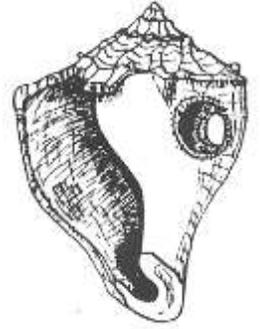


SWFAS

NEWSLETTER

THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



JOHN G. BERIAULT, ACTING EDITOR

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APRIL, 2002



Must be *Hot* in that Cat Skin! This is a rendering by Andre Thevet Vrais done c. 1584 of "Paracoussi Satouriona byname Satiroa, King of Florida". These were some of the first images produced of New World natives, and some of the first images to be seen by Europeans. Maybe this fellow was really wearing a panther skin (it still must have been hot!)

FIELD TRIPS, ANYONE?

This is a call for all SWFAS members and other interested parties to mark their calendars AND PROVIDE IMPUT for your SWFAS Board members. It was decided at the last Board meeting to offer suggestions on a series of field trips in lieu of our regular meetings for the months of July and August. President Betsy Perdichizzi in an article this issue makes some interesting suggestions as to where we might go. Perhaps

YOU also have some ideas. If so, please contact one of the SWFAS officers or Board members. One of the exciting options is a overnight trip to Gainesville to be given a rare behind-the-scenes tour of the new Museum by Dr. Bill Marquardt. Other possibilities include trips to Spanish Point and Little Salt Springs. We anticipate these field trip event choices could be popular

alternatives during the slower summer months and increase involvement by our members.

On another note, we have started, with the help of our membership secretary, Charlie Strader, a new feature where we attempt to recognize newly-joining members. We will try to acknowledge you very important people as Charlie gives us the Word...

Special thanks to Charlie Strader for cooking all those hot dogs during Archaeology Day!

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 Two. Read Dr. Robert Gore...**

THE DATE BOOK

April 10thth SWFAS Board Meeting – Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs, 7:00 PM

April 17th 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. II.

WHEN DID IT HAPPEN? A PRIMER ON PECUNIARY EVIDENCE. 11.

America, believed to have been first colonized by migrating Mongolian peoples, perhaps as early as 35,000 years B.P. but certainly by 12,000 years B.P., had no metallic coinage for more than 97% of this time, although it did have what passed for "money." Because the general economy was based on barter, the "coin of the realm," and its valuation was whatever the indigenous peoples occupying a particular "realm" wanted it to be--pelts, leather, pottery, wooden artifacts, worked seashells, copper, gold, and silver ores, grains, berries, fish and game, and so on. In other words, what they had a lot of versus what they didn't.

America, being also a johnny-come-lately on world maps, had no indigenous metallic coinage for some 130 years after its initial re-discovery and occupation by Europeans. The General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1637 went so far as to decree that wampum, the finely ground and polished shells of a quahog clam, should suffice for "money" at the exchange rate of six shells for a British copper penny--a not inconsiderable valuation in those days. But deflation quickly reared its ugly head and by 1640 white wampum was devalued to 14 per penny, while the more valuable blue wampum was traded at 2 for a penny. Wampum was finally decreed non-monetary in 1661. Musket balls, on the other hand, were going for 2 for a penny--an obviously pragmatic decision given the tenor of the times. At about the same time Spanish coins from Europe were making their debut, and in fact Spanish "dollars" (including the famous 3 Reales coin, the precursor for "pieces of eight") quickly became both the official and unofficial coinage throughout North and South America for the next 250 years. Made of gold or silver "they carried their own exchange rate, by weight. In 1635 the Spaniards, seeing no reason to bring their European-minted gold and silver coins across the dangerous Atlantic to the New World when there were literally mountains full of gold and silver In Peru, and just waiting to be stamped into coins, established the first mint in Mexico City.

Gold and silver coinage from other competing nations (French, Dutch, Italians, English) were also circulating, and were all valued-rated among each other to a form of parity, thereby allowing a buyer to pay for his purchase in Pesos, Pounds, Guilders, Kroners, or whatever was resident in his purse. So respected was Spanish gold and silver that the pesos remained legal tender and acceptable for purchases in the United States until 1857.

The first truly American coins to circulate in the British Colonies, however, were the silver one-shilling, and sixpence pieces, minted by the General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1652. These crude discs were stamped with a Pine, Oak, or

Willow Tree on one side. But because they could be "shaved" for their silver (which was then melted

down and reused), they soon lost both monetary and intrinsic value and gradually fell out of favor. Although minted for a number of years, the Pine Tree Shillings always bore the date 1652. This practice was also used in some later United States coins, leading (as we shall see) to the potential for misdating an archaeological site if such coins were recovered, say, from a midden or encampment. Other coins circulating in the Colonies were specifically minted for use in Maryland (1659), Florida (1685), and Carolina (1694).

