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Editor N. Russell

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HIGHLIGHTS

* Dig reports from

OF THIS

Prince Rupert

ISSUE

East Kootenays

* Government moves to save sites

EDITORIAL

Time magazine, writing colorfully about an archaeological excavation near St. Louis recently, gushed:

"The plot ... may well hold some of the most important archaeological remains ever discovered in North America."

The "Science" label heading the story (Oct. 29, p. 67) belied the naïvete of the writing:

'The oldest layer dates back some 8,000 years, proving that the site ... were (sic) inhabited long before the Egyptians built the Pyramids or the ancient Britons erected their monument at Stonehenge."

Very romantic. And possibly true.

But the "Science" writer in this publication (which boringly boasts it is "read by over 50,000 Canadians each week") is evidently unaware it was all happening in Western Canada long before.

Occupation dates of 12,000 Before Present in the Fraser Canyon, and as early as 27,000 B.P. at Old Crow, Yukon have already been established.

It would be childish to vie for the title of "most important archaeological remains in North America". But as long as the media are so ill-informed, it will be uphill work to educate the public as to the vital importance of B. C. archaeological remains.

HERITAGE SITE PROTECTION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

by Gordon Hanson Assistant Provincial Archaeologist

To develop an effective system of Heritage Site protection in British Columbia, the Provincial Archaeologist's office has been working to establish and maintain close working relationships with Government Departments and Agencies, Crown Corporations, and private industry.

Over the past few years a considerable amount of time and effort has been devoted to enlisting the co-operation of Government Agencies. such as the Department of Highways and B.C. Hydro, which involve themselves in large scale land altering activities. As a result of this effort, a procedure now exists whereby the Provincial Archaeologist's office is provided with all plans of proposed construction at an early design stage. In this way, inventories of the archaeological and historic resources in the area under consideration can be carried out and this information along with other environmental criteria can be used in determining the location and/or route of proposed construction. Conflicts which may arise between heritage resources and proposed development can be resolved by (1) complete avoidance of the site by altering the alignment or location of the construction. (2) designing and engineering in a manner which will leave the site intact, or (3) co-ordinated archaeological salvage if both (1) and (2) are not feasible. The funding for the necessary archaeological and historic site investigations is assumed by the Department or Agency involved. This procedure is now being extended to include a number of governmental agencies.

Recently it was brought to the attention of the Provincial Archaeologist's office that legislation introduced to preserve agricultural lands during the last Legislative Session is having a deleterious effect on archaeological resources in the South Thompson and Okanagan areas. Lands which formerly were used exclusively as grazing lands are rapidly being cultivated. As a result of this change in land use, pithouse village sites have suffered the effects of bulldozing to fill depressions, and the sites have been extensively plowed. To alleviate this serious problem a proposal has been submitted to the B.C. Land Commission to inventory all heritage resources on agricultural lands in the South Thompson and Okanagan regions and take immediate steps to ensure the protection of these areas.

Another Government Department which has responded most favourably to the effort of site protection in B.C. is the Department of Municipal Affairs. As it is virtually impossible to protect sites which are unrecorded, a high priority will be placed on systematic

inventories of areas where the pressure for development is greatest, namely in the heavily urbanized areas of B.C. We are hopeful that the Dept. of Municipal Affairs will be of assistance in this regard. Last fall, for example, the Provincial Archaeologist's office presented a brief to the Select Standing Committee on Municipal Matters. This Committee was set up to advise the Minister on policy regarding future land-use planning in the Gulf Islands. As a result of this brief, a systematic inventory of the heritage resources of all of the Gulf Islands is now underway.

In addition to the ongoing investigations related to proposed highway and hydro work, a number of surveys of proposed northern rail-way routes are planned for the coming field season. These will be established on a continuing basis. Several field crews will be assigned to proposed C.N. Rail and B.C. Rail construction projects in the north, while other work will be carried out in areas where expansion and maintenance programmes are to be initiated by C.P. Rail. Other surveys will focus on the B.C. portion of the Alaska Highway and will be funded by the Federal Department of Public Works.

