

NEWSLETTER

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Deadline for next issue: February 28.

- HIGHLIGHTS:
- * Report on St. Mungo Cannery Dig
 - * Report on a Dig in the Scilly Isles
 - * Massive Calendar of Events

N. Russell
Editor

THE ST. MUNGO CANNERY SITE: A LINK BETWEEN THE FRASER DELTA AND THE FRASER CANYON

By S. Gay Calvert, Archaeologist, Centennial Museum

In the fall of 1968 the Centennial Museum, Vancouver, began its first programme of archaeological research, aided by a grant from the National Museum of Man, Ottawa. The initial plan was to conduct a survey of the Lower Fraser Delta, relocating known sites; reporting on their condition, and also, hopefully, locating sites not previously recorded. The survey was begun in the eastern sector of the chosen area, and one of the first sites looked at was the St. Mungo Cannery Site (designation DgRn2), a shell midden on the south bank of the Fraser River opposite New Westminster.

Artifacts from a small collection at the U.B.C. Archaeology lab. and from local private collections suggested that the site might fit into the later part of the Delta sequence. Accordingly, two 5' x 5' test pits were sunk into the deposit during December 1968 and a carbon sample from the base of the cultural deposit submitted for dating. It was apparent from the 300 artifacts collected from the excavations that the assemblage was considerably different from other known Delta phases. It was therefore decided to discontinue the larger survey and excavate more intensively at this one site, as bulldozers and pot-hunters had already been at work on it. Indications were that the site was considerably older than had been thought at first, and might well provide a much needed link between the Fraser Canyon cultural sequence and that of the Fraser Delta. In the spring of 1969 these expectations were strengthened when the Museum received word that the carbon sample had yielded a date of 2360 B.C. \pm 110, making the St. Mungo Site the oldest known midden in the Fraser Delta by at least 1,000 years.

Excavations then began on a larger scale. Funds were raised to support the project and during March and the summer months of 1969 a crew of four, aided by members of the Archaeological Society and other volunteers, completed one 10' x 5' and three 10' x 10' pits adjacent to the earlier test pits.

Since September of 1969 analysis of the material recovered has been proceeding and has confirmed the possibility of a canyon/delta link. The earliest artifacts from the site show definite similarities with the contemporary Eayem Phase of the Esilao Site, while later levels show a gradual development into what appears to be an early Marpole.

Some 1700 artifacts were recovered. Typical of the site are very finely retouched scrapers based on thin basalt flakes; heavier scrapers, mainly of basalt; pebble tools; chipped points of various type, the earliest being medium

sized stemmed points like those from the Eayem Phase; bone awls; mammal ribs worked into a variety of long pointed or spatulate tools; antler and bone wedges in abundance; very tiny bone points; slate disc beads from a big sandy pit; bone "fleshers"; abraders; hammerstones; beaver incisor chisels; and bone pendants. Ground slate items are few, but include fragments of knives and points. Harpoons also are very rare, there being two incomplete barbed harpoons, and two fragments of toggle harpoon valves. Hand mauls also appear to be absent, as do stone carvings or bowls of any kind. Only two stone adze blades were recovered. Other woodworking tools are present from the earliest levels.

Two complete and two incomplete burials were excavated, and scattered human remains were found in most levels. One of the skulls shows artificial flattening in the occipital region.

Faunal remains indicate an economy based on riverine, deltaic, and land food resources. Deer, wapiti, beaver, salmon, sturgeon and various molluscs are abundantly represented, but sea mammal bones are rare.

A great deal of analysis remains to be done, but it seems clear that the St. Mungo Site will provide insight into the origins and development of the Marpole culture in the Delta.

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THE FUTURE OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN B. C.

The following notes were taken at a panel discussion entitled "The Future of Archaeology in B.C." which was held at the end of a series of lectures by the U.B.C. Extension Department in the fall of 1969. Dr. Roy Carlson of Simon Fraser University was moderator, and the guest panelists were Dr. Charles E. Borden, U.B.C.; Miss Gay Calvert, Centennial Museum; Professor P. Hobler, S.F.U.; and Mr. J. Baker, graduate student of archaeology, S.F.U.

