

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Post Office Box 9965, Naples, Florida, -33941

Arthur R. Lee, Editor

Vol. III, No. 2

JUNE, 1987

June meeting

REVOLUTION IN MAYAN CRAFT- SPECIALIZATION STUDIES

The part Colha, a Mayan lithic industry site in Northern Belize, is playing in revolutionizing concepts of craft specialization will be described Thursday, June 18, at the SWFAS monthly meeting in the Community Room of the First Federal Bank of Fort Myers, 3201 9th Avenue North, at 7:30 p.m.

The site has been under excavation since 1979 under the direction of Dr. Thomas Hester of the University of Texas at San Antonio. History of the dig and the site's role in industrial-level technology of the Maya will be told by Marilyn Masson, who served as crew chief and camp manager for the Colha project from February to April of this year; she had worked there as archaeological technician from February to April of 1983.

Mrs. Masson will show slides of 1987 work at the site, which included research in settlement patterns there in the Late Classic period under the direction of Eleanor King, a PhD candidate at the University of Pennsylvania. She also will show slides of artifacts collected on the Herbert Masson ranch on which the Colha site is located.

Currently field director at the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy's Okeechobee Battlefield project, Mrs. Masson directed a recent Conservancy exploration of a site on the Bonita Bay development, which had been discovered by SWFAS. From 1978 to her latest work at Colha, she has served as technician with the Ft. Hood Archaeological Survey of Texas A&M University and at the Cutler Fossil site in Miami, teacher at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, assistant at the archaeology laboratory of Texas A&M, and technician at Colorado State's undergraduate field school.



SWFAS RESEARCHERS SOON MAY ACCESS U LIBRARY

Local researchers by summer's end may be able to scan the catalog of the University of Florida via computer, according to Michele Dalehite of the Florida Center for Library Automation.

In a telephone conversation with Art Lee recently she said that despite failure of her organization to get a special grant for the work, documentation may be completed this summer spelling out procedures for accessing the already-computerized catalog from terminals not part of the university system. It already is possible to search the catalog from computer terminals located in most Florida universities and colleges.

She said that an application filed by Lee in behalf of SWFAS nearly a year ago is one of some 50 requests for access from organizations not part of the university system.

Used in connection with inter-library loans, possible through the Collier County library on Central avenue, the arrangement could be a material aid to researchers. Cost of the service -- which could determine practicality of the program -- is not known.



CAMERA SUB FOULS OUT IN LITTLE SALT SPRING

A tiny robot video submarine similar to a larger one that explored the sunken Titanic ended an experimental dive in Little Salt Spring near North Port in failure when its propellers fouled in debris left by former archaeological investigations. The spring, object of a field trip by SWFAS last year, was to have been viewed by observers on land watching a color video screen as the remotely-controlled sub cruised the 200-foot deep sinkhole, where evidence of man dating back some 12,000 years has been found. However, all four of the propellers tangled on ropes and cables left from past scuba dives and the robot had to be rescued by Jeff Patton, a scientist at Sarasota's Mote Marine Laboratory, who donned scuba gear and cut it loose.

University of Miami Anthropologist John Gifford had hoped that the device would reduce cost and danger of exploring the site by divers. (Miami Herald)



TWO SWFASERS GIVE PAPERS AT ANNUAL FAS MEETING

John Beriault made a slide presentation on the Beachwalk site, and Gina Understahl one on the Collier Chokoloskee dig at the annual meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society May 9 at Clearwater.

About 120 attended the meeting, which was hosted by the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society. Two new chapters were added to FAS the past year, it was announced. One, the Paleontological Archaeological Research Team of Florida, is composed of SCUBA divers, three of whom read papers on explorations of sites on the St. Johns and Oklawaha rivers.

WOODPECKER LAYS FAS NESTEGG

A silver and gold replica of an object found in Lee county, crafted by Beriault and given to FAS, was auctioned at the annual meeting. Pictured here, the crested woodpecker netted the treasury \$75.



Officers elected at the meeting include Harold Cardwell, Volusia Anthropological Society, president; Marlene Levy, Palm Beach County Archaeological Society, first vice president; Beth Horvath, Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society, second vice president; Chris Newman, Withlacoochee River Archaeological Council, secretary; Wallace Spears, Volusia Anthropological Society, treasurer; and Donna Ruhl, Withlacoochee River Archaeological Council, director.

Workshops May 10 dealt with chapter problems, historic preservation in comprehensive planning by local governments, and cooperation between avocational and professional archaeologists.

The papers, which numbered 22, were quite diverse in content. Four had to do with historical archaeology, a similar number with underwater exploration, two with administrative efforts directed toward preserving archaeological sites, two with socio-anthropological subjects, and the remainder with pre-historic archaeology.



CUTLER LAB CLOSES

The laboratory which has processed tons of dirt, lithics, fossilized animal bones, human remains, charcoal, shell, tools and other artifacts from the Cutler Fossil Site closed in May. It had been under the direction of Ruth Gaustad and some 16 members of the Archaeological Society of Southern Florida had worked there. Processed material is in the possession of the Danielsons, owners of the property and fundors of the dig which yielded evidence of human occupation in the 10,000-year time period.



SCIENTISTS SEEK MEANING OF CEREMONIAL ART

In animism and in simulation Florida Indians, like other non-industrial peoples, sought a link with unseen forces, John Beriault, SWFAS president, told those attending the organization's monthly meeting May 21.

