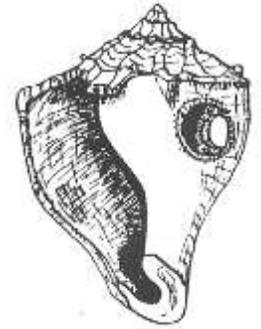


SWFAS

NEWSLETTER

THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



JOHN G. BERIAULT, ACTING EDITOR

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 5

MAY, 2002

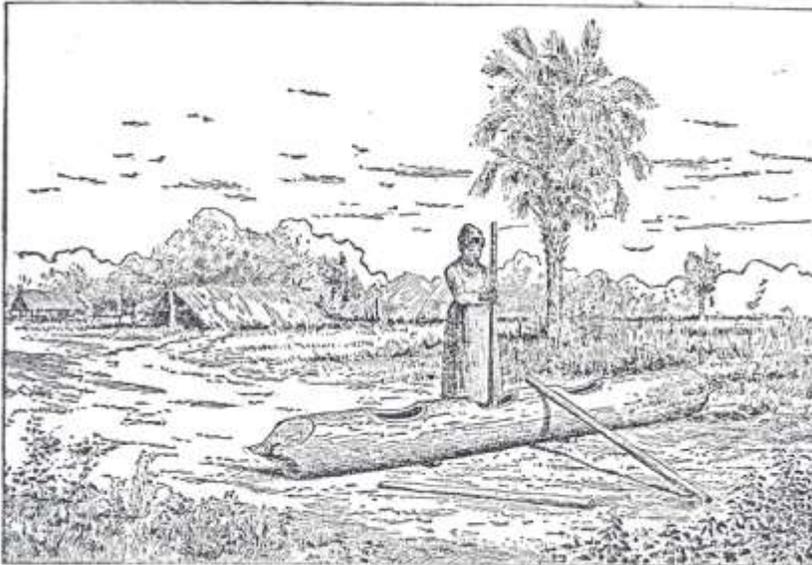


FIG. 69. Koonti log.

The Koonti Log. This is an illustration from Clay Macauly's 1881 report for the Smithsonian Institution, *The Seminole Indians of Florida*. Shows ingenuity, a differing technique from the single mortar-type container often depicted.

tours by Rebecca. Your acting editor (me) has had the privilege of working on several archaeological projects with Todd, who is a nice young man destined to go far in the field of archaeology. All we can hope is that after graduate school the two of them will eventually return to Florida to continue their good work here. We will be the richer for it. Good Luck, Rebecca and Todd!

Inside this Newsletter

- 1 We have Moved! Florida Gulf Coast University is the new site of our General Meetings**
- 2 Pecuniary Evidence... Got Money? Part Three. Read Dr. Robert Gore...**
- 3 Found a Mound? Read Jody Brinton's appeal...**

Goodbye, Rebecca and Todd!

This is to let all of you know we are losing two enthusiastic members of SWFAS with the departure of Rebecca Harris and Todd Ogle, a newly married couple who for the last year have been staunch and enthusiastic supporters of our

group. They are leaving to take positions in archaeological work for the U.S. Forestry Service in Arkansas where they both plan to pursue their studies. Many of you attended the SWFAS field trip to the Mound House several months ago where we were given the run of the place, had a splendid picnic and were given a series of excellent

THE DATE BOOK

May 8th SWFAS Board Meeting – Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs, 7:00 PM

May 15th SWFAS General Meeting – 7:30 PM, Rm. 109, Griffin Hall, Florida Gulf Coast University

About SWFAS

The directorate: President Betsy Perdichizzi, first vice president Tom Franchino, second vice president Corbett Torrence, membership secretary Charlie Strader, treasurer Charlie Strader, recording secretary Jo Ann Grey, directors Steve Tutko, Sue Long, Dottie Thompson, Jo Ann Grey, Don Taggart, Jack Thompson,, John Beriault, Charlie Strader, Theresa (Torrence) Schober, and Dr Susan Stans.

The committees: Field: Beriault, 434-0624; Hospitality: position open; Membership: Charlie Strader, 941-992-6133; Publicity: Dottie Thompson, 597-2269; Sales: position open; Finances, Jack Thompson 597-2269, 774-8517; Lab: (774-8517), Art Lee, 261-4939, Walt Buschelman, 775-9734, Jack Thompson, 597-2269.

