

THE MIDDEN

PUBLICATION OF THE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Editor
N. Russell

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E D I T O R I A L

ARCHAEOLOGISTS ARE PEOPLE TOO!

We should not be surprised that some young B.C. archaeologists and archaeology students are becoming increasingly restive about money.

The suggestion that professional archaeologists should not be expected to survive on a pittance, fired only by poverty-stricken dedication, is far from new. But it has become strongly articulated in B.C. only recently.

The symptoms are many...graduate students demanding income to cover post-excavation research; a student expecting to get paid as a guest speaker, where none has been paid before; a professional archaeologist resigning an important job to operate as a free-agent, first of the new breed of "contract archaeologists" locally; digs being run almost on a formal 9 - 5 basis with weekends off.

All of this, then, implies a rather more pragmatic generation of archaeologists coming up. And why not? Just because archaeologists on the job tend to look as if they don't have two cents to rub together, does not mean they don't have to pay the rent!

Hopefully, however, the demands will be calm and modest. Archaeology is not ready for unionizing...funds will not become suddenly available for site living quarters with wall-to-wall broadloom and color T.V!

If we are not mistaken, one of the attractions of archaeology has always been the rugged individuality of the experts, their dedication and their lack of commercialism.

If these qualities are lost, archaeology will be the poorer.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the Archaeological Society of British Columbia enters its second decade it is a time for looking ahead to the hopes and challenges of the future.

Keeping always the Aims and Ethics of the Society in the forefront, the future offers a wide spectrum of opportunities for continued growth and expansion. These areas include creating increased opportunities for our members to upgrade their knowledge on various aspects of archaeology, and seeking closer contact with the public, to promote awareness of archaeological needs within the province.

During the past 10 years the Archaeological Society of B. C. has gained the respect and confidence of the professional archaeologists, and has won increased recognition by notable institutions across Canada and the United States through subscriptions to The Midden. Interest from governments both provincial and federal is indicated by acknowledgement of our letters of concern on archaeological issues which we have felt needed attention.

We can be proud of our past achievements but we must never be totally satisfied: we must continue to strive for greater protection of our archaeological sites; for stronger legislation at provincial and federal levels, to assure that our archaeological material will not be lost from the Canadian scene; and for better ways of educating the public to greater awareness and appreciation of its history and heritage.

Your executive looks forward in the New Year to continue pursuing these goals in the interest of the Archaeological Society of B. C.

Hoping you have had a Happy Holiday Season.

Marie Duncan

A SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN
THE ATLIN LAKE AREA OF NORTHWESTERN B.C.

By Diana E. French,
Archaeological Sites Advisory Board

During the summers of 1975 and 1976, a systematic survey was undertaken to inventory heritage resources on Atlin Lake in northwestern British Columbia. The project was funded by the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board of B.C., supplemented by the Work In Government Programme during the 1975 season. Survey was initiated in response to possible inundation of the lakeshore by Hydro development, and increased mining exploration and tourist activity which has resulted in the disturbance of both historic and prehistoric sites.

The main objectives of the survey were systematically to locate and record heritage sites on Atlin Lake, and to provide a data base for future resource management of the region. Research oriented goals were also identified, and ethnohistoric and ethnographic studies formed an integral part of the project.

Survey was conducted primarily on foot, and limited to within 200 metres of the high water level of the lake. A total of 90 archaeological sites has been recorded to date, along approximately 220 miles of shoreline and contiguous islands. Included are campsite/fishing stations, lookouts, temporary fall and winter campsites, villages, cache pits, buried horizons, pictographs, a petroglyph site and two caribou fences. Many of the sites, which are small and surficial in nature, have been attributed to the Inland Tlingit, who moved into the area from the Taku-Nakina drainage during the 19th century. These sites are often characterized by the remains of stone-axed tree stumps.

Although analysis of data recovered is incomplete at present, three archaeological horizons have tentatively been defined, which appear in part to parallel developments in the S.W. Yukon as suggested by Morlan (n.d.). Similarities to horizons identified on the Nakina River have also been noted (French, n.d.).