Illustrating his talk with slides, Beriault showed how Indian ceremonial art illustrated their strong affiliation with the animal world surrounding them, and the universal attempt to influence events by use of symbols which would recreate propitious circumstances.

Animal motifs repeated in ceremonial objects include the famous Marco deer, woodpecker, wolf, cat, spider, and birds. Such motifs are evocative of complexes of ideas which can be understood only by those immersed in the culture of the time, Beriault said. Some 20 to 30 symbols used in Florida are to be found throughout the so-called Southeast Ceremonial Complex which extended to the Great Lakes.



THE FINE SCREEN

Time Sifters of Sarasota, recently admitted to the Florida Anthropological Society, has raised \$327 by a Flea Market . . . their membership now stands at 52. . . John Beriault spoke at their latest meeting. . . Bill Steele is new president of the Archaeological Society of Southern Florida, Miami, which group lends us a hand with trowel frequently.



PRE-COLUMBIAN ART SHOW TO CONTINUE TO AUG. 24

Pre-Columbian Art of Costa Rica, an exhibit at the Lowe Art Museum on the campus of the University of Miami in Coral Gables, opened April 24 and will continue until Aug. 24. The painted and sculpted ceramics from the Arthur M. Sackler collections are truly magnificent: a perfect example of some of the finest art ever achieved in pre-Columbian America. Travis Doering.



NEW FIELD MANUAL A MUST FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGIST'S PACK

A Complete Manual of Field Archaeology

Martha Joukowsky; Prentice Hall Press, New York
1986; 630 pages; \$18.95 soft cover.



This reviewer has gone through a good many how-to books for archaeologists, amateur and professional, but this is the first one he would consider putting in his tool box. It is practical, encyclopedic, comprehensive and authoritative.

On the academic side, Mrs. Joukowsky has an M.A. in archaeology, teaches the subject at New York University, is a candidate for the Doctorat d'Etat in archaeology at the University of Paris, and is a research associate at both Rutgers and Brown Universities. Practically, she has completed her 14th archaeological field season, at locations from Hong Kong to Turkey.

After an introduction defining archaeology, the book starts where it should, with a chapter on ethics. There follow chapters on the environment, staff, exploration, surveying, pre-excavation planning, stratigraphy, excavation, recording and measuring, the catalog, field conservation, analysis of stone, pottery, metal, textile, ivory, glass and wood artifacts, drafting, photography, dating, publication, fieldwork opportunities and financial aid for archaeological research. Exhaustive! ARL



SUMMER ARCHAEOLOGY CLASS UNDERWAY AT MANATEE COLLEGE

A summer archaeology class is underway at Venice high school under the sponsorship of Manatee Community College. Classes are meeting Saturdays and/or Sundays as needed for field work. Forty eight contact hours are planned, and the class can be taken either for or without credit. Field trips are included in the program. Instructor is Marion Almy, a director of the Time Sifters at Sarasota.



THE ICE AGE AS SEEN BY A 13-YEAR-OLD GIRL

Reindeer Moon by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas
Houghton Mifflin Company



The harsh realities of hunger and weather, shot through by brief moments of sheer happiness, comprised existence 20,000 years ago as experienced by a 13-year-old girl. Her story is narrated by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas in a well-researched and -presented tale. Heroine is Yanan, a member of the Greylag Lodge, who, like her fellows, turned to the spirit world to escape from the day's perils and to find an explanation for the tragic and sudden changes that took place around her. The author also lets us see life and survival through the eyes of the wild animals of the book's setting -- the steppes of central Siberia.

Acknowledgments and bibliography Ms. Thomas presents will appeal to anyone interested in paleolithic people. Travis Doering



1,200-YEAR-OLD CORN

Ten fragments of corn cob believed to be 1,200 years old have been found at an excavation along Escambia bay, northeast of Pensacola, it is announced by Archaeologist Judy Bense of the University of West Florida. Wild corn dating to A.D. 200 has been located in the midwest and south of Tallahassee, but Ms. Bense believes the corn found in Santa Rosa county may be of a hybrid variety which came into use around A.D. 700-800.

DATEBOOK

- *June 14. Joint picnic at the Bay Hammock Park of the Bonita Bay Development with Bonita Springs Historical Society.
- *June 18. Regular monthly meeting at First Federal bank building; 7:30 p.m.
- *June 20-21. Dig at Pelican Bay site. Meet at B&B Builders, 3800 N. Tamiami Trail at 1 p.m. Saturday, and 8 a.m. Sunday.
- *July 7. Site form meeting at Strader home; 6:30 p.m.
- *July 26. Field trip tentatively planned for archaeological site at Tidy Island near Sarasota.

HOMO HABILIS' BODY APELIKE, NEW BONES SHOW

Homo Habilis, the first tool-maker and apparent link between Australopithecus and Homo Erectus, had a strikingly apelike body, new fossils from Olduvai Gorge indicate.

Donald Johanson of the Institute of Human Origins in Berkeley has announced finding 1.8-million-year-old bones of a creature about three and one-half feet tall, with long arms similar to those of modern apes, a body form little different from Australopithecus, who lived more than a million years earlier.

The discovery means that development of a relatively modern body form may have occurred much more suddenly than had been believed. Bones of H. Erectus, who emerged 1.6 million years ago, found in 1984, were those of a young six-footer having shorter, more modern arms.



HONOR ROLL

Contributors to this issue of the Newsletter were Travis Doering, Isabelle Felsberg, and Anne Waterhouse.