


11  
AAR



Vol. VII, No. 2  
April 1975

Editor  
N. Russell

# THE MIDDEN

BACKFILES  
NON CIRCULATING

PUBLICATION OF THE  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Produced by the Publications Committee  
five times a year. Gladys Groves,  
Chairman, 504 - 2005 Pendrell Street,  
Vancouver, B. C., V6G 1T8

Next issue: June 1975



## C O N T E N T S

* Editorial	1.
* Punchaw Lake Project: Progress Report	2.
* Publications Library	8.
* Artifact of the Month	9.
* Excavations at Anemurium, Southern Turkey (1973)	10.
* Recent Research into the Prehistory of the Queen Charlotte Islands	15.
* A.S.B.C. Diary	17.
* Dust Still Flies over Vindolanda Dig	18.

E D I T O R I A L

News Item: "Antique dealer offers  
Indian labret for \$250."

The decision not to buy artifacts is perhaps the turning point for many collectors. This is the moment of conversion, when the avarice of owning artifacts is rejected in favour of a more benevolent concern for the public good.

Wanting to own artifacts is, after all, the lynchpin in the cycle of supply and demand which leads to wholesale destruction of archaeological sites. If there were no buyers, artifacts would make that subtle transition from being "valuable" to being invaluable. There is no question much of the serious site demolition is inspired by this profit motive, so if there was no price on an arrowhead, then there might well be considerably less urge to dig.

Hence to reduce wholesale pillaging, the demand for "over the counter" artifacts must be reduced. This requires a major attitudinal change.

It needs the gradual conversion of thousands of people who have spent a lifetime collecting almost anything that is not actually screwed down. It needs conversion of the serious, specialist collector who is building a balanced archaeological collection, but does not, himself, want to dig. It needs--we must admit--conversion on the open market. It needs conversion of the middle-men, the antique and antiquity dealers who have less interest in the moral or scientific problems caused by dealing than in the profit to be made from selling archaeological remains.

This then is the measure of our maturity: when nobody in B. C. wants to buy or sell artifacts anymore, then archaeology will indeed be strong and healthy, and the Archaeological Society will have won its toughest fight.

W E L C O M E      V I C T O R I A

C H A P T E R

THE PUNCHAW LAKE ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT:  
A PROGRESS REPORT

---

by James Helmer, University of Calgary  
Pamela Wilson, Simon Fraser University

During the summer of 1974 the Opportunities for Youth program supported a 12-week project at the Punchaw Lake Site (FiRs 1), approximately 35 miles south of Prince George, B.C. The site is near the shore of Punchaw Lake on the northwest bank of Tako Creek, which drains the lake via the Blackwater (or West Road) River into the Fraser River about 30 miles away. This area is within the traditional territory of the Southern Carrier Indians. Surrounded by dense spruce forest which represents the climax vegetation of this biotic zone, the site covers about 54,000 square meters in an aspen and cottonwood clearing. Cultural features include an estimated 43 house platforms and 57 storage pits, plus a 100-meter section of an aboriginal trail. (See maps which follow.)

Archaeological investigation of the Punchaw Lake Site was initiated in 1973 by the Simon Fraser University Archaeology Field School directed by K. R. Fladmark. Research objectives that year centered on the analysis of late pre-historic settlement patterns as expressed by the spatial interrelationships of all culturally significant materials. This approach was implemented by the following procedures:

- 1) the precise mapping of the area encompassed by FiRs 1 in an attempt to document spatial relations between cultural and natural features,
- 2) the ancillary analysis of tree counts, floral populations, and soil horizons over the whole site,
- 3) the complete excavation of several house platforms and the three-dimensional recording of all cultural material in them,
- 4) an intensive site survey of the area within a 20-mile radius of Punchaw Lake (Fladmark 1974).

Fladmark made several preliminary observations on the basis of this work: the site is multi-component, and successive occupations can be distinguished both vertically by variation in artifact type, raw material preference, burial pattern, and post-hole alignment, and horizontally by displacement of successive house platforms and intensity of forest clearing. The site map indicates that there are two clusters of house platforms, and the 1973 work focused on areas within the first cluster. Our goal in 1974 was to



● - Punchaw Lake Site (FIRs-1)

----- - Ethnographic Territory of the Carrier Indians

investigate the second cluster of house features in order to determine whether they represented a distinct occupational unit and, if so, whether this unit represented a variation in site utilization and/or a different time period.