Archival research at the B.C., Yukon and Juneau Archives has included a search for early photographs of the Atlin area, and a study of early maps and historic sources. With the assistance of members of the Atlin Indian Band, place names have been collected for many of the archaeological sites located in the field. A number of traditional Inland Tlingit stories were also recorded for the band.

Floral species found on Atlin Lake have been collected and identified by Miss Kerry K. Carney, University of Victoria, and five different plant communities described. The possibility

that vegetation cover in this region of the boreal forest is a valid indicator of the relative age of heritage sites is currently being tested.

Although the main orientation of the project has been to facilitate resource management, hopefully the integration of these archaeological data with ancillary ethnographic and ethno-historic research will eventually contribute to the development of a culture history sequence for the Atlin Lake region of northwestern B.C.

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n.d. | "Test excavations at five archaeological sites on the Nakina River". Ms. on file A.S.A.B. |
| Morlan, Richard E.
n.d. | "Tutchone archaeological visibility". Paper presented at the conference on Prehistory of the North American Sub-Arctic: The Athapaskan Question. Calgary, Alta. Nov. 7, 1976. |

SPECIAL EXHIBIT COMING IN FEBRUARY

An exhibit from the Royal Ontario Museum opens at 8 p.m., Tuesday, February 15th at the Museum of Anthropology, University of B. C. Entitled "Daily Life in the Ancient World", it includes artifacts, photographic and textural material. That evening there will be a lecture on the exhibit by Mrs. Neda Leipin who is Curator of the Greek and Roman Dept. of the ROM.

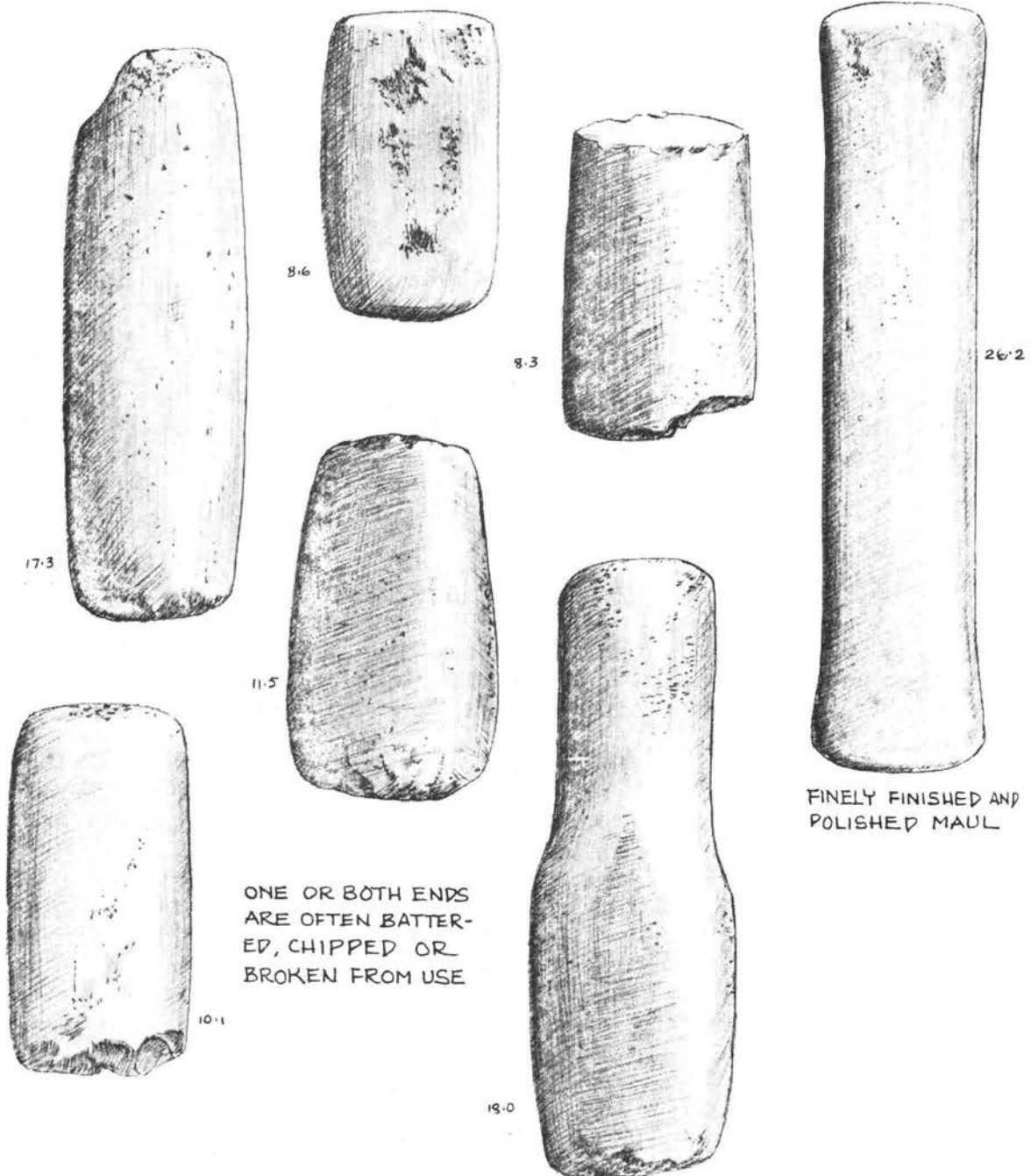
In conjunction with the above exhibit there will be a series of lectures through the Centre for Continuing Education at U.B.C. Please phone 228-2181 for further information.

