

# NEWSLETTER

of the

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF B. C.

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Deadline for next issue: December 31.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- \* National Museum of Man:  
Current Research - Northwest  
Area
- \* Liquid Air Site: dig

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N. Russell  
Editor

### CURRENT RESEARCH - Northwest Area

The National Museum of Man began the Prince Rupert Harbour Archaeological Programme in 1966 under the direction of Dr. George MacDonald to investigate the culture history of the Tsimshian and Haida peoples on the north coast of British Columbia. Activity the first year consisted primarily of site survey with a crew in the harbour area and on the Skeena River which provided a major route of exchange between coastal and interior peoples. To date approximately sixty winter village sites have been recorded in the vicinity of Prince Rupert. The concentration of large villages in the harbour appears to be due in large part to the protection offered from winter storms, the abundance of shellfish, and to its particular tidal conditions. An estimate of the quantity of shell midden refuse within the harbour stands at approximately fifty million cubic feet.

In 1967, with a crew of fifteen university students, two sites, Garden Island (GbTo-23) and Dodge Island (GbTo-18) were excavated. In 1968, with a crew of twenty-seven students three more sites, the CBC site (GbTo-30), the Boardwalk site (GbTo-31) and Grassy Bay (GbTn-1), were excavated in the harbour. Also in 1968, a fishing station (GdTc-2) at the Kitselas Canyon of the Skeena was investigated and produced a sample of nearly 5,000 stone artifacts spanning a range of 4,500 years according to the radiocarbon dates. Tools

consisted of plano-like and leaf-shaped projective points in the earliest horizon and notched and stemmed points in the upper ones, with a ground slate and cobble tool industry throughout the sequence. The fifth site excavated in 1968 consisted of a small shell midden on Lucy Island bordering Hecate Strait that was thought to have been a sea-mammal hunting camp which would provide a larger sample of specialized equipment for this practice than did the Harbour middens.

Efforts were concentrated, in 1969, with a crew of forty students, at site GbTo-30 in the Harbour area. This site covers 1.7 acres with an average depth of deposit of 10 feet, spans 5,000 years of occupation with few interruptions.

To date about 3,000 artifacts have been recovered from the site, predominantly of bone. Chipped stone points, and end scrapers are present in small numbers which cross-tie with the canyon sequence. The most obvious feature of the tool industries in bone, ground slate, pecked and chipped stone is the early development of generalized forms which persist through five millenia with only minor changes, and which would appear to indicate an early successful adaptation to a coastal environment that changed little over that period. The most drastic change is in terms of decorative motifs applied to many tool forms with a shift from earlier simple geometric to zoomorphic motifs just before the time of Christ.

A sample of about 300 human skeletons has been recovered from the shell middens in the Prince Rupert Harbour spanning the entire range of occupation. They are under study by Jerome Cybulski of the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Dr. George F. MacDonald  
Archaeology Division  
National Museum of Man  
Ottawa, Canada

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#### DIG ENDS

Don't don boots to wade into the mud of Tsawwassen Bluff again: the first phase of the dig at DgRs11 is ended.

While the excavating, however, is finished, subsequent work will include canvassing local residents to catalogue known artifacts in private hands, and the laboratory processing of our own artifacts. Volunteers for both jobs would be welcome,

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#### MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP

All members of the Archaeological Society are affiliated members of the Centennial Museum and will be admitted free to the Centennial or Maritime Museums upon presentation of the Society membership card. However, free tickets to the Planetarium are not included. The Museums Association Newsletter, when

available, will be distributed at our regular monthly meetings.

Look for them at the door on the way into the Auditorium.