To Join: Address your check to the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 9965, Naples, FL 34101. Dues are: Individual \$20, Individual Sustaining \$50.00, Family \$35, Student \$15.

Any questions, comments, contributions to the Newsletter: John G. Beriault, acting editor, P.O. Box 9074, Naples, FL 34101-9074 or Email to: JGBeriault@aol.com.



POTSHERDS AND POTSHOTS... AN ONGOING SERIES BY ROBERT GORE

WHEN DID IT HAPPEN? A PRIMER ON PECUNIARY EVIDENCE. III.

WHEN DID IT HAPPEN? A PRIMER ON PECUNIARY EVIDENCE. III.

Nothing seems so obvious in dating a coin as using the date itself. But as the old Porgy & Bess song goes: "It ain't necessarily so." On the positive side, except for the earliest types nearly every coin minted in the United States bears a date somewhere on its face. This date USUALLY indicates the year of minting and, in an archaeological context, can also provide evidence as to the putative age of the provenience in which the coin was recovered. [We will ignore the possibility of "salting" in such sites where old coins are planted (for whatever reasons) to provide a

seemingly accurate but fraudulent date.]

On the negative side, any dated coin should always be treated with caution when trying to establish a year-time frame. For example, in the early days of the U. S. Mint some denominations of coins were annually returned to the mint and a new date stamped over the old. This short-cut saved the mint a lot of time and trouble in purchasing new supplies of copper, silver and gold, and, at the same time, quickly recycled the coin back into circulation. Coins with such revised dates are called "strike- overs" and are often (but not always) clearly discernible by the careful observer. On the 1807 copper large cent, for example, the "7@" was restruck over the "6." While not devaluing the purchasing power of the coin (a cent was a cent no matter what the date) these strike-overs or overdates quickly became collector's items owing to their relative rarity. In another notable incident, the year 1815 was a dead year for half cents, large cents, half dimes and dimes--none were made by the mint. Thus, a savvy numismatist, offered an uncirculated 1815 half dime (i.e. freshly struck and showing little or no wear caused by circulation through the economy) would dismiss the coin as a fraud. Or, he or she might go ahead and buy it because it would be a known, and presumably quite rare, counterfeit. On the other hand, the average merchant back in 1815, unless he kept up with the Congressionally directed coinage bulletins, would

quite probably take the half dime in payment, not knowing (nor perhaps caring) that it was a fake.

The process of strike-overs inadvertently led to boosting the numismatic value of one famous coin--the 1804 silver dollar.

4

This coin, with a "draped bust" of Liberty on the obverse, and a "spread-eagle and shield" on the reverse, commands prices ranging from \$500,000-1,000,000. But there's a hitch--the coins must be from specially minted sets, struck on polished dies, which produced a brilliant mirror-like finish. Although dated "1804" most of these coins were minted in the 1830s, and some were struck as "1804's" as late as 1859. These were supposed to be used as souvenirs, but many made it into circulation. The coin is additionally noteworthy because the year 1804 was the last "year" stamped on this coin, even though these silver dollars were minted throughout the 1830s. The U.S. Mint thus inadvertently contributed to its numismatic value. In 1840 the design of the

silver dollar was changed to what is now known as the "seated Liberty" dollar. Another silver dollar, classified as the "flowing hair Liberty," but accurately dated 1794, has a numismatic value of more than \$165,000--again only if it is an extremely rare proof-struck coin.

Which brings up the matter of value. Coins, of course, are presumed to reflect their net worth based on a ratio of the gross amount of precious metal in them. Thus, a gold "Five Dollar" piece was supposed to have, both by weight and by percentage of composition, at least five dollars worth of gold--AT THE PRICE OF GOLD PREVAILING WHEN THE COIN WAS STRUCK. In fact, until just before the Civil War, the amount of precious metals in U. S. coins was usually equal to, or in some cases greater than, the coins face value. This led to some interesting pecuniary situations. In the latter instance, melting the coin down could give the smelter "more for his money" than the circulation value of the coin itself. Later, when gold used to sell for \$35.00 an ounce during the early half of the twentieth century, the numismatic value of a gold piece often exceeded its gold content value by tenfold or more. When the price of gold skyrocketed to more than \$800.00 per ounce in the early 1970s even some gold \$50.00 coins, containing one ounce of gold, became substantially more valuable as potential bullion than either their face, or even their numismatic values. Today, one ounce-equivalent gold coins such as the South African Krugerrand, or Canadian Maple Leaf,

hover around \$270-350 per coin and are sold at gold market value ("spot price") plus a seller's premium.