CONGRATULATIONS....

to Bill Lane, member and former President of the Archaeological Society, on his recent election as President of the Archaeological Institute of America, Vancouver Chapter.

* * *

CYLINDRICAL MAULS



Another form of the hand maul, the simple cylindrical or slightly oval shape of the tool was comfortably grasped in the hand for pounding. Initially pecked into shape, it was then ground smooth with an abrader. The occurrence of these mauls so far seems relatively restricted to the Bella Coola area and nearby regions where a number of them have been excavated.

EXCERPTED FROM:
"ARTIFACTS OF THE NORTH-
WEST COAST INDIANS"
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TEN YEARS AFTER: THE ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

By Hilary Stewart

(Reprinted by permission of DATUM and the author.)

At an archaeological site on the banks of the Fraser River near Hope, a lawyer and a retired school teacher fill two buckets of midden dirt and lift them up onto the edge of the pit. A nurse carries the buckets over to the growing mound of earth and screens the contents, while a secretary comes over to show the artifact she unearthed to an accountant discussing prehistoric settlement patterns with a librarian.

What is this--some kind of charade?

No, not really, it is the Archaeological Society of British Columbia at work. You might see some of its members spending weekends, Sundays, weekdays--sometimes entire vacations--in blazing heat, pouring rain, blowing dust or ankle deep mud. They are a group of people who share a common bond of a deep interest in archaeology and a concern for its preservation.

The formation of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia in 1966 grew out of a lecture series at U.B.C. on Archaeology in British Columbia, given by Dr. Roy Carlson of Simon Fraser University. When the series ended a number of the participants got together and organized the first meeting. The Society has since grown from a small handful of people who were at first eyed with some suspicion by professionals, to a strong and vigorous force of about 200 members that now includes some of the top archaeologists and anthropologists from the academic fields.

The aims of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia are two-fold: to encourage the identification and protection of archaeological sites and material in British Columbia, and to provide meetings and publications for the spread of knowledge about archaeology. Regular meetings are held in the Vancouver Centennial Museum auditorium on the second Wednesday of every month, from September through June, and these feature an expert speaker with an illustrated talk on any of a wide range of subjects. This is followed by an informal gathering in the members' lounge where coffee is served.

The Incas of Peru, Hadrian's Wall, Excavations in Turkey, Australian Archaeology, Greek Inscriptions and Quotations, the Bronze Age in Japan, the pre-history of the Libyan Desert, ruins in Northern Ireland, Mediterranean Underwater Archaeology and Fossil Man in Africa are but a small sampling of speakers' topics from the past few years. Emphasis, however, is given to the archaeology of British Columbia, with about two-thirds of lectures covering the wide scope of that field, for that is where the greatest interest lies among the membership.

