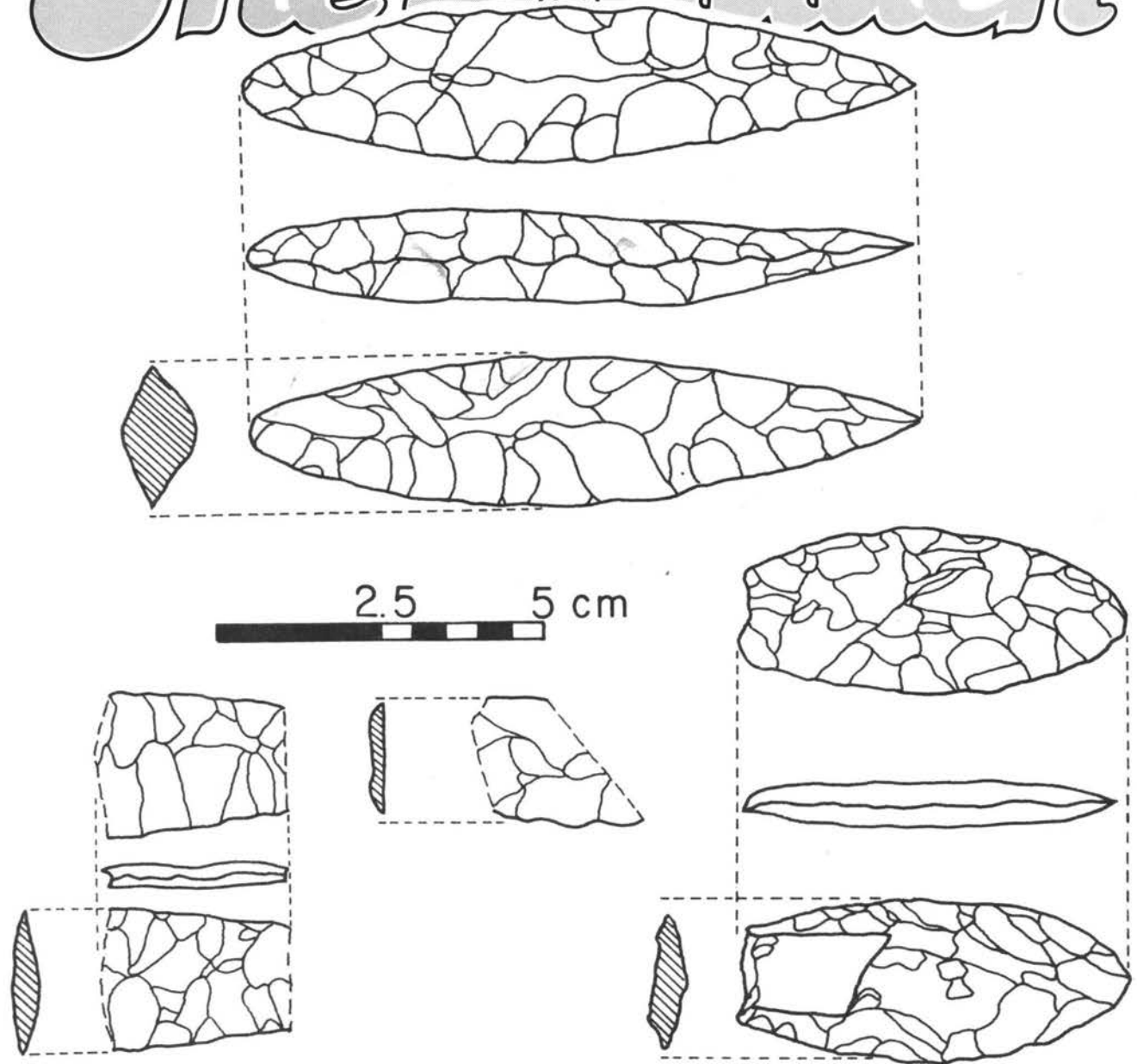


# The Midden



## I N S I D E

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- + ANCIENT CHINESE COINS  
-NEW INSTALMENT - p. 3
- + COQUITLAM LAKE SITE  
EXCAVATION REPORT- p. 8

## **\*the society\***

### NEXT A.S.B.C. MEETING

May 12th - Speaker: RICHARD UNGER, U.B.C., Dept. of History  
Title: "The Vikings"

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THE MIDDEN is produced by the Publications Committee of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia. Editor: Nick Russell.