Dr. Borden was asked what he considered the greatest need of archaeology in B.C. He replied: The greatest need is for trained people, and secondly, funds to give these people an opportunity to work in the field. We should develop programmes which will make it possible to have a cadre of professional, competent people who could meet the archaeological needs and emergencies that come up. Long-range research programmes - e.g. five years in the Fraser Canyon. Archaeologists do not enjoy salvage situations. Each of our universities should see to it that a degree programme is developed. In order to do so, we need trained people to teach students. He said he was

the only one employed at U.B.C. as an archaeologist. We hope to add staff to the Department but this, of course, is contingent on funds to pay adequate salaries to staff. Good archaeologists are hard to come by and we must be prepared to pay them a good salary. This is where the public can come in and lend support by writing to the government, to the people who would do most good, to newspapers, letter columns. This would build up pressure which the politicians feel and to which they will yield if it is adequately applied. To a large extent it is up to you (the people) whether we will be able to develop such programmes at the university.

Professor Hobler was asked how he would train a student in modern archaeology at university level, to which he replied that the student has to have classroom and field experience. Mr. Baker said that one could take anthropology and archaeology at S.F.U., but geology, geography and paleobotany were not offered. Students can only use libraries for these subjects. Miss Calvert added that while one can take biology at U.B.C., it is not just what is needed for actually identifying bones.

When asked about the law in connection with archaeology, Dr. Borden replied that B. C. is the most progressive province in legislation but more is needed. The Archaeological Sites Protection Act needs amendments which will be suggested to the government. Amendments will strengthen the Act. Section 10 is to be changed so that sites must be surveyed before construction begins. We need a Provincial Archaeologist. The Archaeological Sites Advisory Board was appointed when the Act became law, to advise the Minister in all matters that relate to this Act. Members are: (1) A representative of the Provincial Museum, (2) a representative of the three universities, (3) private individuals, (4) representative of government - Deputy Secretary, (5) a director for fieldwork (a part-time position paying \$1,000 p.a.). Dr. Borden suggested that we let our MLAs know that we want a full-time appointee. British Columbia also needs a federal archaeological protection act because there are over 1600 Indian reserves in the province.

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LIQUID AIR SITE DIG

Dr. Borden of U.B.C. has announced that his Liquid Air site dig has ceased for the winter, and will recommence in April or May.

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PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED: Bill Lane is anxious to contact anyone who took slides or photographs at the Tsawwassen dig with a view to buying same for use in the Society's official dig report. Please phone Bill at 738-2552.

SCILLY ISLES DIG

(From the far west of Canada we travel to the far west of England for an interesting report submitted by Mr. Maurice Smelt of London on a dig at Nor-Nor, one of the Scilly Isles. Like most of us, Mr. Smelt is an amateur archaeologist. He is a life member of both the Isles of Scilly Museum and the Cornwall Archaeological Society, as well as a founder-member of the New Sarum Society, which exists to build a new museum in Salisbury.)

The dig at Nor-Nor was easily - as I believe - the most interesting in Cornwall in the sixties. It lasted three seasons of summer digging ('64, '65, '66), and was a real discovery. By way of background, perhaps I should say something about the Scillies. They are the westernmost and southernmost part of England, an archipelago of about fifty islands and many rocks and reefs, lying thirty miles south-west of Land's End. They are slightly famous because the Prime Minister had his holidays there. They are utterly infamous for their danger to shipping. On average they used to get about ten wrecks a year from 1750 to 1870. Not that wreck is quite a thing of the past, even now; as recently as two years ago the Scillies claimed the all-time record when the Torrey Canyon struck the Seven Stones reef. But to an archaeologist the Scillies are fascinating for two peculiar circumstances. The first is that they are rich in antiquities of the Bronze Age; there are, for instance, the sites of over fifty entrance-grave barrows on an area which, even measured at low tide, barely amounts to six square miles. The second is that the Scillies have sunk thirty feet within historical times, and are still sinking. In Romano-British times they weren't an archipelago at all, they were just two decent-sized islands. Today they are a little green ring of islets surrounding a bright blue, sandy lagoon, some five-to-twenty-feet deep. The result is that there are, under the sands and on the tiny, uninhabited islands, the remains of hastily abandoned settlements. Such an island is Nor-Nor.