The Archaeological Society of British Columbia is an affiliate of the Vancouver Museums Association, thus providing its members with privileges such as free entry to the museums and reduced fees for its courses and certain other events. Throughout the year the Society arranges a series of special events and these may include a film showing, a guided tour of an exhibition of interest, a display of artifacts from a variety of summer excavations, with the directors on hand to answer questions, a field trip to a current dig or site, a visit to an archaeology laboratory, as well as courses in field work and on-site training.

Not content to be armchair archaeologists, many members take an active part as volunteers in authorized digs and often do follow-up work in the lab. Years of accumulated experience on a variety of projects mean that the Society has a nucleus of people skilled in almost all phases of field work. Their contribution to major excavation projects has often been significant. In addition, they can be called upon to assist in an emergency salvage situation (especially when little or no funding is available) and, if necessary, bring with them (or loan out) additional equipment belonging to the Society.

Inexperienced members are trained by working in pits alongside those with experience and are carefully supervised and taught correct procedures. Being dedicated volunteers, members actually enjoy working long hours at a time, often under difficult conditions, with a perseverance verging on the absurd, which prompted Dr. C.E. Borden once to remark: "You couldn't PAY people to work like that!:"

There was the occasion when Borden returned from a visit to Mr. Roman Pasika (after whom the Pasika Phase was named), in Old Yale, bringing with him sack after sack of pebble tools picked up over a period of time by Pasika from his ploughed fields. There were over 1,000 artifacts and the task of washing, sorting, labelling and cataloguing the collection seemed formidable--until members of the Society volunteered to help. It was a hot summer day and Dr. Borden's garden became a busy laboratory as teams of people set about their work. Dr. Borden provided the expertise and the cold beer and the Society provided the labour force with experience in cleaning and cataloguing. By the end of the day the job

was done. The following year when another thousand artifacts surfaced from newly ploughed fields, members returned to help out again.

When, in 1971, volunteers were needed to help locate petroglyphs that might be on rock just under a layer of turf, on the Katz Reservation, a party of members with shovels spent a raw March day uncovering a number of new faces in the rock.

Recently a large project which involved the systematic surface collection of approximately 133 acres near Cache Creek was conducted. This endeavour required more people than Art Charlton, who was in charge of the project, had on hand and he turned to the Society for assistance. Seven Society members spent a three-day weekend working with the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board crew collecting and recording a vast quantity of basalt artifacts and detritus from the surface of the site. Experience gained through lectures, field work and lab visits has given Society members a trained eye for recognizing lithic material on the surface of the ground.

Excavations that members have participated in include: English Bluff in Tsawwassen and the beach area below, Marpole, Musqueam (upper and lower), Belcarra, Crescent Beach, Pitt Meadows, Glenrose, St. Mungo and Katz.

Much important work of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia is carried on by the executive and its committees. It keeps a liaison between itself and universities, colleges and the Centennial Museum to keep up to date on pertinent information, and has a representative on the Archaeology Sites Advisory Board of British Columbia.

The Collections Committee is working extensively to photograph and record all known private collections of artifacts, and so far has covered some 25 collections which contain a total of approximately 2,000 artifacts. It has enough names and addresses on its list for several years' work and is constantly seeking to add to this.

The Publications Committee assembles *The Midden* a comprehensive five-times-a-year illustrated newsletter of 15 to 20 pages which contains articles, excavation reports and many other features of interest. The publication is free of charge to members, but separate subscriptions reach across Canada from the Queen Charlotte Islands to Alberta, Ontario and New Brunswick, over the border to Idaho and New York and overseas to England and Germany.

In keeping with its aims, a major endeavour of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia has been the formation of chapters within the province. To date chapters have been established in Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Victoria. Members receive notice of the Vancouver meetings and activities, a copy of each *Midden*, and help is given in providing speakers for the rural areas. It is hoped that eventually there will be many more chapters across the province helping to keep an eye out for possible destruction of archaeological sites.

The Society recognizes the possibility of a person joining the Archaeological Society of British Columbia as an aid to illegal pot-hunting activities, but feels strongly (as has been proven) that education and understanding of the scientific aspects of archaeology can change poor attitudes. To become a member, a person fills out an application form which includes the signing of a statement designed to ensure proper conduct in this regard, and wilful contravention of this can lead to non-renewal of the membership.