It is apparent that all of the aforementioned projects with the exception of the Gulf Islands survey are oriented towards a particular development activity and undoubtedly such work will continue for years to come. However, it is realized that systematic inventories must be carried out on a regional basis if we hope to include heritage resources in long range land-use plans which will be developed for the Province. The Provincial Archaeologist's office is attempting, through the Provincial Environment and Land-Use Committee Secretariat, to have heritage resources included as an integral part of the B.C. Land Inventory. In this way archaeological and historic sites will be recognized and evaluated along with other environmental variables such as riverine resources, plant and animal communities, soils, mineral deposits, et cetera. We are hopeful that the heritage site component of the B.C. Land Inventory will begin in the spring of this year.

It is obvious that effective site protection must be a co-operative endeavour including departments of government and the private sector both. Until now, the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board has been concentrating its efforts on ensuring that adequate site surveys and, if necessary, archaeological salvage are carried out prior to the construction phase of projects under the control of Government Agencies. It remains for the Board to actively seek the co-operation of the private industry sector in order that all sites of significance to British Columbia's history may be adequately protected.

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INTERESTING ARTIFACT IN SITU ON GABRIOLA ISLAND

by Hilary Stewart

Residents of Gabriola Island, one of the Gulf Islands of Georgia Strait, have a deep attachment and respect for their land. Some of them have lived on the island all their lives, as did their fathers before them, yet most islanders are well aware that habitation of the bays and inlets dates back thousands of years before their grandfathers settled there.

Before the Spanish and English explorers mapped and named the island, it was home to a great many Coast Salish Indians who flourished throughout the Gulf, plying its waters in swift and sturdy dug-outs; trading, travelling, fishing, hunting and generally socializing.

Evidence of the well-established cultures of the Indian population on Gabriola Island frequently comes to the surface in the form of artifacts that residents find by chance. Housed in glass cases at the school is an interesting assortment of these Indian tools and implements of stone, bone and antler, found on the island and donated by the finders. But one of the more interesting finds still lies exactly where it was discovered, and will likely never make it onto a display case shelf. This artifact is a rock 4' 8" long, 3' wide and about 2' thick. On the face of it are



six oval, bowl-like cavities. The rock lies partially buried in shell midden material, at the mouth of a creek, and is on the edge of property owned by the Grays, in Degnan Bay.

Mrs. Lily Gray, whose husband's grandfather bought the property in 1852, first noticed one of the cavities about six or seven years ago when dirt was washed from the rock, probably by the tide, she thinks. By cleaning off the face of the rock, Mrs. Gray discovered there were five more of these depressions. She says the rock is rough in texture, but "the hollows are very smooth, as though much rubbing had been done on them".

The oval depressions are all roughly the same size, averaging 12" x 7", and $3\frac{1}{2}$ " deep, or less. Four of them seem to be grouped together, occupying half the face of the rock, with two more being on the other half.

Archaeologists are at a loss to say just what the function of this unusual rock might have been. It was examined by professionals working on the island at the False Narrows dig in 1968, and the B. C. Provincial Museum has recorded it, but no conclusions can be drawn as to its use or purpose.

This writer speculates that perhaps it might have functioned as a paint palette, to be used ceremonially in grinding and mixing pigments for body painting, as part of certain rites or rituals.

Anybody else want to take a guess?

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TWO CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION LECTURE SERIES

Surveys, Sites and Digs - six Mondays commencing March 18, 7:30 p.m., Auditorium, Main Branch, Van. Public Library, Burrard Street. \$12.00 (special rate for Society members), \$2.50 individual lectures. Chaired by Rick Percy of S.F.U., speakers include: Dr. C. E. Borden, James Baker, Margo Chapman, Arnoud Stryd and Bjorn Simonsen.