Nobody knew there was anything worth throwing a spade at on Nor-Nor till 1962, the year of the gales, when the storms blew down part of a dune and exposed what looked rather more like wall than granite outcrop. It happens that one of the islanders is a more than competent amateur archaeologist, and he suspected that this was worth a closer look. Within a few minutes he was finding artifacts. And so the Ministry of Works took the whole site over, made it an official dig, and appointed as Director a splendid old lady of sweet manner and iron discipline, a professional of the old school.

What she found was not so much a settlement as a minor industrial estate. The heart of it was a small factory, complete with hearth furnaces and storeroom recesses. And behind there were dwellings of sorts,

which have not yet been completely dug and surveyed. The site was evidently occupied for many generations, perhaps a couple of hundred years, between 50 and 300 AD, and then suddenly abandoned. One supposes that an economic squeeze, famine, or perhaps inundation by storm as the land sank and Nor-Nor separated from its adjacent, larger island was (or were) the reason (reasons). At any rate, the final occupants left all the evidence of what the local industry was: a factory for making tiny idols, pseudo-Venuses in pottery and enamel, as well as secular enamel brooches.

It is nice when the findings of a dig are as explicit as that, but it is disconcerting that there are, even so, more questions to answer now than there were when the dune first crumbled. Where did the fuel for the furnace come from? What was the market for these idols, enamels, faïences? Surely not on the islands? Then why set up manufacturing in such an out-of-the-way, not to say perilous place? All the more queer since the Romans (whose cult the pseudo-Venuses seem to have been) scarcely influenced and did not at all govern the country west of Exeter, which was all of 150 miles away. Well, of course, that last sentence begs the question: Roman influence was felt, patchily, throughout the west country. All the same - in Scilly? Perhaps we'll dig up some new thing that will answer some of those questions, and leave in their place a fresh set of mysteries. I hope so.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE COAST SALISH INDIANS - PAST AND PRESENT

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| <u>Ethnology and Your Community</u>
An illustrated introduction to the study of Ethnology.
Speaker: Dr. Pierre Maranda | Feb. 12 |
| <u>The Story of Archaeology in British Columbia</u>
A discussion of the prehistory of the native peoples of British Columbia, with particular emphasis on the lower Fraser Valley.
Speaker: Dr. Charles Borden | Feb. 19 |
| Evening Reserved for Vancouver Museums
<u>Association Annual Meeting</u>
Free of Charge. | Feb. 26 |
| <u>Making a Living</u>
A discussion of the material culture of the Coast Salish, illustrated with items from the Museum collections.
Speaker: Dr. Roy Carlson | Mar. 5 |

The Society and World View of Vancouver's First Citizens Mar. 12
 Speaker: Professor Michael Kew

A Handicraft Revival Mar. 19
 An introduction to developing craft traditions.
 Discussion: Miss Madeline Bronsdon
 Mr. Oliver Wells
 Demonstration of Salish Weaving by Mrs. Martha James

Cowichan Knitting and Salish Basketry Mar. 26
 Demonstration and discussion by Museum staff and guests
 from the Stalo, Musqueam and Thompson tribes.

The Indian Scene Today Apr. 2
 Speakers: Mrs. Jean Galligos Albin
 Chief Joseph Matthias

Centennial Museum Auditorium, Thursday evenings, 8:00 p.m.

Admission: Seven Sessions \$5.00
 Individual Lecture \$1.00

Special admission rate of \$3.00 per series for members of the Vancouver Museums Association and affiliate organizations.

Advance registration: Centennial Museum Education Department
 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver 9, B.C.

Fee must accompany registration. Please make cheques payable to the Vancouver Museums Association.

Series jointly sponsored by the Vancouver Museums Association, Archaeological Society of B.C., and the Centennial Museum.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY EVENING FILMS (of particular interest to members of A.S.B.C.)