The welfare of the archaeology of the province is always of foremost concern to the Society, and it was with this in mind that a brief was presented by the President to the 1973 Provincial Government Caucus. The brief, in outlining the archaeological antiquity of the province, included a map and time sequence chart, and elaborated on the four main areas in which the Society felt the Government could lend valuable support: Formal Education, Community Education Resources, Legislation and Funding. The brief was well received with great interest shown for its content.

Other activities of the Society include suppressing the publication of a booklet giving maps of archaeological sites encouraging the public at large to go out and dig for Indian "treasure"; successfully soliciting for donations by Westcoast Transmission Co. Ltd., and the Canadian Pacific Railway to pay toward the cost of removing petroglyphs doomed by the highway being constructed through the Katz Reservation near Hope; and the withdrawal of old glass trading beads being offered for sale at the Centennial Museum gift shop.

Not all avenues of endeavour lead to success however. When crushed clamshell on Granville Island, Vancouver, was reported to the Society as a possible midden site, and due for construction, a Sunday survey and further research disclosed that Granville Island was in fact a man-made island dredged up from the sands of False Creek!

Although a small amount of funding was received from the British Columbia Cultural Fund toward the expenditures of the Private Collections project, and a donation of \$500 came from an anonymous benefactor, the Society is financially self-supporting through its modest fees, Student \$4.00, Single \$7.00,

and Family \$10.00. It is, however, supported in other ways through the generosity, courtesy and interest of the Social Science Departments of Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, Langara College, and by the office of the Provincial Archaeologist. Newspaper and radio outlets allow courtesy advertising.

This year will see the 10th anniversary of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia, and if the executive plans to splurge a little and serve wine instead of coffee in the members' lounge after its September meeting, glasses around the room will be raised "to the next ten years" for there is still much to be done.

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EVENING COURSES OFFERED

Archaeology in British Columbia - a series of illustrated lectures by different speakers at Vancouver Community College, Langara, 100 West 49th Avenue. Six Tuesday nights commencing January 11. Fees: Members \$10.00, non-members \$15.00

Certificate Program in British Columbia Studies - Simon Fraser University in conjunction with Vancouver Museums Association offers a credit course Archaeology 101: The Prehistoric Past, at the Museum Courtyard Workshop, Tuesdays at 7 p.m. from January 11. For information call Continuing Studies, S.F.U. 291-4564.

Department of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University

ARC 273-3: Archaeology of the New World

ARC 385-3: Fossil Man, Concepts and Evidence of Human Evolution

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A NEW BENEFIT

for members and affiliate members of the Vancouver Museums Association - a 10% discount on purchases from the Gift Shop! Please show membership cards.

And if you'd like to volunteer to help in the Gift Shop, please contact May Kendrick at 683-6173 or Martha Stroud at 736-4431.

* * * *

OLD CROW: THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO'S NORTHERN
YUKON RESEARCH PROGRAMME

A description contributed by Dr. William M. Irving,
Professor of Anthropology.

The University of Toronto Northern Yukon Research Programme is a multidisciplinary research effort to understand human cultures and their environmental conditions, throughout the period of Man's occupancy of this unglaciated part of Canada. The time-span begins 30,000 or more years ago, and extends to the end of the 19th century when the lives of aboriginal inhabitants were profoundly changed by the Klondike gold rush and the arrival of whalers on the Yukon Arctic coast.

Each summer, beginning in 1975 and continuing through 1980, from six to eight principal investigators, their students, and field assistants from the village of Old Crow, form field parties to conduct studies in a wide variety of subjects ranging from palaeomagnetism to the life histories of Loucheux Indians who still are remembered by modern residents.

One of the foci of the Programme is the archaeology of the 18th and 19th centuries, which already has shown evidence of a highly organized subsistence strategy which included the impoundment of migrating caribou in spring and fall, and the use of fish traps at other seasons, in addition to individual quests for food. The archaeological evidence supports and augments ethnological data from the Indians of Old Crow, who are important participants in the research.

Another aspect of the Programme focuses on some of the oldest evidence for Man yet recognized in the Western Hemisphere. This takes the form of artifacts made of the bones of mammoth, horse, and bison--species now extinct, which flourished under environmental conditions quite different from those that prevail now. Three of the artifacts have been dated by radiocarbon to between 25,000 and 30,000 years ago. The artifacts represent a technology that was not previously known, and one that has been viewed with skepticism by some archaeologists. However, in the course of 10 years since it was first discovered the "new" bone technology has become better understood and more generally accepted.