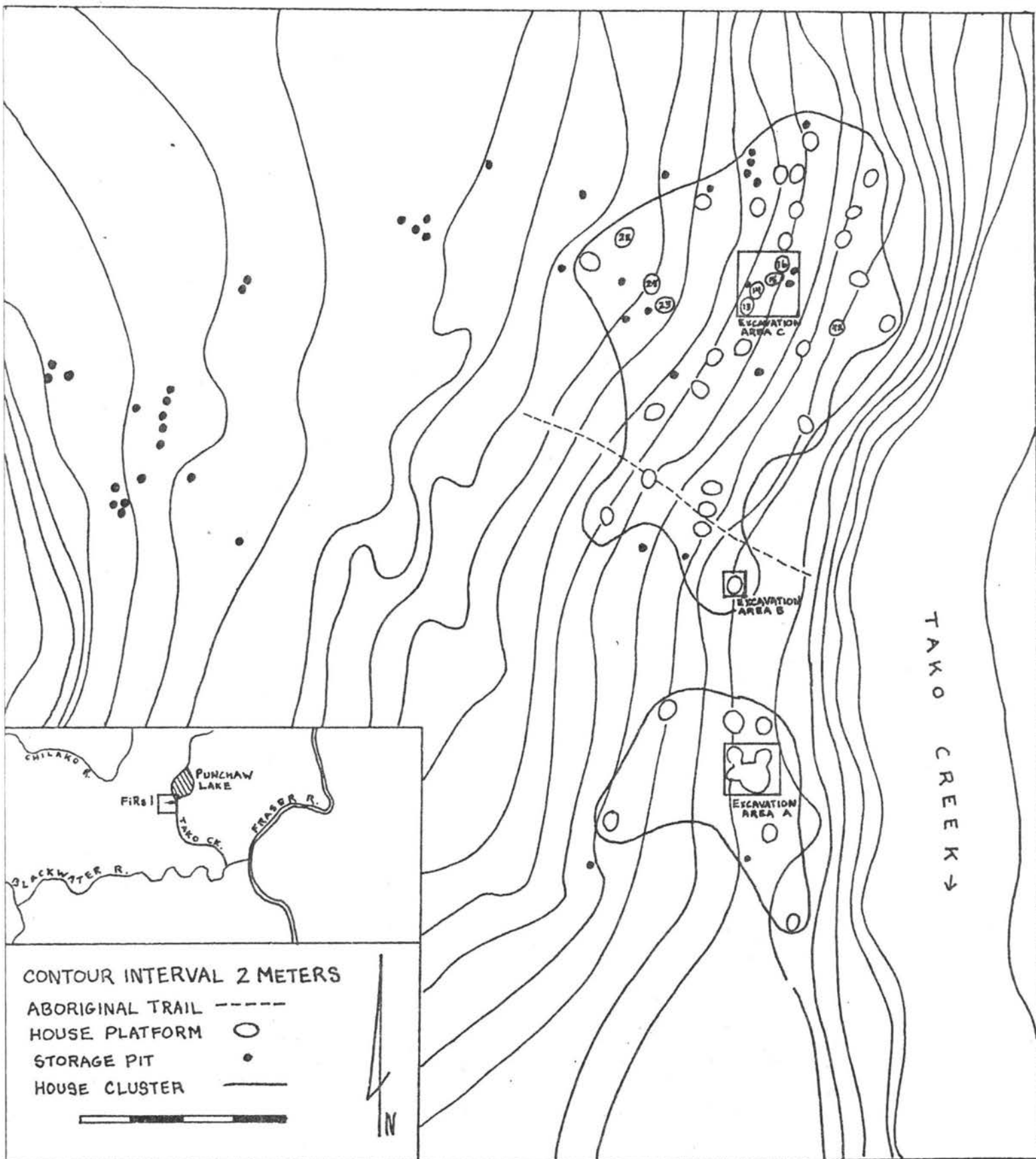
We believed that only total excavation of several house platforms within the second cluster would provide adequate comparative data. Since associated platforms would be more likely to produce stratigraphic evidence of sequential occupations, we chose to work on a group of four closely associated platforms. These we excavated in 2 x 2 meter units. While we concentrated on this area, we also put 1 x 1 meter test pits in several nearby platforms and one of the larger storage pits, and took core soil samples from the stream bank, spruce forest, and other non-cultural deposits for comparative information.

Cultural materials recovered in our excavations ranged from dense concentrations of cracked rock, burned and smashed bone fragments, and tools and debitage of stone and bone, to features such as hearths, artifact clusters, and storage pits. Preservation of bone was good, and we were able to recover several fragments of shell, although these were in poor condition. Unfortunately, we were not able to find evidence of structural features such as post-holes, house floors, or house construction materials.

All artifacts were recorded individually on coded forms similar to those used in 1973, which will facilitate computer data sorting. Exceptions to this process were unmodified flakes smaller than about 1 cm., unidentifiable faunal remains, and cracked rock fragments, for which we recorded the approximate number of pieces and their location by pit quadrant in each 10 cm. excavation level.

We recorded, in total, 3300 artifacts. A preliminary breakdown of this total, based on our working of "field" typology, may be described as follows:

<u>ARTIFACT</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
Faunal material and artifacts thereof (each recorded artifact may represent a single fragment or a concentration of fragments -----)	568	17.2%
Lithic material (each recorded artifact represents a single fragment or a single complete tool)		
Flakes		
unmodified-----	1506	45.6
utilized or unifacially retouched-	742	22.5
bifacially retouched-----	85	2.5



PUNCHAW LAKE SITE (FiRs-1) - SURFACE FEATURES

(after Fladmark 1974)



Flake cores-----	93	2.8%
Bifaces ("knives")-----	92	2.8
Points (side-notched, corner-notched, lanceolate, stemmed, triangular)--	78	2.4
Scrapers-----	75	2.3
Ground stone-----	28	0.8
Preforms-----	15	0.5
Blades-----	10	0.3
Cortical spalls ("spall tools")-----	7	0.2
Hammerstone-----	1	0.0

---

3300

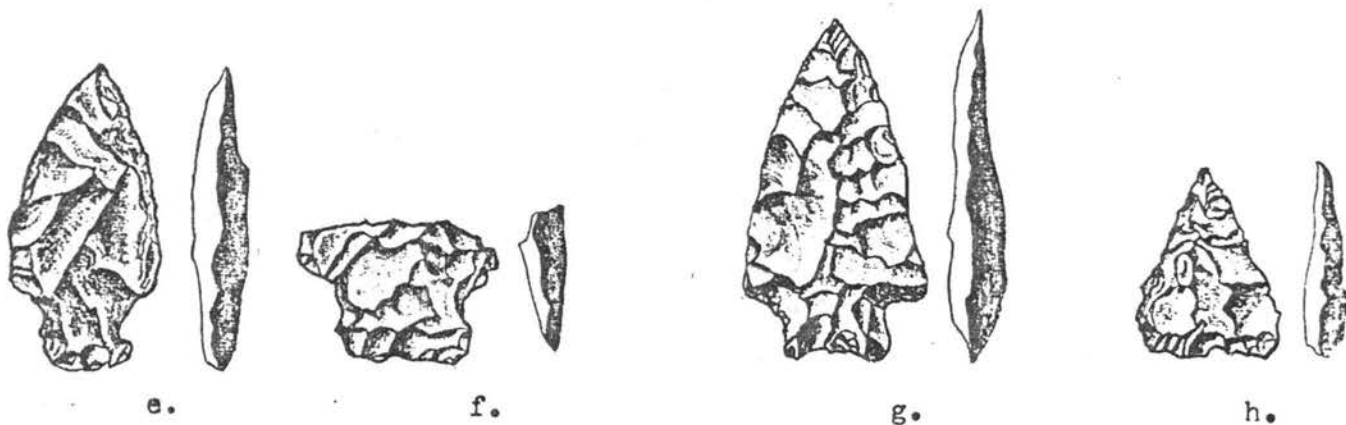
Basalt was the primary lithic raw material, although obsidian, ignimbrite, chert, chalcedony and quartzite were also utilized. A detailed faunal analysis has not yet been done, but large and small mammals, fish and shellfish are represented. The cultural deposit at the site consisted of a dark, greasy soil extending from immediately beneath the humus at the ground surface to a depth of about 30-40 cm., where it rested on a light coloured gravelly soil. All artifacts were found within this dark matrix.