February 20 and 21
 KON-TIKI (Famous balsa raft voyage from Peru to Polynesia)

February 27
 DR. LEAKEY AND THE DAWN OF MAN (National Geographic film of Dr. Leakey's discoveries in Africa's Olduvai Gorge)

March 27 and 28
 IN SEARCH OF HISTORY (archaeology expedition in Israel)
 SINAI - ROUTE OF THE ANCIENT CARAVANS

8:00 p.m. in the Museum Auditorium
 Admission: Adults 50¢, Children 25¢

A.S.B.C. DATES

- Feb. 11 8 p.m., Centennial Museum Auditorium
Dr. Mary Morehart, U.B.C.
The Sutton Hoo Ship Burial
- Mar. 11 8 p.m., Centennial Museum Auditorium
Dr. Roy Carlson, S.F.U.
Archaeology of the Southwest United States
- Feb. 14 Saturday, 2 - 4:30 p.m.
A visit to Irving House Historic Centre and Regional
History Museum, 302 Royal Avenue, New Westminster
Admission Free

U.B.C. EXTENSION DEPARTMENT

Eskimo Myth and Art - Daytime Programme

Miss Madeline Bronsdon, Dept. of Anthropology & Sociology, U.B.C.

Miss H. Piddington, Artist and Printmaker, formerly with the Dept. of Northern Affairs. Dr. David Stevenson, Dept. of Anthropology & Sociology, U. of Victoria.

4 Wednesdays, beginning Mar. 25, 1:30 - 3 p.m., Maritime Museum, \$9.00

Four lectures and a film about mythology and its relation to Eskimo society, and a look over time at Eskimo art, especially sculpture.

The Indians of British Columbia - Daytime Programme

Mrs. Joy Inglis, Anthropologist

6 Tuesdays, beginning Feb. 3, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Maritime Museum, \$13.00, husband & wife \$22.00.

North American Indians: Origins, Languages, Cultures; Life in an Indian Village; Tools, Artifacts and Technology; Man in the Natural and Supernatural World; Potlach and the Winter Dance Drama; North West Coast Indian Art.

Archaeology of the Ancient Near East - Religious Studies 407

Will be offered in the Eastern Mediterranean area July-August 1970, for 3 units of credit at the University of B.C. The course will also be open to persons who do not wish to take it for credit. A study of the culture of the Ancient Near East, the course will concentrate on Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt and will include site visits to Baalbek, Byblos, Petra, Jerash and Cairo. Instructor: Dr. Hanna E. Kassis. For more information request travel brochure from the Extension Department, 228-2181.

Art and Culture of Traditional Societies

Co-ordinator: Miss Madeline Bronsdon, Dept. of Anthropology & Sociology, U.B.C. Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 28 at 8 p.m., Maritime Museum. Individual series plus final symposium \$10.00; husband & wife \$16.00. All series plus symposium \$25.00; H & W \$40.00. Each series focuses on the art forms of a given people and their relationships to the environment and distinctive ways of life, value systems, social institutions, and cosmic beliefs. The Course will culminate in a final symposium on The Future of Primitive Art on April 22.

The Beaver Indians (Dr. W.R. Ridington)	Jan. 28 - Feb. 18
Art and Architecture of India & Pakistan (Dr. R.R. MacDougall)	Feb. 25 - Mar. 18
Eskimos Myth and Culture (Miss Madeline Bronsdon, Dr. David Stevenson)	Mar. 25 - Apr. 15

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Y.M.C.A. - "Drop In" Programme

Feb. 10 8 p.m.
 "New Guinea, a step from Stone Age to 20th Century"
 Bill Owen, recently returned from New Guinea, will give
 illustrated lecture.

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ARTIFACT WASHING

On Sunday, January 18 the first session of washing artifacts from the Society's summer dig at Tsawwassen took place at the Sutherland's. Those helping were Ron and Eileen Sutherland, Anna-Marie Dahlke, Bill Lane, Sheila Neville and Hilary Stewart. In spite of frequent coffee breaks, a lot of work was done, but there are still a number of boxfuls yet to be washed and sorted. If any other members are interested in sharing this work, please call Eileen Sutherland at 988-0479 to find out when the next session will take place.

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SECRETARY RESIGNS

It was with regret that the Executive accepted the resignation of Mrs. Pearl Piekarski as Corresponding Secretary. Miss Vera Ransom has graciously agreed to carry out the duties of this important office for the balance of the year.

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BOOKS FOR DIGGERS

The following annotated bibliography, though brief, is designed for those members of the Society who have taken part in excavations, or who plan to do so. Unfortunately no one book has all the answers.