This summer, a breakthrough was achieved with the discovery of part of a human jawbone among the animal fossils of Pleistocene age. The jawbone, which is too rare and important

to be sacrificed for radiocarbon dating, appears mineralized like the animal bones, and chemical tests are likely to show that it is of about the same age as some of them, that is, more than 20,000 years old. On first examination the human bone is similar to that of modern man, and not particularly reminiscent of such extinct varieties as Neanderthal, which in any case is well known only in western Eurasia.

Other studies are progressing on, for example, the archaeology of post-Pleistocene periods, through the study of pollen found in lake sediments. The results will begin to appear about 1978, when it will be possible to begin interpreting the intricate records of environmental and cultural change. In the meantime, reports of progress will be presented at scientific meetings and in public lectures in Canada, the U.S. and Europe.

The Toronto group of scientists, in collaboration with colleagues in the National Museums of Canada and the Geological Survey of Canada, are accumulating masses of evidence which will reveal the environmental conditions and something of the culture and technology of human populations in the only large part of Canada that escaped glaciation during the Pleistocene. Thus, it is likely to be here that the fullest record of Man's activity and experience during the Ice Age will be found.

* * * * *

A.S.B.C. DIARY

- Wed. Jan. 12 - Centennial Museum Auditorium - 8 p.m. - Joint meeting with Archaeological Institute of America. Speaker: Dr. James Russell on "Anemurium: A Byzantine City Unfolds".
- Wed. Feb. 9 - Centennial Museum Auditorium - 8 p.m. - Professor P. Hobler of SFU on the Archaeology of Moresby, Queen Charlotte Islands.
- Wed. Feb. 16 - Lasserre 102, UBC - 8 p.m. A.I.A. Guest speaker: Dr. Anneliese Bulling on Recent Excavations of Chinese Tombs from the Ch'in to the 1st Tang Dynasty (3rd Century B.C. to A.D. 810).

* * *

NOTE TO MEMBERS: If you have not already done so, please renew your membership for the current year. This will be the last Midden we can send you unless you have renewed. Ms. Shirley Veale, 1406 Paisley Road, North Vancouver, V7R 1C3, will be pleased to receive your cheque.

NEW PETROGLYPHS FOUND

Report by Hilary Stewart



MARY BENTLEY AT PETROGLYPH SITE ON GABRIOLA ISLAND -
IN FOREGROUND IS "SEA MONSTER" - AT LEFT IS "KINGFISHER" & "CRAB"

Mary and Ted Bentley went looking for a petroglyph recently - and found six. Mary is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cliffe, charter members of the A.S.B.C. who retired to Gabriola Island some years ago but who remain deeply interested in archaeology and the Society. Mary has a special interest in the petroglyphs of the island and has recorded the few known ones in rubbings.



"DANCER" FIGURE -
LENGTH. 23"

On a Thanksgiving weekend visit to Gabriola, Mary and husband Ted went walking in the woods to look for a small petroglyph they had only heard about from local residents. In a clearing in the forest, about a quarter of a mile from the beach, they found it - an outcrop of sandstone rock bearing a fairly weathered carving of indeterminate form. To Mary, it seemed that the clearing was a special kind of place. She felt there must be more of the carvings in the sandstone bedrock, and together she and her husband peeled back the thin layer of moss near the indistinct petroglyph. To their delight, they uncovered a large, simplified fish shape, about three feet long.

The rock continued under the moss, which became much thicker, growing on compacted dirt to a depth of about eight inches. Further clearing revealed first the head, and then the body, of a six foot long sea monster type of creature. Its long snouted head with open mouth, tongue and teeth was continuous with the flowing lines of the body, terminating in a fish-like tail. A large dorsal fin rode high on the back.



PEELING BACK MOSS TO REVEAL BIRD-LIKE FIGURE

Continued peeling back of the moss brought to light a bird-like creature that Mary named "the Kingfisher". Near its tail was a small creature she called "the Crab". The grooves of the carvings, protected for so long by their blanket of moss and soil, were sharply cut and deeply indented.