By 1776, on the eve of the American War for Independence, dollar pieces, stamped "Continental Currency" were being minted, using pewter, brass, and

mixtures of silver and other metals. At least seven of the original Colonies-cum-States also issued their own coins between 1776 and 1796. In addition, a plethora of coins minted by commercial firms, having set values, and produced either locally or imported from England, were put into circulation. If they proved successful the minter recouped not only his expenses for the basic metal (usually copper), and the cost of stamping, but also-the premium "value"? set on the individual coin itself--in effect, making money by "making money." Numerous versions of such coins, in equally numerous denominations, flooded the Colonies and new States. In many instances the coins were re-called and a new date or escutcheon, or value was struck over the old. Local counterfeiters were equally quick to seize on this uncertainty

TABLE 2

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

1. COPPER HALF CENTS

TYPE	COMPOSITION	MINT DATES*	NOTES -----
"HALF-CENT"	100% copper	1793-1797	Flowing hair Liberty facing left; "1/200." beneath wreath ribbon on reverse
"HALF CENT'@	100% copper	1794-1796	As above, facing right; cap on pole
"HALF-CENT" wreath ribbon	100% copper	1800-1808	Liberty draped bust facing right, no cap; no encircling stars; "1/200" under
"HALF CENT" version in 1841 and 1848	1000-. copper	1809-1857	Classic head Liberty facing left, flowing hair; encircled by stars; "braided hair'

* Early U.S. Mint records were often incomplete or inaccurate; coins were sometimes over-struck with new date.

with the often end result that few people knew "what was in THEIR wallets" or what it was worth.

The U. S. Congress had established a "mint" as early as 1786 which, on private contract, struck a penny called the Fugio Cent. But it was not until 1791 that the official United States Mint came into being, and the first coins, termed "dismes" (= "dimes") and "half-dismes" were struck and put into circulation. The following year saw the U.S. Mint up and running and by the turn of the century it was regularly producing copper half-cents and cents (the latter called "large cents" owing to their size, equal in diameter to a 50-cent piece today). Silver half-dimes, dimes,

quarter dollars, half dollars, dollars, and gold coins in \$2.50, \$5.00, and \$10.00 denominations were also struck. At least 46 different versions of these coins were struck beginning in 1793, and many of these remained in circulation and the official coins of the realm at least until 1851. Beginning at this time and over the next 15 years and through the Civil War, additional denominations were minted and put into circulation, including 2 cent pieces, 3 cent nickel, 3 cent silver, 5 cent nickel, and \$3.00 gold. In this series of articles, however, we will not consider any coinage introduced after 1840, for reasons that will

become apparent.

If the coinage was expanding exuberantly, so too were the designs thereon. Variations on the figure of Liberty on the front (obverse or "heads"), standing or sitting, with or without a hat, braided or flowing hair, and with or without ribbons, varied with variations on the back (reverse, or "tails") in the size and decoration

of wreaths or chains, presence or absence of eagles, eagles and shields, eagles spread or half or three-quarters view, grasping arrows or olive branches, and any number of other variations in the

TABLE 3

COINS POTENTIALLY IN CIRCULATION IN FLORIDA DURING THE SECOND SEMINOLE INDIAN WAR
2. COPPER CENTS

TYPE	COMPOSITION	MINT DATES*	NOTES -----
"ONE CENT"	100% copper	1793-1795	Flowing hair Liberty Linked chain on reverse; denomination inside chain
"ONE CENT?"	100% copper	1793-1795	As above but wreath replaces chain; "1/100" below
"ONE CENT"	100% copper	1793-1796	Flowing hair liberty with "Liberty" cap; otherwise as above
"ONE CENT" wreath ribbon on reverse	100% copper	1796-1807	Flowing hair Liberty draped bust, no cap no encircling stars 1/100 below
"ONE CENT" wreath on reverse; "1/100" absent	100% copper	1808-1814	Classic head Liberty with hair ribbon & encircling stars; denomination inside
"ONE CENT"	100% copper	1816-1839	Coronet Liberty or tilted matron head with hair ribbon; reverse as above
"ONE CENT" -----	100% copper	1839-1857	"Mature level-head" Liberty; reverse as above -----

* Early U.S. Mint records were often Incomplete or inaccurate; coins were sometimes over-struck with new date.