Although we found no direct evidence of the structural features of the houses, we can conclude that the platforms are similar to those excavated in 1973, consisting of a level or slightly dished area cut into the slope of the hill. Our excavations revealed that the cultural deposit did not always correspond to the contour of the ground surface. This is probably a result of the multiple occupation and seasonal reconstruction of the houses. In the field, this problem prompted us to collect soil samples at 2-meter intervals over the entire excavation area in an attempt to define "occupation areas" on the basis of variation in the chemical content of the soil. The chemical tests have not yet been performed. Future work on this problem will focus on identifying specific "activity areas" on the basis of associations of different tool types and features.

In terms of the purpose of our excavations, we can observe that there was no vertical separation of components such as appeared in the 1973 excavations. Our artifact inventory seems to represent a more limited range of forms (a superficial comparison indicates that we lack certain point, scraper and drill forms, as well as historic trade items), although artifact density per pit was at least as high. This evidence suggests that the occupation of the second cluster of house platforms took place over a shorter time span. The prevalence of small side-notched points and the lack of trade goods suggests that the occupation was late prehistoric, and may correspond to the occupation of two of the houses excavated in 1973 which have C-14 dates of 250 B.P. (1700 A.D.) and 240 B.P. (1710 A.D.) respectively. Continuing work on this problem will



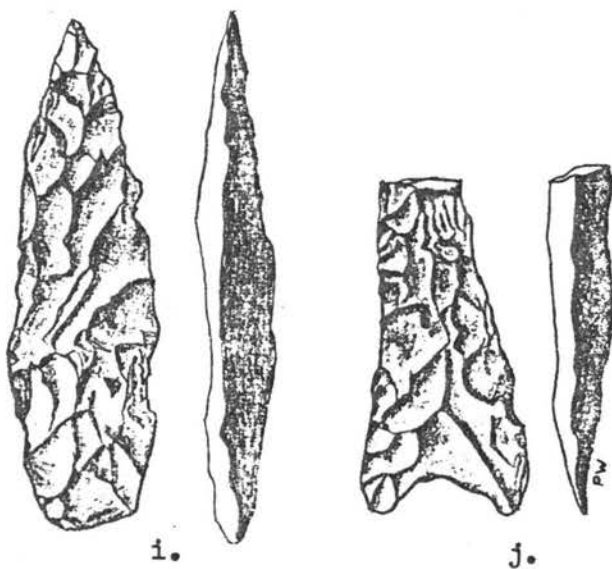
SIDE NOTCHED



STEMMED

CORNER NOTCHED

TRIANGULAR



LANCEOLATE



concentrate on the formulation of a revised typology, and the comparison of the range of variation of artifact types appearing in different house platforms. This information combined with the results of faunal analysis should give us a clear picture of the kinds of activities that were carried out at the site, and the sequence of occupations.

REFERENCE: Fladmark, K. R.  
1974 "Punchaw Village: A Preliminary Report on the Archeology of a Prehistoric Settlement"; Report Submitted to the Archeological Sites Advisory Board of British Columbia, Victoria.

(See also The Midden Vol. V, No. 4, October 1973, "Archaeological Investigations at Punchaw Lake, North-Central British Columbia", K. R. Fladmark, Department of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University, September 1973.)

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Publications Library

The following publications may be borrowed from the Society by contacting Gladys Groves at 681-1456:

Saskatchewan Archaeological Newsletter - Sept. 1972 to Dec. 1974

Washington Archaeologist - Oct. 1971 to Dec. 1973

Archaeological Society of Alberta Newsletter - Nos. 29 and 30, 1973

Manitoba Archaeological Newsletter - 1971 to 1974

Ontario Archaeology - Nos. 20, 21, 22 and 23, 1973/74

Arch Notes, newsletter of Ontario Archaeological Society - Jan. 1972 - Jan. 1975

Canada Before Cartier, prepared by Archaeological Survey of Canada, National Museum of Man

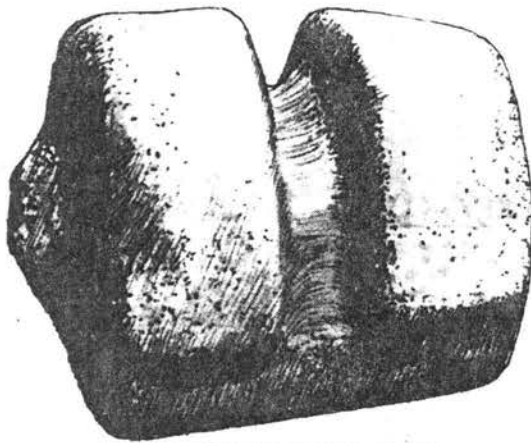
Archaeology of the Cormie Ranch Site, Interim Report by Timothy C. Losey, Archaeological Society of Alberta Newsletter No. 28

Effect of White Contact on the Lower Skagit Indians, Lee Ann Bennett, Washington Archaeological Society occasional paper No. 3/72

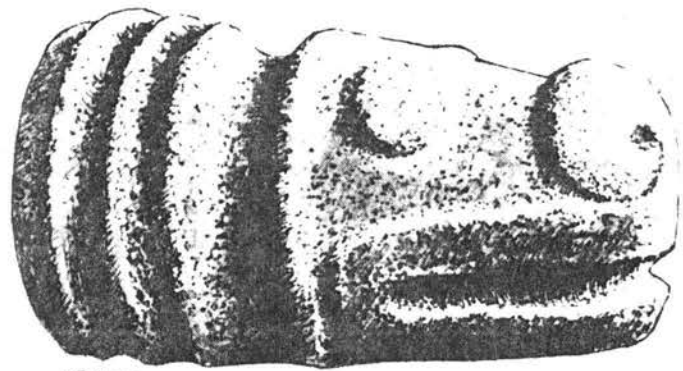
Salvage 1971, Reports on Salvage Archaeology undertaken in B. C. in 1971, Dept. of Archaeology, Simon Fraser U., edited by Roy L. Carlson