Antiquities in North Africa - four Mondays commencing Feb. 25, 8 p.m., Room 105, Lasserre Bldg., U.B.C. Speakers: Dr. Hanna Kassis and Dr. James Russell. \$11.00.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK IN THE EAST KOOTENAYS, 1973 SEASON

by Wayne Choquette

Libby Reservoir Salvage Project

The final season of salvage in the Canadian Libby Reservoir area, funded by the B. C. Water Resources Branch and the Archaeological Survey of Canada and directed by the writer for the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board of B. C., terminated in August. Four and a half months were spent in salvage excavation, site survey, and environmental sampling.

A 5% random cluster sample of DhPt-10a (commenced in 1972) was completed, totalling 219 two metre squares. Five percent stratified random samples were excavated at DhPt-10b, DhPt-4 and DhPt-1; excavation of the latter two sites was directed by Jean Bussey. Five sites were test excavated, and 11 additional pre-historic sites were recorded. Small-scale excavation of two rockshelters was undertaken to obtain palaeo-environmental data.

The season's results were quite rewarding. Data from DhPt-10b. a very intensively occupied campsite, further substantiate the importance of the vicinity of the Elk River-Kootenay River confluence as a major occupational focus. This site proved to be the richest and least disturbed campsite in the entire Libby Reservoir area; it is most unfortunate that more excavation could not be undertaken before the site was inundated by the rising reservoir. It consisted of actual midden deposits of considerable thickness in addition to numerous occupational features including several open and clay-covered excavated fire pits and an antler workshop. Data from the southern section of the Canadian reservoir area suggest it may have been of considerably greater importance around 4,000 B.P. than during later times; the association of McKean-like and Oxbow-like projectile points with a zone of stabilized sand dunes centering this area is most interesting. Investigations in the more northerly part of the reservoir area indicate its inhabitation relates more to seasonal activities such as fishing, berry picking, and stone working.

2. Archaeological Survey, Elk Provincial Forest

Small-scale surveys in the B. C. Rocky Mountains located 25 prehistoric sites during the summer. Of particular interest

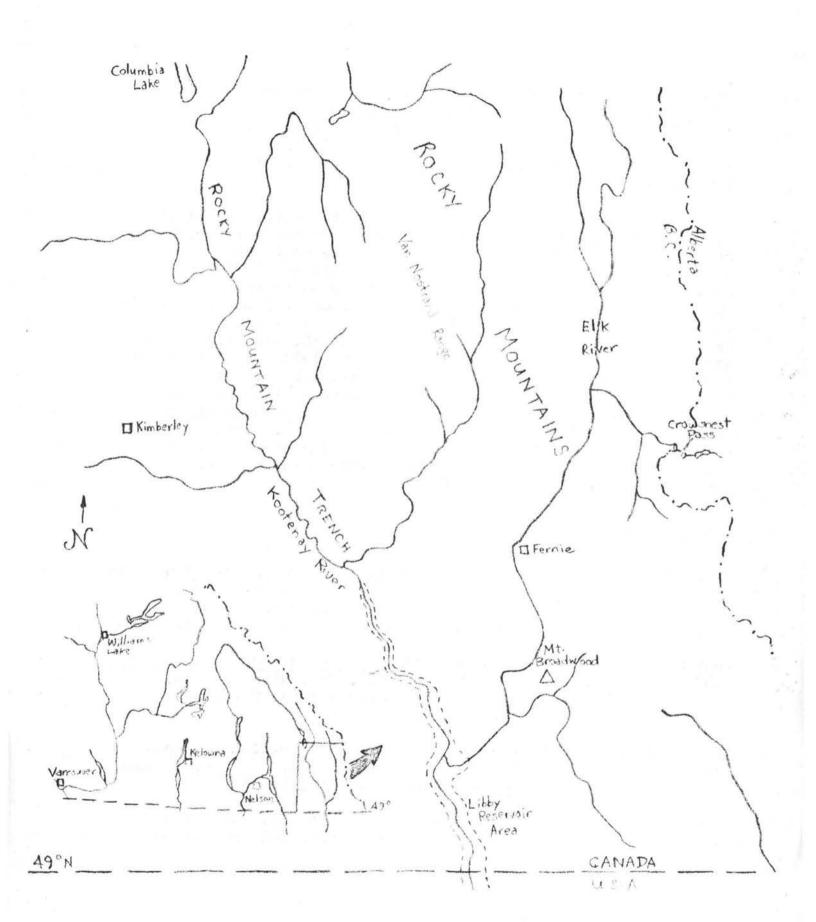
are a very extensive undisturbed pictograph location on Mt. Broadwood, consisting of more than 50 red ochre paintings of sheep, and an alpine quarry/workshop complex several square miles in extent between 7,000 and 8,000 feet A.S.L. in the Van Nostrand Range.