TABLE 4

COINS POTENTIALLY IN CIRCULATION IN FLORIDA DURING THE SECOND SEMINOLE INDIAN WAR
3. SILVER 5 and 10 cents

TYPE	COMPOSITION	MINT DATES	NOTES -----
HALF DIME "scrawny eagle" inside wreath on reverse; denomination absent	90% silver,	1794-1795	Flowing hair Liberty or Half Disme 10% copper 3/4
HALF DIME	As above	1796-1807	Flowing hair Liberty draped bust; 3/4 eagle in wreath, or spread eagle and shield on reverse; denomination absent
"15 C.(Cents)"	As above	1829-1837	Capped Liberty bust; 3/4 eagle + shield on reverse; denomination under branch
"HALF DIME"	As above	1837-1873	Seated Liberty; encircling stars added 1838; drapery added 1840; arrows added 1850; denomination inside wreath on reverse
10 CENTS "scrawny eagle" or spread eagle and shield on reverse; no denomination	As above	1796-1807	Flowing hair Liberty draped bust; 3/4
"10 C.(ents)"	As above	1809-1837	Capped Liberty; 3/4 eagle and shield on branch on reverse; value under branch
"ONE DIME"	As above	1837-1891	Seated Liberty; stars added 1838; drapery added 1840 denomination inside wreath on reverse

TABLE 5

COINS POTENTIALLY IN CIRCULATION IN FLORIDA DURING THE SECOND SEMINOLE INDIAN WAR
4. SILVER Quarter Dollar or 25 cents

TYPE	COMPOSITION	MINT DATES*	NOTES -----
"25 C.(ents)"	90% silver,	1796-1807	Liberty draped; no 10% copper cap; 3/4 eagle; or spread eagle and shield on reverse; no denomination on former; underneath tail on latter
"25 C.(ents)"	As above	1815-1828	Capped bust; 3/4 eagle on branch, with shield on reverse; denomination under branch
"25 C.(ents)"	As above	1831-1838	Capped bust reduced in size; eagle and denomination as above
"QUAR. DOL."	As above	1838-1840*	Seated Liberty; no drapery; eagle as above; denomination underneath branch
"QUAR. DOL."	As above	1840-1853*	As above; drapery added to Liberty; eagle and denomination as above

* The minting dates preclude the presence these quarters at the Battle of Lake Okeechobee.

size and font of numbers in the date of striking, and the letters encircling the coins' rims.

For the average citizen these variations were trifling matters, so long as the coin was genuine. For the coin-hobbyists of later years these variations became important in determining the putative rarity or abundance (and thus the numismatic value) of any given coin. But for the field archaeologist they provide another value: hard evidence as to the date of the coin itself, often when these same dates had become illegible., which, in turn, might confirm the potential dates or general time frame of a site under investigation. We will develop this concept next time.

WELCOME NEW SWFAS MEMBERS

We are glad to welcome the following recent new members into our organization:

Paul Day, from Ft. Myers
Christina Gerwitz, FGCU student
Steve Saxton, from Michigan
Nicholas & Linda Penniman, from Naples
John Worth, Cape Coral,
Mary Ann Scott, Ft. Myers

We thank them for caring enough about the archeological resources of our area to join our goals of education and conservation. SWFAS is fairly informal, so we encourage all those who want to participate more, to just speak up to any of our officers about volunteering, new ideas and interests. Also remember that all members are more than welcome

to attend our Board meetings. It is a good way to get to know people better, participate more and hear of the most recent happening in SW FL archaeology.

For membership questions you may call Charlie Strader at 941-992-6133.

THANKS FROM THE SWFAS PRESIDENT

I just wanted to express my appreciation to Tom Francino and all the hard workers that contributed to the success of Archaeology Day 2002 . We had a great program lined up, incredible speakers, living history reenactors, atlatl throwing, garden tours, Craighead Lab tours, hand outs, registration table, and yummy chili dogs. The visitors that filled out the questionnaires were very appreciative. Being out of town and out of touch, I was able to appreciate it as a spectator instead of a worker this year. I am so proud of our organization. I appreciate the work and dedication of each and every volunteer.
Betsy

SOMETHING NEW FOR JULY AND AUGUST

The Board of Directors voted on something we think will be new and interesting for

the membership. To enrich our program we are planning Saturday Field Trips for July and August instead of lectures. There are many places of interest to go that are close by, some that would require an overnight stay. Planned on a Saturday for the benefit of members who work or don't drive at night. Here are some of the possibilities that we came up with, perhaps you can think of others. Contact Betsy 239-394-6917 to show your interest in participating in a field trip and whether or not you can help plan an outing.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in the Big Cypress Reservation, the nation's largest display of the life and culture of the Florida Seminoles. The museum includes, 5,000 square feet of exhibits on a cypress dome near the Florida Everglades where you see lifelike displays of how they lived in the 1800's and rare artifacts from the past.

Historic Spanish Point, Osprey, Florida, formerly the estate of Mrs. Potter Palmer, Legendary Lady of Sarasota. Visitors to this unique site experience the rich heritage of the community through interpretive centers such as the archaeological exhibition, restored 1901 Guptill House, Mary's Chapel and citrus packing house, gardens and shell mounds.