Salvage Archaeology at Crescent Beach, B. C. by Richard C. W. Percy, Simon Fraser University

\* \* \* \* \*



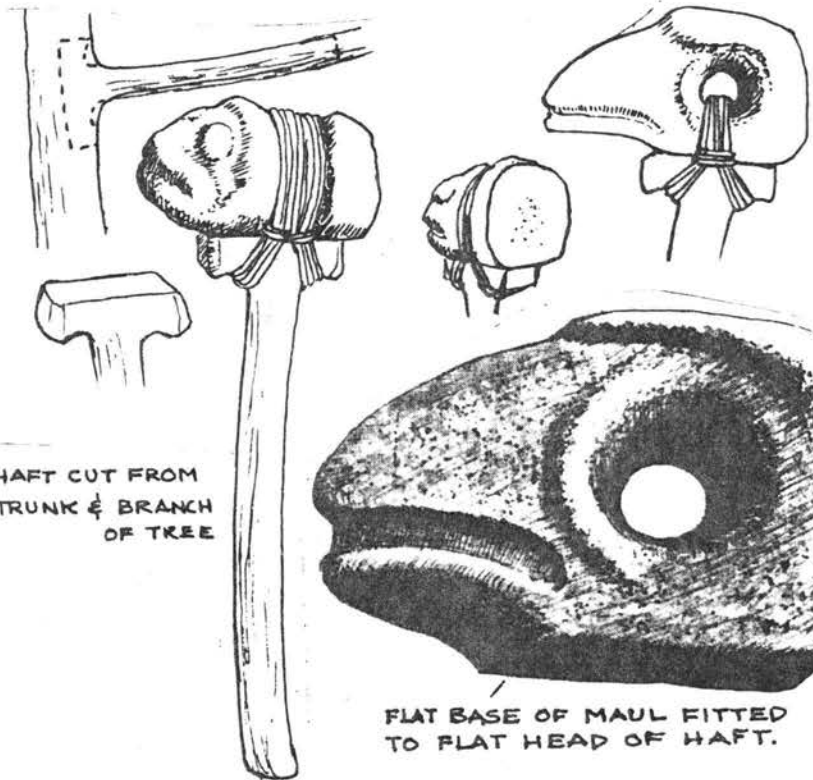
DEEP GROOVE FOR  
HEAVY DUTY LASHING



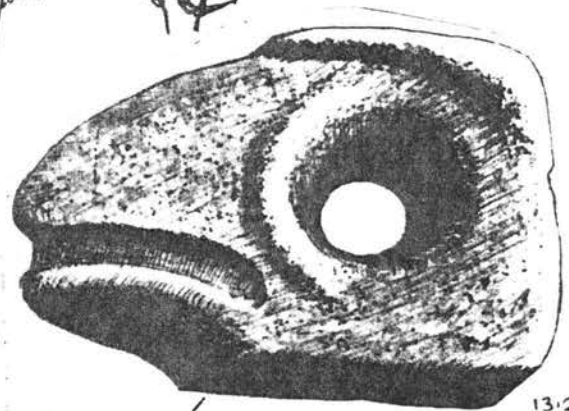
15.2 cm



14.0 cm

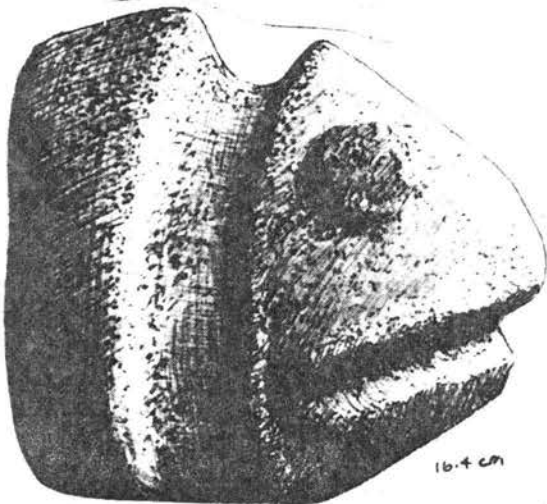


HAFT CUT FROM  
TRUNK & BRANCH  
OF TREE



13.2 cm

FLAT BASE OF MAUL FITTED  
TO FLAT HEAD OF HAFT.



16.4 cm

EXCERPT FROM  
"ARTIFACTS OF THE NORTH-  
WEST COAST INDIANS" by  
HILARY STEWART  
COPYRIGHT © 1973

The grooved and perforated mauls found only to the north, among the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian Indians, are in strong contrast, both in design and method of use, to the hand maul so familiar to the south.

These were hammer heads, rather than the complete hammer, and were attached to a wooden handle cut from a tree branch. Both the groove and the perforation were a means of securing the lashing that bound the stone hammer head to the handle. Both styles were often carved with zoomorphic designs, and in some the perforation was beautifully integrated to form the eye of the creature.

The pecking and grinding technique was used in their manufacture. First a stone of the approximate size of the finished maul would be chosen, with special attention given to the quality of the stone, since it must stand up to hard use without cracking or fracturing. The shape was then pecked out with a hammerstone, and in many cases smoothed off with an abradant.

In use, these heavy mauls were swung in the hands, much like a sledge hammer, with the flat end doing the pounding.

Reprinted by special permission of the author, from Classical News and Views Jan. 1974.