Submissions and exchange publications should be addressed to the Editor, P.O. Box 29, Whonnock, B.C., V0M 1S0. Contributions on subjects germane to B.C. Archaeology are welcomed. They should be relatively brief, with no footnotes and only a brief bibliography (if necessary at all).

Subscriptions (\$5.00 a year) should be addressed to Ms. H. Braches, 1020 Lillooet Road, North Vancouver, B.C. V7J 2H8. The next issue of THE MIDDEN will appear June 1982.

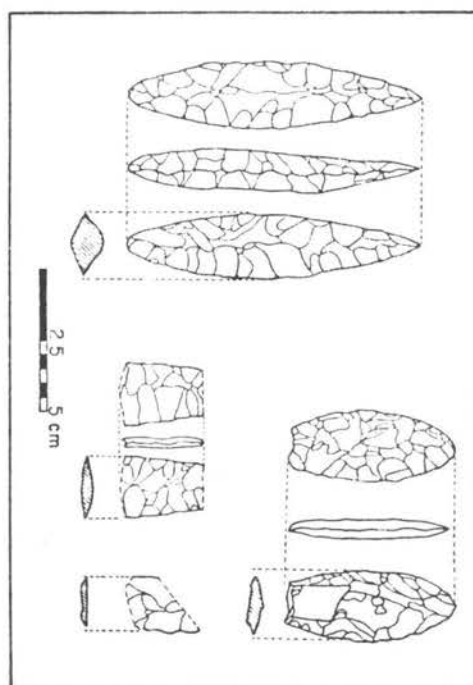
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## **\*the cover\***

Artifacts from DiRo-5.

See Page 8 for second  
and last report on  
Coquitlam Lake work  
by Wright and Williams,



## [report]

### EARLY CHINESE COINS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA? (Part III)

Grant R. Keddie, British Columbia Provincial Museum

(This paper is a sequel to previous articles by the author in The Midden, June and December 1980, April 1981.)

Recently I have located not only some interesting information regarding the discovery of what were claimed as "ancient chinese coins" found in the Northern interior of B.C. but I now have in my possession what may be one of the original "coins" or "talismans."

One of the earliest articles published on the topic of "Chinese coins in British Columbia" was by Victoria amateur archaeologist James Deans (see Bunyan's article on Deans - The Midden, October 1980) in an 1884 edition of the American Naturalist (18:1:98-99). The short article was edited before publication by Professor Otis T. Mason of Washington D.C. and is quoted here in full:

"In the summer of 1882 a miner found on De Foe (Deorse?) Creek, Cassiar district, British Columbia, thirty Chinese coins in the auriferous sand, twenty-five feet below the surface. They appeared to have been strung, but on taking them up the miner let them drop apart. The earth above and around them was as compact as any in the neighbourhood. One of these coins I examined at the store of Chu Chong in Victoria. Neither in metal nor markings did it resemble the modern coins, but in its figures looked more like an Aztec calendar. So far as I can make out the markings, this is a Chinese chronological cycle of sixty years, invented by the Emperor Huangti, 2637 B.C., and circulated in this form to make his people remember it."

Deans clearly did examine one of the coins himself but he does not note the source of his information regarding the actual discovery of the coins. The "Chu Chong" store referred to would be the Chu Chung & Co. "wholesale importers of Chinese merchandise", located at 45 Cormorant Street between at least 1882 and 1885 (Williams 1882 & 1884).



The name of the creek where the coins were found does not appear with the spelling of "De Foe" or "Doerse" in any of the B.C. place name Gazettes or mining records. The reference could only pertain to Defot (pronounced with a silent "t") which was a gold mining camp on Defot Creek (N 58 33', W 130 26') first worked in 1878 by John Defot and a party of French Canadians. This creek drains in to Canyon Creek which drains into the Dease River north of Dease Lake. Gold was discovered in 1861 on the Stikine River in the Telegraph Creek area and later in 1872 in the Dease Lake area. The Chinese were mainly active in the region from 1874 to 1877, but many bought out abandoned claims and remained to rework them--undoubtedly on occasion uncovering the archaeological remains of their recent predecessors. Material possessions of Chinese dug up in this general area have included chinese coins. Barlee shows three common chinese coins manufactured between 1736 and 1821 and a Japanese coin (K'ung Yung) dating between 1626-1867 that were dug up by a prospector at Centreville in 1971 (Barlee 1979:57). This same Japanese coin was found at a late 19th century miners camp in the Cariboo and also found mixed with chinese coins used in Victoria at the same time period.