The following programmes to be held in the Centennial  
Museum Auditorium may be of particular interest to our members:

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|---------|--------|---|
| Nov. 14 | 8 p.m. | Films: (25¢ admission)<br>Calumet, Pipe of Peace<br>Totem Pole<br>Dance of Kwakiutl   |
| Nov. 20 | 8 p.m. | Lecture (admission free)<br>4 Butte-1 - a lesson in Archaeology filmed<br>in connection with the dig from which it is named.<br>Wooden Box - the Indians made boxes with<br>kerfed corners - bent by steaming - no joins -<br>waterproof. |
| Nov. 21 | 8 p.m. | Film: (25¢ admission)<br>Voyage to the Enchanted Isles (theories of<br>evolution on the Galapagos Islands where Darwin<br>once visited)   |
| Nov. 28 | 8 p.m. | Films: (25¢ admission)<br>Trance and Dance in Bali (commentary and film<br>by Margaret Mead)<br>New Guinea 1904 - 1906  |
| Dec. 5  | 8 p.m. | Film: (25¢ admission)<br>Okan, Sun Dance of the Blackfoot (filmed by<br>the Glenbow Foundation of Calgary)  |

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#### Fragments

Society membership is now over the 150 mark.

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## EXPORTS TO BE HALTED

The export of artifacts should soon be cut back sharply.

The evidence comes in a new letter from Provincial Secretary Mr. Laurie Wallace, who has given the society considerable support in the past. In part the letter states that in future even official excavators will not be allowed to take their finds out of the province. This is expected to include professional U.S. archaeologists; in future when they apply for a dig permit it will be made clear that all artifacts and remains will be retained in B.C., though they are welcome to continue excavations in the province.

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Members may be happy with the generous comments made about the society by Dr. Roy Carlson of Simon Fraser University recently. Addressing the first of a series of U.B.C. Extension talks on New Developments in B.C. Archaeology, Dr. Carlson noted that there were some five major milestones in B. C. archaeology - in 1897 the Jessop North Pacific Expedition under Harlan I. Smith; in 1950 Dr. Charles Borden started on his extensive work; the Tweedsmuir Park salvage operations carried out by Dr. Borden in 1951/52; in 1960 the Archaeological and Historic Sites Protection Act was passed by the Provincial Government; and in 1966 the founding of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia.

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## DIARY DATES

Nov. 12      Guest speaker at the regular monthly meeting will be Dr. James Russell on "Pompeii".

Dec. 10      Mr. P. Hobler, S.F.U. on Bella Coola.

Plans for a visit to Miss Gay Calvert's lab in the Centennial Museum have had to be postponed until after Christmas.

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### LIQUID AIR SITE

Dr. Borden of U.B.C. has asked for any help members can give with the "Liquid Air" site. Work will be carried out on Friday afternoons, Saturdays and Sundays. If you are interested in helping please call Ron Sutherland at 988-0479 and let him know when you would like to attend. To reach the site, proceed to the foot of Angus Drive (below Marine Drive), turn left and drive along close to the Liquid Air plant where the U.B.C. truck will be parked. On Fridays the work starts at 2 p.m., on Saturdays and Sundays at 10 a.m.

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### RECOGNITION IN WILLIAMS LAKE

During the summer a small dig, sponsored by the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board, was run near Williams Lake, and attracted unusually constructive coverage from the local paper. A long item in the Tribune (6 August 1969) ended remarking on the wealth of work still to be done in the province:

"Not that this is an invitation for everyone to grab a shovel and go out digging, in fact this is against the law.

"The Archaeological and Historical Sites Protection Act makes it a misdemeanor for any person to knowingly destroy, desecrate or alter any burial place in the province or to remove any skeletal remains. It is also forbidden to remove utensils or similar artifacts from such grounds.

"The reason for this is obvious when you see the great skill and care taken by professionals in working on burial sites. Careless operators of shovels can destroy for all time any hope of tracing the history that is to be found in such sites."

All editors, please copy.

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### Social Notes

Our best wishes to the former Miss Pearl Hawley, our corresponding secretary, who became Mrs. John Pieharski on October 27.

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### VISITORS FROM VICTORIA

On Sunday, September 21st the Society was pleased to welcome a group from Victoria who came over for the day to help at the Tsawwassen dig. The visitors included: Denis St. Clair, Pat Van Adricham, John Walders, Georgina Vaulk'hard, Ron Weir, Ronna Burrett, Gerry Vaulk'hard, Tom Vaulk'hard and Robert Sprinkling. Their help was very much appreciated.