Hammond, Philip C. Archaeological techniques for amateurs. New York, Van Nostrand, 1963

A compact manual of information for amateur archaeologists written by a professional. One of the few with a North American orientation, this book defines the role of the amateur and his relation to the professional. It offers a good description of the theory, the hows and whys of excavation, and emphasizes the need for a scientific approach. While not a step-by-step guide to digging, it does describe excavation methods from site discovery to final report with useful diagrams of stratigraphy and lay out. The author emphasizes the need for careful and accurate records, and includes examples of archaeological forms and how to use them. He concludes with a short chapter on new techniques in archaeology which, allowing for the date (1963), is still informative. Finally there is a section on archaeological activity in the U.S. and Canada, a bibliography for each state and province and a wide-ranging general bibliography. A useful book, good for the beginner, though, because of its date, certainly not the last word. Available from the Archaeological Society library.

Robbins, Maurice, with Mary B. Irving. The amateur archaeologists' handbook. New York, Crowell, 1975.

Another manual limited to North America, one which contains more background, and a fuller text altogether. The author includes sections on North American prehistory, artifact types, and a chapter on soils as well as careful, step-by-step descriptions of excavation techniques. There are many good illustrations and record form samples. This author also describes in more detail the preservation of artifacts, and gives advice on how to write a final report. However, the book is written with little reference to the relation of amateur with professional and little or no reference to antiquities laws, or preservation of sites. The author concludes with an appendix containing a list of sites open to the public in the U.S. and Canada, a glossary, and a full, annotated bibliography. A comparison of these two books left this reader with the opinion that the first is more theoretical, the second more practical, and that both are concerned with the careful and scientific excavation of sites, but that Mr. Hammond is perhaps more concerned with the responsibility of the amateur archaeologist to the professional and the preservation of historical sites. Available from the Vancouver Public Library - 571/R63a.

The following small manuals could be useful both on the site and during later lab work.

Griffith, Lela M. The intertidal univalves of British Columbia. Victoria, Queens Printer, 1967 (B.C. Provincial Museum handbook No. 26) 50 cents.

Quayle, D.B. The intertidal bivalves of British Columbia. Victoria, Queens Printer. (B.C. Provincial Museum handbook No. 17) 50 cents.

Both these little handbooks are useful and fascinating to the archaeologist on the west coast. Descriptions, habitats, and distribution are described, and the clear illustrations will help in identifying shells.

Anderson, J.E. The human skeleton; a manual for archaeologists. Illustrated by Tom Munro. Revised edition. Ottawa, Queen's Printer, 1969. \$1.75

This pocket manual contains information on the identification and classification of the human skeleton. Parts of the skeleton are described, and illustrated with clear, annotated drawings. The author explains how to obtain information from observation of teeth and skull and how to determine age and sex of the individual. He also discusses the reconstruction of the individual as he was in life. A chapter on paleopathology discusses disease and injuries, and how they are determined from bones. The final chapter discusses burial positions and how information may be gained on the population from skeletal remains.

References at the end of each chapter refer the reader to more comprehensive works on human anatomy. This would be a useful manual both during and after an excavation.

Finally, a book not necessarily for diggers only, but of interest to them.

Brothwell, Don and Patricia. Food in antiquity; a survey of the diet of early peoples. New York, Praeger, 1969. ("Ancient people and places" series).

This, according to the blurb, is "the first comparative study of human diet in ancient and primitive societies". It is certainly an interesting, wide-ranging study of food and food habits in ancient times. There are chapters on meat (from the edible dormouse to the elephant) and vertebrates, invertebrates, cereals, sugars, vegetables, fruit and nuts, beverages, and on diet and disease. Necessarily there is more information from later times, Greek and Roman, than from earlier, and the authors make good use of the culinary writings of classical authors. However, more and more methods are being developed to make use of physical evidence as well, and information is gained from the evidence of coprolites, bones and even stomach contents. Examples from the new world are limited, but there are some, especially from South America. There are many drawings and good black and white plates, including one of the shell of *Gaxidomus giganteus* from B.C., and a bibliography. The information presented in this book may not all appear for the first time, but it has been collected and related for the first time, and is presented with the particular charm belonging to all in this series. It is available from the Vancouver Public Library, under call no. 641.09/B87f.

Sharon Russell

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