Deans' last sentence is clearly open to misinterpretation. I would suggest that Deans was saying that the "form" of the figures was introduced around "2637 B.C." and not specifically coins with the "Pa Qua" symbolism on them. There is definitely no written tradition of coins "circulated in this form" at the early time period noted by Deans.

The earliest known Chinese written documents do not occur until the second historical dynasty on the Shang oracle bones (16th to 11th century B.C.). The writing on the one coin or temple token of which a photographic record occurs is clearly of a modern style with the exception of the two "secret ideograms." Even these secret ideograms have, however, been used and understood to this day.

#### One of the Originals?

On November 25, 1981 I found a temple token almost identical on the obverse side as the photographed Cassiar specimen and having the same arrangement and type of writing on the reverse side, although the specific characters are different. I obtained the token in a Victoria antique store just a few days after the owners purchased it at an auction sale. A little continuing detective work revealed that the person who put it up for auction had it in his possession for at least 20 years. In turn he may have received it from his father who had a small number of old coins--including an old Roman coin--which he may have acquired in his capacity as treasurer of the Odd Fellows society a number of years earlier.

The temple token is of molded brass, 4.23 cm in diameter and .23 cm thick. It weighs 20.7 grams and exhibits random hand filling on the surfaces as well as the rim.



On the **obverse** side the trigram symbols of complete and broken lines are associated with their proper Chinese characters. This is not the case with the Cassiar token which has two of its characters reversed. The maker of the Cassiar token made a mistake by placing the character Li or fire with the trigram meaning k'an or water on one side and by putting the character for water with the trigram for fire on the other side.

As an experiment to see if present day Victorians of Chinese descent could understand the symbolism and characters of my token I showed it to eight store operators in Victoria's Chinatown. The first person in his late seventies denied that it was Chinese which I interpreted to mean that he was not interested in talking to me. If I wanted to believe it was old I could of course interpret his lack of knowledge to mean that it must be an ancient script which he could not read. This uncritical approach is evident in some of the early stories regarding the Cassiar find. The next seven persons, however, could all read the characters and give at least a simple explanation regarding the fact that the token was used to scare away ghosts. Several even recognized the meaning of the two large "secret ideograms."

The most comprehensive interpretation was received from Mr. Siu Leong as interpreted by Mr. Bitje Chan of South China Arts and Crafts. Mr. Leong explained that this kind of token was made in the late Ching Dynasty and was still being used in China as late as 1954. They were usually handed down from generation to generation being given mainly to newborn babies to protect them from ghosts.

The large ideogram on the left of the reverse side was interpreted as meaning "lightning, storm, rain, listening and green." The one on the right pertains to ghosts. These and the other smaller characters signify that the possessor of this talisman will have the protection of the gods of lightning, storm and rain who will control and make peace with ghosts.

### Conclusions

The most recent evidence indicates that the "ancient coins" from Cassiar were good luck temple tokens made in the late 19th century and brought to B.C. by Chinese miners who lost them at the placer mining operations on Defot Creek between 1878 and 1882. They were dug up in 1882 and after claims of having great age they gained a popular notoriety. The coins were shown to many people and different versions of stories pertaining to their discovery and age spread around the province. One cannot be certain if all the stories pertain to the same find but they all seem to originate around the same period in the gold fields of the Cassiar region. Many of the stories are rather vague--for example: Eric Thompson, of Hopkins Landing, while in his boyhood on a Hudson's Bay Co.



trading vessel on the Stikine River saw a cache of chinese coins supposedly minted in 1300 A.D. (Peterson 1962:17). Such stories probably all have some element of the truth but should not be taken at face value. When dealing with topics of a controversial nature, such as prehistoric chinese contact in B.C., it is important to know as much as possible about the personalities and circumstances involved, in order to make a better judgement as to the quality of the evidence. I have elaborated on this story in order to deal not only with the "evidence" but to give a glimpse of the social and historical process involved in recording this "evidence."

### Bibliography

Barlee, N.L. The Guide to Gold Panning in British Columbia. Canada West Publications, Second Edition. 1979.

Peterson, Lester R. The Gibsons Landing Story. Peter Martin and Assoc. Ltd., Toronto. 1962.