A survey of the Crowsnest Pass vicinity and the middle Elk River valley was funded by the Archaeological Survey of Canada. A total of 70 prehistoric sites were recorded during September and October, including campsites, activity sites, ceremonial and rock art locations, and burials.

Analysis of the above materials is in the preliminary stage; several observations may be made based on the spatial distributions of lithic material types, diagnostic artifacts, faunal remains, and functional site types.

Human inhabitation of this part of the Rocky Mountains has a time depth exceeding 8,000 years. The nature of occupation appears to have been determined by two factors: climate and population size. During periods of cooler and moister conditions than those of today (the PreBoreal and Boreal Climatic/Glacial Episodes of the early Holocene (Sawyer 1966). 10,000 to approximately 8,000 B.P., and the Sub-Boreal or Neoglacial, circa 4,500-2,000 B.P.), the Rocky Mountains separated the Plains and Rocky Mountain Trench culture areas. Sites dating to these periods associate with routes of travel: major valley systems and passes. During the Atlantic Climatic/Glacial Episode (ca. 8,000-4,500 B.P.), upland hunting was apparently only occurring in ranges bordering the Rocky Mountain Trench, despite the likelihood of considerable areas of intermontane grassland throughout the Rocky Mountains due to higher temperatures and lower precipitation values. Sites dating to this period further east in the more central ranges of the Rockies overlap with the travel routes used during the previouslymentioned periods. This suggests that during most of prehistory. the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains were a marginal territory of an aboriginal population centred in the Rocky Mountain Trench.

Beginning approximately 2,000 years ago, significant changes occurred, probably in response to climatic amelioration towards conditions approximating those of today. Archaeological data from the Libby Reservoir area indicate a trend towards



more extensive occupation of specific sites culminating in the last 1,000 years when the local population, ancestral to the Historic Kutenais, may be characterized as semi-specialized big game hunters, wintering in the Trench and following grazing ungulates up into the alpine areas bordering the Trench in the summertime (Choquette 1973).

Five major hunting complexes occupied within the last 2,000 years were located in the Elk River drainage in the heart of the Rocky Mountains. Bison remains were collected from four of these, in two instances from jumps. This is the first evidence of inhabitation of the central mountain valleys, and suggests the presence of an aboriginal group at least seasonally resident within the B. C. Rockies. Such a group was likely a band similar to, and probably ancestral to the Historic Fernie band of Kutenais mentioned by Turney-High (1941). The fact that inhabitation of the Rockies occurs at this late time-level and not during the earlier Atlantic period when similar habitat was probably available may be explained by increased population during the last 2,000 years. This hypothesis is highly significant in the light of developments occurring on the Northern Plains around this time when the intrusive Besant culture appears (Reeves 1970).

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Culture Change on the Northern Plains, 1000