Similarly, large copper cents (1793-1857) were composed of pure copper, thus accounting for their large size, about that of today's half dollar. One cent would buy you a half-dollar sized amount' of pure copper, should you want 'Lt. Parenthetically, today's pennies are now 97.5% zinc and 11.5 % copper. Does this imply that zinc is now more valuable than copper? No, it's actually a whole lot cheaper. Otherwise there would be a run on galvanized zinc pails in hardware stores. Along these same lines, the copper half-cent was 100% pure, but the two cent piece, minted between 1864-1873, contained only 95% copper. Even the so-called early "nickel" coins were not pure nickel; rather they were 75% copper and 25% nickel. One thing is certain, except for the 1943 steel wartime penny, no U.S. coins will rust away.

We may now ask; Can coins be used in archaeology? Indeed, they can. To demonstrate the value of numismatic data in dating an archaeological site in which it occurs, let us turn to a real event in American History but add to it a hypothetical framework. At the same time let us see if coins can play a salient part in determine the validity of such dating in archaeological excavations. The event is the Battle of Lake Okeechobee--real enough, as past columns have demonstrated. The hypothetical framework is set up

and posed as a question. Suppose that a heretofore undiscovered

covered campsite was discovered in 2001 during land-clearing operations near the Lake. Suppose, too, that preliminary archaeological excavations on this site recovered a series of coins from the gravesites of what appeared to be Seminole or Mikasuki Indians. Suppose further that a thorough search of the area did not turn up any more coins. How valuable might the presence of such coins be in dating the site in relation to the Battle of Lake Okeechobee? Remember that even data supporting negative conclusions have their own intrinsic worth in archaeology.

The reader can now try his or her hand at being a numismatic archaeological detective. For purposes of the exercise assume that the dates on the coins correspond to the actual year in which they were minted, and that the coins' conditions varied from clearly legible to rather worn. Keep in mind that the Battle of Lake Okeechobee took place on Christmas Day, 1837. Using the Tables provided earlier, and those in this month's column, should get you into the ballpark. The assessment will be discussed next time.

THE EXERCISE:

Suppose that one each of the following coins were recovered from the cleared field;
 DENOMINATION; COMPOSITION: DATE: OBVERSE: REVERSE:

1. "HALF CENT" Copper Worn Liberty capped Wreath
2. "HALF CENT" Copper 1835 Liberty, classic Wreath head
3. "ONE CENT" Copper 1793 Liberty, flowing Linked hair chain
4. @ONE CENT' Copper 1815 Liberty, badly Wreath worn; flowing hair?
5. "ONE CENT" Copper 1837 Liberty, 'tilted Wreath matron head
6. "ONE CENT" Copper 183? Liberty, level Wreath head
7. "HALF DIME' Silver Worn Liberty, seated Wreath surrounded by stars
8. "5 C[ents]l Silver 1837 Liberty, capped Eagle on branch
9. "10 C[ents]l Silver 1836 Liberty, capped Eagle on branch
10. "ONE DIME' Silver 1838 Liberty, seated Stars on rim
11. "QUAR. DOL.' Silver 18?? Liberty, seated Eagle & Worn surrounded by shield stars
12. @HALF DOL.' Silver 183? Liberty, capped, Eagle & flowing hair shield with arrows
13. "50 C.[ents]' Silver 1837 Liberty, capped Eagle & shield with arrows

TABLE 6

COINS POTENTIALLY IN CIRCULATION IN FLORIDA DURING THE SECOND SEMINOLE INDIAN WAR

5. SILVER Half Dollars or 50 cents

TYPE	COMPOSITION	MINT DATES*	NOTES -----
Half Dollar right; scrawny eagle" and wreath on reverse; no denomination	90% silver,	1794-1795	Flowing hair Liberty 10% copper facing
Half Dollar	As above	1796-1807	Flowing hair, draped bust, facing right; spread eagle with shield on reverse; denomination absent
"50 C.(ents)"	As above	1807-1837	Capped bust, facing right; eagle with shield on branch on reverse; denomination under branch
"HALF DOL."	As above	1838-1839	As above; denomination on reverse under eagle and branch
"HALF IDOL."	As above	1839	Seated Liberty; eagle with shield, clutching arrows; denomination below
"HALF DOL."	As above	1839-1845	As above; drapery added

* Minted coins included recuts, restrikes, and inverted dates in certain years.