Williams, R.T. Guide to the Province of British Columbia for the Years 1882/83 ...1884/85. R.T. Williams, Victoria. 1882 and 1884.



### IN U.S.

#### REPORT DESCRIBES RAPID INCREASE IN POT-HUNTING

"If you think we have a problem with site vandalism in B.C., you should read this," said Art Charlton's thoughtful note.

He was drawing The Midden's attention to the January/February issue of Prehistoric Preservation magazine.

The story describes a shocking wave of vandalism occurring at important sites all over the United States, spurred on by high prices paid by unscrupulous artifact collectors.

The article is well worth perusal. But before British Columbians get too complacent, we should remind ourselves we DO have pot-hunters... and we'd probably have a darn sight more if digging here yielded such "high art" items as Pueblo pots.

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## \*news\*



### U.B.C. EXPANDS ARCHAEOLOGY OFFERINGS

The number of archaeology courses offered at the University of British Columbia is to be substantially increased.

The Senate recently approved four courses to add to the seven core courses currently available.

The new material covers prehistoric archaeology in western Canada, the archaeology of East and Southeast Asia, heritage resource management, and a graduate course on comparative and developmental studies in archaeology.

A UBC press release quotes Prof. Richard Pearson, who heads the archaeology program within the anthropology and sociology department, as saying enrolment in archaeology courses has more than doubled over the last five years.

Pearson said the new courses, which will cater in part to a demand for archaeology from non-archaeology students, should not require additional faculty, but will be absorbed into a rotating curriculum.

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### BOOKS WORTH WATCHING FOR



The B.C. Provincial Museum has announced publication of two new books, one on Wilson Duff and one on north-west coast art.

Don Abbott has edited The World Is As Sharp As A Knife in honor of Wilson Duff. The anthology includes some of Duff's own works, together with contributions, many anthropological, described by the Museum as "scientific, literary and artistic" by people "stimulated or inspired by this man of paradoxes." 344 pages with color illustrations. The cost: \$25 (soft cover); \$35 (hard cover).

The Legacy is the second book, with the subtitle Continuing Traditions of Canadian Northwest Coast Indian Art. By Peter Macnair, Alan Hoover and Kevin Neary, the volume describes most major northwest coast styles, plus describing 100 specific artifacts and profiling 40 artists. 194 pages with color illustrations. \$14.95 (soft cover only).

Cheques addressed to "Museum Gift Shop," 675 Belleville St., Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4.

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## TEST PIT EXCAVATIONS, DiRq-5

A number of questions motivated the excavation of test pits at DiRq-5. Were the surface artifacts representative of the subsurface artifact matrix? What, if any, strata were present? What was the extent of remaining site matrix, and did this vary over the site area? What features were present at the site and were all of the artifact types found in association on the surface similarly in association with in the subsoil matrix?

The units were excavated, by trowel, in arbitrary five-centimetre levels; no stratigraphic succession could be identified. The matrix was examined by screening the subsoil through 6 and 1.5 mm mesh.

### Test Pit One

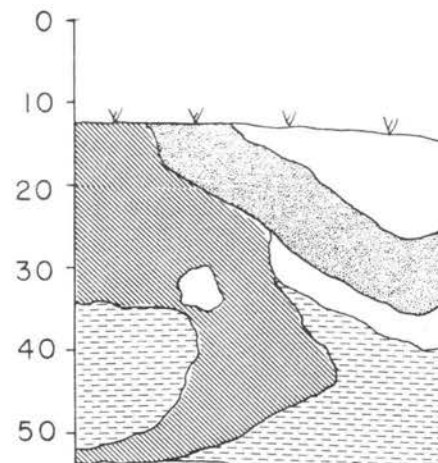
This unit, located in the midst of the surficial artifact distribution, yielded 47 artifacts, from six levels. There was no discernible vertical typological change in artifacts. The artifact classes present within the surface assemblage were in the same relative proportion as those recovered from the excavation.