EXCAVATIONS AT ANEMURIUM, SOUTHERN TURKEY (1973)

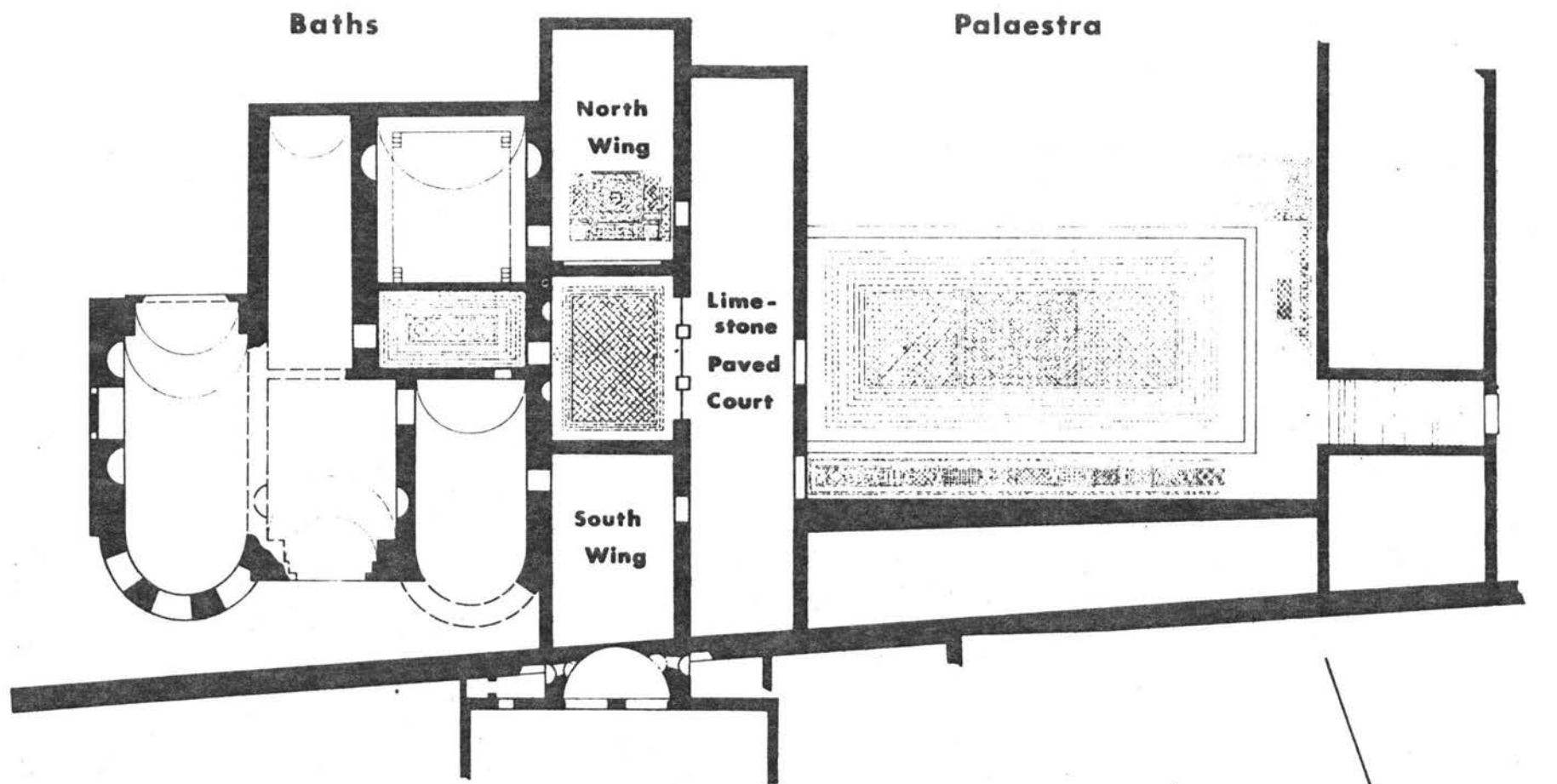
by: James Russell,  
University of British Columbia

A seven-week season sponsored jointly by the Universities of British Columbia and Toronto was conducted during June and July 1973 under the direction of Professor James Russell of U.B.C. with Professor E. Hector Williams of U.B.C. as assistant director. The work was financed by a generous grant from the Canada Council.

Several projects commenced in previous years were continued and two new areas were opened for the first time.

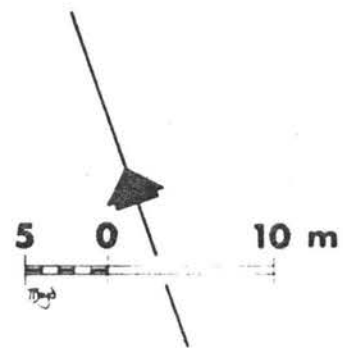
A. The Large Baths. This building dominates the western end of a larger complex that includes a spacious palaestra paved in mosaic and associated halls (excavated 1970-72). Though not fully cleared, the plan of the baths has been established as consisting of a northern range of at least two unheated chambers and a southern range of three rooms, each heated by its own hypocaust system. The first (eastern) room of the northern range, entered from the palaestra through the central door of the facade wall, was clearly a frigidarium or cold-room, composed of two halves. At the north end was a rectangular bathing-pool (approx. 32' x 25') with a depth of 4½'. It is entered at each corner by narrow steps from a passage that surrounds it on three sides. South of this and separated from the pool by a slightly

raised wall extends an area paved in mosaic of polychrome geometric design. The adjacent room to the west, though less spacious, duplicates in many respects the function of its neighbour. The pool, also situated at the north end, is clearly a later addition and is much smaller than that of the first room. The rest of the chamber was paved in mosaic but, as is so often the case of Anemurium, only the border survives—panels of lozenges, enclosing circles set within guilloches and stepped pyramids. An interesting feature was a sunken basin set within a niche in the east wall. The walls of both rooms were originally faced with marble revetment, but only traces of this now survive *in situ*. The excavation of the south range, still far from completed, proved less rewarding, for the original floor had collapsed beneath the enormous mass of masonry fallen from the vaulted roofs. All that was found standing amidst the debris were regular rows of piers of rectangular or circular tiles that formed the hypocaust system through which the hot air circulated for heating the rooms above. Soundings beneath the mosaic floor of the first frigidarium yielded pottery comparable to that found in similar contexts in the palaestra. This provides a *terminus post quem* of the mid-third century after Christ for the laying of the mosaic. Much still remains



**ANEMURIUM**

Anemurium: The area EIII2B, restored plan of original -palaestra.





to be clarified in both baths and palaestra, but without doubt the entire complex must eventually contribute an interesting and perhaps novel scheme to the corpus of Roman imperial baths.