TABLE 7

COINS POTENTIALLY IN CIRCULATION IN FLORIDA DURING THE SECOND SEMINOLE INDIAN WAR
6. SILVER Dollars

TYPE	COMPOSITION	MINT DATES*	NOTES -----
Dollar	90% silver,	1794-1795	Flowing hair Liberty; 10% copper wreath on reverse; no denomination
Dollar	As above	1795-1798	Flowing hair Liberty with draped bust; eagle as above
Dollar	As above	1798-1839*	Liberty as above; large spread eagle with shield on reverse; denomination absent
"ONE DOL."	As above	1840-1873	Seated Liberty; eagle and shield on branch on reverse; denomination underneath

----- Many coins struck in the 1830s were backdated to 1804 by the United States Mint.

TABLE 8

COINS POTENTIALLY IN CIRCULATION IN FLORIDA DURING THE SECOND SEMINOLE INDIAN WAR
7. GOLD Pieces

TYPE	COMPOSITION	MINT DATES	NOTES -----
\$.250 piece	90% gold,	1796-1807	Capped Liberty bust 10% copper spread eagle with shield on reverse; no denomination
"1/2 D."	As above	1808-1820	Capped Liberty bust facing left; eagle grasping arrows and olive branches on reverse; denomination underneath.
"2 1/4 D."ff	As above	1821-1834	Capped head Liberty facing left; eagle and denomination on reverse as above
"2 1/2 D."	As above	1834-1839	Classic head Liberty facing left; eagle and denomination on reverse as above
"2 1/2 D."	As above	1840-1907	Liberty head facing left is Coronet style; eagle and denomination as above

----- * Encircling stars present or absent in 1796.

New member welcome

-for-

Thomas Winter of Ft. Myers Beach
and Springfield VA

Welcome new members
1. Elizabeth Clement, of Naples
2. James Oswald, of Naples

Please also add a special
thankyou to: Lois Polewka for
a generous donation to fund
Craighead Laboratory work.
Sue Long for donation to
cover storage rental for
laboratory materials.

Corbett Torrence and Teresa
Schober will be the speakers
on May 15 for the monthly

meeting of the Southwest Florida
Archaeology Society. The group
will meet at Florida
Gulf Coast University in the Ben
Hill Griffin Building in Room 109
at 7:30 P.M.. Their
topic will be "Recent Excavations
of the Pineland Site". Torrence
and Schoeber are on
the staff at Florida Gulf Coast
University. Torrence has many

years of experience in the archaeology of the northeastern United States, was Director of the exploration of Mound Key, the ancient Calusa capital, including surveying, assistant field Director of exploration of Useppa Island and the mound complex at Pineland.

Avocational and professional archaeologists as well as those interested in history are welcome to attend. For further information, call 597-2269.

Dorothy Thompson 576 Retreat Dr. Apt. 202 Naples, FL 34110
239 597 2269

Key Dwellers
Remains on the
Florida Gulf Coast,
By Frank Hamilton
Cushing
Review By Betsy
Perdichizzi

Frank Hamilton Cushing, who led the Pepper-Hearst Expedition to Key Marco in 1895-96, eloquently described what he saw on Marco Island, in a preliminary report before the American Philosophical Society on November 6, 1896. He died before making a final report.

Here he describes in his own words the incredibly varied and preserved remains of the 690-920 AD Calusa village, caught in time, as it was, the morning

following the disaster of storm and/or fire

Part Three
Miscellaneous Ceremonial Appliances; Sacred and Symbolical Objects; Carvings and Paintings...

“To me, the remains that were most significant of all discovered by us in the depths of the muck, were the carved and painted wooden masks and animal figureheads...Of these mask we found fourteen or fifteen fairly well-preserved specimens, besides numerous others which were so decayed that, although not lost to study, they could not be recovered. "The animal figureheads...the snouted leather-backed turtle, the alligator, the pelican, the fish-hawk and the owl; the wolf, the wild-cat, the bear and the deer...found to be also very closely related symbolically, as though for use together in dramaturgic dances or ceremonials.