### Test Pit Two

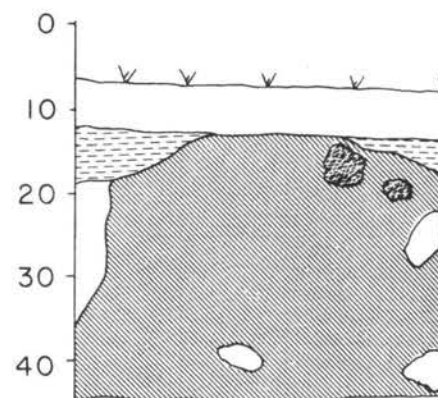
This unit was located towards the southern periphery of the site, and was designed to test for variation in matrix thickness and artifact distribution. The one-metre square yielded 34 artifacts occurring within nine 5-centimetre levels. The increase in matrix thickness (or number of centimetre levels) is thought to be fortuitous, in that the artifacts found within these lower three levels were all root disturbed. Also, the greater slope in unit two would logically result in a greater depth at the southern end of the pit. In summation, both test units possess a similar matrix thickness, and a similar artifact assemblage. More importantly, the test excavation data largely mirrors that which was seen on the surface of DiRq-5.

### Stratigraphy

The absence of strata at DiRq-5 has already been noted. Considering the profile data from the two test excavation units, it is evident that root channeling and forest fires have been extensive in the area occupied by the site. The profile indicates 88 centimetres of interspersed fire



TEST PIT ONE



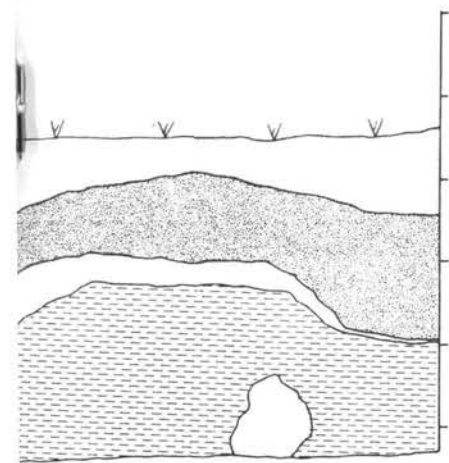
TEST PIT TWO



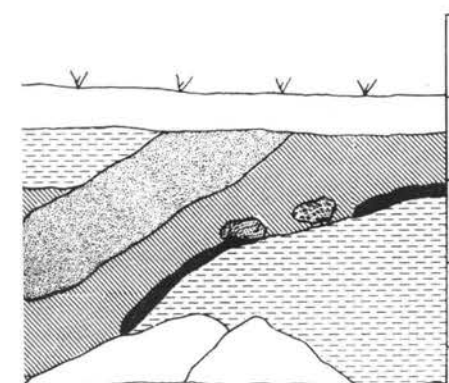


nd J.H. Williams

February issue  
(reasons of space)



NORTH PROFILE



NORTH PROFILE

floors and till matrix, which, when combined with the estimated 25 centimetres of eroded site matrix, represents well over a metre of forest fire disturbance. It has already been suggested that root channeling may have disrupted the matrix of test unit two; it is further suggested that the natural disturbance commensurate with root growth, subsequent forest fires and matrix subsidence has effectively masked any indications of strata. The fire disturbance has also effectively obviated the absolute dating of the site, as charcoal in context with artifacts is indistinguishable from intrusive burning.

The question must be addressed as to whether DiRq-5 is a single component, or more representative of the accumulation of repeated occupational debris. The absence of strata complicates this question, but it is suggested that the agencies that serve to mask the presence of strata might also explain why it is more likely to be a single, rather than a multiple component site. In the first case, the deposition of lithic debris on the irregular surface of a coastal forest floor would result in a large range of variation in the vertical dispersion of contemporaneous pieces. Furthermore, the mechanisms of root channeling and forest fires would not necessarily compact such lithic debris, but rather result in further vertical displacement, giving the illusion of greater matrix thickness. Thus, it is arguable that even 40 centimetres of sparsely distributed lithic debris could be the result of a single occupation. The validity of this proposition is further supported by the homogeneity of the artifact classes throughout all test pit excavation levels, and the predominance of one lithic material type throughout all excavated levels, and across the site surface.