B. The Exedra\* Area. In the enigmatic exedra area, located immediately to the south of the large terrace wall that separates it from the palaestra, we concentrated on the facade of the building and the enclosed area preceding it. Here two stylobates,\*\* each 3' in width were discovered, running up the entire length of the area (150'). On the eastern stylobate a regular series of piers, presumably for columns appeared, but they were missing at the northern end and omitted entirely on the western stylobate. This defect, together with the absence of any sign of a paved floor throughout the entire area, prompts the thought that this part of the complex may never have been completed. This would be easier to accept, however, if there were not such ample evidence of careful finishing elsewhere in the building. For example, some fine slabs of the original revetment were found this year *in situ* in the NW and NE corners of the peribolus\*\*\* area. No new evidence was forthcoming on the puzzling question of what function the building may have served, though, on balance, a sanctuary would perhaps be the likeliest possibility.

In association with work on the exedra complex exploratory trenches were dug to the west of the Odeon. These resulted in the unexpected discovery of two semicircular staircases of unusual design leading up to the doorways on the facade. The north stairway, the better preserved, originally had seven steps rising for a height of 4'. Also in close proximity to the Odeon a further

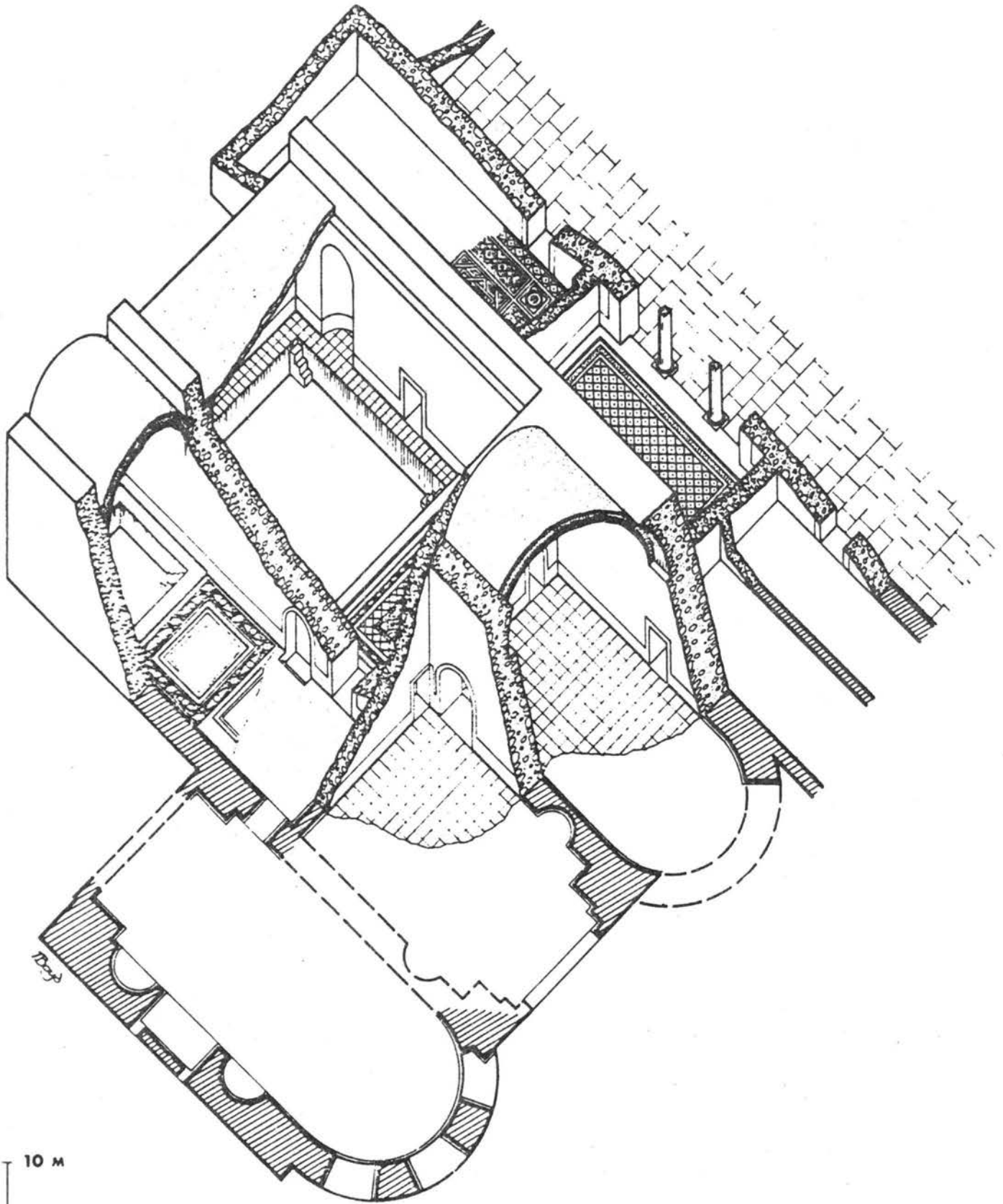
panel in the series of figured mosaics, first discovered in 1968, was uncovered. This depicts a Sea-Goddess (perhaps Thetis) surrounded by fish and dolphins. Within the diaper border pattern that encloses this centre-piece appear two attractive birds, probably partridges.

C. The Small Baths. Our latest season has provided striking testimony to the quality of early Byzantine building at Anemurium in the excavation of small baths located about 200 yards north of the palaestra. This establishment consists of a simple range of three vaulted chambers, the walls standing full height with iron pegs still visible, employed for fastening the marble facing (now lost). The two northern rooms were heated: hypocaust piers still stand, in some cases fully 3' in height; enough traces of the collapsed floor remain to warrant a confident restoration. These may clearly be regarded as the caldarium or hot room, with its projecting apse serving to accommodate the caldron, and the tepidarium respectively, while the southern room would have been the frigidarium. To the south of this lay a fourth chamber, much larger, apparently unroofed and having its walls lined with cuttings for benches, a feature that would suggest an apodyterium or dressing room. The most remarkable feature, however, is the floor, paved entirely in mosaic, an area roughly 36' x 20'. The quality of design is very high and includes motifs radically different in style from anything found elsewhere on the site. Especially complex is the central panel consisting of a network of octagonal frames, each containing an individual motif. At the

\* vestibule

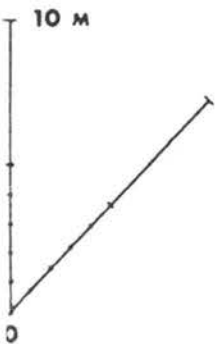
\*\* bases for rows of columns

\*\*\* temple courtyard



ANEMURIUM

AXONOMETRIC PROJECTION OF BATHS



centre lies an inscription enconced between two ducks and supported by a stylized column and bracket. Unfortunately the surface soil at this point was extremely shallow and roots had caused extensive damage. Nevertheless enough of the inscription is legible to restore completely four lines in iambic verse honouring Mouseos, probably "strategos", presumably the donor of the mosaic, for his admirable qualities. Letter styles and designs all point to a 5th century date for this work. Like other buildings at Anemurium the baths had been converted to other purposes, probably commercial, in the final phase.