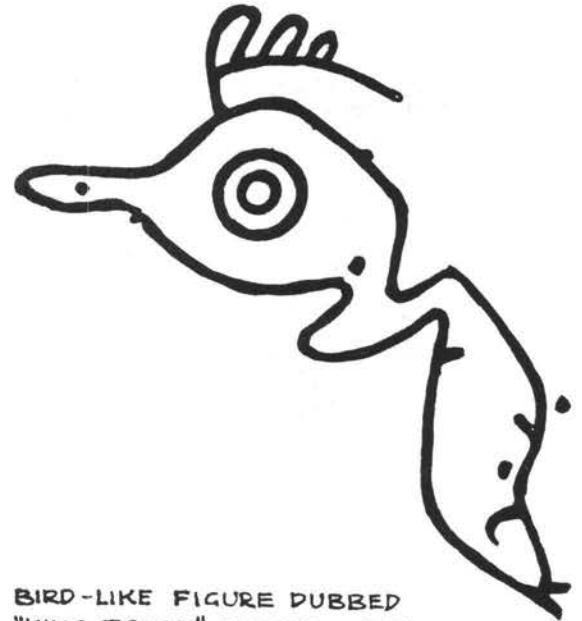
The Bentleys moved to the other side of the clearing and found a partly exposed carving. Further work there revealed a complex little figure in the attitude termed a "dancer" by Beth Hill, author of "Indian Petroglyphs of the Pacific Northwest".

In close association with the petroglyphs there was a 14-foot long mound, over three feet high, which appeared to be composed of slabs of sandstone and which may, or may not, be of cultural significance. This was not touched.

The Provincial Archaeologist, Bjorn Simonsen was notified of the find and subsequently a visit to the site was made for survey and recording. Fortunately the petroglyphs are in no apparent danger of destruction, and it is quite likely there are more of these symbolic figures waiting to face the light of day once again.

The A.S.B.C. wishes to thank Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cliffe and Mr. and Mrs. Ted Bentley for their cooperation in making this article possible. Illustrations by the author are from photographs and rubbings by the Bentleys.

"CRAB"



BIRD-LIKE FIGURE DUBBED "KING-FISHER." LENGTH. 42"

It is hoped that this article will be the first of a continuing series in *The Midden on west coast rock art*. Beth Hill, author of *Indian Petroglyphs of the Pacific Northwest* has kindly agreed to contribute several items for forthcoming issues, so the series can be removed and filed as a continuing update of her book. Ed.

SURVEY AND EXCAVATION AT AISHIHIK LAKE, YUKON TERRITORY, 1976

By Roscoe Wilmeth, National Museum of Man

Since the completion of the Aishihik Power Project, the rising waters of Aishihik Lake (pronounced "Ay-shak") have caused considerable damage to archaeological sites along the lake shore, especially at the north end where steep banks composed of loess are rapidly eroding. The area was partially surveyed in 1972, but this did not cover the west shore of the lake, nor was there any salvage excavation.

The main concern was the large historic village of Old Aishihik (JjVi-1), located across a narrow bay from the present seasonally-occupied settlement. The site had been visited in 1945 by Leechman, and later collections were made by R. S. MacNeish, W. B. Workman, W. N. Irving, and M. Gates. Gates and Workman had carried out test excavations, as well. Workman's tests produced little native-made material, and he concluded that the site dated from the late 19th Century. Gates suggested an initial occupation about 1850, while MacNeish assigned it to the late prehistoric-early historic Bennett Lake phase. It was the possibility of finding such an occupation, which could be compared with early historic Athabaskan occupations elsewhere, that convinced me to undertake the project.

The site is located on the west end slopes of a ridge surrounded on three sides by water. The surface is pitted with innumerable sand blowouts, at least some of which represent former cabin locations. These contained varying amounts of late 19th Century European material mixed with animal bone. The actual occupation level had disappeared from the blowouts, but could be recognized elsewhere. Unfortunately, little material was present in this zone in test pits away from the house locations.