Material Types

Throughout the report, mention has been made of both the range of lithic material types utilized and the presence of 'imported' lithic materials. The data on which these observations are based are discussed below. One distinctively coloured and textured material predominated both surface and excavated assemblages. In addition, this primary lithic resource material was supplemented by at least 12 other visually distinct lithic materials. The predominant material employed at DiRq-5 had not previously been recognized in other Lower Mainland sites, nor for that matter in any other nearby areas. This seemed remarkable in that the material exhibited exceptionally good flaking characteristics,

ROCK

CHARCOAL

ASH/ FIRED SOIL

SEDIMENT



and co-occurred with lithic materials that WERE known from other Lower Mainland sites. Assay of a thin section by Dr. J. Souther of the Canadian Geological Survey in Vancouver, resulted in a tentative identification of the material as an aphanitic (micro-crystalline) volcanic rock with amphiboles of hornblende and feldspar. It is most likely that this rock specimen was derived from within the Garibaldi Mountain Range, 100 kilometres to the north of the site (J. Souther, personal communication 1981). This assignment is supported by the presence of known Garibaldi obsidian materials at DiRq-5. Additional lithic resources utilized by the site occupants include locally available basalts and other crystalline materials. All materials were employed in virtually all tool classes. Not only were microblades made of the imported materials, but also biface production seems to have been an important objective.

### Discussion/Comparative Analysis

The chronological placement of the DiRq-5 assemblage is hampered by a number of factors: the lack of suitable materials for absolute dating, the small size of the excavated sample, the lack of diagnostic time-sensitive tool types, and more particularly the lack of comparative materials. While relatively continuous chronologies are available for the Lower Mainland, there is no similar information for the upland lakes area. This stems from both the paucity of fieldwork in these areas and the nature of the local terrain. What is known of these lakes is relatively recent pre-history only, with no occupational debris by which to construct a local sequence.

Mention has already been made of the fact that few temporally sensitive artifacts were recovered from DiRq-5. Because of similarities in material types and artifact classes, artifact assemblages from nearby sites were included in the analysis. All sites are viewed as contemporaneous and of similar cultural affiliation (DiRq-1, 2, 3, 4, 6). None of these sites contains ground stone points or knives, which have been used elsewhere as time horizon markers. Their appearance is noted in Mayne Phase materials, as defined by the Helen Point site assemblage, and dated to between 3000 to 1000 B.C. (Carlson 1970:115). Other authors have dated this horizon as occurring at about 2000 B.C. (Matson 1975:285). Setting aside the dating controversy, it is suggested that ground stone points and knives make their appearance approximately 4000 to 5000 years ago, and that they are accompanied by quartz crystal blades (Carlson 1970). Working on the assumption that the absence of ground stone tools at DiRq-5 is a function of time, a minimum age date for the assemblage would fall in the vicinity of 4500 years B.P. Elsewhere, projectile point attributes have been assigned particular import as horizon markers. In the case of DiRq-5 only biface thinning flakes are available for analysis, but the inclusion of the DiRq-4 and 6 surface assemblages rectifies this inadequacy.

Two complete points were recovered from the surface of DiRq-4, located 40 metres east of DiRq-5. One point mid-section was found on the surface of DiRq-6, approximately 60 metres west of DiRq-5. Both of these sites are located within the active zone of the reservoir. Of the two points from DiRq-4, the first is a bipointed basalt point with maximum length, width and thickness of 100, 23 and 14 mm respectively. Unfortunately, bipointed basalt points are ubiquitous on Lower Mainland sites, and while they have been found in early contexts, they do not necessarily indicate an early time horizon. The second point is shorter and thicker, with maximum length, width and thickness of 58, 25 and 8 mm respectively. This point is symmetrical, exhibits well controlled flaking attributes, and possesses a basal thinning treatment that has not been reported for any other Lower Mainland site. Based on the location and form attributes of the thinning treatment, it seems reasonable to suggest that this specimen most closely approximates an attempt at 'fluting'. The 'flute scar' is 16 millimetres in length, terminating in a hinge fracture. In addition to the form of the flake removal, subsequent smoothing adjacent to and merging into the 'flute

scar' indicates that the point was helved following the thinning treatment. This could not have occurred if the 'fluting' was the fortuitous result of an impact fracture. The presence of a basal thinning flake from the excavated levels of test unit one, provides support for a hitherto unreported basal thinning treatment. The presence of a third point, a mid-section, substantiates the potential antiquity of the DiRq-4 and 5 lithic technology. In this case, a lanceolate point mid-section less than five millimetres in thickness and exhibiting collateral flaking, was recovered from the surface of DiRq-6. There is strong evidence to suggest that aside from the production of large uniface chopping tools, bifaces, microblades and bipolar tools, the inhabitants of DiRq-4, 5 and 6 (which may in fact be disassociated parts of a single artifact deposit) also possessed a lithic technology known to exist in the northeastern and southcentral regions of British Columbia and adjacent Alberta, and one that is ultimately derived from a Paleo-Indian lithic technology and time horizon. In light of this evidence, it might be suggested that the site complex of Coquitlam Lake reservoir is quite early and derives at least part of its lithic technology from the plains region. The associated complex of tools is not representative of a Paleo or Plano lithic technology. Most particularly, the presence of microblades indicates that other influences, or groups, may have been contemporaneously occupying the DiRq-5 locality. Microblades are not an early time horizon marker for sites in the Lower Mainland, however they do possess great antiquity on the central coast (Carlson 1979, Fladmark 1975) and to a lesser extent at interior sites (Sanger 1970).