D. The Necropolis Church. This is another new project. Preliminary work involved a careful survey of the ruins visible before excavation. Excavation itself was limited to three trenches from which the lines of the stylobates of the north and south colonnades of the nave were established. The church was originally paved in mosaic, but this had been badly mutilated throughout the area excavated--in two places specifically to make way for later graves. Constructed roughly of stone slabs on end and cover slabs, each grave contained one skeleton in extended position. No objects or pottery were found in either case. It is premature to propose conclusions from the few details yielded to date, but our preliminary survey has produced a plan containing many fascinating anomalies and peculiarities that merit full investigation.

E. Small Finds. In all, 368 objects were recorded as small finds during the season. Of this total, 265 were bronze coins, the majority belonging either to the

late 4th century (reigns of Theodosius I, Arcadius and Honorius) or to the first half of the 7th century (Heraclius, Constans II). The remaining finds form a heterogeneous collection of small bone, bronze, lead and iron objects (pins, bodkins, nails, seals, fish-hooks, buckles, rings, terracotta lamps, etc.). Of special note are two small crosses, one of bronze and the other of gold *en cloisonnee*, and a decorated stylus with finial in the shape of a miniature shrine.

None of the finds or the pottery found in 1973 requires any radical change in the chronology of the city as established from previous seasons. The most important phases identified so far are 1) a major building programme in the first half of the 3rd century, 2) a crisis involving the abandonment of the palaestra for its original function and the rebuilding of the sea-wall at the end of the 4th century, and 3) a long period of tranquillity that came to a close some time in the third quarter of the 7th century. It is tempting to attribute this to harassment of the Cilician coast in the aftermath of the Ummayyid invasion of Cyprus at the middle of the century. After several centuries of abandonment the site was occupied on a limited scale by the Kingdom of Little Armenia during the 12th and 13 centuries but no trace of this was found in any of the areas investigated in 1973.

\* \* \* \* \*



RECENT RESEARCH INTO THE PREHISTORY  
OF THE QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS

---

by Pat Severs, Dept. of Anthropology,  
University of Alberta

In 1974, archaeological excavations were undertaken at Tow Hill (GaTw5) in Northeastern Graham Island as the continuation of a doctoral research project to investigate the nature of cultural continuity and change on the Islands in the middle to late prehistoric periods (for definition of these periods see Fladmark, 1974).

Field research was made possible by funding from the University of Alberta, the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board of British Columbia and Canada Council. Five crew members, high school students from Old Masset and university students from elsewhere were employed on the project. The work at Tow Hill was carried out in association with that of researchers interested in problems related to historic resource utilization and the paleoecology of the area.

Three localities defined by Fladmark in 1969 (1971:16) were investigated in 1974. The aim of this research was to expand the data base for testing hypotheses about processes of cultural and environmental stability and change operative during the prehistoric period. Tow Hill was considered to be particularly suitable because of its lengthy occupational history and because the cultural sample recovered from test excavations at one locality showed similarity with materials found at Skoglund's Landing (Fladmark, 1971:16) and Blue Jackets Creek (Severs, 1974a, 1974b).

Efforts were concentrated on one locality (B) situated on a terrace approximately six to nine metres above sea level along the northeastern flank of the hill. The cultural deposits examined were found to be of late prehistoric age covering a time span of  $2050 \pm 115$  radio-carbon years: 100 B.C. (GaK 5440) to  $3280 \pm 210$  radio-carbon years: 1330 B.C. (GaK 5439) and appear to represent the remains of activity specific areas where locally available marine resources were exploited.

As the analysis and interpretation of site data is currently in process, only a few preliminary statements on the results of the excavations can be made at this time (see Severs, 1974c for further comment).

A sample of over six hundred artifacts and diagnostic flakes was recovered from Tow Hill (most from Locality B). Cortical spalls, flakes including primary, secondary, tertiary flakes and scaling pieces, cobble tools, cores, split and edge-battered pebbles, and worked bone were found in that approximate

order of frequency. In lithic tool production, materials most often used were local siltstone, sandstone and agate. Presence of debitage at Locality B would suggest that stone tools were produced at the site and the high proportion of cortical spalls may reflect an economically specialized assemblage. Bone artifacts were rare, perhaps because of poor preservation owing to soil acidity.

Generally, stratigraphy in both midden and non-midden areas was poorly defined, but a few features representing probable hearths and post holes were noted.

A study of the faunal remains has indicated the presence of sea mammal, bird and fish with Enhydra lutris (Sea otter) as the predominant species represented. Shellfish identified from the midden deposits at Tow Hill include Saxidomus giganteus (Butter clam), Brotathaca staminea (Little-necked clam), Clinocardium nuttalli (Basket cockle), Thais lamellosa (Wrinkled purple), Siliqua patula (Razor clam), Mytella edulis (Blue mussel), and Balanus (Barnacle). The presence of Siliqua patula which is a species restricted to surf-swept sand beaches would suggest some degree of continuity up to the present time in the coastal morphology of the Tow Hill area.

A strong maritime orientation observed elsewhere on the Islands for this time period is suggested by the cultural remains excavated at Tow Hill. Here a somewhat specialized tool assemblage appears to have been associated with the exploitation of intertidal and pelagic resources. Further investigations should be carried out in order to better define the nature of subsistence-settlement systems at Tow Hill over time. It is a site that was utilized throughout a great portion of the occupational history of the Islands, as evidenced by the results of excavation and by the remains of Chief Edenshaw's village on the east bank of the Hiellen.