Babcock Ranch, visitors can see a working ranch, hear speakers, and picnic on the grounds.

Little salt Spring, located _____(?), one of Southwest Florida's rare watering holes (??????)

Warm Mineral Springs, located _____. Archaeologically significant (???????)

The New Indian Village, Pinellas County, St. Petersburg, Florida. This composite replica at the Science Center exhibits elements of many of their cultures: charnel platform, Temple Mound, Skin Drying, Dooryard Gardening, Shell Tools, Black Drink consumption, Shamanic Magic, Dugout Burning, as well as daily village life.

Bonita Shell Mound, explore and picnic

Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, (an overnight stay). The state's official natural history museum has Powell Hall, the new 55,000 square-foot education and exhibition center houses the permanent and traveling exhibit programs and Dickinson Hall houses the research activities and vast collections containing more than 25 million natural history specimens and artifacts.

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 completing his 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 Two

“Navigating Apparatus and Fishing Gear.... Balers made from large conch shells crushed in at one side, or of wood, shovel shaped, or else scoop shaped, with handles turned in, were abundant; as were nets of tough fiber, both coarse and fine, knitted quite as is the common netting of our own fisherman today, in form of fine-meshed, square dip-nets, and of coarse-meshed, comparatively large and long gill-nets. To the lower edges of these, sinkers made from thick, roughly perforated umboidal bivalves, tied together in bunches, or else chipped and notched fragments of heavy clam shells, while to the upper edges, floats made from gourds, held in place by fine net-lashings, or else from long sticks or squared-ended blocks, were fastened

“We found four or five fish-hooks. The shanks or stems of these were about three inches long, shaped much like those of our own, but made from the conveniently curved main branches of the forked twigs of some tough springy kind of wood...grilled and notched in, so that the sharp, barbed points of deer bone...could be firmly attached with sinew

and black rubber-gum cement. Little plug shaped floats of gumbo-limbo wood, and sinkers made from the short thick columellae of turbinella shells....That they were designed for deep-sea fishing was indicated by the occurrence of flat reels and spools shaped precisely like fine-toothed combs divested of their inner teeth.Aside from these, no other fishing tackle for use in the open waters was found, barbed harpoons being conspicuously absent... This led to the supposition that the ancient inhabitants had depended chiefly upon the ponds and water courts, whence with their nets they could at any time have readily drawn greater numbers of fish for their supply.

*“Tools and Implements.-*Large clam shells, deeply worn at the backs, as well as showing much use around the edges, seemed to have served both as scrapers and digging implements or hoes...”

“Picks, hammers, adzes and gouges made from almost entire conch shells were found, handles and all, in relatively perfect condition and in considerable numbers.

“Cutting and carving knives of shark’s teeth, varying in size from tiny straight points to curved blades nearly an inch in length and in width of base, were found by hundreds....I found these diminutive shark-tooth blades...by far the most effective primitive carving tools I had ever learned of and therein perceived one of the principal causes of the pre-eminence of the ancient key

dwellers in the wood carver's art, so constantly evidenced in our collections"

"Rasps of very small, much worn and evidently most highly prized fragments of coral sandstone, as well as a few strips of carefully rolled-up shark skin, told the story of how the harder tools had been edged, and the polished wood and bone-work finished, here."

The third part of this series will describe weapons, sea going canoes, wooden carvings, and Cushing's own "General Conclusions".

**THANKS FROM CALUSA
LAND TRUST**

from Shirley and Bud House

Would you please place a small article in the newsletter thanking all of the SWFAS members for the excess Rummage Sale articles that they gave to the Calusa Land Trust in January. This sale realized the sum of \$330 which we placed in the Calusa Canal Fund which at the present time stands at about \$3700. The monies will be applied to the future donations that will be required to pay for the new canal parcel that the Land Trust has contracted with Archaeological Conservancy. The Conservancy will purchase the parcel and the Land Trust will reimburse them within a year to take title. This will make the third parcel in our attempts to purchase all six parcels through which there is evidence that the canal traversed. We will rely on your expert editorial capability to assemble an article

which will persuade a number of SWFAS members to donate additional monies to be sent to :Calusa Land Trust, PO Box 216, Bokeelia, FL 33922.

**CORBETT
TORRENCE
RECEIVES
CRAIGHEAD
AWARD HONORS**

Corbett McP Torrence is the latest to receive the Craighead Award for achievement in the promotion and preservation of the Southwest Florida area's archaeological resources. Bud House presented the award at the March 20th General Meeting and read as a preface the names and achievements of other past distinguished recipients. Corbett then very humbly thanked SWFAS for the honor and gave one of his usual excellent and enthusiastic slide presentations detailing some of the recent archaeological work with which he has been involved.