(Overview of early British Columbia prehistory - omitted. Ed.)

Since no single hypothesis is capable of explaining the DiRq-5 assemblage in terms of Lower Mainland prehistory, it may be apropos to suggest an alternative scheme to current chronological frameworks.

Borden (1975) and others (Matson 1975, Mitchell 1971) have argued that microblades are not, and cannot form part of the very earliest tool complexes in British Columbia. The reasons for this are couched in terms of negative evidence. It now appears, however, that microblades are very early on the central coast (Carlson 1979), and may possess a similar antiquity on the southern coast (McMillan 1981). If an early context is acceptable, then the associations of chopper tools, microblades and biface technologies at DiRq-5 can be accommodated. It may be further noted that the seemingly earliest sites in British Columbia occur in elevated contexts (Carlson 1979), and that DiRq-5 may indeed reflect this adaptation in terms of its upland, intermontane locale. DiRq-5 is in a geographical location that has never been the focus of significant subsoil archaeological testing, and the presently unique nature of DiRq-5 may be nothing more than the notoriety and healthy skepticism that often greets a first of a kind discovery.

Obviously, what is needed to support this argument are more data, with excavated tool types found in context, and more importantly, an absolute determination of the sites chronological position. Because of the potential antiquity of DiRq-5 and the inevitability of its destruction by reservoir erosion, the pressing need for further field assessment is self evident.

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## {news}

### BORDEN SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED

The winner of the Charles Borden Memorial Scholarship for 1982-3 has been announced.

Recipient is Joanne Curtain, a graduate student of archaeology at Simon Fraser University. She is currently working towards her Master's, with research on human burials at the Namu site (E1Sx-1).

### SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY PUBLISHES NEW REPORT

Simon Fraser University was scheduled to bring out a new volume to coincide with the Northwest Anthropological Conference, April 8-10.

Titled Papers on Central Coast Archaeology, the report is edited by Philip Hobler and is No.10 in the SFU Archaeology series. It includes an introduction by the editor, and two papers: Brian Apland's "Chipped Stone Assemblages from the Beach Sites of the Central Coast," and Margo Chapman's "Archaeological Investigations at the O'Connor site, Port Hardy."

Also still available from SFU is No.7 in the series (two reports, by Robert Wilson and Catherine Carlson, concentrating on the Kamloops area), and No.9 (Art Charlton's report on the Belcarra site).



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### TWO ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOLS EXPECTED

Both UBC and SFU have field schools planned for this summer.

The UBC students will participate in Dr. David Pokotylo's Early Nesikep Settlement Patterns project, mid-June through August. Some six to eight students are expected to help excavate two microblade sites in the Upper Hat Creek Valley, and to survey in the alpine and subalpine zones.

The SFU field school will be working this summer on the Central Coast of British Columbia, probably at a historic site.

TO WATCH FOR: NEW BOOK, NEW PUBLISHER

Alan McMillan and Denis St. Claire's long-awaited report on their important work in the Alberni area is about to be published --by an innovative new publisher in Nanaimo.

The book is to be titled Alberni Prehistory: Archaeological and Ethnographical Investigations on Western Vancouver Island, under the Theytus Books imprint, and is scheduled for release in June. Paperback will be available for \$15 plus 50¢ mailing from Theytus, 76A Bastion St., Nanaimo, V6R 3A1. Theytus seem to be specializing in B.C. native Indian topics.

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CANADA COUNCIL: GIVING OUR MONEY AWAY!

June 1 is the deadline for the next round of applications to Canada Council for "Explorations" program funding.

What the agency is looking for is innovative, creative projects, helping promote public enjoyment of artistic and cultural activities or an appreciation of Canada's heritage. Competition is open to Canadian individuals, groups or organizations. Applications forms from: Explorations, Canada Council, P.O. Box 1047, Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5V8.