We were fortunate in finding one location where a cabin had apparently burned, and the floor area could be at least roughly determined. Material recovered was all late 19th Century, including tin cans, cartridges, a pair of scissors, trap parts, nails, and other metal tools and fragments. There was an abundance of glass and some crockery, as well as large numbers of trade beads in a variety of sizes and colours. Perishable items included shoe fragments and pieces of fabric. One coin was found, a Canadian 25¢ piece dated 1880. Native material included two tcitho-type bifaces and a few bone implements, including a spatulate skinning tool, and a carved and polished zoomorphic object drilled for suspension. A local resident suggested this came from a shaman's kit.

We were forced to agree with Workman's conclusions on the date of occupation, since nowhere was any indication found of early or even mid-19th Century occupation. It is unfortunate that part of the site, of undetermined extent, has already collapsed into

the lake. Quite possibly it was material from this area closest to the bank that led MacNeish to suggest an earlier occupation than the one revealed by excavation.

We next turned our attention to a number of prehistoric sites, previously recorded and in some cases previously tested or excavated. These are all much smaller than Old Aishihik, although one of them, Chimi (JjVi-7), is regarded by Workman as the most significant site in the area. The sites are stratified, with "early" and "late" occupations generally clearly separated by the presence of a layer of volcanic ash dated at about 1,250 years ago. As at Old Aishihik, it was our hope to recover at least some early trade material in association with aboriginal artifacts.

None of these sites was especially productive, the largest collection per excavation unit coming from Chimi. Most of the material from all sites consisted of chert flakes and scraps of bone, found both above and below the ash fall. European material was found only at JjVj-1, situated on the bluff above the present village, and this was clearly contemporaneous with the late 19th Century occupation at Old Aishihik.

The time that remained to us after all test excavations were completed was spent in survey. Part of this work was concerned with locating previously located sites for further surface collecting and test pitting. Many of these had been originally registered on the basis of surface collections of only a few flakes each. In the absence of precise geographic pin-pointing of the locality, it was frequently difficult to determine if additional finds of scattered flakes represented old sites or new ones. None of those revisited appeared to be of great significance.

On the basis of statements of local residents that aboriginal travel in the area was largely by foot, we spent some time following the network of trails fanning out from the present village. Random finds of flakes or artifacts were frequently made, but only a few spots could be considered actual campsites. Several of these were recognized in road cuts and unfortunately have been largely destroyed. None of them can be described as rich archaeologically, confirming Workman's conclusion that Chimi is the most significant site in the vicinity.

The results of the season's work were singularly disappointing. Although prehistoric sites were plentiful, all were extremely small and unproductive. The cause may lie partly in the fact that there appear to be no environmental factors tending to concentrate population in a limited area, as is the case, for example, with caribou crossings. There are very many lakes with an abundance of both fish and wild fowl, and with big game present in the vicinity. There seems to be no reason for selecting one rather than another as a temporary campsite. Since in addition, populations were small and scattered even in ethnographic times, it is not surprising that major archaeological sites are extremely rare.

There is a striking change from the late prehistoric in the area, represented by ephemeral campsites, to the late 19th Century village of Aishihik. At none of the sites visited was there a protohistoric, or early 19th Century, occupation. From documentary evidence, it is clear that rapid cultural changes took place not long before the Gold Rush, and that the transition period from late prehistoric to historic was brief. Hopefully, further survey and testing will locate sites falling within that narrow gap in the sequence at the north end of Aishihik Lake.

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RECENT ADDITIONS TO OUR LIBRARY

In the Mercury Series from the National Museum:

A Paleoecological Model for Northwest Coast
Prehistory by Knut Fladmark

Contributions to Anthropology: The Interior
Peoples of Northern Alaska, edited by Edwin S. Hall, Jr.

The Excavation of Water-Saturated Archaeological
Sites (Wet Sites) on the Northwest Coast of
North America, edited by Dale R. Croes

From Alberta:

Occasional Paper of the Archaeological Survey of
Alberta entitled Archaeology in Alberta 1975.

Further Occasional Papers including "Archaeological Research
in Northern Alberta: 1975" by Paul F. Donahue, and
"Prehistoric Survey and Interpretations of the Lower Red
Deer River, Alberta" by Gary Adams are currently in press
and will shortly be available by writing:

The Bookstore
Provincial Museum of Alberta
12845 - 102nd Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5M 0M6

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