Post script: During the 1974 field season, the Museum and Cultural Committee of the Masset Band Council was formed and a contract for research was adopted by the committee. Because the contract stood in conflict with the prior commitments of some researchers already engaged in work for the summer, they were not able to endorse the agreement. Further archaeological study on the Islands is conditional to the signing of a contract with the local band, but it is hoped that in forthcoming negotiations no conflict of interest will arise.

#### REFERENCES CITED:

Fladmark, K.

1971 Archaeological Sites on the Queen Charlotte Islands. Unpub. man. on file with ASAB, February 1971.

1974 A Paleoecological Model for North West Coast Prehistory. Unpub. PhD dissertation, University of Calgary, Calgary.

Severs, P.

- 1974a Report on Continued Archaeological Investigations at Blue Jackets Creek, FlUa4, Queen Charlotte Islands. Unpub. man. on file with ASAB, February 1974.
- 1974b A View of Island Prehistory: Archaeological Investigations at Blue Jackets Creek, 1972-3. The Charlottes, A Journal of the Queen Charlotte Islands, vol. 3, pp.2-12. Queen Charlotte Island Museum Society, Masset.
- 1974c Preliminary Report on Archaeological Investigations at Tow Hill, GaTw5, in Naikoon Park, Queen Charlotte Islands. Unpub. man. on file with ASAB, December 1974.

\* \* \* \* \*

A. S. B. C. DIARY

- Apr. 9 - Monthly meeting, 8 p.m. Centennial Museum Auditorium - Wilson Duff on "Images: Stone: B.C."
- May 9 - Tour of the Images: Stone: B.C. show at the Art Gallery by Wilson Duff, 8 p.m. Members only.
- 14 - Monthly meeting, 8 p.m., Centennial Museum Auditorium - Dr. James Russell on "Rome's Northern Frontier". There will also be a short Annual Meeting.
- Late May - Underwater Archaeology Workshop near Wallace Island. Certification in diving required. For further details phone Centre for Continuing Education, UBC, 228-2181, local 237.
- May 20 - tentative plans are underway for the Society to co-sponsor a lecture by Dr. Shih, Curator of the Far Eastern Section of the Royal Ontario Museum, at the Instructional Resources Centre, UBC. Further details will be included in your May notice of meeting.

Northwest Coast Renaissance

- April 8 - 29 - Centennial Museum. The best of Northwest Coast Indian art today is featured in this exhibition. Selected pieces from the Centennial Museum and also from the Raven Gallery in Victoria.

\* \* \* \*

Reprinted from the Sunday Times (London), 24 November 1974.

### DUST STILL FLIES OVER VINDOLANDA DIG

By Patricia Connor

A CONTROVERSY in the world of archaeology over the methods used in the past four years at one of Britain's richest excavations does not appear to have been settled by the publication last week of a report by a team of experts from the Ancient Monuments Board. Instead, it seems, even more dust has been raised.

The excavation, about two miles south of Hadrian's Wall, is at Vindolanda, a Roman military supply fort with a 12-acre civilian settlement outside its walls. It is in the charge of Robin Birley, one member of The Vindolanda Trust, a charitable trust of which his father is chairman.

The four outside experts—including three archaeologists—spent one and a half days inspecting the site last August following criticisms of Mr. Birley's methods. Their report, published by the Department of the Environment, says they found "much to commend," but they had "a number of serious misgivings and reservations."

The report raises fundamental questions about the administration of British archaeology. Should excavations require official licences, as they do in parts of Europe and the Near East? With no archaeological professional institution, who is to set standards? And which experts have the qualifications to arbitrate on a colleague's skill, given that each site has its peculiar problems?

Among the things commended in the report are the enthusiasm of the director and his staff, the Vindolanda educational programme under which school children are trained in archaeological techniques, and the construction of replicas of sections of Hadrian's Wall for the study of weathering, construction methods, etc.

But the reservations are wide-ranging. The investigators found that in their opinion the site was badly supervised and the recording techniques were inadequate. These techniques are fundamental to the whole study of archaeology—for once the archaeological strata have been excavated they are destroyed forever. The organisation of the site, the committee felt, relied too much on the director's energies, and the records were too much concentrated in his memory. Accordingly, the investigators have stipulated that they can lend support to the project in the future only if their recommendations to remedy these shortcomings are implemented immediately.

And this is where the problems begin. For although The Vindolanda Trust has agreed to follow most of the experts' suggestions—some have already been introduced—it protests that a proposal by the Ancient Monuments Board that it should monitor the trust's future work is both impracticable and unfair. It would make Vindolanda into a special case, the trust argues. Many other sites, it says, need monitoring as badly or more urgently.

However, as Vindolanda was the subject of an investigation, it is already a special case to the department--and it has the whip hand. For the excavations lie within a scheduled monument, under Government protection, so if no agreement were reached, digging could be stopped. Meanwhile, the department is "considering the trust's views."

The bitter antagonism that has developed among groups of archaeologists over the future of Vindolanda reflects the site's significance. Until recently the north of Britain was believed to have been an exclusively military zone in Roman times. The dig at Vindolanda has disproved this, and has provided, furthermore, a great insight into the off-duty life of the Roman soldier and his family.

The site's greatest value, however, lies in the buried objects found on the southern slopes of the town. Here the Romans chucked their rubbish--and because of freak conditions, well-preserved leather goods, timber and writing tablets have been coming to light in abundance.

So far 130 tablets dating from about AD 100 have been found. "Until this find, we have known very little about Roman writing earlier than the 3rd or 4th centuries," says Dr. Alan Bowman of Manchester University, who has been deciphering them. "Nothing of this bulk has ever been found anywhere."

Dr. Charles Daniels, of Newcastle University, and one of the most ardent critics of the work at the site, feels that he and his colleagues who pressed for an investigation were fully justified. "The report doesn't mince its words," he says, "I don't see how some of the mistakes can be put right overnight."

\* \* \* \* \*

MIDDEN BACK COPIES NOW AVAILABLE

One issue	\$ 1.00
Complete set	\$ 25.00

Earlier copies are Xeroxed, later ones printed.

Phone G. Groves - 681-1456

\* \* \* \* \*