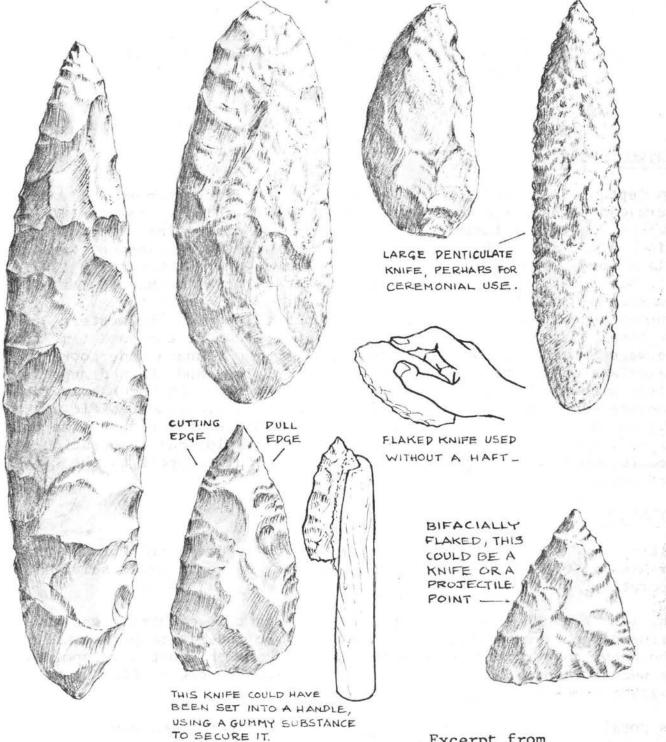
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Occasionally difficult to distinguish from a leaf shaped projectile point, the flaked knife is often asymmetrical in shape, thicker through the middle, sometimes having one blunt edge to enable the index finger to comfortably press down on it. Smaller knives were sometimes hafted along the blunt edge.

Some of the very long slender flaked knives, incredible examples of the art of "flint knapping", or stone flaking, may have been used for ceremonial purposes.

Excerpt from
"ARTIFACTS OF THE
NORTHWEST COAST INDIANS"
by Hilary Stewart c 1973
Published by Hancock
House.

CONTRACT SALVAGE 1973: A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE SALVAGE EXCAVATIONS OF TWO SHELL MIDDENS IN THE PRINCE RUPERT HARBOUR, B. C. GbTo-33/36

by Richard Inglis
Archaeological Survey of Canada

INTRODUCTION

On September 7, 1972 the lead article in the Prince Rupert Daily News heralded plans for construction of a deep-sea shipping terminal in Prince Rupert. I immediately noted that two of the last remaining middens on Kaien Island would be destroyed by the development, and plans for a major salvage program were drawn up. On October 3, 1972 I wrote to Mr. Bjorn Simonsen, the B.C. Provincial Archaeologist, informing him of the development and soliciting his assistance. He opened and maintained channels of communication with the western regional office of the National Harbours Board. At the same time the Salvage Section of the Archaeological Survey of Canada undertook immediate action to implement a salvage program, and started negotiations with the National Harbours Board in Ottawa. The Archaeological Society of British Columbia in many letters to government officials, the North Coast District Council in a resolution of action to the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs, and the Canadian Archaeological Association in a resolution at the 1972 annual meeting, gave full support to the salvage plans.

STRATEGY

With the release of funds by the National Harbours Board through the Archaeological Survey of Canada, a crew of 25 people began salvage operations of the two sites in the week of May 21, 1973.

The length of the project's operation at the time of hiring was for archaeological excavation to continue for an indefinite period until the heavy construction machinery began work on the port development. We were fortunate that the start of the harbour construction was delayed until September 15.

As total destruction of the two sites was imminent, the research strategy aimed at a thorough testing, and the recovery of as large a sample as possible from the different areas of the sites. There were three major aims:

(1) With a stream bed running through the cultural deposits of GbTo-33 the potential for preserved perishable items of wood and fibre was highly promising. A three-month contract was awarded by the Archaeological Survey of Canada to Jeff Murray to excavate the waterlogged area

- under the guidance of the main project. Total removal of waterlogged area was planned using hydraulic techniques.
- (2) Due to the limited sample size of the basal component from previous excavations in the harbour, excavation of large areas of lower level deposits was planned for both sides.
- (3) Due to the scale of the impending destruction, and in hopes of obtaining a larger sample size in a limited time, a mechanized approach to the archaeology was implemented. An INTERNATIONAL loader/backhoe and three mechanical screens were obtained for this purpose.