Canoes, tackle-blocks, anchors,
“I am inclined to believe that they represented the sea-going craft of the ancient people here...double--.... of canoes lashed together, catamaran fashion- and propelled not only with paddles, but also, perhaps by means of sails...Jonathan Dickinson (shipwrecked in FL three hundred years ago -described seeing the Cacique coming back with a sea chest from their ship “The Cacique came

home in great state. He was nearly nude and triumphantly painted red, and sitting cross-legged on their ship’s chest, that stood on a platform midway over two canoes lashed together with poles.

Weapons.-It was significant that no bows were discovered in any portion of the court, but of atlatls or throwing sticks, both fragmentary and entire, four or five examples were found. Two of the most perfect of these were also the most characteristic, since one was double-holed, the other single-holed.

Arrows about four feet in length, perfectly uniform, pointed with hard wood, the shafts made either of a softer and lighter kind of wood or of cane, were found...might have been used not only for striking but also for flinging such nocked spears or throwing-arrows.

CUSHING’S OWN
GENERAL
CONCLUSIONS

“In a land so broken and low as this, the hurricane has wrought continuous change of shore line, and ‘tis natural, too, that its coast should be skirted by wide reefs, ...tide and wind-heaped sand islands...forbidding marshes...impenetrable swamps of cypress and mangroves. Even the mouths of its creeks, rivers and inlets, are shifting and treacherous, and are also filled with shoals, almost if not quite exposed, at low tide. As a consequence, approach even in light craft is...well nigh impossible.

“Again, no water in the world so teem with food-producing animals-mollusks, dishes, crustacean and turtles-as do these waters of the lower Florida Gulf-coast...What more natural, then, than as I have endeavored to picture in earlier chapters of this paper, that these peoples should have followed the example of the pelican and cormorant, and located their stations for food-winning, and finally their dwelling-places themselves, out in the midst of the navigable, but still not too deep, shore-land seas? That they did so, ages and ages ago, is unquestionable.

That the structures which they reared, more or less modified, in many cases, the further distribution of shoals, sand reefs tidal swamps, and the lowlier of the fringing islands themselves is also unquestionable. Now I scarcely need state, that primitive art forms....are the product of very slow growth....This is because generations, if not ages, are required for the radical modification of a single specialized ornament on any particular art of a specialized tool or implement, weapon or ceremonial appliance, among primitive peoples. “

If you are interested in reading the whole report, this book is available in the public library.

"Nature gives back what we give to it"

by Betsy Perdichizzi

Reprinted from *Marco Island Sun Times*, April 11 - 17, 2002

Historian Hermann Trappman said, "Our inheritance is as much a link to the environment, and its ancient story, as it is a connection to our parents and grandparents." It was his contention that the early peoples mirrored the land's available resources with their daily life.

With the Black Water threatening our waters and marine life, we realize that we too mirror the land's available resources with our daily life. Sugar Cane growers using nitrogen to fertilize their crops and heavy spring rains may have sparked the black water that is threatening our Gulf. We live in a complex society and what we do is interrelated with our environment.

"The developing picture of the ancestors is far more complex than our notions of just ten years ago," noted Trappman. "Researchers are studying the number of migrations perhaps starting around 24,000 years before the present." The early people may have followed an ice-free path on the north pacific coast into our country. Canada and the bordering states at that time would have still been buried under the two-mile thick ice sheet.

Peoples of 15,000 years ago saw a landscape twice this size. The glaciers had pushed Florida up over 300 feet above the modern tide line; and the ground water

was 100 feet deeper than it is at present. They saw a dry scrubby desert-like place with flora and fauna much like Mexico. The winds from the massive ice sheets made it 10 degrees cooler in the winter and moderate temperatures in the summer. This was the era of "mammoths, mastodons, saber-toothed cats, jaguars, paleo-llamas, horses, giant tortoises, short faced bears, dire wolves and many other unusual critters that lived and hunted in this place." With the last glacial spike of 9,200 years ago, the tides rose to sculpt the land we know today. Those early animals became whispers of the past and their bones were found in pits and watering holes.

