the most common artifacts excavated from prehistoric sites in British Columbia. There are many different aspects to the study of stone tools. For example, some archaeologists try to better-understand how stone tools are made by experimentally 'flint-knapping', or making stone tools. In this way, archaeologists are attempting to better-understand past people's technology.

Instead of concentrating on making stone tools, Thomas Richards has examined several experimentally made stone tools for evidence of microwear patterns. Microwear patterns are microscopic wear traces left on a stone tool after

it has been used repeatedly for tasks such as scraping hides, cutting bone, or chiselling antler. Particular kinds of activities on particular kinds of materials create distinctive microwear patterns. Microwear research is a relatively new field in stone tool technology, but it has the potential for telling archaeologists a great deal about the function of different stone tools used throughout prehistory.

In his Master's thesis, upon which this book is based, Richards concentrates on examining stone tools made from Cache Creek basalt, which was highly favoured as a raw material by late prehistoric people in the interior of B.C. (particularly in the Shuswap, Lillooet, and Thompson areas).

Richards discusses previous microwear research, background information on Cache Creek basalt, and basalt use in historic and prehistoric times. The largest section of this book discusses how Richards made several tools similar to artifacts found in late prehistoric times and used these tools to do different activities, such as cutting, scraping, and whittling, with different materials including plants, bone, and antler. After doing the activities for certain periods, the tools were microscopically examined for microwear patterns.

The last section of Richards' book describes a "blind test" in which he looked at 10 experimentally made Cache Creek basalt stone tools and tried to identify the raw materials and activities that created the microwear patterns he saw on the stone tools. This last section is where Richards attempts to verify what he learned from the experimental work he did. Richards' next step in his research will be taking what he has learned from these experiments and trying to apply his new-found knowledge to actual tools excavated from prehistoric sites.

Thomas Richards is the perfect person to attempt this experiment because he has extensive experience with Interior B.C. archaeology and, therefore, with prehistoric Cache Creek basalt stone tools. Although this book is long and technical, it is well-organized and with the table of contents one can easily select particular sections of interest. Anyone really interested in "cutting edge" archaeology should examine this book. □

Heather Pratt

ASBC member Heather Pratt is an M.A. candidate in the Dept. of Anthropology and Sociology, UBC.

Chacmool smorgasbord

Cultures in Conflict: Current Archaeological Perspectives edited by Diana Claire Tkaczuk and Brian C. Vivian. 1989. Univ. of Calgary Archaeological Association, Calgary, Alberta. 308 pp., ill., bibl. \$20.00 (paper).

LAST YEAR, the Chacmool annual conference of the Archaeological Association of the University of Calgary achieved its "21st." Anyone who might be worried by doubts about the maturity of Chacmool will have his/her fears allayed by reading this account of the twentieth conference.

The Chacmoos have—latterly, at least—been specialized conferences, dealing with specific themes in global archaeology. The twentieth Chacmool, dealing with the theme of conflict in prehistory, was attended by more than 150 assorted social scientists. In three days, perhaps three dozen papers were presented, of which thirty-two have been published in the current volume.

A collection of papers such as this is bound to resemble a smorgasbord. Sampling the menu, I found one offering that particularly offended my taste: after encountering two malapropisms in rapid succession—one in the title and one in the first paragraph—I suffered acute mental indigestion and left the rest of that dish untasted. Dropping the metaphor temporarily: I noted—as a provincial chauvinist—that each of the four B.C. contributors had written clearly and comprehensibly on his/her particular topic.

If you are thinking of attending next year's Chacmool, you might find it helpful to buy or borrow a copy of this account of the twentieth, just to taste the quality of the smorgasbord. □

- Don Bunyan

Don Bunyan, ASBC Executive Committee member, is a retired petroleum engineer and a practicing avocational archaeologist.

SHOW TIME/Current Events:

Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, SFU

IN THE STEPS OF OUR ANCESTORS —an exhibition of native North American footwear, organized by the Bata Shoe Museum Foundation and the Ontario Crafts Council. Through the end of January 1990. Free admission. Museum hours: 10 am to 4:30 pm weekdays, noon to 3:00 pm weekends, closed holidays.

University Centre Auditorium, Univ. of Victoria

HOW WE BECAME HUMAN — Donald Johansen discusses his recent finds at Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. April 19, 1990 at 8:00 pm. A Royal B.C. Museum Super Series Program. Tickets available now at McPherson, Hillside, and Univ. Centre box offices (in Victoria). Cost: \$12 adults, \$8 children 12 and under.

Hellenic Community Centre (4500 Arbutus St., Vancouver)

UBC's 1989 EXCAVATIONS AT LESBOS - illustrated lecture by Dr. Hector Williams. Monday, January, 29, 1990, at 8:00 pm.

Spring Conferences

Northwest Meetings

The 43rd annual Northwest Anthropological Conference will take place March 22-24, 1990, at the Hilton hotel in Eugene, Oregon. For more information, contact the conference organizers Carl Davis (503-687-6900) or Cathy Lindberg-Muir (503-687-6641) at Willamette National Forest, P.O. Box 10607, Eugene, OR 97440.

S.A.A.

The Society for American Archaeology will hold its 55th annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, April 18-22, 1990. For further information see the April 1989 issue of *American Antiquity*.

C.A.A.

The Canadian Archaeological Association's 23rd annual conference is scheduled for May 9-13 in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. The conference theme is *The Social Context of Archaeology in the 1990s*. For details, contact conference coordinator N. Alexander Easton (403-668-8773), Yukon College, Box 2799, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 5K4.

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Spring Conferences

The Anthropological Conference is a major event in the academic calendar, bringing together scholars from around the world to discuss the latest research in the field. The conference is held annually in a different location, providing an opportunity for participants to explore the local culture and history. The program includes a variety of sessions, including plenary sessions, keynote addresses, and panel discussions. Participants are encouraged to submit papers for presentation, and the conference also features a book fair and a social program. The conference is a valuable opportunity for scholars to share their research and to build professional relationships. The conference is held in a beautiful location, providing a pleasant environment for participants. The conference is a major event in the academic calendar, bringing together scholars from around the world to discuss the latest research in the field. The conference is held annually in a different location, providing an opportunity for participants to explore the local culture and history. The program includes a variety of sessions, including plenary sessions, keynote addresses, and panel discussions. Participants are encouraged to submit papers for presentation, and the conference also features a book fair and a social program. The conference is a valuable opportunity for scholars to share their research and to build professional relationships. The conference is held in a beautiful location, providing a pleasant environment for participants.