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### NEW MEMBERS

A cordial welcome is extended to the following new members of the Society:

Miss Anne Gibson	Miss Sheila M. Cox
Miss Margaret Chapman	Mrs. Joan Grant
Miss Pamela Rumble	Mr. Bruce Wyatt
Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Ripley	Mr. H. R. Brammall
Mr. & Mrs. R. Tanner	

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### Biased Editorial Comment by Nick Russell

Did you know that while U.B.C. was building that incredible bell-tower, the university's archaeology department has to keep its 80,000 artifacts hidden away in old concrete coal bunkers?

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### SUGGESTED REFERENCES

"MAN'S RISE TO CIVILIZATION" by Peter Farb. Clarke, Irwin & Co. \$10.75

This is one of the most fascinating books on the market. It is probably the best written and most comprehensive study in short form of the North American Indian--his beginnings, his moves, his economy, his religion and his confrontation with white civilization. But Farb takes it much farther than that. As he expresses it: "The experience of man over 25,000 years on this continent can hold up a mirror to modern America."



Farb is a consultant to the Smithsonian Institute and curator of American Indian cultures to the Riverside Museum in New York.

Beginning with the Digger Indians of the Utah-Nevada area as the most primitive form of human existence before the whites came, Farb has some interesting propositions to offer.

"RAVEN'S CRY" by B.C. author Christie Harris. McClelland & Stewart, Toronto, Hardbound \$4.50 193 pp. Illustrated by Bill Reid.

This is the unique story of the Haida from the coming of the first "flying canoes" of the white man until the present day. Until 1775 when the white man came to the islands we now know as the "Queen Charlottes", the Haida flourished in their island home Lak Haida. They were masters of the coastal sea--the Vikings of the northwest--acknowledged bluebloods among the three important nations of the north, Haida, Tlingit and Tsimshian. With the white man came disease, alcoholism, and perhaps most dangerous of all, a complete lack of understanding of or respect for the proud and unconquered island people. Once a haughty race 10,000 strong with a closely knit art-centred society, the Haida dwindled in 150 years to a mere handful, at the mercy of an unknown white civilization. Only the pride, dignity, compassion and artistic fervour of three great Eagle chiefs sustained surviving members of the tribe, and helped them to accept the fact that their race and social order were dying.

Although Raven's Cry is ever Haida's story, it is essentially a chronicle of the lives of the last Haida Eagle chiefs of the Stastas Shongalth lineage.

This book won the Canadian Book of the Year Award in 1967.

"THIS IS HAIDA" by Anthony Carter. Published by author. \$14.95

Following upon the success of the first volume in his Indian Heritage Series (Somewhere Between) in 1966, this new work will delight those who have been watching for more of this talented photo-historian's work. It is an even better production than the first volume: nearly twice as long, produced on considerably heavier paper, with 101 full-colour photographs of such unique interest and quality that each one deserves framing. What Christie Harris expressed so well in words about the Haida tribe of the Queen Charlotte Islands, Anthony Carter has now told in pictures in This Is Haida.

Carter and his wife, Vancouver artist Minn Sjolseth, travelled the length and breadth of the Queen Charlottes by chartered plane, rented travelall, power boat, and on foot, to photograph and sketch abandoned Indian villages where eager spruce roots are winning a battle with the decaying totem poles.

They talked with the old Haida chieftains, with aged basket-weavers, and with the enthusiastic younger people at the surviving villages of Skidegate and Haida, near Masset.

"ARTISTS IN HAIDA-GWAI" by Jacqueline Hooper. Article in The Beaver Magazine, Autumn, 1969. 75¢. Photographs by Anthony Carter and paintings by Minn Sjolseth. pp. 42-46.

A most interesting and enlightening piece of work, to augment Carter's new book.

Compiled by Art Davies