The time of expanding and shrinking coastlines may have impacted greatly on the populations that inhabited coastal zones. The populations whose village sites were being flooded by rising waters may have strained against other populations living in the interior. Customs collided as the peoples accustomed to a diet of shellfish from the estuaries of the gulf blended into populations from the interior who ate off the land. "As time went on, ideas born from travel and trade, began to link these people to an extensive mound builder culture. It may have extended from Central America, up through the Mississippi valley and into Ohio, and back down to the Gulf Coast of Florida."

The Calusa Empire extended over all of southern

Florida when the first European explorers came. In southwest Florida they 'found a water-people, living from the sea, living on the edge of the sea, and constantly moving in their canoes and catamarans from today's Fort Myers to Key West and the Tortugas, to Lake Okeechobee and Miami. Historian Dr. Quentin Quesnell made this observation in 1995. Paraphrasing his remarks, "these people developed a stable and structured society with a chief and/or high priest who constructed huge public works such as: digging canals using the principles of ground water and dykes to move loaded canoes along the interior; flat-topped shell mounds; lagoons; fish ponds; and cisterns. They organized and mass-produced woven netting, weapons of war, and pottery of various kinds. They were outstanding in woodworking, from large-scale carpentry such as houses, planks, docks, and carved beams to delicate and artistic religious symbols of painted wood."

Much has been said about their carving artistry. The colorful paint was often the medium that held together mushy watery wooden masks and carvings. Wouldn't we appreciate having the formula of such paint today?

Since early Florida history, we have drained the swamps, logged the valuable trees, depleted the fish in the estuaries, and introduced chemicals to the environment. The Calusa did not damage their environment. We should take a lesson from the past

as we look backwards through the looking glass.

Resources: *Florida Frontier Gazette* Vol. 3 No. 2, April-June 2000, "Searching For Our Ancient Heritage," Hermann Trappman. "The Calusa", Information For Visitors, written for the Marco Island Historical Society, 1995, Dr. Quentin Quesnell

MOUND MISSING Help Wanted

by Joseph (Jody) Brinton

A Ph.D. researcher seeks eyewitness description of written report of the small beach mound which formerly existed on north tip of Cayo Costa, directly across the Boca Grande inlet from today's Lighthouse Museum.

When viewed through binoculars by Jody Brinton in the 1980s. This shell heap seemed 5 to 7 feet high, and it already was being destroyed by tidal flow and storm winds. Site inspection in 1995 showed nothing left except extensive mixture of midden and natural shall on beach.

Apparently, this landmark was so well known that nobody registered it as an Indian mound, if in fact it was. Readers having information, please advance science by notifying this newsletter or phoning 727-321-9275.

EVOLUTION OF CALUSA BACK IN PRINT

Just a brief notification that Dr. Randolph Widmer's *Evolution of the Calusa* is back in print from the University of Alabama Press.

TABLE 9

COINS POTENTIALLY IN CIRCULATION IN FLORIDA DURING THE SECOND SEMINOLE INDIAN WAR
 8. GOLD Pieces (concluded)

TYPE	COMPOSITION	MINT DATES*	NOTES -----
\$5.00 piece ("scrawny) eagle on wreath on reverse; no denomination	90% gold	1795-1798	Capped Liberty bust 10% copper facing right; small
\$5.00 piece	As above	1795-1807	As above; but spread eagle on reverse
'15 JD." on reverse; denomination underneath	As above	1807-1812	Capped small Liberty head facing left; eagle with shield
115 D."	As above	1313-IS34	As above but with large Liberty head
#75 D." on reverse; denomination beneath	As above	1834-1338	Classic Liberty head facing left; eagle grasping arrows and olive branch on
"FIVE D." branch	As above	1339-1908	Coronet-type Liberty head facing left; eagle as above; denomination under
\$10.00 Piece denomination	As above,	1795-1797	Capped Liberty faces right; "scrawny eagle" in wreath on reverse; no
\$10.00 Piece denomination absent	As above	1797-1804	As above, but eagle spread, bearing shield, holding arrows and olive branches;
"TEN D." branches; de- nomination beneath	As above	1838-1907	Coronet-type Liberty facing left; large eagle rampant, grasping arrows and olive

----- * Size of letter and date fonts varied in different years.