FIELD EXCAVATION

The larger of the two sites, CbTo-33 was sampled during the first three months. Over 25,000 cu.ft. of the cultural deposit were excavated from 23 units. Four thousand artifacts were recovered along with large quantities of associated faunal material, 50 burial features, 83 carbon samples, and 82 soil samples. (GbTo-33 is likely the southeast extension of GbTo-10, the Co-op site, that was salvaged by Dr. Borden in 1954 (Calvert, 1968). The designation GbTo-33 has been maintained, however, as it is impossible to determine conclusively the relationship between the two areas. GbTo-10 has been totally destroyed and built over.)

GbTo-36 was excavated during August and early September. Ten excavation units were started, with seven reaching sterile sands. Roughly 14,000 cu.ft. of the deposit were sampled yielding 1,000 artifacts, 13 burial features. 21 carbon samples, and a series of 34 soil samples.

Artifacts and features encountered in the shell middens corresponded closely to those found previously in excavations conducted by the Archaeological Survey of Canada in the Prince Rupert area. The most dramatic finds, however, came from the stream channel that flowed through GbTo-33. Over 400 artifacts of perishable wood and vegetable fibres were recovered.

A fixed grid system was not used in the waterlogged area because of the nature of the sluicing operation, and of the deposition of the artifacts. A unit would be removed, its size in many cases dependent on the physical nature of the materials recovered. All artifacts within this unit were recorded in three dimensions with transits, along with the limits of the unit. The data were then plotted on a master grid showing the distribution.

All the waterlogged artifacts were photographed in the field laboratory as a reference catalogue record. These photographs supplemented the "in situ" excavation photograph record.

The excavation of the basal levels of both sites yielded a significant artifact sample and several features. A wide range of artifact categories was recovered - awls, bone points, bilaterally barbed harpoons, abraders, ground slate, and several decorated items.

Removal of the lower component on GbTo-33, however, was complicated by the fact that the water table saturated the bottom three feet of the deposit. A commercial sump pump was used to keep the water at a tolerable level, but conditions were far from ideal. Fortunately, the drainage pattern off the mountain did not affect the basal levels of GbTo-36.

The mechanization of aspects of the project was plagued with difficulties. Adverse weather conditions throughout the summer severely hampered the abilities of the loader. The wet conditions made screening very difficult as well, but our main problem arose trying to obtain a suitable mesh for the screening. The "isolation" of northern B.C. frustrated our attempts to requisition replacement parts and materials for servicing the machines.

ARTIFACT RECOVERY AND ANALYSIS

The stream bed appeared to have been used as a dump area, rather than as an area of occupation. The artifacts recovered were either broken completed forms, or pieces abandoned in the process of manufacture. A diverse range was represented. Hunting implements included fragments of spear and arrow shafts, foreshafts, wood points, and a fragment of a barbed point. Woodworking implements are represented by a large series of wedges, many with spruce root grommets, two hand chisel handles, and a fragment of an elbow adze. Items utilized in food gathering and storage included digging sticks, woven cedar bark baskets, birch bark containers, wooden bowls, and small bent-wood boxes. Several canoe paddle fragments comprised the total sample of sea-faring equipment. A zoomorphic handle, possibly from a bowl or box lid, was the one decorated piece recovered.

Several notable categories were not represented. No fragments of house structures were uncovered, nor were there any items of fishing gear. Shell and bone were completely absent, presumably due to the high acidity and moisture content of the soil. No composite pieces were found. Treatment of this perishable material is currently underway. To prevent any deterioration of the specimens, they are maintained in a bath of water and fungicide solution. The specimens are then cleaned with acids and finally impregnated with polyethylene glycol 4000, a water soluble wax. Due to the time required for preservation the specimens will not be available for analysis for periods ranging from six months to nearly two years. Detailed study of these collections will begin in the summer of 1974, the timetable of analysis calling for completion of the manuscripts within one year. To date the total

collection has been catalogued. Thirteen samples have been submitted for C-14 dating, emphasis being placed on dating the waterlogged deposit and the basal levels of both middens. The soil samples are being prepared for chemical analysis and flotation, and the wood samples for species identification. Shell identification analysis is also planned.