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HISTORICAL GROUP SEEKS MEMBERS

The Society for Historical Archaeology is soliciting members.

The S.H.A. boasts being the largest organization on the continent dedicated to archaeology of North America since European settlement. It publishes a journal and a newsletter, and holds a large annual conference, this year in Philadelphia.

Membership at \$20 U.S. and information from S.H.A., 1703 New Hampshire Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

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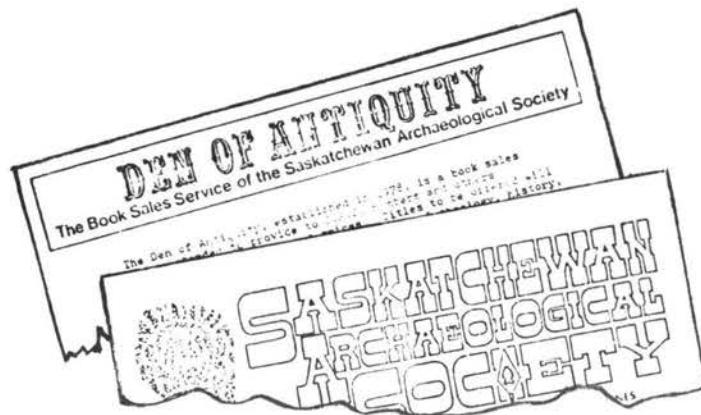
### DUO WIN MUSQUEAM BASKETRY GRANT

David Archer and Kathryn Bernick began working this spring on perishable artifacts from Musqueam.

The two were awarded a \$7,000 grant by the B.C. Heritage Trust to carry out a detailed analysis of the materials --mostly basketry-- and prepare a comprehensive publishable report on this aspect of Musqueam Northeast.

The late Dr. Charles Borden conducted the last major work at the site (DhRt 4), which dates to the early Locarno Beach culture.

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### SASKATCHEWAN SOCIETY OFFERS BOOK DEAL

The Saskatchewan Archaeological Society has come up with a neat idea: its own "bookstore."

The system provides archaeology books at discount prices. And while this has been limited in the past to S.A.S. members, the society is now courteously extending the privilege to members of sister groups, such as A.S.B.C.

A note to S.A.S. at "Sub. P.O. 6, Box 455, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0W0," should elicit an order form and 10-page illustrated catalogue which includes many excellent and reputable titles.

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## {review}



Early Man. Vol. 2, No. 3 (1980); Vol. 3, No. 1 (1981).  
Stuart Struever (publisher)

Northwestern Archeology, P.O. Box 1499, Evanston, Ill. 60204  
\$15.00 U.S. annual subscription, or membership in the Northwestern Archeological Program.

Early Man is a glossy quarterly concerned with "the discoveries, goals, laws, techniques, people and other aspects of archeological activity in the modern world." It is designed to be enjoyed by the layman as well as respected by the professional --and, happily, promises to succeed.

The magazine is 25-30 pages long, and contains no advertising. It is supported by the Illinois Humanities Council. Each issue contains feature articles as well as regular "departments," and an "Insert Section" focusing on contemporary problems in archeology.

The articles are sometimes on a common theme, as for example the Autumn 1980 Early Man which addresses the question of Mesoamerican influence in North America. A newly instituted feature is an "annual presentation of notable advances in archeological research." The first instalment (Spring 1981) consists of descriptions (12 pages) of research at 10 sites, from Ellsmere Island to southern Chile --the range of time periods and of topics is equally diverse. Included is one site on the Northwest Coast --the Hoko River site on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington. The other feature articles in that issue are: an historical account of Charles Lindbergh's pioneering use of aerial photography in archeology; a report on the use of archeological information in the reconstruction of a 200-year-old battlefield in New York State; and a discussion of the still-unequal status of women in archeology. Regular columns in Early Man include selected news of recent discoveries, brief reviews of books in print, and a suggested site-seeing tour.

The two issues of Early Man available for review are informative, interesting, and easy to read. Illustrations are abundant and of reasonably good quality, although only the cover is in colour. The articles appear to be based on solid research, and most are followed with suggestions for further reading. If you are interested in archeology you will enjoy reading Early Man --and will undoubtedly learn from it. Some of the articles, and certainly the pictures, might appeal to older children, although it is primarily an adult publication.

Kathryn Bernick

If UNDELIVERED  
please return to:

P.O.Box 29,  
WHONNOCK, B.C.  
VCM 1S0