1968 The Co-op Site: A Prehistoric Midden Site Of The
Northern Northwest Coast Of British Columbia.
Honours B.A. Essay. University of British Columbia,
Department of Anthropology.

A.S.B.C. DIARY

- Feb. 13 Society Meeting, 8 p.m. Centennial Museum Colin McCaffrey speaking on "Lubaantun" (British Honduras).
 - 15 An Evening of Singing and Playing Slahal, a Coast Salish Gambling Game, Vancouver Art Gallery, 8 p.m. Admission: 75c. Limited to 50 players.
- 22 Films at the Centennial Museum, 8 p.m., Adults 50¢, children 25¢.
 and 23 ATHENS: THE GOLDEN AGE Athenian life described with the aid
 of artifacts, masterpieces of Greek art and visits to historic
 sites.

EGYPTOLOGISTS - archaeological trip to the Aswan Dam - narrated by Charlton Heston.

- Mar. 13 Society Meeting, & p.m. Centennial Museum Hector Williams, guest speaker, "Under the Mediterranean, Recent Work in Undersea Archaeology".
 - 16 Free lecture Vancouver Institute Professor R. R. Hoering, Head, Dept. of Physics, U.B.C., on "Physics and Archaeology", 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall 2 of The Instructional Resources Centre, U.B.C.

The Canadian Archaeological Association is holding its Annual Meetings from March 7th to 9th at Whitehorse, Y.T. For further information please contact Dr. Roy Carlson at S.F.U., 291-4859.

POLICY ON BURIALS

A statement approved in June 1973 by the American Association of Museums, and reproduced here by permission.

In recognition of the current concern over the use of human skeletal material in museums, the American Association of Museums has formulated a general policy statement covering certain basic issues for consideration by those museum trustees and staff members who seek guidance in a complex and unresolved problem.

In the search for knowledge, we seek answers in the Universe, our world, all living things, and in ourselves. As educational institutions, museums are vigorously searching for understanding--most particularly about ourselves as human beings. Much of what we have learned about human development and prehistoric cultures has been derived from burials. There is merit in continuing such investigations, but if we are to achieve wisdom, yet adhere to an honorable position as humanists who are concerned with the quality of life and the worth of the individual, the study of skeletal material must be undertaken with dignity, and with a regard for the feelings of the most sensitive among us. Research must be accomplished in a manner acceptable not only to fellow professionals, but also to those of varying religious beliefs.

In particular, Native Americans feel a kinship to ancestral peoples and museums must seek means of achieving scholarship and interpretive goals acceptable to the actual and spiritual descendants of the peoples under study or run the risk of alienating the segment of our population most closely related to the subject of those studies.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT: Although there is sometimes a need to use skeletal material in interpretive exhibits, this must be done with sensitivity and understanding of the feelings for human dignity held by all peoples. It is presumptuous to interpret people, unless we respect their rights and intrinsic dignity. The objective of an interpretive exhibit is to help the visitor understand, indeed to identify with, those who lived or live under very different circumstances. The curiosity of the visitor is no justification for the violation of beliefs concerning the dead.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: It is the position of the American Association of Museums that the human being of whatever century and of whatever place is entitled to the same concern that would be accorded a member of one's own family, thereby confirming our belief that we are all indeed of one family.

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C.A.A. INVITES MEMBERS

The Canadian Archaeological Association, to which A.S.B.C. is affiliated, is inviting society members to join C.A.A. as individuals.

The \$3.00 dues provide an annual publication and other occasional papers. Writes the President, James A. Tuck:

'Moreover the Canadian Archaeological Association is an organization deeply involved in lobbying for provincial and federal legislation to provide for adequate protection of prehistoric sites and artifacts, to provide funds for salvage archaeology, etc. Therefore the more active members we boast the stronger we are able to make our case for adequate government and private support of archaeology."

Application for Membership in The CANADIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

NAME:	
MAILING ADDRESS:	:

Enclose \$3.00 and return to:

Helen Devereux Department of Sociology & Anthropology Laurentian University Sudbury, Ontario